Dr. Curtis Kunkel to speak at UTM

University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member Dr. Curtis Kunkel, professor of mathematics, will present a public seminar titled "Applications of Differential Equations" at 6 p.m., April 9, in Watkins Auditorium, located inside the Boling University Center.

Kunkel earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Baylor University, where he specialized in boundary value problems for ordinary differential and difference equations. Kunkel is now in his 11th year at UT Martin.

This presentation is part of UT Martin's Academic Speakers Program, which annually features top speakers who meet with students from UT Martin Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, co-director, UT Martin Honors Programs, at 731-881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

UTM To Host March In Honor Of MLK Assassination

Martin, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Civil Rights Conference Planning Committee, along with other campus and community organizations, will host a march in honor of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at 6 p.m., April 4, beginning at Martin City Hall.

Participants will march down University Street from Martin City Hall to the UT Martin campus where a memorial rally will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the UT Martin Boling University Center. Attendees are asked to dress in black in honor of the occasion.

"Even in death, Dr. King remains one of our great moral leaders," said Dr. David Coffey, chair of the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy and a member of the planning committee. "His struggle for justice and human dignity has inspired millions. His quest for a just, fair, better world is just as relevant today as it was 50 years ago. His hopeful embrace of nonviolent protest still guides us. It is immeasurably important that we keep his dream alive."

For more information, email civilrights@utm.edu.
Gov. Bill Haslam's controversial proposal to reduce the size of the University of Tennessee system board advanced in the House, bringing the bill within reach of the governor's desk.

After considerable debate, House lawmakers on Thursday voted to pass the UT FOCUS Act, which seeks to reduce the board from 27 to 11 members. The bill passed the Senate floor 27-3 on Wednesday.

As well as reducing the size of the board, the legislation would create seven advisory boards on the separate UT campuses.

"The University of Tennessee is a system," said Rep. David Hawk, R-Greeneville, who sponsored the bill. "We are promoting and maintaining the diversity within that system."

The narrow passage of the bill followed intense criticism from lawmakers, faculty, students and other UT staff, who have said the smaller board wouldn't include enough student and faculty voices.

Haslam's administration has said the bill would shrink a board that had become too unwieldy to function.

The effort comes two years after the governor was successful in reworking the Tennessee Board of Regents to create individual 10-member boards at six regional colleges, including Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis.

Before the vote on the latest bill, many lawmakers expressed concerns about some of its provisions. Rep. Andy Holt, R-Dresden, said many Republican members had questions.

"There are still several significant concerns related to this legislation," Holt said before adding that he wouldn't vote for the bill.

Some legislators worried the change could hurt the system and would silence more diverse viewpoints.

Rep. Roger Kane, R-Knoxville, said he supported the bill in committee, but the uncertainty among fellow lawmakers prompted him to vote against the proposal on the House floor.

"When we're spending an hour and thirty minutes on something that seems in principle to be very simple ... " said Kane, who then shrugged his shoulders.

"We have not had a single 'yes, this was a good idea' phone call or email from anyone. I believe in our governor. I truly do. And I believe he's a good man and would not do anything to harm the university. But when we have this much chaos I generally just hunker down and go 'no.'"

The size of the board has long been a point of criticism for some Republican lawmakers. They have argued that its size has cluttered decision-making and left individual members feeling they have less of a stake.

While the bill moved through with relative ease in committees, it also came with numerous amendments that would have altered the bill significantly.

Rep. Martin Daniel, R-Knoxville, who filed several amendments to the bill, said he agreed with the reduction of the board despite wanting to see alterations to the proposal.

"Certain controversies have overshadowed that institution's accomplishments," Daniel said. "It appears that the board of trustees is disinterested, disengaged and overly relying on the administration for decision-making."

The Senate and House now have to reconcile their separate versions of the bill, which passed with different tweaks in each chamber.

Rep. Bill Dunn, R-Knoxville, who voted for the bill, said the differences between the House and the Senate bill are minor and the upper chamber could concede.

"Time will tell, and I think we'll see that this was the best thing to do for the university," Dunn said.

Joel Ebert contributed to this report. Reach Jason Gonzales at jagonzales@tennessean.com and on Twitter @ByJasonGonzales.
TDOE Report shows UT Martin 'Meets Expectations'

Published: Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 10:41 am CDT
Updated: Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 3:10 pm CDT
Written by Mike Payne, Director

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - On March 20 the Tennessee Department of Education released its 2016 annual reports that evaluate education programs throughout the state.

In each of the four evaluation areas the University of Tennessee at Martin’s program passed assessment with ‘meets expectations’.

“I am very pleased with this data that shows continuous improvement within our Educator Preparation Program,” said Donna Neblett, director of the educator preparation program and its accreditation. “Our administration, faculty, staff and students work tirelessly to ensure we are connected with the most recent standards, best practices and our school district partners.”

Data was compiled to:
- Assess candidate recruitment and selection
- Employment and retention
- Candidate assessment
- Completer effectiveness and impact

In the candidate recruitment and selection area, the UT Martin program reported 99.7 percent of undergraduates held a grade point average of 2.75 or more upon admission to the program.

While in the program admitted students maintained a class average of 3.41 GPA while the state threshold only requires a 3.0 average GPA.

