UTM marking International Week

The University of Tennessee at Martin will observe International Week through Friday, with activities and events to recognize the variety of countries and cultures represented on the university’s campus. Community members are also invited to participate.

The Hortense Parrish Writing Center, located in room 209 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building, will host “Literature from Around the World: A Roundtable and Reading” from 12:15-12:50 p.m. on Tuesday.

The event will include samples of literature from different countries.

Many of UT Martin’s international students will participate in an international student panel at 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Boling University Center’s Legislative Chamber, room 111, to discuss life in their home countries as compared to their experiences in the United States.

The UT Martin Office of International Programs and Admissions will welcome guest speaker, Lt. Gen. John Castellaw at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Gooch Hall’s Gallien Auditorium. Castellaw served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 36 years and participated in operations around the world. He currently serves as a member of the United States Global Leadership Coalition’s National Security Advisory Council in addition to operating his family farm and sitting as director for the Bank of Crockett.

The week’s events will close with an international showcase from noon-1 p.m. Friday on the Boling University Center patio. The showcase will include presentations from international students and organizations about the cultures of their home countries.

A full schedule of events is listed below:

Tuesday:
- Literature from Around the World: A Roundtable and Reading; 12:15-12:50 p.m.; Hortense Parrish Writing Center; Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 209
- International Sports Day; 4 p.m.; Student Recreation Center
- Faculty recruiting informational session; 5-6 p.m.; Gooch Hall, room 121A
- Skyhawks Meet the World; 6-8 p.m.; Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom

Wednesday:
- International Student Panel; 3 p.m.; Boling University Center Legislative Chamber, room 111
- International Fashion Show; 4 p.m.; Gooch Hall’s Galllen Auditorium
- Guest Speaker: Lt. Gen. John Castellaw; 6 p.m.; Gooch Hall’s Galllen Auditorium

Thursday:
- International Showcase; noon-1 p.m.; Boling University Center patio

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of International Programs and Admissions at 731-881-7340.
Smith honored for work as UT Martin interim chancellor

Dr. Bob Smith achieved several milestone goals as the University of Tennessee at Martin's interim chancellor. The UT Board of Trustees recognized those accomplishments as the word "interim" was removed from his title during the board's spring meeting March 29 in Chattanooga. Smith is now officially listed as the university's 10th chancellor, and Dr. Keith Carver, originally named the university's 10th chancellor, is now the 11th to hold that title. Smith was also granted the honorary title of "chancellor emeritus" by the board.

"This is an appropriate way to recognize Dr. Smith for his tenure as interim chancellor. His commitment to enrollment, philanthropy and SACS accreditation were invaluable in helping UT Martin continue to educate and serve the citizens of West Tennessee," said Carver. "We owe him a debt of gratitude for his leadership, and I am grateful for the counsel and guidance he has given me during this transition."

Smith, who lives in Franklin, Tenn., previously served nine years as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and retired as president emeritus. He was named UT Martin's interim chancellor after Dr. Tom Rakes returned to the faculty in June 2015. During his 19-month tenure, Smith guided the university through a year-long accreditation probation period from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

He also saw the completion of the new academic building and press box space in Hardy M. Graham Stadium; helped secure the single-largest financial gift in university history to build the future Lamar Engineering and Science Building on the UT Martin main campus; and spearheaded a campaign to fund a new Innovation and Product Realization Facility where local industry leaders could partner with UT Martin students and faculty to develop new products and ideas. Smith also approved the official start of renovations on the former Methodist Fayette Hospital, the future home of the UT Martin Somerville Center.

"We have definitely benefited from [Smith's] gifted leadership, and during his tenure many things changed at UT Martin," UT President Joe DiPietro said Dec. 10, 2016, during Smith's final commencement as interim chancellor. "We wish Bob and (his wife) Ramona well, and we want to thank them for all they've done to improve the university.... We owe them a thanks we can never, ever truly repay."

Smith ended his tenure as UT Martin interim chancellor Jan. 2, and Carver began his duties Jan. 3.
Award-winning UTM rodeo begins Thursday

The University of Tennessee at Martin proudly hosts the 49th annual spring college rodeo starting on Thursday and going through Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates. All tickets are $6 on Thursday while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday. Tickets for ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with a valid ID are $7 for both Friday and Saturday. A $20 weekend pass is also available for all three nights. Ages 5 and under are free with a paid adult.

Saturday’s event can be viewed online, free of charge, courtesy of the Ohio Valley Conference Digital Network at this link: http://www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=5403. Action from all three nights can also be heard locally on WCMT Mix 101.3 FM or online at this link: http://streamdb6web.securenet-systems.net/v5/WCMT.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region “Rodeo of the Year” for 11 consecutive years. The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyo., June 9-17.

Along with UT Martin, teams from the University of Arkansas-Cossatot, University of Arkansas-Monticello, East Mississippi Community College, Missouri Valley College, Murray State University, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Southern Arkansas University, University of Tennessee, Three Rivers College and University of West Alabama will take part in the festivities.

Eqyss Grooming Products is sponsoring a crawfish supper at the American Legion building on Wednesday, April 13, at 5:30 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available in addition to corn on the cob and new potatoes. Tickets are $15 per person.

Thursday night is Tyson, See Rodeo, Page 6

EARLY DAYS — Warren Caudle, UT Martin rodeo team, is shown bull riding in the 6th annual UTM Rodeo Invitational Championship, the early name of the rodeo, in 1974 at Obion County Fairgrounds.
Dresden Rotary Attends WestStar Program

The Dresden Rotary Club enjoyed an informative program last week by Ms. Virginia Grimes, Coordinator of the WestStar Leadership Program. She was the program for Rotarian Rob Newbill. WestStar is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee. Shown here from left are President Diana Susan Longman, Rob Newbill, Jordan Jones of WestStar, Virginia Grimes, and Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, Dresden Rotary member and WestStar graduate and current trustee of the leadership development program.

UT Martin rodeo on tap for this weekend

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting the 49th annual spring college rodeo starting this Thursday through Saturday at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena. Action starts at 7:30 p.m. on all three dates. All tickets are $6 on Thursday while adult tickets are $10 on Friday and $12 on Saturday.

Tickets for ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with a valid ID are $7 for both Friday and Saturday.

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On Thursday night, timed events and rough stock events — including bull riding — are on the slate.

Timed events and rough stock events (including bull riding) will be featured on Friday as well.

Friday also serves as “Orange Out for Coy” night to raise money for the Coy Lutz Memorial Scholarship.

In addition to the opening, the Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will also perform a special presentation at 7:10 p.m.

Saturday is the evening of the championship finals, where the top-10 contestants from the opening round will compete in a battle of the best of the best.

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, APRIL 6, 2017

Skyhawk Summer Academy Planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin is launching its first Skyhawk Summer Academy, which will allow individuals, ages 16 and older, to complete a hybrid college course in one of four academic areas. The six-week courses, beginning April 24th, have both online and on-campus components and are designed to introduce participants to an area of interest. They are not applied toward a degree.

Participants can choose to study small animal veterinary science, precision agriculture (including drone technology), equestrian science and horsemanship, or the culinary arts. Each six-week course is completed online April 24th through June 2nd and culminates in a three-day on-campus experience June 9th through June 11th. These days will be used to acquire hands-on experience in the chosen area and apply knowledge gained during online coursework.

The fee covers tuition as well as room and board fees during the three-day campus visit. Minors must be accompanied on campus by an adult.

Students can choose to study small animal veterinary science; precision agriculture; equine; or culinary arts.

Courses taken during the summer academy are not applied toward a degree.

For more information on the Skyhawk Summer Academy, visit utm.edu/summeracademy or call Dr. Adam Wilson, director of UT Martin Online, at 731-881-7764. Courses are enrolling now through April 24th.
Hundreds of Tennessee college employees carry guns on campus

Rachel Ohm, USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee Published 5:15 p.m. ET April 5, 2017

More than 500 college and university employees across the state are exercising their right to carry guns on public campuses since a new law allowing them to do so went into effect last July.

Allowing employees to carry guns on campus has resulted in few, if any, problems on campuses, yet the possibility of expanding the law to part-time employees has raised concerns among college and university officials. That proposal, however, likely will not be moving forward in the Legislature this year.

"It personally concerns me for several reasons," said University of Tennessee Police Chief Troy Lane, who is also on the board of directors for the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, which opposed this year's bills to expand the law.

"We already have 160 full-time employees who have notified us of their intent to carry. I am unaware of how or why adding part-time personnel would make our campus safer. Next, there are far fewer 'knowns' with part-time employees. While we get to know our fellow full-time employees, the same may not be said for our part-time employees."

Since the original law went into effect in July, 160 people have notified university police that they plan to carry guns at the Knoxville campus, Lane said in an email this week. At the University of Tennessee-Martin, 23 people have given notice to that campus, said Scott Robbins, UT-Martin director of public safety.

Requests for comment at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga were not returned Wednesday.

As of September, another 416 people had made requests across the Tennessee Board of Regents system, which includes more than 40 public universities, community colleges and technical schools across the state.

Robbins said in an email that the current system at UT-Martin is "working fine" and that to date the university has not received any complaints about any employees being careless or having firearms in open view. He also said that if the law were to expand, the university could likely continue to operate under the same policies, and he expected the number of part-time employees who would request to carry to be low.

The board of regents, similarly, is not aware of any problems that have arisen under the new law, according to interim Director of Communications Richard Locker. UT officials have in the past voiced opposition to campus carry.

At its regular quarterly meeting in December, the board approved a general policy statement opposing expansion of guns on campuses, except for law enforcement officers.

No related problems or crimes have occurred on the Knoxville campus since the law last year went into effect, Lane said, but it has been a burden to the department in some ways with the development of policy, paperwork, training and speaking engagements on campus to explain the law.

UT-Knoxville has also put in place optional training sessions for employees who decide to carry guns on campus, and Lane said about 15 people have gone to them.

"My guess is that since each has to have a handgun permit and have already attended some required training (for their permit), they do not see it as necessary," he said.
By JEAN LITTLE
Special to the Press

The UT Martin Annual Spring College Rodeo, to be held this Thursday through Saturday, has brought national recognition to the University of Tennessee at Martin and thousands of people to Martin each year, but few people know the very humble beginnings of the UT Martin Rodeo.

With just the basic knowledge of rodeo and the funding of $600 from the auction of a Shetland pony, UT Martin’s first rodeo was held Memorial Day weekend, 1969, at the home arena of J.E. Cantwell’s Golden Sunset Horse Ranch in Greenfield. Dr. Neils W. “Doc” Robinson, a faculty member in UT Martin’s School of Agriculture, was approached just the year before by a group of college students, Glen Bruce, John Pettit, Tommy Sanders, Clint Callicott, Marvin Youngerman, and Danny Graves, about sponsoring them as the first rodeo team and Robinson had agreed. The first annual UT Martin Rodeo Invitational Championship hosted four teams and the UT Martin team took home the title. The following year, the UT Martin Rodeo was moved to the Obion County Fairgrounds in Union City, where UT Martin cowboys, faculty members, and student volunteers built the corral from donated materials. The UT Martin team went on to win its own rodeo for the next three years in a row, each year competing with more teams entering the competition.

“The cowboys paid their own way to be on the team in those early days and we had a lot of local support that wanted to see us succeed,” according to Warren Caudle, UT Martin Rodeo team member 1970-1974.

From this early success and through the team leadership of Caudle, the team joined the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), which is the governing organization for collegiate rodeo in the United States, and became a member of the tough Ozark Region in 1973. That same year, Ed Coleman, a Goodletsville businessman and the father of a young UT Martin rodeo cowboy Tony Coleman (who would go on to become a national champion), began to financially support the team. They made history in 1974 by earning the team’s first trip to the NIRA nationals and becoming the first team ever from east of the Mississippi River to earn the right to compete in the nationals. After their showing in nationals, the first formal scholarship for rodeo students of $400 was established by the community to assist students in meeting their college expenses.

The UT Martin rodeo team continued to garner both regional and national recognition in the late 1970’s. Skip Emmett became UT Martin’s first rodeo champion by capturing the national all-around cowboy title and also winning the national bareback riding championship in 1975. UT Martin’s Tony Coleman was the region’s all-around champion in 1976 and UT Martin’s second cowboy to win a national championship in 1977. Coleman and Emmett went on to the nationals and ranked first and second respectively in the all-around category in 1976. (Coleman would later go on to be named the first full-time UT Martin Rodeo team coach in 1991.) The team finished fifth in the nation in 1976 and 1977.

Team member Ernie Roberts became the nation’s second best bull rider. Then in 1978, the team went undefeated in Ozark Region competitions and the following year, placed second in the region with Tim Best winning the Ozark Region steer wrestling title.

As the success of the team grew, the annual college rodeo grew as well. The UT Martin rodeo was moved to a local farm in Martin owned by Bo Dodd where attendance began to grow and in 1979, the rodeo was moved to an outdoor arena on the north side of campus where it remained until the Ag Pavilion was completed in 1984. Community support increased to record numbers and the spring rodeo was becoming a social event for not only UT Martin and Martin, but also Northwest Tennessee. By the 1980s, Martin was implementing the Martin Rodeo and Roundup Days, which was a full week of special events and activities coordinated by the newly formed Rodeo Booster Club, bringing in thousands of rodeo enthusiasts. Additionally, Nashville businessman Iby Simpkins...
RODEO,
From Page 1
made a major contribution to the rodeo scholarship fund, donating $10,000 over a 10-year period to assist team members in financing their educations and ensuring that the team would continue to thrive.

From the early “firsts,” from the efforts of a handful of young men who liked horses, from the team winnings in the 1970s, and from the outpouring of community funding and support, the UTM Rodeo Team and Annual College Rodeo has become a lasting and integral part of the UT system and the City of Martin’s tradition and legacy.

Mac Barber, who has been a UTM Rodeo fundraiser since 1971 and an early arena director for 25 years, explained, “All of our expectations have come true from those early days. The UTM rodeo has record turnouts of fans each year, as much or more than any other college sport. The team has won numerous regional and national titles and respect and is still producing winners. We are very proud.”

For more details, read the Rodeo History that is published in the Annual Spring College Rodeo program.

The University of Tennessee at Martin has a nationally ranked rodeo team: in 2006 the UTM Men’s Team finished 6th in the nation and in 2008 the Men’s Team finished 3rd in the Nation. The team has also twice won the prestigious Rawhide Award that recognizes the college rodeo program that best encourages its athletes to make wise choices, set and work toward achieving goals, and to choose winning behaviors in and out of the arena. The UTM Rodeo team has won the “Rodeo of the Year Award” in the Ozark Region for the past three years.
Steer wrestling

Trophy winners
VOWELL, FROM PAGE 1
Mac Barber started taking him to real rodeos, and he was hooked.
One of the first rodeos they attended was at the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville, and he can still remember the amazement of walking into the arena to hear country star Lynn Anderson singing “Rose Garden.”
He had thought rodeos were just all horses and cows and cowboys.
He soon learned he was good at bull riding, and eventually was invited to stay at the famed Steiner Ranch in Texas, where owner Tommy Steiner would bring in five or six trailer loads of bulls every day for riders to practice on.
“We wasn’t scared of nothing,” Vowell grins.
After graduating from UTM Vowell decided to concentrate on the rodeos, and from 1974-1977 “I just rodeoed.”
The most surprising thing about the rodeo circuit, he said, is that “everywhere you go it’s the highlight of the year in that town.”
The town of Sidney, Ohio, has a population of 500-600 residents, Vowell said, but rodeo days brought 10,000 visitors and the livestock used in the rodeo.
But the best part of rodeoing is the connections made with other participants.
“We made a bunch of friends there that I’ve still got,” he says.

David Vowell has fond memories of his rodeo days
By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor
“I grew up riding ponies. We all rode bareback,”
David Vowell of Martin recalls.
When he first tried rodeoing, “It was barely even amateur. Nobody knew nothing. We was all learning. We all just learned [by] going.”
Vowell was one of the first members of the rodeo team at the University of Tennessee in Martin. From those rudimentary beginnings he rose to the top five bull riders in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association by 1977.
Vowell’s interest in rodeo started young. His grandmother, who was originally from Texas, liked to watch rodeos on TV and loved the Kilgore Rangerettes. She and Vowell watched on what he declare to be the first “hand-me-down TV” in Martin, a black-and-white Zenith that “still runs like a top.”
All through the 1950s and 60s they watched the Calgary Stampede, Cheyenne Frontier Days and the national finals on the Zenith.
Before long Vowell’s friends Warren Caudle and

See Vowell,
Page 15
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its 49th-annual Spring College Rodeo at 7:30 p.m., April 6-8, in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the main UT Martin campus.

All Thursday night tickets are $6 per person. Friday night’s performance is $10 for adults ($8 in advance), and Saturday tickets are $12 for adults ($10 in advance). Children’s tickets for ages six to 12 are $7 ($6 in advance), and children ages five and under are always admitted free with a paid adult. A weekend pass for all three performances is $20 per person.

A free county-wide barbecue, sponsored by Edward Jones Investments, will begin at 11 a.m., Saturday, in Festival Park in downtown Martin.

A scholarship auction to support the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship Fund will begin at 12:30 p.m. Auction items can be viewed in advance by visiting auctionzip.com and searching the date and zip code.

Fans can register at the door Thursday night for a chance to win an MTD riding lawn mower. If there is no winner Thursday, a second chance to win will be held during Friday’s competition.

Rodeo clown Brian White will return to the arena, and audience members will see competitors take on the top bucking bulls and horses from Mark Johnson with Universal Rodeos in Jonesboro, Ark.

A coupon for a free child’s ticket (age nine and under with a paid adult) to either Thursday or Friday night’s performance can be found inside any orange UT Martin Rodeo brochure.

For more information on the UT Martin Spring College Rodeo, contact the UT Martin Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at 731-881-7660.

**SHARA ADCOCK**, a sophomore from Smithville, Tenn, ranks 12th in the Ozark Region in 2016-2017 with 183.3 points. Her parents are Joe and Chandra Adcock. Adcock is majoring in agriculture.
John Luthi, head coach of UTM Rodeo

John Luthi has served as head coach of the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo program since 1997.

Under the direction of Luthi – one of the most well-respected names in the rodeo ranks – the UT Martin rodeo program has evolved into a national powerhouse. Luthi’s tireless efforts culminated in a historic 2013-14 season where UT Martin became the first collegiate team from the east of the Mississippi River to win the national men’s rodeo team championship. UT Martin led for the final five days of the weeklong event and earned top honors after accumulating 755 team points to defeat Tarleton State University by 25 points.

The UT Martin men’s team has made 43 straight appearances in the College National Finals Rodeo, considered the “Rose Bowl” of college rodeo. The UT Martin men’s team has also captured 14 Ozark Region titles in Luthi’s tenure. Overall, Luthi has guided the UT Martin men’s rodeo team to seven top-10 national finishes since 2005.

One of Luthi’s finest seasons came in 2013, when the UT Martin men’s team entered the CNFR with a No. 2 national ranking after winning the Ozark Region by a commanding 3,185 points. For his efforts, Luthi was named the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Coach of the Year award.

Luthi also coached Jeff Askey, who won the 2010 national bull riding championship.

Luthi has helped UT Martin produce one of the best rodeos in the nation. The UT Martin Annual Spring College Rodeo, which takes place at the Ned R. McWherter Agricultural Pavilion every April, was recently named the Ozark Region’s “Rodeo of the Year” for the 11th straight season in 2016.

Luthi was a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association from 1978-1990. He was a five-time Prairie Circuit qualifier in bareback riding and three-time qualifier in bull riding.

Luthi won 15 all-around saddles during his 22-year career as a contestant. He produced/promoted at least one college rodeo each year that he has coached.

Luthi judged five different state high school rodeos and some professional rodeos before becoming a head coach at Fort Scott Community College from 1981-97. Along with his head coaching duties, he served as an assistant athletics director from 1994-97.

Luthi is married to Diane Luthi and the couple has one daughter, Katelyn.

All photos included in this special rodeo section courtesy of UTM Sports Information
RYAN MCDANIEL (at left) a sophomore from Yuma Tenn, leads the Ozark Region in bull riding. McDaniel is majoring in animal science and is the son of Stanley and Dione McDaniel.

TANNER PHIPPS (at right) enters his first season as a graduate assistant on the UT Martin rodeo coaching staff. Phipps was a rodeo standout for head coach John Luthi at UT Martin, competing mostly in bareback riding, team roping and steer wrestling from 2013-16 after transferring in from West Alabama. The Dalton, Ga. native qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo in three different seasons and was an integral part of UT Martin’s 2014 national championship run. UT Martin became the first team located east of the Mississippi River to claim the title. Phipps is a three-time participant at the College National Finals Rodeo while at UT Martin, appearing in the event in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

MADISON CROW a senior from Kinston Springs, Tenn is majoring in business management and currently ranks 4th with 350 points in barrel racing. She is the daughter of Roger and Patty Crow.
KENZLEY WILSON hails from Black Oak, Ark., she ranks 5th in the Ozark Region in barrel racing with 320 points and ranks 11th in breakaway roping with 145 points. Wilson is a junior and is majoring in exercise science and wellness. She is the daughter of Cade and Kristy Wilson.

ASHLEY BROOKS a junior from South Fulton, leads the Ozark Region and ranks 22nd nationally with 420 points in barrel racing this season. Her parents are Keith Brooks and Shannon Eakes. Brooks is majoring in agriculture business.
Remembering a cowboy: Coy Lutz’s last ride

Less than eight seconds had passed before Coy Lutz was bucked from his horse. He rolled out of the way and got up, as any rider would do.

However, instead of being angry and leaving the arena, he turned and tipped his hat to the animal.

“It was his way of saying ‘Hey, you did better than me this time, I can’t be mad,’” Lutz’s father, Doug, remembered, noting that his son often tipped his hat to the animals. “He was always respectful like that.”

The 19-year-old cowboy died over the weekend at the Cowtown Rodeo opening weekend when the horse he was riding bucked him.

Doug Lutz remembered his son fondly. Doug stirred up his son’s interest in rodeos after years of riding in them himself. While serving in the Army, stationed in Germany, Doug said learned about the sport and began riding bareback. After coming back to the States, he stopped bareback riding and picked up “bullfighting,” so he could focus on raising a family. As a bull fighter, it was his responsibility to lure the animal away from the rider so they could safely exit the arena.

“Coy was attached to my hip from the day he was born,” said Doug. “Anything I did, he was right there with me. Since I was working as a bull fighter, he got a lot of exposure to the rodeo.”

Although when Coy first expressed his interest, his father was against it.

“I didn’t want him to go through the hard-ness and wear and tear on his body that the rodeo can cause,” he said. “He was a good baseball player so I thought hey, maybe he just stick with that.”

“But, he ended up being really good at riding,” he added. “So, what could I do?”

With a sincere interest in the sport and a natural talent, Coy began training with Dave and Tyler Waltz and quickly started in high school rodeo competitions as a bull rider.

Competitive bull riders start off on the bull with one hand in a rope and the other in the air. Once the gate is opened, riders have to stay on for as close to eight seconds as possible to earn points.

“[While competing as a bull rider] at the national high school finals in Wyoming, Coy hit his face on the bull’s horn and broke his jaw,” recalled his sister, Laura Lutz. “That’s when he decided bareback horses were the way to go.”

Bareback riders ride the horses without a saddle using rings which is essentially a saddle without the seat. Riders put their hand in the rigging, using a sticky substance called rosin and hold on as the horses buck. These horses can weigh-in up to 1,250 pounds.

“It’s so much harder than bull riding, which most people don’t realize,” Laura. “It’s amazing that Coy excelled at it right away. He really had a gift for the sport.”

After making the switch to bareback, Coy started to shine as a rider. With the help of his father, and the coaching advice from Tyler Waltz, Coy was becoming a young superstar in the rodeo community.

Coy competed in the high school rodeo associations for both Pennsylvania and New York, where he rode and qualified for nationals all four years. Coy also participated in the Pro Rodeo Association’s competitions during his senior year.

“That’s how he won money,” said Laura.

“When he wasn’t asking my parents for money, that’s how he got it.”

A rodeo coach from the University of Tennessee at Martin noticed Coy’s talent and passion for the sport and recruited him for the team, landing Coy a full-ride scholarship.

Throughout his freshman year at UT Martin, Coy rode for the school’s rodeo team where he registered points in seven different rodeos, setting career-highs across the board in bareback riding.

“He absolutely loved it there and made friends that became family,” said Laura.

“What’s even better is that Tyler was down there helping coach. His role model was there to push him along the way closer to his dreams.”

At the 48th Annual UT Martin Spring College Rodeo on the weekend of April 14, Coy tallied 78 points in the first round and 76 points in the short go for a 154 average. His opening round total was best in the field while his average score was tied for the top total in the event, according to the UT Martin website.

“I wasn’t able to go but in April, the whole family went down to watch him compete,” said Laura. “The rodeo at UT was like a football game at colleges around here, it was a whole big deal.”

She added that was the last time their sister Melanie would see Coy.

With his entire family supporting his dreams, Coy traveled up and down the east coast competing wherever he could.

“It became his whole life,” said Laura. “If you were talking to him, rodeos and riding would come up. If he was relaxing at home, he’d have the laptop out playing clips from competitions so he could better his own technique. After his competitions, he’d watch his runs and see what he could have done better. He loved it and he wanted to be great.”

On Saturday, May 28 at the 62nd opening weekend Cowtown Rodeo at Cowtown, Coy rode in what turned out to be his last ride after he was bucked from his horse.

More than 2,200 spectators were in the crowd, gathered for the show.

“Normally, I was right there with him,” said Doug. “I’d drive him to the rodeos, be back behind the scenes with him, which I loved, I loved seeing him be so respectful to the animals and the other riders, if anyone needed advice on anything, he’d help them. He was such a positive person like that, he didn’t care who they were. But I think he wanted to prove that he could do it on his own, so this time he did it on his own.”
Coy drove himself to the rodeo, more than 200 miles from his hometown of Howard, Pennsylvania.

"I went to help with his rigging and he was happy that I was there but he gave me the ‘what are you doing, I can do this on my own’ face. And he did, he did it without me," said Doug.

During his ride, Coy was bucked from his horse. The horse, named H3, was bucking in a tight circle in a spinning motion instead of bucking while in a forward motion.

"The horses don't buck to get the rider off, the rider isn't hurting them," said Laura. "The horse is bucking to get the flank strap off of its rear-end. Coy fell off the horse, and he knew how to get out of the way."

LUTZ FROM PAGE A2

The bucking horse landed a hoof down on Coy's chest. Arena staff were able to get the horse away from Coy and came to the cowboy's aid. He was able to be escorted from the arena and taken to The Memorial Hospital of Salem County in Mannington Township where he was pronounced dead.

Over the years, numerous cowboys have suffered broken arms, legs and ribs while competing, but Coy's death was a first at Cowtown.

"But he died doing what he loved," said Laura.

According to his family Coy will be remembered in the rodeo community as a respectful, kind-hearted person who was always there to make everyone smile.

"After he would get bucked from his horse Coy would throw his hands up and say "are you not entertained," recalled Doug. "The first time he did it he came running back and said 'did you see that, did you see what I did? Russell Crowe in "Gladiator,"' and it just became his thing. It was so positive, so him. So, I'm sure he's looking down from heaven saying it now, 'are you not entertained, that was my best one yet,'" said Doug.

He added, "We wanted to raise him to be better than we were, and we did that. He was a better man than I'll ever be and I'm grateful for that."

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ART MEETS POETRY - On Monday at C.E. Weldon Public Library literary and visual arts students from The University of Tennessee at Martin joined in a collaborative project. For the second year, poetry workshop students interpreted individual works of art. Likewise, art students created work based on a poem. The show allows students like Denton Davolt, above, to see how their peers and the community interpret their work.

Photo by Emily Anderson
Finalists for UT Martin Athletics Director announced

There are four men in the running for the job of director of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

A committee from the university identified Shannon Ealy, Tim Duncan, Kurt McGuffin, and Steve Schofield as the finalists after a nationwide search.

Each finalist will take part in an open forum during a campus visit. All forums will begin at 2:30 p.m. in room 229 of the Boling University Center.

Ealy most recently served as senior associate athletic director for internal operations at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He will be on campus April 12.

Duncan, the current director of athletics for Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia, will be on campus April 17.

The director of athletics for Missouri Western State University, McGuffin, is scheduled to be in Martin on April 19.

Schofield, the deputy director of athletics for external operations at the University of Northern Iowa, will take part in the forum on April 25.

Mike Swaim, the current interim director, will continue to serve in the position until the position is filled.

The new director is expected to begin work July 1.
Holocaust Survivor to Speak at UT Martin

Anita Lobel, an award-winning children’s author and illustrator, will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning at 7:30 p.m., April 20, in the Paul Meek Library. Her presentation, “Crossing Sven’s Bridge, A Tennessee Talk,” is part of the university’s Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series.

Born in Krakow, Poland, in 1934, Lobel’s early life was marked by fear and danger. “For five years, the only life I had known involved running, hiding and being hungry,” she said.

She and her brother avoided Nazi capture until 1944, at which point they were found and sent to a series of concentration camps. The Swedish Red Cross was able to rescue the children in 1945, and they were reunited with their parents in Stockholm, Sweden, two years later. Lobel attended school for the first time at the age of 12 and was drawn to the fine arts and literature. After the family’s move to New York City, Lobel developed a growing portfolio of student artwork, which later led to a scholarship to the Pratt Institute. The talents learned during her education have led to a successful career in the world of children’s literature. Her books have appeared on the

The New York Times Best Illustrated List, and she received a Caldecott Honor Medal for her book “On Market Street.” “I have arrived at this moment in my life, somewhat stunned, still in one piece; still at work,” said Lobel. Her personal memoir, “No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War,” was a finalist for the National Book Award. Lobel will also read during Martin’s first Northwest Tennessee Children’s Book Festival on April 22. Her presentation is sponsored by the city of Martin and the UT Martin Paul Meek Library. For more information on the Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series, contact Sam Richardson, Paul Meek Library interim director, at 731-881-7075.
As one of the largest college rodeos around, they have all the best events, allowing college teams to compete together and individually.

"We have bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding — those are your rough-stock events," UTM Rodeo Booster Club President Katie White said. "Then your timed events are your calf roping, your team roping, bulldogging, which everyone seems to love, which the official name’s steer wrestling. And of course you have the cowgirls barrel racing."

UTM senior Tucker Kail is competing in his fourth Spring Rodeo and says it's been the ride of his life.

"It's the fastest four years of my life, and I recommend to everybody, teammates, whoever, family and friends that come to the rodeo, have a big time and don't worry about anything," he said.

While the arena may seem pretty empty right now, the stands will be packed this week for this 49-year-old tradition inspiring those young and old.

"I remember coming here as a little kid, as a little girl," UTM junior McKenna Cox said, reflecting on how surreal it is to be competing. "I would come here during high school and I would work and help through slack and I was like, 'man, I want to compete in that rodeo one day,' and it's great to be able to do that."

Freshman Casey Allen has been a cowgirl since birth, and she said her life wouldn't be the same without rodeo.

"I have to go to my classes, I have to keep good grades here in college because I have to stay eligible to be on the team," she said. "And that keeps me focused, and it drives me forward every day. And my horse is my best friend!"

The rodeo starts at 7:30 each night, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the door each night.
The University of Tennessee-Martin has identified the four finalists for the open position of Athletic Director.

The selected finalists includes Shannon Ealy, who most recently served at the University of Alabama-Birmingham as senior associate athletic director.

Tim Duncan, who is the director of athletics at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia.

Kurt McGuffin, the current director of athletics for Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri.

And Steve Schofield, who is deputy director of athletics at the University of Northern Iowa.

Each finalist will participate in an open forum for campus staff, faculty, students, along with the public, over the next three weeks.

Plans call for the newly selected candidate to begin work as the new Athletic Director on July 1st.
Holocaust survivor and children's book author and illustrator Anita Lobel is speaking at the University of Tennessee at Martin and at a festival downtown this month. Lobel is UT Martin's 2017 Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker. Her work has appeared on the The New York Times Best Illustrated List and she is a Caldecott Honor Medal recipient.

According to a release, Lobel was born in Poland and her early life was shaped by World War II and time in a concentration camp. She avoided Nazi capture until 1944, where she and her brother were sent to concentration camps. They were rescued by the Swedish Red Cross and reunited with their parents two years later. Her family moved to New York and she began a lifetime career in art and literature. Her personal memoir, "No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War," was a finalist for the National Book Award. Lobel will speak at UTM on April 20th in the Paul Meek Library and as part of the Northwest Tennessee Children's Book Festival in Martin on April 22.

First of four finalists for provost visits UT Martin campus

April 10, 2017

MARTIN, Tenn.-The first of four finalists for provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at U Martin visits the campus.

Monday afternoon, Dr. James Ermatinger took part in an open forum session on campus, taking questions from members of the UT Martin campus as well as community members. Ermatinger currently holds the same position as interim at the University of Illinois-Springfield.

Fellow finalists, Drs Eric Link, Steven Ralston and Jay Gatrell will also be on campus over the next two weeks.
UTM narrows search for provost, vice chancellor to four candidates

A search committee from the University of Tennessee at Martin has identified four finalists from a national candidate pool in the search for a new university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Each candidate will participate in an open forum session during which members of the campus and area communities can discuss topics of interest.

All open forums will begin at 3:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium on the first floor of the Boling University Center. All sessions are open to the public. A schedule of appearances is below:

- Dr. James Ermatinger, April 10
- Dr. Eric Link, April 17
- Dr. Steven Ralston, April 20
- Dr. Jay Gatrell, April 24

Ermatinger is currently interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost at the University of Illinois Springfield. In this position, he is responsible for the oversight of four academic colleges, including all academic programs for both undergraduate and graduate-level students, as well as the college library and the university’s Center for State Policy. Ermatinger holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from San Diego State University and a doctorate from Indiana University.

Link is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. The College of Arts and Sciences is the largest college at IPFW and includes 17 departments and programs as well as a number of research centers, interdisciplinary programs and outreach activities. Link holds a bachelor’s degree from Evangel University, a master’s degree from Southwest Missouri State University and a doctorate from Purdue University.

Ralston is the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Morehead State University, where he oversees four academic colleges, several success and development centers, the honors program, college library and other areas relating to the academic success of university students. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Old Dominion University, a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee and a doctorate from Indiana University.

Gatrell currently serves as vice provost at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. In that capacity, he is responsible for the offices of sponsored projects, study abroad, veteran’s affairs, homeland security, and institutional research and effectiveness. He also oversees various development initiatives, biosafety procedures, accreditation compliance and the institutional review board. Gatrell holds a bachelor’s degree from Eastern Michigan University, a master’s degree from the University of Toledo and a doctorate from West Virginia University.

UT Martin launched a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs after Dr. Jerald Ogg, who has held the dual position since 2011, decided to return to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communications.

“UT Martin could not be more grateful for [Dr. Ogg’s] service and dedication to this post, and I wish him well as he returns to the faculty in the Department of Communications,” said Chancellor Keith Carver in a previously released statement. “The person selected to follow him will have big shoes to fill, and we are dedicated to finding the right person to advance UT Martin’s academic goals.”

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.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, is serving as executive recruiter for this position. For more information on the search process, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.
A WINNING WEEKEND — The University of Tennessee at Martin men’s team won its second straight rodeo while the women’s team established a season-high in points as the campus hosted yet another successful rodeo this week at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena. See Page 8 for full coverage of the rodeo.

Photo by Christel Laney
IN COY'S HONOR — The family of Coy Lutz was in attendance at the second night of the 49th annual spring rodeo. Coy was killed last May during a rodeo in his home state in a bareback event. Friday night was 'Orange Out for Coy' night to raise money for the Coy Lutz Memorial Scholarship. Joining UTM rodeo coach John Luthi are (from left) Laura Lutz (sister), Sabine Lutz (mother), Doug Lutz (father) and Luthi.

Photo by Christel Thompson Laney

DONATING TO EDUCATION — UTFCU recently presented $29,000 to area colleges and universities. Pictured are (from left) UTFCU Board Member Charley Deal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at The University of Tennessee Martin; UTFCU President/CEO Debbie H. Jones and Vice Chair of UTFCU's board of directors, Mike McNeil.

UTFCU gives a combined $516,620

UT Federal Credit Union (UTFCU) presented $29,000 in donations to colleges and universities within their field of membership during their annual meeting in Knoxville this month.

Supporting education is at the core of UTFCU's mission, and has been since the credit union was founded in 1969. UTFCU provides many programs throughout the year to promote financial education. The credit union also makes scholarship and endowment contributions, which benefit general scholarship funds, to the institutions of higher education within their field of membership. These contributions come from 5 percent of the interchange income the credit union earns from debit and credit card usage by their owners.

Including the checks presented during the credit union's annual meeting on March 2, UTFCU has given a combined total of $516,620 in scholarships and scholarship endowments to The University of Tennessee Knoxville, The University of Tennessee at Martin, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and Pellissippi State Community College.

UTFCU's Martin branch is located at 103 Hurt Street.
Holocaust survivor to speak

Anita Lobel, an award-winning children's author and illustrator, will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning at 7:30 p.m. April 20 in the Paul Meek Library.

Her presentation, “Crossing Sven’s Bridge, A Tennessee Talk,” is part of the Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series.

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“For five years, the only life I had known involved running, hiding and being hungry,” she said.

She and her brother avoided Nazi capture until 1944, at which point they were found and sent to a series of concentration camps.

The Swedish Red Cross was able to rescue the children in 1945 and they were reunited with their parents in Stockholm, Sweden, two years later. Ms. Lobel attended school for the first time at the age of 12 and was drawn to the fine arts and literature.

After the family’s move to New York City, she developed a growing portfolio of student artwork, which later led to a scholarship to the Pratt Institute. The talents learned during her education have led to a successful career in the world of children’s literature.

Her personal memoir, “No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War,” was a finalist for the National Book Award.

Ms. Lobel will also read during Martin’s first-ever Northwest Tennessee Children’s Book Festival on April 22.

UT Martin among safest college campuses in state

According to the 2016 Crime on Campus Report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the University of Tennessee at Martin remains among the safest public four-year college campuses in the state.

“The safety of our students and employees is a top priority at the University of Tennessee at Martin,” said Chancellor Keith Carver. “We are continually looking for new and innovative ways to promote a culture of safety on campus.”

The data shows that UT Martin reported the lowest number of index crimes of all public four-year universities in Tennessee and closely follows East Tennessee State University for the lowest rate of index crimes per 1,000 people.

Index crimes are those considered serious felony offenses and include murder, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated and sexual assaults, arson, burglary and motor vehicle thefts. UT Martin had 43 such offenses reported in 2016, with an average of 5.74 incidents per 1,000 people.

The university also reports a 35 percent clearance rate for these offenses, giving UT Martin the highest index crime clearance rate among its reported peers.

UT Martin also had the lowest number of group A offenses with 84 incidents reported in 2016 — an average of 11 reports per 1,000 people.

Group A offenses are serious crimes that do not fall under the umbrella of “index crimes.” UT Martin reported a 49 percent clearance rate for these offenses, giving the university the highest group A crime clearance rate among its reported peers.

The main campus is patrolled 24 hours a day and the campus community is consistently taught how to be security-minded in their daily activities.

UTM lecturer of dietetics elected to statewide post

Brian Carroll, lecturer of dietetics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been elected to the position of president-elect-elect of the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

TAND is a statewide organization representing 2,600 food and nutrition experts who are members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Carroll will spend the 2017-18 academic year as president-elect-elect before moving to the president-elect position in 2018-19. He will spend the 2019-20 academic year as president of the organization. He currently serves as TAND’s public policy representative and has been on the board of directors for the past two years.

“As decisions are made with TAND at the state level regarding issues with nutrition and dietetics, those of us on the board of directors who work in the field, which includes the president, can also advocate on behalf of dietetic students in Tennessee,” said Carroll.

UT Martin, the University of Memphis and Vanderbilt University currently have representatives on the TAND board of directors.

In addition to his classroom duties, Carroll also oversees UT Martin’s dietetic internship program, which places 10 students in appropriate clinical settings across the state each year and prepares them to become registered dietitian-nutritionists.

Registered dietitian-nutritionists provide food and nutrition advice, information and consultative care in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, research labs, public health clinics, health and wellness facilities, grocery stores, universities and grade schools.

For information on TAND or the internship, contact Carroll at (731) 881-7102.
SMITH HONORED — University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro (left) recently presented Dr. Bob Smith with a resolution from the UT Board of Trustees officially making him the University of Tennessee at Martin's 10th chancellor. The board also granted Smith the honorary title "chancellor emeritus."

Smith honored by trustees as 10th UTM chancellor

Dr. Bob Smith achieved several milestone goals as the University of Tennessee at Martin's interim chancellor.

The UT Board of Trustees recognized those accomplishments as the word "interim" was removed from his title during the board's spring meeting last month in Chattanooga.

Smith is now officially listed as the university's 10th chancellor and Dr. Keith Carver, originally named the university's 10th chancellor, is now the 11th to hold that title. Smith was also granted the honorary title of "chancellor emeritus" by the board.

"This is an appropriate way to recognize Dr. Smith for his tenure as interim chancellor. His commitment to enrollment, philanthropy and SACS accreditation were invaluable in helping UT Martin continue to educate and serve the citizens of West Tennessee," Carver said.

"We owe him a debt of gratitude for his leadership, and I am grateful for the counsel and guidance he has given me during this transition."

Smith, who lives in Franklin, previously served nine years as president of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and retired as president emeritus.

He was named UT Martin's interim chancellor after Dr. Tom Rakes returned to the faculty in June 2015. During his 19-month tenure, Smith guided the university through a yearlong accreditation probation period from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

He also saw the completion of the new academic building and press box space in Hardy M. Graham Stadium; helped secure the single-largest financial gift in university history to build the future Latimer Engineering and Science Building on the UT Martin main campus; and spearheaded a campaign to fund a new Innovation and Product Realization Facility where local industry leaders could partner with UT Martin students and faculty to develop new products and ideas.

Smith also approved the official start of renovations on the former Methodist Fayette Hospital, the future home of the UT Martin Somerville Center.

"We have definitely benefited from (Smith's) gifted leadership and, during his tenure, many things changed at UT Martin," UT President Joe DiPietro said Dec. 10, 2016, during Smith's final commencement as interim chancellor.

"We wish Bob and (his wife) Ramona well, and we want to thank them for all they've done to improve (the university) ... We owe them a thanks we can never, ever truly repay."

Smith ended his tenure as UT Martin interim chancellor Jan. 2 and Carver began his duties Jan. 3.
Military veterans were honored Thursday during the third annual Skyhawk Veteran Association picnic, held at Martin Church of Christ.

The association is in its fifth year and supports military veterans who attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event was organized by Dr. Alice Catherine Carls, the university's Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, and Molly Morel of Martin.

Mrs. Morel and her husband, Mike, lost their son, U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Brent Morel, when he was killed in combat near Fallujah, Iraq, on April 7, 2004.

Capt. Morel was a 1999 UT Martin graduate and his story was featured in November in a History Channel series called "The Warfighters."

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed the group Thursday and recognized the veterans of foreign wars in attendance.

"We just appreciate you so much, all that you’ve done for our community, all that you’ve done for our state and our country and Americans everywhere and protecting our freedom," Carver said. "You’re just so courageous and so brave, and we’re just so grateful for your service."

State Rep. Andy Holt (R-Dresden) provided the barbecue for the event and presented four flags that have flown over the state Capitol to UT Martin senior Tim McClain, president of the Skyhawk Veteran Association.

Holt announced that he and state Sen. Mark Green (R-Clarksville), nominated by President Donald Trump for Army secretary, have co-sponsored legislation that will allow the POW/MIA flag to fly over the state Capitol during September.

Limitations in the flag pole design prevent more than two flags from being flown at once, Holt said, and the American, Tennessee and legislative flags fill most of that available schedule. Holt said the POW/MIA flag flying over the capitol for the one month each year is "hopefully taken as a gesture of recognition for these men and women who’ve gone out and served our country — folks (who) are never coming home."

"Freedom can only be protected in the legislative branch because freedom was protected at home and abroad by folks like you guys who actually went out and fought for it, risked your lives, and there’s no way that I or anybody else in this room can say ‘thank you’ enough for what you’ve done for us," he added.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John "Glad" Castellaw offered keynote remarks to the group. The UT Martin alumnus participated in the ROTC program during his first two years at the university and credited that experience as his introduction to the military. He thanked the veterans and spouses for their service to the country and he emphasized that today’s struggle for freedom never ends.

"We are in a generations-long fight and it’s not just about sending military folks there. It’s much more than that," he said. "It’s about having strong communities, having (a) strong economy and doing the right things as a nation. And that puts added responsibility on each and every one of us as citizens (who) demand that our government work and that our organizations do the right thing. That is something that all of us must continue to do."

"The most precious resource that we give to our nation is the blood of those who serve," Castellaw added, urging support for the educational institutions that are creating the next generation of military leaders.

Military veteran Johnny Dyer, a UT Martin graduate and the university’s new veteran services coordinator, reviewed progress made supporting veterans who have returned to college. The university will officially receive a VETS Campus designation May 26 following the university’s annual Memorial Day commemoration.

The Tennessee General Assembly passed the Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act in 2014, which promotes enrollment and education completion for veterans enrolled at Tennessee colleges and universities.

Gold Star scholarships

Dyer also announced the Gold Star Family Scholarship, three $500 awards that will be given to veterans who are UT Martin students in memory of Capt. Morel (Weakley County), U.S. Navy SEAL Aaron Vaughn (Obion County) and U.S. Army Sgt. Dustin Laird (Weakley County).

Mrs. Morel offered special thanks to Vietnam War veterans and announced that American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55 is a partner for the first Vietnam War commemoration pinning ceremony to be held 9 a.m. May 10 during an assembly at Martin Middle School. The public is invited to the ceremony.

"This is just a small thing that we can do," Mrs. Morel said. "But we are pleased to be a part of the efforts to formally say, ‘Thank you (Vietnam veterans) and welcome home.’"
Nurse Excellence Day planned

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Pi Tau chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing will sponsor its annual Nurse Excellence Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 24 in UT Martin’s Boling University Center.

The event is part of UT Martin’s Honors Week and allows senior nursing students an opportunity to present their research in the form of poster presentations.

Dr. Mary Bess Griffith, chair of the Bethel University Department of Nursing, is the keynote speaker and will discuss her dissertation research, titled “The relationship between chemical component of tears and emotions.” She is a certified nurse educator, family nurse practitioner and registered nurse.

Dr. Sonja Fuqua, regional director for the Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society of Nursing, will also address attendees. She will speak about the mission and activities of the organization within the three-state region of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Nursing at (731) 881-7131.

FLAGS PRESENTED — State Rep. Andy Holt (left) presented four flags previously flown over the state Capitol to Tim McClain, president of the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association, during the third annual Skyhawk Veteran Association picnic held Thursday at Martin Church of Christ. Holt provided barbecue and offered remarks during the event.
DRESDEN ENTERPRISE • APRIL 12, 2017

UTM rodeo a happy host

The University of Tennessee at Martin men’s team won its second straight rodeo while the women’s team established a season-high in points as the campus hosted yet another successful rodeo this week at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex and NW (Doc) Robinson Arena.

This year was the 49th installment of the UT Martin Spring College Rodeo and was highlighted by a heartfelt salute to Coy Lutz.

The former UT Martin cowboy passed away last May after a promising freshman season and was honored with an emotional tribute on Friday evening. Fans wore orange on said evening in memory of Lutz and in a show of solidarity for his loved ones in the aftermath of his tragic passing.

The UT Martin men’s team compiled a season-high 750 points, winning the rodeo by 115 points over second-place Southern Arkansas.

The UT Martin women’s squad built up 305 points, finishing in second place just 40 points behind Missouri Valley College.

UT Martin returns to rodeo action on April 20-22 when it travels to Senatobia, Miss. for a rodeo hosted by Northwest Mississippi Community College.
PHI KAPPA PHI NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY - Pictured (front row, l-r) are Nathan Williamson, Chelsea Thweatt, Brooke Baker, (back row) Jake Bynum, William Mansfield, Lakyn Bell and Dustin Warren. Not pictured is Dee Pritchett. All individuals are Martin residents except Mansfield, who is from Gleason.

Locals Chosen For National Honor Society

Several local residents were inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony April 6. Phi Kappa Phi chapter 127, founded at UT Martin in 1971, honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success. Community members who meet certain requirements can also be included. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines.

McWherter Institute To Host Igniting Innovation Event April 20

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Ned Ray McWherter Institute will host its fourth-annual Igniting Innovation event beginning at 7 p.m., April 20, in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. The community is invited to attend.

Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of Music, and John Sellers, founder and CEO of the international Letters in Motion campaign and the Fernweh Fox studio in Martin, will serve as the evening's featured speakers. Hill is an award-winning musician and has performed both domestically and internationally in solo events and as part of multiple ensembles. Sellers is a young entrepreneur and a former McWherter Institute participant. Both speakers will discuss the ability to achieve great goals from humble beginnings.

The McWherter Institute is a program designed to expose selected students to unique opportunities including both domestic and international travel, business networking events, personal promotion training and entrepreneurial instruction.

The event is free and open to the public.
Economic and business development summit slated

The Tennessee Small Business Development centers of the Dyersburg State community and the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host the 10th-annual Mid-South Economic and Business Development Summit beginning at 10 a.m., May 16, at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

The registration fee is $50 per person, which includes refreshments, conference materials, lunch and John Hope Bryant’s book “How the Poor Can Save Capitalism.” Those interested in attending must register by May 1.

John Hope Bryant, a “silver rights” entrepreneur and businessman, author, philanthropist and founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Operation HOPE and Bryant Group Venture, will be the summit’s featured speaker. Bryant has been an adviser to the last three U.S. presidents, and in 2014 President Barak Obama appointed him to serve on the new U.S. President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans.

Summit speakers also include Bill Lee, chairman of Lee Company, and Marty Marby, West Tennessee division manager for the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development. Lee was recognized as the “Most Admired CEO” by the Nashville Business Journal in 2015 and currently serves as president of Tennesseans for Economic Growth. Marby has experience creating and implementing strategic marketing plans and serves as department liaison to the commissioner and Tennessee Hospitality and Tourism Association. She will discuss the economic development potential for West Tennessee and the advantages the Mississippi River offers for tourism growth.

Participants may register online at utm.edu/midsouthsummit or by calling the UT Martin REED Center at 731-587-7333.
Military veterans honored during Skyhawk Vet Association picnic

Military veterans were honored April 6 during the third-annual Skyhawk Veteran Association picnic held at the Martin Church of Christ. The association is in its fifth year and supports military veterans who attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event was organized by Dr. Alice Catherine Carl, the university's Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, and Molly Morel, of Martin.

Molly and her husband, Mike, lost their son, Marine Capt. Brent Morel, when he was killed in combat near Fallujah, Iraq, on April 7, 2004. Capt. Morel was a 1999 UT Martin graduate, and his story was featured in November in a History Channel series called "The Warfighters."

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The Tennessee General Assembly passed the Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act in 2014, which promotes enrollment and education completion for veterans enrolled at Tennessee colleges and universities.

Dyer also announced the Gold Star Family Scholarship, three $500 awards that will be given to veterans who are UT Martin students in memory of Marine Capt. Brent Morel (Weakley County), Navy SEAL Aaron Vaughn (Obion County) and Army Sgt. Dustin Laird (Weakley County).

Molly Morel offered special thanks to Vietnam War veterans and announced that the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55 is a partner for the first Vietnam War Commemoration pinning ceremony to be held 9 a.m., May 10, during an assembly at Martin Middle School. The public is invited to the ceremony.

"This is just a small thing that we can do," Morel said. "But we are pleased to be a part of the efforts to formally say, 'Thank you (Vietnam veterans) and welcome home.'"
Nurse Excellence Day set April 24

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Pi Tau chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing will sponsor its annual Nurse Excellence Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., April 24, in UT Martin’s Boling University Center.

The event is part of UT Martin’s Honors Week and allows senior nursing students an opportunity to present their research in the form of poster presentations.

Dr. Mary Bess Griffith, chair of the Bethel University Department of Nursing, is the keynote speaker and will discuss her dissertation research, titled “The relationship between chemical component of tears and emotions.”

Griffith is a certified nurse educator, family nurse practitioner and registered nurse.

Dr. Sonja Fuqua, regional director for the Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society of Nursing, will also address attendees.

Fuqua will speak about the mission and activities of the organization within the three-state region of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Nursing at 731-881-7131.

UTM one of safest campuses in Tennessee

According to the 2016 Crime on Campus Report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the University of Tennessee at Martin remains among the safest public four-year college campuses in the state.

“The safety of our students and employees is a top priority at the University of Tennessee at Martin,” said Chancellor Keith Carver. “We are continually looking for new and innovative ways to promote a culture of safety on campus.”

The data show that UT Martin reported the lowest number of index crimes of all public four-year universities in Tennessee and closely follows East Tennessee State University for the lowest rate of index crimes per 1,000 people.

Index crimes are those considered serious felony offenses and include murder, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated and sexual assaults, arson, burglary and motor vehicle thefts. UT Martin had 43 such offenses reported in 2016, with an average of 5.74 incidents per 1,000 people. The university also reports a 35 percent clearance rate for these offenses, giving UT Martin the highest index crime clearance rate among its reported peers.

UT Martin also had the lowest number of group A offenses with 84 incidents reported in 2016 – an average of 11 reports per 1,000 people. Group A offenses are serious crimes that do not fall under the umbrella of “index crimes.” UT Martin reported a 49 percent clearance rate for these offenses, giving the university the highest group A crime clearance rate among its reported peers.

The UT Martin main campus is patrolled 24 hours a day, and the campus community is consistently taught how to be security-minded in daily activities. Freshmen attend special training sessions in their first year to instruct them on basic personal safety, property security and an awareness of current surroundings.

For more information, contact Scott Robbins, director, UT Martin Department of Public Safety, at 731-881-7775.
LOCAL RESIDENTS CHOSEN — Several local residents were inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony April 6. Phi Kappa Phi chapter 127, founded at UT Martin in 1971, honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success. Community members who meet certain requirements can also be included. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines. Pictured (front row, l-r) are Nathan Williamson, Chelsea Thweatt, Brooke Baker, (back row) Jake Bynum, William Mansfield, Lakyn Bell and Dustin Warren. Not pictured is Dee Pritchett. All individuals are Martin residents except Mansfield, who is from Gleason.

FLAG PRESENTATION — State Rep. Andy Holt presents four flags previously flown over the Tennessee Capitol to Tim McClain, president of the UT Martin Skyhawk Veteran Association. Holt provided barbecue and offered remarks during the third-annual Skyhawk Veteran Association picnic held April 6 at Martin Church of Christ.
Brian Carroll elected to position on Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Brian Carroll, lecturer of dietetics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been elected to the position of president-elect-elect of the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. TAND is a statewide organization representing 2,600 food and nutrition experts who are members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Carroll will spend the 2017-18 academic year as president-elect before moving to the president-elect position in 2018-19. He will spend the 2019-20 academic year as president of the organization. Carroll currently serves as TAND's public policy representative and has been on the board of directors for the past two years.

"As decisions are made with TAND at the state level regarding issues with nutrition and dietetics, those of us on the board of directors who work in the field, which includes the president, can also advocate on behalf of dietetic students in Tennessee," said Carroll.

UT Martin, the University of Memphis and Vanderbilt University currently have representatives on the TAND board of directors.

In addition to his classroom duties, Carroll also oversees UT Martin’s dietetic internship program, which places 10 students in appropriate clinical settings across the state each year and prepares them to become registered dietitian-nutritionists.

Registered dietitian-nutritionists provide food and nutrition advice, information and consultative care in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, research labs, public health clinics, health and wellness facilities, grocery stores, universities and grade schools.

For more information on TAND or the UT Martin dietetics internship program, contact Carroll at 731-881-7102 or email bcarro18@utm.edu.
Holocaust survivor, children's author to speak April 20

Anita Lobel, an award-winning children's author and illustrator, will speak at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, in the Paul Meek Library. Her presentation, “Crossing Sven’s Bridge, A Tennessee Talk,” is part of the university’s Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series.

Born in Krakow, Poland, in 1934, Lobel’s early life was marked by fear and danger. “For five years, the only life I knew involved running, hiding and being hungry,” she said. She and her brother avoided Nazi capture until 1944, at which point they were found and sent to a series of concentration camps.

The Swedish Red Cross rescued the children in 1945, and they were reunited with their parents in Stockholm, Sweden, two years later. Lobel attended school for the first time at the age of 12 and was drawn to fine arts and literature.

After the family’s move to New York City, Lobel developed a growing portfolio of student artwork, which later led to a scholarship to the Pratt Institute. The talents honed during her education have led to a successful career in the world of children’s literature.

Lobel’s books have appeared on the The New York Times Best Illustrated List, and she received a Caldecott Honor Medal for her book On Market Street. Her personal memoir, No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War, was a finalist for the National Book Award.

“I have arrived at this moment in my life, somewhat stunned, still in one piece, still at work,” said Lobel, who will also read during Martin’s first Northwest
Second of four candidates for UTM provost visits campus

April 17, 2017 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff (http://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7/eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

MARTIN, Tenn.-The UT Martin family meets the second of four candidates for Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Monday.

Dr. Eric Link spoke to students and staff during an open forum on campus.
Link is currently the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

LOCAL STUDENT RECEIVES UT MARTIN AWARD – Sara Jane Ragain (left), of Medina, received one of two Swafford Public Relations Scholarships during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet April 6. These scholarships are given to junior and senior students in the public relations concentration. Ragain, a senior, is pictured with Andrew Brown (center), lecturer of communications, and Corrie Campbell, the second recipient. For more information on the UT Martin Department of Communications, contact Dr. Robert Nanney, department chair, at 731-881-7556.
By KEVIN WEEKS
Messenger Sports

Tim Duncan is fluent in West Tennessee.
He’s good at speaking the UT Martin language, too.

Duncan was the second of four finalists for the UTM athletic director job to tour the campus and community and speak at an open forum on campus.

It was at the open forum Monday where Duncan, a Memphis native, talked about his rural upbringing and his days as a basketball player in the Bluff City’s high school ranks and later at Memphis State (University of Memphis).

He earned his business degree from Memphis in 1992 and a masters in sports administration from Grambling State in 1997. After short career in the United States Basketball League — “I made $250 a week,” he said — he interned at Russell Athletics, was involved in promoting the Winston Cup for R.J. Reynolds and had a small business before entering collegiate athletics administration at Memphis, North Carolina-Wilkinson and Paine College before his current position as AD at Clayton State in Georgia.

He also talked about his vision for UT Martin — what he wants athletics to look like in 2020 — and why he feels his is the right person for the position.

For the school’s future, he checked off a list that included perennial contenders for OVC championships in every sport, student-athletes’ success in the classroom, retaining and hiring the best coaches and being visible in the community as role models.

He pointed out that a lot of those items have already been checked — the successful programs and coaches as well as OVC honor reports dotted with Skyhawks — and included the “bold, new leadership” of chancellor Keith Carver, the campus and, ultimately, coming home as reasons for pursuing the job.

“I think it helps,” he said about being from the area. “Me being from this area is a feather in my cap, but it comes down to fit. Does the committee think I’ll be a good fit here? I hope so.”

Duncan introduced himself with a PowerPoint presentation, beginning with humor by making sure everyone knew he was not that Tim Duncan — the former San Antonio Spurs star player. “I’m the original, being older, but I’m proud of what he’s done with the name,” Duncan said of the future Hall of Famer.

Getting students to the games is a big challenge, and Duncan said it takes being creative to do that. Free items at the game are part of that, he told the forum visitors.

“What’s been successful with us in the past, with coaches and players, is taking them to the dorms and letting the students know how important they are,” Duncan told members of the area media. “We work with residential advisors and student life and housing and set up challenges between dorms and floors. Those are a couple of things we’ve tried, because it’s critical for (students) to create the environment. So, we need to have the students on board. I’m definitely willing to go where the students are in order to get them to come to us.

“We need to have the (Internet) connectivity because they’re not going to put their phones down. We need to make the venues more accessible so they’re still able to connect.”

Duncan spoke on a wide range of topics at the forum and with the media afterward:

BRANDING: “Our football contract with Nike goes into 2021, so that’ll be the earliest we can get everyone on the same page. I think that’s important for branding purposes. When we have a collective buying power, we get more in return. That’s a conversation we need to have with our coaching staff over the next couple of years and let them know we have to pull in the same direction so we can get more for everyone.”

UTM currently has deals with Nike in some sports, Under Armour in others.

FOOTBALL POES: “That’s a problem for a good program, like the football program here. FBS teams are definitely not going to come here, and other FCS teams that are good don’t want to come here and get a loss. So sometimes you’re the victim of your own success. I think it takes relationships. We have to reach out to people that Jason knows, our administration knows and I know to see what we can work out. There are some creative things we’d like to do, but it’ll be difficult because we’ve been successful.”

CORE VALUES: Duncan has a four-point value system that he put together based on his initials — Teamwork, Accessibility, Discernment, Service. “My job is to provide the resources for our coaches and student-athletes to shine. They’re the stars. My job is to roll up my sleeves and work.”

ALUMNI SUPPORT: Relying on his experience, Duncan wants to establish programs on campus where current students interact with alumni in an effort to get them on campus and donating to the university. He also wants to join Carver on his regional visits to schools, civic clubs and alumni functions to get to know the communities and UTM graduates while building a data base of potential donors.

“Athletics is a way to open the door to the rest of the university,” he said. “We have a great message and a great story here. I’d love to be the one to tell it.”

UTM is looking to hire an AD on a permanent basis following the departure of Julie Freire last year to take a position in the University of Pittsburgh athletic department.

Women’s basketball coach Kevin McMillan and football head coach Jason Simpson initially shared those duties on an interim basis, and Mike Swaim is currently serving in an interim capacity.

The school plans to have a new director on the job by July 1.

Sports reporter Kevin Weeks can be contacted by email at kweak@ucmessenger.com.
ERIN CHESNUT
UT MARTIN

MARTIN - Three teams from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering competed in the recent American Society of Civil Engineers Deep South Conference at the University of Memphis. UT Martin students competed in the concrete canoe, steel bridge, surveying, mead paper and mystery event competitions and earned top three awards in three of five events.

The concrete canoe competition is unique because students must not only develop a custom concrete mix and then design and build the canoe itself – they must also race it against other competitors. The UT Martin team placed second in the men’s sprint and men’s endurance categories, and third in the co-ed sprint competition, as well as third overall.

Competition judges were especially impressed with the team's unusual hull design and outside-the-box thinking. "Sam Reeves, the hull design manager, put forth an innovative design that the judges fell in love with because it was an asymmetrical vessel. All the judges commented on their excitement to see how it would perform in the water," said project manager Charlie Brackeen, of Humboldt.

The concrete canoe team was UT Martin's largest participating group, with contributing team members Brackeen; Sam Reeves, of Milan; Jacob Winters, of Henning; Garrett Wright, of Trezevant; Josh Ferguson, of Bon Aqua; Ben Davenport, of Humboldt; Hugh Pinckley, of Trenton; Cody Harris, of Beech Bluff; Marne Helbing, of Gilbert, Ariz.; and Abby Masters, of Huntington Beach, Calif.

See Canoe, Page 8A
The steel bridge competition requires a team of students to design, fabricate and assemble a bridge based on certain specifications. This year, the bridges could be no more than 20 feet long, five feet tall and five feet wide, and needed to support a weight of 2,500 pounds.

"In order to prepare for the competition, we had to go through the steps of the design process, which is the same method we will encounter when performing designs in the real world. We had to learn to interpret and understand the rules and requirements of the competition and base our design to fit those parameters," said team member Cody King, of Gates.

Team members King; Michael Reyes, of Franklin; Helbing; Fletcher Johnson, of Helena, Ala.; Brandon Hendren, of Dyersburg; Jacob Butrey, of Fairview; and Janet LaRose, of Dyersburg, came in second place for structural stiffness, one of several categories considered by the judges.

UT Martin also sent four students to participate in the surveying competition, which required teams to measure distances and elevations using traditional surveying methods and equipment within a specified area and limited time. King, Johnson, Hendren and Reyes took home the second-place prize for their efforts in this field.

Logan Rangel, a sophomore from Wartrace, wrote and presented a Mead paper as a separate component of the steel bridge and concrete canoe projects.

This paper is required for teams to advance to the national level, if they qualify.

Wright, Harris, Davenport and Butrey also competed in a mystery event, which involved taping a chair to a wall in such a way that would support a 280-pound person for three minutes.

The team completed the task successfully but did not place in the competition. "These competitions are designed so a student can apply the knowledge gained in the classroom. Considering most schools went home without any hardware shows where we stand as a university program," said Brackeen.

All senior engineering majors at UT Martin are required to complete a senior design project, and the steel bridge competition is one of several options available. Students can also choose to build robotics, build and race a Baja car, or construct a model airplane for competition. The concrete canoe competition is an ASCE club project but not an official UT Martin senior design project.

The UT Martin Department of Engineering is housed within the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and concentrations are available in civil, industrial, mechanical and electrical engineering.

A new concentration in manufacturing engineering is scheduled to launch in the fall 2017 semester.

For more information on the ASCE competition teams, contact Dr. Ray Witmer at 731-881-7388 or by email at rwitmer@utm.edu.

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Five UTM Student Athletes Honored

Five UT-Martin student athletes were honored during the 12th annual Senior Banquet on Monday night at the Champions Club of Hardy Graham Stadium.

Ann Asipan, of cross county, and Sarah Candeloro, of tennis, shared the Bettye Giles "Female Athlete of the Year" award.

Men's basketball player Jacoby Mobley was named the Bob Carroll "Male Athlete of the Year", and golfer Austin Swafford and football player Damani Taylor were awarded the Sportsmanship Award.
John Thornton of Atoka received two awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet on April 6. Thornton, a freshman, received the Stewart Byars Excellence in Radio Production Award and a Duke Drumm-WCMT Scholarship. He is pictured with Misty Menees, a co-sponsor of the Stewart Byars award. For more information on the UT Martin Department of Communications, contact Dr. Robert Nanney, department chair, at 731-881-7556.
Two remaining finalists have withdrawn from consideration for the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs position at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dr. Steven Ralston, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Morehead State University, withdrew from the search for personal reasons. He was scheduled to visit the campus April 20. Dr. Jay Gatrell, who currently serves as vice provost at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky., has accepted another position. He was scheduled to visit UT Martin on April 24. No additional candidates are scheduled to be interviewed.

"We were pleased to offer the university four outstanding candidates to consider for this critical position," said Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor. "Having two candidates withdraw was unexpected, but their reasons were unrelated to UT Martin or the search process. We are pleased to have two highly qualified candidates remaining for consideration, and we have no plans to interview additional candidates at this time."

Candidates who interviewed for the position were Dr. James Ermatinger, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost for the University of Illinois Springfield, and Dr. Eric Link, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

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.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, is serving as executive recruiter for this position. For more information on the search process, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.

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**Igniting Innovation set for Thursday**

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute will host its fourth annual Igniting Innovation event beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. The community is invited to attend.

Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of Music, and John Sellers, founder and CEO of the international Letters in Motion campaign and the Fernweh Fox studio in Martin, will serve as the evening’s featured speakers.

Dr. Hill is an award-winning musician and has performed both domestically and internationally in solo events and as part of multiple ensembles. Sellers is a young entrepreneur and a former McWherter Institute participant.

Both speakers will discuss the ability to achieve great goals from humble beginnings. The McWherter Institute is a program designed to expose selected students to unique opportunities including both domestic and international travel, business networking events, personal promotion training and entrepreneurial instruction.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the McWherter Institute or the Igniting Innovation event, contact Joyanne Gansereit, program coordinator, at (731) 881-3620.
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The steel bridge competition requires a team of students to design, fabricate and assemble a bridge based on certain specifications. This year, the bridges could be no more than 20 feet long, five feet tall and five feet wide, and needed to support a weight of 2,500 pounds.

“‘In order to prepare for the competition, we had to go through the steps of the design process, which is the same method we will encounter when performing designs in the real world. We had to learn to interpret and understand the rules and requirements of the competition and base our design to fit those parameters,” said team member Cody King, of Gates.

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The UT Martin Department of Engineering is housed within the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and concentrations are available in civil, industrial, mechanical and electrical engineering. A new concentration in manufacturing engineering is scheduled to launch in the fall 2017 semester. For more information on the ASCE competition teams, contact Dr. Ray Witmer at 731-881-7388 or by email at rwitmer@utm.edu.
RAGAIN RECEIVES UT MARTIN AWARD - Sara Jane Ragain (left) of Medina, Tenn. received one of two Swafford Public Relations Scholarships during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet April 6. These scholarships are given to junior and senior students in the public relations concentration. Ragain, a senior, is joined by Andrew Brown, lecturer of communications. For more information on the UT Martin Department of Communications, contact department chair, Dr. Robert Nanney at 731-881-7556.

Skyhawk battalion cadets receive badges

Five cadets from the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge during a competition recently held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. The proficiency badge is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, and is a foreign award approved for wear on the United States Army uniform.

ROTC cadets and Army soldiers must meet criteria in eight events to qualify for this recognition: a sprint test, flex-arm hang, 1,000-meter run, 100-meter swim, first aid application, pistol qualification, road march, and a nuclear, biological and chemical preparedness test.

Cadets Grady Potts, of Humboldt, and Andy Grissom, of Gleason, both earned badges at the gold level. Cadets Remington Burch, of Trenton, and Jessica Roberts, of Clarksville, earned badges at the silver and bronze levels, respectively.

An ROTC unit was first established at UT Martin in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964. The military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes cadets from Lane College and Union University in Jackson and Murray State University in Murray, Ky.

For more information on the military science program or the Skyhawk ROTC Battalion, contact the Department of Military Science and Leadership at 731-881-7682 or by email at armyrotc@utm.edu.
Taylor earns high UTM honor

Five UT Martin student-athletes were honored at the 12th annual Senior Banquet in the Champions Club of the Hardy Graham Stadium press box on Monday.

Ann Asipan (cross country) and Sarah Candeloro shared the 2017 Bettye Giles Female Athlete of the Year while Jacoby Mobley (men’s basketball) brought home the 2017 Bob Carroll Male Athlete of the Year honor. Austin Swafford (golf) and Westview product Darnani Taylor (football) also earned the 2017 Sportsmanship Award.

Taylor served as the heart and soul of the UTM defense over the past two seasons, often serving as one of the team’s three designated team captains. He helped the Skyhawks to a 12-4 OVC record and secured a pair of all-conference accolades during his UTM tenure.
Pelren Named A Wildlife Society Fellow

Eric Pelren, professor of wildlife biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named a fellow by The Wildlife Society, an international professional organization.

The lifetime appointment is awarded to "recognize current TWS members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession and have been members for at least 10 years," according to the TWS website. It is the highest honor given by the Wildlife Society.

"This is a very unexpected and great honor for me," said Pelren. "The responsibility, to be an ambassador for The Wildlife Society and its core value of science-based wildlife management, is easy. I've always been an advocate for this mission, just as I believe all TWS members are."

Pelren was a student member of both the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Oregon State University chapters while pursuing master's and doctoral degrees, respectively, at those institutions and has been a member since 1988. He served as president of the Tennessee chapter from 2000-02 and later as president of the Southeastern Section from 2014-15. He has also been the faculty adviser for the UT Martin student chapter since beginning his UT Martin career in 1997.

"Increasing human populations and resource use are impacting wildlife much more significantly than most people know. Most folks are generally aware of declines of 'charismatic megafauna,' like elephants and tigers, but few are aware of the over 100 endangered species right here in Tennessee, for example," said Pelren. "I believe The Wildlife Society models very well – perhaps more effectively than any other group out there - the application of research results to real-world problems to benefit both wildlife and people in an increasingly human-occupied landscape."

Since joining the UT Martin faculty, Pelren has received the UT Martin Outstanding Adviser Award (2003), the Hal and Erma Reagan Faculty Leave Award (2009), the Ray and Wilma Smith Professorship (2013-14) and the Coffee Outstanding Teaching Award (2015) from the university.

Pelren will be officially recognized as a TWS fellow during the organization's 24th-annual conference held Sept. 23-27 in Albuquerque, N.M.
Dr. Tydings to Address UTM Graduates

Posted on April 20, 2017 by Charles Choate in Local News

Dr. Flora Tydings

Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor, Dr. Flora Tydings, will deliver the Spring commencement address at UT-Martin.

Graduation ceremonies will take place on May 6th at the Elam Center on campus. Dr. Tydings received a Bachelor of Science in education from Georgia Southern University, and earned a Master of Education at Mercer University.

She later graduated with a Doctoral degree in occupational studies at the University of Georgia.

The UT-Martin Spring graduation is a ticketed event, and will serve as the first for new campus Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.

Local students chosen for National Honor Society

Darby Boyd, of Selmer, was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony April 6. Not pictured are Kaitlyn Boggs and Jennifer Naillon, both of Bethel Springs, who were also inducted. Phi Kappa Phi chapter 127, founded at UT Martin in 1971, 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.
McGuffin impressive in latest UTM athletic director public open forum

By Randy Cavin
Sports Editor

The search goes on for the UT Martin athletic director with another open forum for the public.

UT Martin’s first two candidates gave the public a reason to be impressed by them. The third candidate to hold an open forum was equally as impressive with his delivery.

Kurt McGuffin is currently the athletic director at Western Missouri State University, a Division II school, and he wants his first job as a Division I school to be at the University at Martin.

He certainly has the qualifications, even though he has never held the post at a D-I institute.

McGuffin has been the athletic director at Western Missouri since Oct. 2011. Before that he was was the Assistant Athletic Director/ Director of Athletics Development at the University of Colorado, a post he took in 2010.

A goal he wants to set as the UTM athletic director is to see all of the student-athlete succeed.

"College is a great time for student-athletes," McGuffin said. "They need to experience all of the college atmosphere. I want to see all of the student-athletes walk across the stage on graduation day with an OVC championship ring on their finger."

McGuffin set forth his plans for UTM by having a high level of championship athletic competition and to support all of the teams and student-athletes.

He also wants to do it the right way and win by paying attention to education and the NCAA compliance rules. McGuffin wants the athletic programs to value the local community, the state and to be servants to the UT Martin community.

He already likes the feel of Martin and the surrounding area.

"There are not many D-I schools in towns this size," he said. "I want to live here. It is a better fit for me and my family."

Raising funds is no stranger for him. He did it at WMSU with the renovation of the football stadium.

He would like to do something with Skyhawk Arena.

"I think we could look at it a little bit," he said. "I am not a huge fan of big arenas. I think we could tighten that up a little bit. It is important to a kid to have a fresh look. I think the basketball arena, we could do some things with."

UTM has one more open forum on Tuesday for the fourth and final candidate.

WANTS TO LEAD — UT Martin athletic director candidate Kurt McGuffin at Wednesday’s open forum for the public. McGuffin wants to be a Division I school athletic director and he wants to be at UT Martin.

UTM remains one of the safest campuses in Tennessee

According to the 2016 Crime on Campus report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the University of Tennessee at Martin remains among the safest public four-year college campuses in the state.

"The safety of our students and employees is a top priority at UTM," said Chancellor Keith Carver. "We are continually looking for new and innovative ways to promote a culture of safety on campus."

The UTM main campus is patrolled 24 hours a day, and the campus community is consistently taught how to be security-minded in their daily activities. Freshmen attend special training sessions in their first year to instruct them on basic personal safety, property security and an awareness of current surroundings.

The data shows that UTM reported the lowest number of index crimes of all public four-year universities in Tennessee and closely follows East Tennessee State University for the lowest rate of index crimes per 1,000 people.

Index crimes are those considered serious felonies and include murder, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated sexual assaults, arson, burglary, and motor vehicle thefts. UTM had 43 such offenses reported in 2016, with an average of 5.74 incidents per 1,000 people. The university also reports a 35 percent clearance rate for these offenses, giving UTM the highest index crime clearance rate among its reported peers.

UTM had the lowest number of group A offenses with 84 incidents reported in 2016, an average of 11 reports per 1,000 people. Group A offenses are serious crimes that do not fall under the umbrella of "index crimes." UTM reported a 49 percent clearance rate for these offenses, giving the university the highest group A crime clearance rate among Tennessee schools.
UTM Students at Conference

Three teams from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering competed in the American Society of Civil Engineers Deep South Conference at the University of Memphis. UT Martin students competed in the concrete canoe, steel bridge, surveying, mead paper and mystery event competitions and earned top-three awards in three of five events.

The concrete canoe competition is unique because students must not only develop a custom concrete mix and then design and build the canoe itself—they must also race it against other competitors. The UT Martin team placed second in the men’s sprint and men’s endurance categories and third in the co-ed sprint competition, as well as third overall.

Competition judges were especially impressed with the team’s unusual hull design and outside-the-box thinking. “Sam Reeves, the hull design manager, put forth an innovative design that the judges fell in love with because it was an asymmetrical vessel. All the judges commented on their excitement to see how it would perform in the water,” said project manager Charlie Brackeen, of Humboldt.

The concrete canoe team was UT Martin’s largest participating group, with team members Brackeen; Sam Reeves, of Milan; Jacob Winters, of Henning; Garrett Wright, of Trezevant; Josh Ferguson, of Bon Aqua; Ben Davenport, of Humboldt; Hugh Pinkley, of Trenton; Cody Harris, of Beach Bluff; Marne Helbing, of Gilbert, Ariz.; and Abby Masters, of Huntington Beach, Calif., contributing.

The steel bridge competition requires a team of students to design, fabricate and assemble a bridge based on certain specifications. This year, the bridges could be no more than 20 feet long, five feet tall and five feet wide, and needed to support a weight of 2,500 pounds.

“In order to prepare for the competition, we had to go through the steps of the design process, which is the same method we will encounter when performing designs in the real world. We had to learn to interpret and understand the rules and requirements of the competition and base our design to fit those parameters,” said team member Cody King, of Gates.

Team members King; Michael Reyes, of Franklin; Helbing; Fletcher Johnson, of Helena, Ala.; Brandon Hendren, of Dyersburg; Jacob Buttrey, of Fairview; and Janet LaRose, of Dyersburg, came in second place for structural stiffness, one of several categories considered by the judges.

UT Martin also sent four students to participate in the surveying competition, which required teams to measure distances and elevations using traditional surveying methods and equipment within a specified area and limited time. King, Johnson, Hendren and Reyes took home the second-place prize for their efforts in this field.

Logan Rangel, a sophomore from Wartrace, wrote and presented a Mead paper as a separate component of the steel bridge and concrete canoe projects. This paper is required for teams to advance to the national level, if they qualify. Wright, Harris, Davenport and Buttrey also competed in a mystery event, which involved taping a chair to a wall in such a way that would support a 280-pound person for three minutes. The team completed the task successfully but did not place in the competition.

“These competitions are designed so a student can apply the knowledge gained in the classroom. Considering most schools went home without any hardware shows where we stand as a university program,” said Brackeen.

All senior engineering majors at UT Martin are required to complete a senior design project, and the steel bridge competition is one of several options available. Students can also choose to build robotics, build and race a Baja car, or construct a model airplane for competition. The concrete canoe competition is an ASCE club project but not an official UT Martin senior design project.

The UT Martin Department of Engineering is housed within the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and concentrations are available in civil, industrial, mechanical and electrical engineering. A new concentration in manufacturing engineering is scheduled to launch in the fall 2017 semester. For more information on the ASCE competition teams, contact Dr. Ray Witmer at 731-881-7388 or by email at rwitmer@utm.edu.
UTM position would be right job, right place in McGuffin’s career plan

By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports
Kurt McGuffin is crystal clear on where he wants to be, and why.

The current athletic director at Missouri Western became one of the third of four finalists for the UT Martin AD job to make the rounds of the school and community, meeting with about 50 supporters of UTM sports in an open forum followed by questions from the local media on Wednesday afternoon.

As the top man in athletics at a Division II school with a long tenure in Division I at both Kansas State and Colorado, the goal-oriented McGuffin is blunt about why he wants to be at UTM and why Martin is the place for him and his family.

“I want to be the athletic director at the Division I level, and I’m a small-town person,” he said in the forum. “I grew up in a town of about 6,000 in southeast Kansas, and my wife grew up in a similar sized town in western Kansas near the Colorado border.”

His desire to be at the D-I level is complemented by his desire to provide everything in his power to the student-athletes.

“I’m passionate about giving athletes the entire college experience,” he said. “College is a great time. Athletics is not all there is at a college. It can be the front door and a rallying point, but I want the full college experience for our student-athletes.

“When our student-athletes walk across the stage and grab that diploma, I want to see a (championship) ring on their fingers and a smile on their faces. That lets me know they enjoyed success and the total experience while they were here.”

In achieving that, McGuffin has several points he emphasizes within his department. While winning and being competitive at a championship level within the conference are high on the priority list, so too are working within the rules and serving the school and community.

“I’m not in athletics to lose,” he said. “I want to win, and I will give our athletes and coaches everything in facilities and an operating budget that I can in order to win.”

Missouri Western athletics, he pointed out, won three Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association championships this past year and would have finished second for the all-conference trophy, if the MIAA had one.

McGuffin said his programs will play by the rules. At MWU, his coaches take the NCAA compliance test, and he conducts monthly compliance meetings with his staff.

“We’re going to do it the right way,” he said.

McGuffin has been involved in fundraising at each of his athletic department stops and points to his successes as an advantage.

While MWU is near the bottom of the conference in operating budgets, his department grew to the point where he added nine full-time coaches and 20 graduate assistants. The school is also growing from 10 sports to 16.

(See Page 7, Col. 2)
MARTIN, Tenn...-What better way to get through ‘hump day’ than to actually ride a camel. That is what UT-Martin’s Chancellor Keith Carver did Wednesday as part of “I Heart UTM Week”!

Organizers said it is a time dedicated to showing school spirit and connects undergrad students with alumni. The school is also hosting the “Captain’s Challenge”, to raise $300,000 for the school.

“That’s more of a push towards alumni to give back to the campus and see what’s going on on campus, but we use “I Heart UTM Week” to kind of push that out to alums and to show them what’s going on on campus and what’s changed since they’ve been gone,” said Jared Anderson,
Dr. Deere honored with UT Martin employee award

Dr. Kelli Deere (left), director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center, received one of two UT Martin Outstanding Employee Awards for the spring 2017 semester during a clerical coffee and awards breakfast April 19. These awards are given each semester to one exempt and one non-exempt employee in appreciation of their service and dedication to the university and its mission. "Kelli goes above and beyond in every aspect of her duties as the Parsons Center director," said Chancellor Keith Carver when presenting the award. "The leaders and members of our community and surrounding areas appreciate and commend her for the educational excellence the UT Martin Parsons Center has exemplified under her leadership." Deere is pictured with Carver (center) and Stephanie Butler, administrative assistant in the Office of International Programs and International Admissions, who received the second award.

Students, faculty to participate in Black Lives Matter event at UT Martin

www.wpslocal6.com

MARTIN, TN: A group of students, faculty, and staff at the University of Tennessee at Martin plan to participate in a Black Lives Matter Day on campus on Thursday, according to the university's Civil Right's Conference coordinator.

In a news release, UT Martin Civil Rights Conference coordinator David Barber says 100 students, faculty and staff will wear T-shirts bearing the words "Black Lives Matter" on Thursday, April 27, and they will rally in the UT Martin University Center North Plaza.

Barber says that "The only way that this society can find peace with itself is by righting the historic injustice done to black people and by proclaiming that black lives matter. We take great pride in the fact that so many students have understood this reality and are participating in Thursday's event."

In the event announcement, Black Student Association vice-president and Student Government Association Attorney General-elect Devin Majors says: "We want to show that white students can support Black Lives Matter, and that they understand that police brutality compromises democracy in the United States."

The rally is scheduled from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the UT Martin University Center North Plaza on April 27.
Local college student receives award from University of Tennessee

A Cleveland County resident received a college or department-level award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2017 semester.

Ashley Lund, of Shelby, was initiated into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

UT Martin is a four-year public university located in northwest Tennessee and is part of the University of Tennessee System.

David Mark Davis Named Vice President Of Eastern Operations For Life Care Centers Of America

David Mark Davis, a health care executive with 35 years of experience, has been named vice president of Eastern Operations for Life Care Centers of America.

That announcement is made by Forrest L. Preston, Life Care chairman and CEO, who said Davis’ leadership in various aspects of service to seniors and others “will have a positive impact on the lives of our patients and residents, as well as the associates who provide their care.”

The appointment is effective immediately.

“Mark’s career is distinguished by his formal education and his on-the-job bedside training, in which he has always sought to place the needs of the residents first and foremost,” Preston continued. “He is driven by a strong compassion for people, and that is always a critical component in health care.”

Areas of responsibility for Davis will include 133 skilled nursing and rehab facilities – eight in the Gulf States (Texas) Region; 35 in the Central Division (Indiana, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska); 41 in the Eastern Division (Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia); 26 in the Northeast Division (Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island); and 23 in the Southeast Division (Florida).

“For as long as I have been serving in the long-term care profession, I’ve had the utmost respect and admiration for Life Care Centers of America,” Davis said. “I look forward to doing my part to continue to advance Life Care’s mission and great tradition of providing the highest quality of care possible for our elders and those in need of superior rehabilitative services.”

Receiving a bachelor’s degree in business administration and health care administration/accounting in 1982 from the University of Tennessee at Martin, Davis furthered his formal education at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Business Administration.

His professional career has included oversight for Tennessee Health Management’s skilled nursing facilities, behavioral health-care hospitals, home health/hospice, home medical equipment, institutional pharmacy and an in-house and outpatient therapy company.

Davis has developed and helped design multiple skilled nursing facilities and behavioral health hospitals. He established working relationships with hospitals and managed-care organizations to develop protocols to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and improve quality outcomes. These have included HCA, Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, Vanderbilt, Baptist of Memphis, as well as Amerigroup and BlueCross BlueShield.

In other professional activities, Davis has served a two-year term as president of the Tennessee Health Care Association and 10 years as the governor’s appointee to the Tennessee Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

Davis and his wife, Lisa, will be moving to Cleveland from their hometown of Parsons, Tennessee. They have four children.
UT-Martin Engineering Students Place in Regional Competitions

BY ERIN CHESNUT
UT-Martin Office of University Relations

MARTIN — Three teams from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering competed in the recent American Society of Civil Engineers Deep South Conference at the University of Memphis. UT Martin students competed in the concrete canoe, steel bridge, surveying, mead paper and mystery event competitions and earned top-three awards in three of five events.

The concrete canoe competition is unique because students must not only develop a custom concrete mix and then design and build the canoe itself—they must also race it against other competitors. The UT Martin team placed second in the men’s sprint and men’s endurance categories and third in the co-ed sprint competition, as well as third overall.

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The concrete canoe team was UT Martin’s largest participating group, with team members Brad King, of Gates; Cody King, of Gates; Michael Reyes, of Franklin; Helbing; Fletcher Johnson, of Helena, Ala.; Brandon Hendren, of Dyersburg; Jacob Buttrey, of Fairview; and Janet LaRose, of Dyersburg, gave in second place for structural stiffness, one of several categories considered by the judges.

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The UT Martin Department of Engineering is housed within the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and concentrations are available in civil, industrial, mechanical and electrical engineering. A new concentration in manufacturing engineering is scheduled to launch in the fall 2017 semester. For more information on the ASCE competition teams, contact Dr. Ray Witmer at 731-881-7388 or by email at rwitmer@utm.edu.

County Residents Receive Awards from UT-Martin

MARTIN — Two Carroll County residents received college or department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2017 semester. The following students were recognized:

Jessica Davis, of Huntingdon, was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs.

Madison McClure, of Yuma, received the Lower Division Chemistry Award.
Brooke Boshers (right), of Mt. Pleasant, received two awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet April 6. Boshers, a freshman, received the Dr. Jerald Ogg Communications/Public Relations Endowment and the Dorotha Norton Scholarship. She is pictured with Robert Norton, husband of the late Dorotha Norton. (Courtesy photo)

Tanna Norman (right), of Santa Fe, received the Nick and Cathy Dunagan Team Spirit Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet April 6. This award is given to a student who shows support and enthusiasm for the department. Norman, a senior, is pictured with Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications. (Courtesy photo)
Local students receive awards from UTM

Several Weakley County residents received college or department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2017 semester. The following students were recognized:

Areli Aguilar of Martin received the Outstanding Integrated Studies K-6 Student Award; Samuel Bell of Martin was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs; Megan Crow of Martin received an intercollegiate athletics award for rodeo; Adrian De Sagon of Martin received the Ted Mosch Award; Brett Evans of Martin received the Lower Division Chemistry Award; Kiana Hope of Martin received an intercollegiate athletics award for cross country; Nan Jia, of China but living in Martin, received the Ted Marsh Award and was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs; Tucker Kail of Gleason received an intercollegiate athletics award for rodeo; Sara Kets of Martin, received the Scholarly Essay in a Modern Foreign Language Award and the Outstanding English and Modern Foreign Languages Student Award; Kelly Lean, of Australia but living in Martin, received an intercollegiate athletics award for volleyball; Rebecca Lund of Martin was recognized as a dean’s choice scholar and a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs; Hitomi Naito, of Japan but living in Martin, was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs and received an intercollegiate athletics award for tennis; Claire Oliver of Gleason received the William H. Baker Scholarship Award; Patricia Ramos of Martin received the Muriel Tomlinson Award; Brittany Sensing of Martin received the Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award from the Department of Communications; Zhe Xu, of China but living in Martin, was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs; Amanda Young of Martin was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs.
Skyhawk Venture Challenge

awards over $3,000

On the evening of Thursday, March 30, University of Tennessee at Martin graduate and undergraduate students competed for over $3,200 in prize money in the Skyhawk Venture Challenge.

The 2017 Skyhawk Venture Challenge was organized and sponsored by the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund, the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs and Launch Tennessee.

Nine teams made five- to six-minute business plan pitches to a panel of judges and then answered questions posed by the judges. Serving as judges were Mike Brundige, partner, Brundige Farms; David Hart, partner, Alexander Thompson and Arnold CPAs; and Frank Holbrook, attorney, Butler Snow LLP and president of the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund.

The teams were evaluated on how compellingly they provided a clear and concise description of the customer’s problem; the team’s solution to the problem; the impact of the solution; the feasibility of the solution; their market strategy and their presentation style.

Winners of the 2017 Skyhawk Venture Challenge were:

$1,500 First Place: Eco-Float created by Weston Stofel, Charli Daniel, Cheyenne Williams, Shalyn Brown, Hannah More and Marissa Fletcher

$750 Second Place: Trailblazers created by Dakota Shanes

$500 Third Place: GreekChic created by Emily Reber and Josh Hewitt

While the judges were deliberating and making their final decisions, the audience was asked to vote for their favorite pitch to determine the winner of The People’s Choice Award.

The winner of the $500 People’s Choice Award was GreekChic, created by Emily Reber and Josh Hewitt.

The other 2017 Skyhawk Venture Challenge presenters included:
- Clean Water Company - Joshua Hewitt
- Mongo Livestock Systems - Weston Stofel
- Skyhawk News - Aldo Gomez
- Public Speaking Venture - Kevin Robertson
- Versa Track - Sam Savage, Adam Bethel, Dakota Holt, Trent Mann, Tucker Kail

The Skyhawk Venture Challenge was the final event of the spring 2017 Skyhawk Entrepreneurial Vision Workshops series. Prior to the competition, teams attended five entrepreneurial workshops covering topics like defining the business purpose, market strategy, team building and how to make a business plan pitch.

For more information, please visit metconnect.com or contact Carol Reed, executive director, Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, carol.reed@nwttdd.org or call 731.587.4213 ext. 275.

The project is funded under an agreement with Launch Tennessee and/or the State of Tennessee.
$1,500 First Place: Eco-Floater — Pictured are (from left) Todd Winter, dean of UTM College of Agriculture; Carli Daniels, UTM student; Weston Stofel, UTM student; Cheyenne Williams, UTM student; and Carol Reed, executive director, Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center.

$500 Third Place and $500 People's Choice award: GreekChic — Pictured are (from left) Todd Winters, dean of UTM College of Agriculture; Emily Reber, UTM student; Josh Hewitt, UTM student; and Carol Reed, executive director, Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center.
UTM’s Echols receives state award for community service

Kameron Echols of Memphis is one of five students statewide to receive a 2017 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award, as chosen by a Tennessee Higher Education Commission taskforce. The award was officially presented during a reception held April 21.

The award is named for the late state representative Harold Love, who was instrumental in passing legislation to create community service recognition programs at the state level in 1991. Each year, five students and five faculty or staff members from the state’s higher education institutions are chosen from nominations statewide.

Echols, a senior criminal justice major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was nominated for his work with community youth programs such as the Martin Housing Authority’s after-school program.

Robert Nunley, program coordinator for the Martin Housing Authority’s after-school program, highly recommended Echols to the award selection committee.

“As a volunteer, [Echols] would often surpass his college peers by making contributions to the overall quality of life among our students. He helped improve the after-school program’s efficiency, which increased overall improvement in students’ academic outcomes. Further, he was extremely effective in attracting his college peers to serve as volunteers for the after-school program. He is personally responsible for recruiting scores of university students and faculty members to perform hundreds of volunteer service hours,” Nunley wrote in his nomination letter.

Nunley also praised Echols for his leadership of the Martin Housing Authority’s summer enrichment program, which has served more than 300 children and youth during Echols’ time with the organization.

“Kameron’s volunteer work is not limited to the Martin Housing Authority but to the community as a whole. He also serves on the Weakley County Coalition, Weakley County Extended Advisory Board and is actively engaged in several service activities at UT Martin,” wrote Gina McClure and John Paul Robinson in their nomination letter.

McClure and Robinson are UT Martin employees who have worked with Echols on campus and observed his dedication to the local community youth.

In addition to his time spent in the Martin community, Echols is also an active figure on campus and works to promote the ideals of leadership and service among his peer group. He has served as both president and vice president of the Tau Psi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, and under his leadership the chapter has received the chapter of the year, chancellor’s cup, emerging leader and highest community service awards.

Echols also initiated the fraternity’s annual “Week of Service,” which gives back to many areas of the local community.

AWARD PRESENTED — The Department of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Tennessee at Martin held its annual UTM ROTC Dining Out Friday at the Student Life Center. Mary Vowell (right), member of the DAR Reelfoot Chapter, presented the award to Cadet Mercee Eubank of Greenfield. Cadet Eubank is a criminal justice major.

PEET HONORED — ROTC Winner for TSDAC Col. Gideon Macon Chapter Cadet Faith Peet (left) was presented an ROTC certificate and medal from Aline Roberts, member of Col. Gideon Macon Chapter of Paris at the annual UTM ROTC Dining Out banquet on Friday at the Student Life Center at UTM. This award is given to an outstanding female cadet who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, and has a B or above in military science. Cadet Peet is from Vine Grove, Ky. and is a pre-vet major.
Skyhawk Battalion cadets receive German Armed Forces badges

Five cadets from the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge during a competition recently held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

The proficiency badge is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, and is a foreign award approved for wear on the United States Army uniform.

ROTC cadets and Army soldiers must meet criteria in eight events to qualify for this recognition: a sprint test, flex-arm hang, 1,000-meter run, 100-meter swim, first aid application, pistol qualification, road march, and a nuclear, biological and chemical preparedness test.

Cadets Grady Potts, of Humboldt, and Andy Grissom, of Gleason, earned badges at the gold level. Cadets Remington Burch, of Trenton, and Jessica Roberts, of Clarksville, earned badges at the silver and bronze levels, respectively.

An ROTC unit was first established at UT Martin in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964. The military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes cadets from Lane College and Union University in Jackson and Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky.

For more information on the military science program or the Skyhawk ROTC Battalion, contact the Department of Military Science and Leadership at 731-881-7682 or by email at armyrotc@utm.edu.

PATTERSON RECEIVES UTM AWARD - Summer Patterson (right), of Trenton, received the Media Design Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet April 6. This award is given to an outstanding media design student. Patterson, a senior, is pictured with Dr. Tracey Rutledge, associate professor of communications. For more information on the UT Martin Department of Communications, contact Dr. Robert Nanney, department chair, at 731-881-7566.

COLE RECEIVES UTM AWARD – A Gibson County resident received a college or department-level award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2017 semester. Holly Cole, of Trenton, received a Horace and Sara Dunagan Rising Leader Award.
THREE INDUCTED — Three local students, (from left) Rebecca Robb of Troy, Holly Seng of Union City and Amber Cunningham of Obion, were inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a ceremony recently.

Phi Kappa Phi chapter 127, founded at UT Martin in 1971, 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.

At the college level

Meagan Nicole Eason, a native of Union City, recently earned her RN/bachelor of science in nursing degree from Roseman University of Health and Sciences in Henderson, Nev.

She completed this degree in 15 months and had a 4.0 grade point average.

Ms. Eason graduated from Obion County Central High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin. While at UT Martin, she was an adjunct instructor in biology.

She is the daughter of Cecelia Eason of Las Vegas, formerly of Union City, and Earnie Eason of Union City. Her grandparents are Mary Ann Beachum and the late Cecil Beachum and Mary Emma Eason and the late Tollie Eason, all of Union City.
Commencement slated for May 6 at UT Martin

Dr. Flora Tydings, chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents, will address the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2017 graduating class during commencement exercises beginning at 11 a.m. May 6 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university’s main campus.

Dr. Tydings received a bachelor of science degree in education with an emphasis in behavioral science from Georgia Southern University before earning a master of education degree at Mercer University. She later graduated from the University of Georgia with a doctoral degree in occupational studies.

Her career in higher education leadership began in 1996 with her role as director of curriculum and staff development at Macon Technical Institute. Since then, she has served as vice president for academic affairs at Central Georgia Technical College and president at Athens Technical College. She also served as president of Chattanooga State Community College before accepting her current role with the Tennessee Board of Regents.

During her time at Chattanooga State Community College, she ushered in the first class of Tennessee Promise students, which led to a 25 percent increase in first-time freshmen enrollment, and collaborated with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to create a dual admissions agreement that provides a seamless pathway for students to transfer between the two institutions.

The UT Martin spring commencement ceremony is a ticketed event and will be Dr. Keith Carver’s first commencement ceremony as UT Martin’s 11th chancellor. Tickets may only be obtained from individual graduates. Attendees without tickets are welcome to watch a livestream webcast from the overflow area.

A livestream will also be available online at www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=5351&type=Live for those who are unable to attend in person.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.

UTM ribbon-cutting event to open Sorority Village

The public is invited to attend a ribbon-cutting event beginning at 1:30 p.m. Friday to officially open the University of Tennessee at Martin’s new Sorority Village complex.

The four houses, located off Peach Street adjacent to the University Courts apartments, give the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Delta Pi, Chi Omega and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority a place to call home. They are not residences, but rather provide meeting and social space for the organizations to gather.

The construction project came with a total price tag of about $500,000, most of which was donated by chapter alumnae.

The official ribbon-cutting event will be held in the parking lot at the top of Village Lane and attendees will be able to tour the four houses, weather permitting.

For more information about the event, contact Rachel Stephens, student life coordinator at (731) 881-7527.
POETIC PAIR — Dr. Daniel Nappo (left), professor of Spanish at the University of Tennessee at Martin, presented awards to the top finishers in the Spanish poetry recital competition during the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages annual high school day recently. Rachel Hughey (center) of Gleason High School and Valeria Rico of South Fulton High School won first place in the level one and level two Spanish poetry recital competitions, respectively.

JUST DESSERTS — Dr. Sylvia Morin (left), assistant professor of Spanish at the University of Tennessee at Martin, presented awards to several local high school students who placed in the Spanish Dessert category during the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages’ annual high school day recently. The winners included (from left, continuing with second from left) Payton Allen of South Fulton High School, first place; Tobi Dillard and Collette Jackson, both of Gleason High School, second place; and Alyssa Hudson and Mikayla Ivy, also of Gleason High School, third place.
POSTER PERFECT — Local students (from left, starting with second from left) Alex Quinn and Jasmine Strickland, both of South Fulton High School, won first place, while Macy Blake of Westview High School in Martin won second place and Cameron Harrison and Becca Smith, both of Gleason High School, won third place in the Spanish poster category during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages’ annual high school day recently. Dr. Anton Garcia-Fernandez (left), assistant professor of Spanish, presented the awards.

POP QUIZ — South Fulton High School students (from left, starting with second from left) Alex Quinn, Payton Allen, Alyssa Rucker and Carly Robertson won second place in Spanish quiz bowl during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages’ annual high school day recently. Dr. Randy Garza (left), professor of Spanish, presented the award.

Sorority Village To Open With UTM Ribbon-Cutting

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The construction project came with a total price tag of approximately $500,000, most of which was donated by chapter alumnae.

The official ribbon cutting will be held in the parking lot at the top of Village Lane, and attendees will be able to tour the four houses, weather permitting.
Dr. Flora Tydings, chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents, will address the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2017 graduating class during commencement exercises beginning at 11 a.m., May 6, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university’s main campus.

Tydings received a Bachelor of Science degree in education with an emphasis in behavioral science from Georgia Southern University before earning a Master of Education degree at Mercer University. She later graduated with a doctoral degree in occupational studies.

Her career in higher education leadership began in 1996 with her role as director of curriculum and staff development at Macon Technical Institute. Since then, she has served as vice president for academic affairs at Central Georgia Technical College and president at Athens Technical College. Tydings also served as president of Chattanooga State Community College before accepting her current role with the Tennessee Board of Regents.

During her time at Chattanooga State Community College, she ushered in the first class of Tennessee Promise students, which led to a 25 percent increase in first-time freshmen enrollment, and collaborated with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to create a dual admissions agreement that provides a seamless pathway for students to transfer between the two institutions.

The UT Martin spring commencement ceremony is a ticketed event and will be Dr. Keith Carver’s first commencement ceremony as UT Martin’s 11th chancellor. Tickets may only be obtained from individual graduates. Attendees without tickets are welcome to watch a livestream webcast from the overflow area.

A livestream will also be available online at www.ovrdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=5351&type=Live for those who are unable to attend in person.

Dr. Flora Tydings, chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents

WILLIAMS HONORED — Roger Williams (second from left), a 1981 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and chief executive officer of Williams Sausage Company in Obion County, was named Innovator of the Year during the UT Martin Ned Ray McWherter Institute’s annual Igniting Innovation event recently. He also received a Clayton R. McWhorter Innovation Award. This award is given to area or regional business leaders who have made significant contributions to the economic development, quality of life and overall well-being of the state or region. Recipients are chosen annually by the students participating in the Ned Ray McWherter Institute. Williams Sausage Company has been family owned and operated near Woodland Mills since 1958 and plans to expand to a second manufacturing plant in Union City. On hand for the awards ceremony were Williams’ wife, Juli (left), and his brother and sister-in-law, David and Beth Williams.
'Second Time Around' offers many firsts for young writer

By MEGAN DAME
Staff Reporter

"The Second Time Around." That's the name of University of Tennessee at Martin Music student John Alex Warner's original musical. However, despite its name, this is a show of many firsts.

It is Warner's very first time writing a musical and, on Saturday, it will be presented to the public for the first time as a four-person concert reading at 8 p.m. in UTM’s Little Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin campus.

A native of Union City and a 2014 graduate of Union City High School, he is the son of Jack and Mellany Warner of Union City. He got an early start in music as a vocal student of his grandmother, Rita Winter, who is lending her talents to the show as the featured pianist. Mrs. Winter is the very first person who comes to mind in a long list of people who inspired his endeavors.

From his high school band director, John Easley, to the multiple mentors at UTM, John is in awe of the many people who continue to support him.

"They were all pretty upset about it," he said of the original script, "They wanted it changed and for the character to go in another direction. I really didn't want to change it, but it was really cool to get the immediate feedback, so I relented, but only a little."

The project began as a requirement of the University Scholars program at UT Martin. University Scholars are selected through a competitive interview process that takes place during students' senior year of high school, but some are chosen based on an outstanding performance in their freshman year at UT Martin. Each University Scholar student must complete a two-year, mentored research project that is related to their degree major in addition to completing honors courses and maintaining a minimum 3.33 GPA, according to the University Scholars website.

For his project, Warner is presenting "The Second Time Around" as a concert reading, but he intends to see it through as a complete musical show and market it in a way to help small, non-profit community theaters.

Second Time...

(Continued from Page 1)

UT Martin who have had a hand in this project, Warner is very aware that they all have inspired him to take on the largest project he has ever attempted.

When asked about the subject of "The Second Time Around," Warner described it as "a somewhat dark but ultimately uplifting look at the development of unconditional love."

He says it is a risky show and one he has always intended as a challenge for the cast, the musical performer, and even the audience. So much so, that he has kept the entire show a secret from everyone in the cast until they began group readings.

At one point, the cast voiced their displeasure about the fate of one of the characters and urged Warner to do a rewrite. After much consideration, he chose to alter some events, but only slightly.

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a cause that is close to his heart.

Growing up in Union City, Warner developed a love for community theater, performing in many shows with the Masquerade Theatre group, which operates out of the Capitol Theatre in downtown Union City.

"I love Masquerade Theatre and have been involved with several shows throughout the years. They usually do really great, well-known shows that are proven successes," he said. "However, there are times when small community theater groups would like to do things not so recognizable but they can't."

Warner explained that when a theater group performs a show, they must pay for the rights to that show and that could be upwards of $6,000. Masquerade Theatre, like many small community groups, is non-profit, relying solely on ticket sales and donations.

After adding costumes, set design, electricity, etc. on top of the rights to every show, it gets very expensive.

"Donations are wonderful," Warner said. "Community theater wouldn't exist without contributions from donors, but you can't really count on donations. It's not a reliable source of income."

That leaves these groups with the income of ticket sales, alone. That means, doing shows that are proven hits.

"People will come to see 'The Wizard of Oz' every time it is performed; many people will come every night," Warner said. "You can count on that. When it comes to doing edgy, unproven shows like mine, it's just too big of a risk. People may not be interested in seeing a show like that. The theater would have to take a hit and they simply can't afford to do that."

The Union City native has decided he wants to do his part to help.

His ultimate plan for "The Second Time Around" is to develop it into a complete musical theater piece and market it toward small community theaters for a fraction of the cost of most shows.

He is tentatively planning to graduate in 2018 and then apply to several schools in New York City that offer theater composition programs.

According to Warner, New York City is the only place he knows of with schools that offer such programs and they are very difficult to be accepted to. This project is what he hopes will help him get started on the path to that goal. It is only the first step.

Staff reporter Megan Dame may be contacted by email at meghan@ucmessenger.com.
Ed Jones legacy to be honored with documentary, biography

Ed Jones, a 10-term U.S. representative for Tennessee's 7th and 8th Districts, worked his way through college by showing cattle. He graduated from the University of Tennessee Junior College, a predecessor to the University of Tennessee at Martin, in 1932 before earning a degree in agriculture from UT's flagship campus in Knoxville. The Yorkville native later used his love and understanding of the agriculture industry to become the state's commissioner of agriculture and later support national agricultural and conservation initiatives during 20 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Now his granddaughter, Meghan Kinnard Hardee, and her husband, Geoffrey, as well as Meghan's mother (and Jones' daughter), Dr. Jennifer Kinnard, and the John Tanner family are working to preserve Jones' legacy for future generations of researchers, historians and politicians. (Tanner filled Jones' seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and served from 1989-2011).

"The legacy of Ed Jones is very complex, but it's also a fantastic example of the American dream," said Geoffrey. "[He is] the poor son of a sharecropper who works hard and shows cows, so he can afford to go to college, who becomes commissioner of agriculture and a U.S. congressman. ... He really didn't care about the power. He and [his wife] Llew tried hard to avoid Washington D.C. life and society. They didn't go out at night. They went to bed early, and they came home to Yorkville as soon as they could. He only went to Congress to serve the people and the farmers."

Jones, a Democrat, was elected to represent Tennessee's 8th Congressional District in 1969 after the death of Robert "Fats" Everett left the seat vacant. He spent the next nine congressional sessions representing the state's 7th (1973-82) and 8th Districts (1969-72, 83-88) before retiring in 1988.

In his resignation speech, Jones cited wanting to spend more time with his granddaughter Meg as one of his motivating factors for leaving his post as U.S. representative. For this reason and many others, the Hardees hope to honor his life's work by helping others learn from his accomplishments.

"This isn't just a sentimental project. We want Grandaddy's legacy to remain useful to future generations," said Meghan.

The project includes several phases, including the digitization of records from both Jones and Tanner, the creation of a documentary film about Jones' life and the publication of a biography written by the Hardees.

The digitization project will make both Jones' and Tanner's records available for researchers around the world in order to preserve the legacies of both men and highlight the historical impact of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District.

The University of Tennessee at Martin serves as a central hub for this project, and staff members at the university's Paul Mea Library will begin digitizing Jones' extensively archived collection as soon as the necessary equipment has been purchased.

"Last spring, we started counting paper just so we would have a general idea of how large the collection is ... and there's over a million pieces of paper," said Karen Ewoldt, senior library assistant in special collections. "When I talk to people and I say, 'Ed Jones,' they say, 'I remember when he was on the radio every Saturday morning,' or 'My parents used to get his newsletter.' So we've decided that's what we're going to start with, and then hopefully we'll get into some of the pictures of when constituents went to Washington."

The documentary film is being produced in part by UT Martin students and alumni under the direction of the Hardees, thus providing valuable real-world experience to budding historians and journalists from Jones' alma mater.

"We didn't want this to be a big Hollywood production," said Geoffrey. "We wanted it to be a local production that ties back to this university, and we wanted to make sure students were involved in that process."

Ashleigh Burton, a UT Martin alum from South Fulton, and Julia Ewoldt, a current student from Savannah, are working with the documentary's production team, and Georgia Brown, a current student from Martin, is serving as a student research assistant for both the book and film projects.

The biography, titled "Grassroots Politickin' - The Life and Legacy of Ed Jones," is being published through UT Press and includes contributions from well-known names such as former Tennessee governor Don Sundquist and former President Jimmy Carter, as well as memories and information submitted by Jones' local friends, family members and constituents.

"Grandaddy owed his education to UT Martin and to UT Knoxville. Without the firm foundation that having these schools in Tennessee offered him, he would have never achieved the level of success that he did, and he would never have been able to help so many people," said Meghan.

"That's why we've chosen UT Martin as a place to invest and share our blessings. I know Grandaddy would want us to do this because he cared so deep..."
JONES LEGACY TO BE PRESERVED — John and Betty Tanner (left) are pictured with Megan and Geoffrey Hardee, four of the five individual sponsors of the Ed Jones Legacy Project. (The fifth individual supporter, Dr. Jennifer Kinnard, is not pictured.) The project is also funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Jones passed away in December 1999 at the age of 87 and was posthumously inducted into the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2011.

Proceeds from the sale of Jones' biography will benefit UT Martin and the Ed and Llew Jones Legacy Fund, which finances student scholarships and guest speakers, among other initiatives.

The digitization project is funded by gifts from the Hardees, Dr. Jennifer Kinnard and the John Tanner family as well as a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For more information on the Ed Jones legacy project or to contribute stories to the autobiography, contact Geoffrey Hardee at gahardee@gmail.com or search “Grassroots Politickin’ – The Life and Legacy of Ed Jones” on Facebook.com.

POSTER WINNERS — Area High School students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Those placing in the Spanish poster contest were (from left) first-place winners, Alex Quinn and Jasmine Strickland, from South Fulton High School; second place, Macy Blake, from Westview High School; and third-place winners, Cameron Harrison and Becca Smith, from Gleason High School. Dr. Anton Garcia-Fernandez, assistant professor of Spanish, presented the awards.
STUDENTS EXCEL — Westview High School students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Winners in the French poster category were (from left) first place, Maggie Walton; and second-place team, Rachel Forrester, Reilley Ford, Lily Little and Kaitlyn McDaniel. Dr. Lucia Florido, associate professor of French, presented the awards.

TOP WINNERS — High school students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Winning first, second and third place, respectively, in the Spanish food, non-dessert category were (from left) Michael Burkhart, of Stewart County High School; Neeley Hazelwood, of Westview High School; and Makayleigh Kelley, of Stewart County High School. Dr. Sylvia Morin, assistant professor of Spanish, presented the awards.

STUDENTS COMPETE — Westview High School students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Students placing first, second and third place, respectively in the French food, non-dessert category were (from left) Taylor Hoffman, Avery Blanchard and Hailee London. Dr. Lucia Florido, associate professor of French, presented the awards.

TAKING HONORS — Westview High School students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Students placing first and tied for second place, respectively, in the French dessert category were (from left) Samantha Foster, Ariel Boxx and Kaylee Freeman. Dr. Lucia Florido, associate professor of French, presented the awards.

TOP STUDENTS — Westview High School students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Students (from left) Adam Erwin, Brianna Hampton and Maggie Walton competed in the 'French 'Got Talent' category. Dr. Anton Garcia-Fernandez, assistant professor of Spanish, presented the awards.
TALENT WINNERS — Westview High School students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Competing in the 'Spanish Got Talent' category were (from left) Emily Erwin, Alexis Bearn and Shelby Hatchel. Dr. Anton Garcia-Fernandez, assistant professor of Spanish, presented the awards.

FRENCH POETRY WINNER — Westview High School student Zachary Statler won first place in the French poetry recital category during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day that was held recently. Dr. Lucia Florido, associate professor of French, presented the award.

MOSER HONORED — Dr. Ernest Moser (center), longtime professor of economics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored with a retirement reception April 20. He joined the UT Martin family in 2001 as dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs, and returned to the classroom fulltime in 2013. Moser is pictured with his wife, Penny (left), and Tenna Bynum, longtime college administrative assistant.

FRENCH QUIZ WINNERS — Westview High School students recently attended University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages' annual high school day. Students winning the French quiz bowl were (from left) Zachary Statler, Betty Havrla, Daniel Parfais and Nathan Willis. Dr. Lucia Florido, associate professor of French, presented the award.
LEARNING ABOUT LOGOS — UTM art students helped local farmers design new logos for their operations. Pictured are (back row, from left) Terri Brundige, Brundige Farms; Jason Plunk, Plunk Farms; (middle row) Michael Mattingly, UTM student; Brad Lyell, UTM student; and Tanya Chopra, UTM student; (front row) Kyndal Hayes, UTM student; Darlene Drummond, Sunnyside Farm; Richard Gallagher, Hidden Hill Farm; Natalie Wade, Natalie’s Kitchen; Elisabeth Dowland, UTM student.

Art students help farmers design new logos

“What is in a logo? How do you design one for your farm?” These were questions University of Tennessee at Martin Professor of Art in the department of visual and theatre arts Lane Last asked participants at the NextFarm® Workshop Series in early March. NextFarm® is a business development program focused on agriculture innovation and development created by the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center (NTEC).

“Connecting rural to urban, farmer to consumer, and fresh ingredients to our diets - the farmer, both large and small, is our economic and community centerpiece. When food is produced, processed, distributed and sold all within the same region, more money stays in the local economy. This leads to economic development and job creation,” stated Samantha Goyret, program administrator at NTEC and Local Food Network Coordinator.

Participants in the NextFarm® Workshops learned new ways to turn their food production and/or farm expansion ideas into successful businesses. Participation in the Farm-to-Consumer Market workshop on March 7 included a free business logo designed by Lane Last’s UTM Interactive Multimedia students.

Goyret further added, “Being able to quickly and directly market to the consumer gives farmers important income opportunities. Providing the farm with a professional sign and logo gives a visual expression to the products and connection that farms have within our communities.”

The following farms and agri-businesses received new signs printed by Jowers Sign Company with their newly designed logos: Dixie Chile Ranch out of Kenton, Brundige Farms & Sunnyside Farms out of Martin, Hidden Hill Farm CSA out of Dresden, Plunk Farms out of Sharon, and Natalie’s Kitchen out of Paris.

Farmers were teamed with UTM media design students Angela Chesteen, Tanya Chopra, Joey DeSantis, Kyndal Hayes, Brad Lyell, and Michael Mattingly.

“This project has provided some logo design service to area farmers and was a fantastic opportunity to put student creativity to work for the local community,” Last said. “Hopefully it also gave the students the chance to consider where their food comes from and how they can make alternate choices for buying local from these new partners.”

The 2017 NextFarm® workshop series was made possible through funding from the Delta Regional Authority Rural Business Opportunity Grant which supports NWTN Local Food Network activities through the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center. Visit nteconnect.com to stay connected.
Four students from the University of Tennessee at Martin attended the Southern Regional Model United Nations held March 30-April 1 in Charlotte, N.C. Pictured are (from left) Alex Doyle and Adrian De Sagon, both of Martin; Kayla Donohoe of Memphis and Antoinette Schlotter of Clarksville.

Students model UN activities at conference

Four students from the University of Tennessee at Martin, along with faculty adviser Dr. Carrie Humphreys, UT Martin assistant professor of political science, attended the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference held March 30-April 1 in Charlotte, N.C.

Alex Doyle and Adrian De Sagon, both of Martin; Kayla Donohoe of Memphis and Antoinette Schlotter of Clarksville acted as representatives for the country of Malaysia in four United Nations committees. During the mock event, students from 41 colleges and universities discussed topics, gave speeches, wrote and sponsored papers, and voted on draft resolutions relating to the theme “Assessing the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalism in the 21st Century.”

Adrian De Sagon, a sophomore at UT Martin who is originally from the Philippines, gained knowledge through experiences he believes will help him professionally.

“The experience was really priceless. Participating in Model UN gave me a glimpse of how international politics, diplomacy and negotiations work,” he said.

Alex Doyle, a senior from Chattanooga, served as UT Martin’s representative on the Security Council and was recognized with a committee award as the “most outspoken” delegate.

“On a personal level, I believe this experience has reshaped how I expect the international community to adapt to the crises facing the world today. This new knowledge will help me identify the shortfalls and give me the confidence to attempt to change the world for the better,” he said.

Each of the students submitted position papers in advance that were scored by the executive committee and staff. Two of UT Martin’s papers scored extremely well with grades of 98 and 93 out of 100.

This is the first year UT Martin has attended the conference, and Humphreys hopes to return next year.

“The Southern Regional Model United Nations was a great experiential learning opportunity for our students and with continued interest and support from the College of Business and Global Affairs and the university, I hope to make this an annual event for UT Martin students,” she said.
BUTLER HONORED — Stephanie Butler (right), administrative assistant in the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of International Programs and International Admissions, received one of two UT Martin Outstanding Employee Awards for the spring 2017 semester during a clerical coffee and awards breakfast April 19. These awards are given each semester to one exempt and one non-exempt employee in appreciation of their service and dedication to the university and its mission. "Stephanie can be seen at most any time, oftentimes after hours and on weekends, at Walmart, various doctors' offices, banks and just about any location on campus assisting a student," said Chancellor Keith Carver when presenting the award. "Stephanie exemplifies a can-do attitude and projects the caring spirit that is a hallmark of UT Martin. She genuinely cares about this university, and most of all, the students she serves." Butler is pictured with Carver (center) and Dr. Kelli Deere, director of the UT Martin Parsons Center, who received the second award.

Sorority Village to hold ribbon-cutting on Friday

The public is invited to attend a ribbon-cutting event beginning at 1:30 p.m. Friday to officially open the University of Tennessee at Martin's new Sorority Village complex.

The four houses, located off Peach Street adjacent to the University Courts apartments, give the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Delta Pi, Chi Omega and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority a place to call home. They are not residences, but rather provide meeting and social space for the organizations to gather.

The construction project came with a total price tag of approximately $500,000, most of which was donated by chapter alumnae.

The official ribbon cutting will be held in the parking lot at the top of Village Lane, and attendees will be able to tour the four houses, weather permitting.

For more information, contact Rachel Stephens, student life coordinator at 731-881-7527.

Hawk staff take top honors in AP contest

Staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio station, WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," received a total of 15 awards, including one best-in-show designation, during the Tennessee Associated Press College Journalism Contest held April 8 in Nashville. WUTM not only placed in seven of the nine radio categories but received first, second and third-place awards in two of them.

Tori Seng of Union City topped the charts with four first-place finishes and was named the overall best in show. She received awards in the categories for radio news story, radio news cast, radio reporter and radio investigative reporting. In the latter category, she

AWARD WINNERS — Pictured are WUTM staff members (from left) Ashley Shores of Lebanon, Tori Seng of Union City, Natalie King of Paducah, Ky., and John Thornton of Atoka attended the Tennessee Associated Press College journalism contest held April 8 in Nashville.

HAWK AWARDS, FROM PAGE 1

partnered with Natalie King of Paducah to produce the winning submission.

Shane Wofford of Trenton and Ashley Shores of Lebanon claimed second and third-place prizes, respectively, in the "Radio News Story" category; and Shores and King also took home second and third-place accolades, respectively, in the "Radio Reporter" contest.

Shores also received second place in "Radio News cast," and Wofford took home an honorable mention in the same category.

John Thornton of Atoka earned second place as a radio sports reporter, and Olivia Johnston of Madison, Ala., was awarded third place in the same event.

Thornton then partnered with Jared Peckenpaugh of Finley to produce a first-place submission in the radio sports coverage competition.

King received second place in the "Radio Feature" category as well.

WUTM Television also received two awards during the competition. The station received a third-place finish for "Best Television Feature Story," and Shores earned third place in the individual category for television reporters.

For more information about WUTM or the Tennessee Associated Press competition, contact Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser, at 731-881-7555.
UT MARTIN SOAR — Jonathon Kirkland (center), of Martin, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Summer Orientation and Registration on April 22. This event is held to introduce students to UT Martin's curriculum and campus resources and allows attendees to register for classes and meet faculty and advisers. Kirkland, a senior at Westview High School, is pictured with his parents, Karen and Ken Kirkland. SOAR is a mandatory event for all incoming freshmen, and sessions will also be held May 22, June 2, June 16 and July 14. For more information or help registering, contact Mary Wiggins, coordinator of new student and family programs, at 731-881-7740. Online registration is available at utm.edu/soar. 

UT MARTIN SOAR — Joseph Aguilar (left), of Martin, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Summer Orientation and Registration on April 22. This event is held to introduce students to UT Martin's curriculum and campus resources and allows attendees to register for classes and meet faculty and advisers. Aguilar, a senior at Westview High School, is pictured with his parents, Laura and Jesus Aguilar. SOAR is a mandatory event for all incoming freshmen, and sessions will also be held May 22, June 2, June 16 and July 14. For more information or help registering, contact Mary Wiggins, coordinator of new student and family programs, at 731-881-7740. Online registration is available at utm.edu/soar.
These strange flowers on the UTM campus are part of the Solar Garden, a collaboration between the fine arts and engineering departments. They provide power to Crisp Hall.

Landscaping, an important UTM attraction

by RACHEL FULCHER
Special to the Press

The University of Tennessee at Martin prides itself on many things. Among these, the University prides itself on the beautiful landscape and environment around the campus. Landscaping is important for more than just aesthetics. Some other purposes of landscaping are to preserve nature and natural feel, to make a more comfortable environment, and of course visual appeal. Successful landscaping and landscape management are not only a beautifying factor but also important to overall outlook and preservation of an area.

The landscaping success at the University can be directly traced back to Christopher Virgin, Head Grounds Manager at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Virgin was the former operator or Virgin’s Nursery in Union City. When he began working for the University he brought a wealth of landscape design to campus. Virgin is assisted by Richard Gibson a golf course management student at the University. He has a wealth of horticulture experience through working with Jason Reeves at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center and from his time at Solar Nursery in Union City.

Virgin’s main goal when it comes to landscaping around campus is to “give the landscape a common theme.” Together they are working to homogenize the plant beds on campus. To homogenize these beds means to design them with a similar theme. The desired design is to mimic the paving stones and plants seen around several buildings on campus.

A recent addition to campus is the Solar Garden located between the University Center and the Paul Meek Library. This futuristic landscape theme provides energy to the Crisp Hall building on campus. It was designed in collaboration by students from the fine arts department and engineering students. This innovative design is important to the overall landscaping and theme of the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.
The Landscape Management class gets to work on the Cary Weldon Memorial Garden in Weldon Park, downtown Martin. Left to right: Gina Beckman, UTM student, Dr. Wes Totten, professor and Sharon Raydor, UTM student

Learning outside and first hand

by RACHEL FULCHER
Special to the Press

Dr. Wesley Totten, chair of the Department of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, is teaching two courses this fall where students are getting a true hands on experience of horticulture firsthand recently. I asked Dr. Totten some of the overall goals he had for the courses.

“What I try to do is get the students experience in landscape installing and maintenance using various sites in the Martin community,” he said.

The first one of these involves the Plant Science 321 class, Landscape Management, a course offered every other spring. This class has had the opportunity to work on two important projects in the Martin area this semester. The class worked in collaboration with Martin Beautiful and did landscape maintenance at the Martin City Hall. The students completed a variety of tasks including pruning plants, weeding, fertilizer application, plant protectant application, and mulch application. These tasks give students the opportunity to learn, and most importantly, a chance for the students to get hands-on experience outside of the class.

Another opportunity the Plant Science 321 got was working with Martin Beautiful to install a landscape plant bed on the southwest corner of Weldon Park. This plant bed was in memory of Mr. Cary Weldon.

Another one of Dr. Totten’s classes, fundamentals of horticulture, got to work on landscape and horticulture projects this semester as well. Hope of Martin Representative Ruby Black and Dr. Totten worked in collaboration to set up a landscape project for the class. They worked to determine a project that would help students learn, and benefit the Martin community. In this project, the students completed an installing job at two duplexes for the Hope of Martin organization. Dr. Totten has done an excellent job of taking both classes out of a four-walled classroom, and given them a chance to get a firsthand experience in a horticulture and landscape environment. Through the work these students have put into the horticulture centered projects this semester they are taking away both knowledge and a hands-on learning experience.
UT MARTIN SOAR — Dominique Minga (center), of Palmersville, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration on April 22. This event is held to introduce students to UT Martin’s curriculum and campus resources and allows attendees to register for classes and meet faculty and advisers. Minga, a senior at Dresden High School, is pictured with her parents, Harvey Minga and Diane Jackson. SOAR is a mandatory event for all incoming freshmen, and sessions will also be held May 22, June 2, June 16 and July 14. For more information or help registering, contact Mary

UT MARTIN SOAR — Chris Webb (right), of Martin, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration on April 22. This event is held to introduce students to UT Martin’s curriculum and campus resources and allows attendees to register for classes and meet faculty and advisers. Webb, a senior at Westview High School, is pictured with his mother, Stephanie Webb. SOAR is a mandatory event for all incoming freshmen, and sessions will also be held May 22, June 2, June 16 and July 14. For more information or help registering, contact Mary Wiggins, coordinator of new student and family programs, at 731-881-7740. Online registration is available at utm.edu/soar.
County residents receive awards from UTM

Three students from Benton County received awards for scholarship from their colleges at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2017 semester.

Heather Coleman, of Holladay, was recognized as a faculty scholar within the College of Business and Global Affairs.

Janathan Williams, of Camden, was recognized as both a dean’s choice scholar and a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs.

Breydon Horton, a sophomore from Camden, received the Darrin Devault Public Relations Scholarship from the UTM Department of Communications. Given each year to an outstanding public relations student, the scholarship was awarded at the department’s annual spring banquet on Thursday, April 6.

Congratulations to these students for their achievements!

Commencement at UTM is May 6

Graduating students will enjoy a satisfactory conclusion to their academic endeavors at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring commencement exercises. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 6, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university’s main campus. Dr. Flora Tydings, chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents, will be the speaker.

Tydings completed degrees in education from Georgia Southern (BS) and Mercer Universities (MEd), and graduated from the University of Georgia with a PhD in occupational studies.

Her career in higher education leadership began in 1996 at the Macon Technical Institute. In addition to positions in Georgia universities, Tydings served as president of Chattanooga State Community College before accepting her current role with the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The UTM spring commencement ceremony is a ticketed event and will mark Dr. Keith Carver’s first commencement ceremony as UTM’s 11th chancellor. Tickets may only be obtained from student graduates.

Attendees without tickets are welcome to watch a livestream webcast from the overflow area. A livestream will also be available online at www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=5351&type=Live for those who are unable to attend in person. For more information, contact the UTM Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

Dr. Flora Tydings

Janathan Williams

Heather Coleman
UT Martin fishermen reel in grand prize at college fishing open

Matthew Lamastus of Hornbeak and Dylan True of Lawrenceburg reeled in the big prize when they represented the University of Tennessee at Martin in the third annual YETI FLW College Fishing Open recently on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes.

The team won the grand prize package — valued at $27,000 — for a two-day total of 10 bass weighing 44 pounds, four ounces.

The pair is part of the UT Martin bass angler team, a club sport that depends on sponsorships, donations and university support to compete. While some tournaments are held in the fall, college bass fishing’s primary tournament schedule begins in the spring and continues through June. The FLW tournament is the first of three in the main series, which also includes the Association of Collegiate Anglers and the College Bassmaster competitions.

"I feel like we were successful in this tournament because we weren't caught up in how much harder it was to get bites (in competition) than it was in practice. We knew the fish were there, we just had to make them bite," said Lamastus, a sophomore engineering major whose love of fishing was inspired by his grandfather, a fishing guide.

True is a junior studying agricultural business and hopes to fish at the professional level after graduation next year.

"Bass fishing has been in my family for decades. I have been in a bass boat since before I could walk," he said.

Both students look forward to participating in bigger tournaments this spring, including the 2018 College National Championship presented by Yeti. If they win that event, they will have an opportunity to compete in bass fishing's largest tournament — the Forest Wood Cup.
Local student completes innovators program

Apr 29, 2017

Jay Spencer Atkins of Covington has completed the requirements of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute and will graduate May 6 with the designation “McWherter Innovator.”

The McWherter Institute is a specialized program of courses designed to challenge select students. The program requirements are in addition to the student’s regular area of academic study.

Atkins also received the John E. McCluskey Literary Award for a scholarly or critical paper during UT Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony April 9.

He is pictured with Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications and NRMI faculty mentor and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.