As for employment and retention, program graduates were employed and retained in the education field for at least two years 95 percent of the time, passing the state threshold of 85 percent.

With candidate assessment UT Martin program completers passed the required pedagogical assessments 95.5 percent of the time, the required literacy assessment 97.3 percent of the time and 93.2 percent of the time in specialty area exams.

Statewide the required expectation is 90 percent.

Completer effectiveness and impact, the final area, describes the level of performance of UT Martin program graduates as teachers in their own classrooms.

Teachers who are alumni of UT Martin scored 92 percent in overall effectiveness, passing the state threshold of 85 percent.

For further information call Donna Neblett at 731-881-7686 or go to this email.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 I THE JACKSON SUN

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This presentation is part of UT Martin’s Academic Speakers Program, which annually features top speakers who meet with students from UT Martin Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, co-director, UT Martin Honors Programs, at 731-881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

UTM piano ensemble performing

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble will perform a concert of American music at 7:30 p.m., April 12, in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The program features composer Frederic Rzewski’s “Winsboro Cotton Mill Blues,” Aaron Copland’s “Hoe-Down,” Samuel Barber’s “Souvenirs,” Vincent Persichetti’s “Appalachian Christmas Carols” and several of Douglas Townsend’s “Fantasies on American Folk Songs.”

UT Martin piano students Gian Garma, of Martin; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Abigale Plunk of Martin; Emily Campbell, of Trenton; Meleah Gateley, of Humboldt; and Anna Johnson of Dresden, will perform. Guest performers include Linda Farmer and Brandon Whaley, both of Dresden, and alumni from the UT Martin Department of Music.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
When bees swarm, UTM's Swarm Patrol is there

By RACHEL FULCHER
Special to the Press

Buzz, buzz, buzz. These are the words going through Eric Braselton's mind as he sleepily wakes up to the sound of his cell phone. The words he hears on the other end of the phone call are ones he hears regularly early on a spring morning.

"Hello, is this Eric Braselton? I have a swarm at my house that I was wondering if you could get? Also, do you have any honey for sale?"

"Yes sir, I'll be over there shortly," replies Braselton.

Eric Braselton, a junior farm and ranch management major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is the captain of the UTM Swarm Patrol. A "swarm" is the term used for a collective group of bees who are in search of forming a new colony and relocation. For Eric Braselton, catching swarms and relocating them has been a hobby for many years.

"It's just something that I have always been interested in" said Braselton. "Honeybees fascinate me. They have their own little worlds, with order, jobs for everyone, and responsibilities. After relaying my interest in honeybees to the UTM Farm Manager, Mike Pierce, a few years ago, we were able to begin the UT Martin Apiary, and I became in charge of the UTM Swarm Patrol."

Most readers may be wondering exactly what a "swarm" is, and why one would need to be caught early on a spring morning. Well, Eric Braselton, alongside Pierce, can explain all there is to know about "swarms" and the entire beekeeping process. Braselton became interested in working with bees many years ago but got heavily involved with catching swarms as his hobby when he became more involved in the honeybee process.

Braselton explained that when a queen honeybee gets old or a hive gets too big for the home that the bees are living in they will raise a new queen for the hive. When the new queen hatches, the old queen will leave the hive, taking half of the bees with her. This queen bee and half of her colony will then embark on a journey to find a new home. This process is referred to as "swarming." For Braselton, catching these swarms is his hobby.

"This process became a hobby of mine when I realized just how important bees are to our overall ecosystem, and how much care they need from processes like this," he said.

After leaving the hive,
the queen bee will lead the half of the colony that she has taken with her and begin looking for a new structure to call home. Once the queen bee finds a structure that she believes will protect them she will land on it. At this point the scout bees will go out and look for a new home.

"This is how bees end up in holes in the wall or random tree branch," said Braselton. Once the scout bees have found an area that they believe will be ideal for the new hive, they will then return back to the queen, and the bees who are protecting the queen, and will inform them of their new home, and the queen and all bees will move to their new location. Scout bees “step off” an area they think will be a good fit for their colony. They step off the area within the void that they found to see if that will fit the size of their colony.

There are several ways that you can catch swarms. The first and most common way to catch swarms is by setting swarm traps.

"To set swarm traps you put beehives in a tree, then put lemongrass oil in it. This lemongrass oil smells like the bee’s homing pheromones and draws them in," says Braselton. Another way you can catch a swarm is by spotting a swarm on a tree, then putting a beehive underneath the tree, then shaking it, and the bees will fall into the beehive.

"Usually when people think about catching bees they think about catching them in a big net, or some sort of contraption. It’s honestly a much simpler process than you would think,” said Braselton.

Braselton stays busy during this time of year, as April and May are peak times for bees to swarm.

"Swarming times peak at this point in the year because things are beginning to warm up. Many queens have made it through the winter, and they will start swarming now if they are healthy enough to swarm or have a reason to swarm. "When bees swarm they are at their most docile state. Not aggressive, no sting unless threatened, no reason to be concerned. If someone sees a swarm, they shouldn’t be scared of it. They can call me at any time, and I am always glad to help move the bees.”

When bees swarm in areas where people don’t want them, such as holes in houses, playground equipment, under old car hoods, or various other areas, they need to be moved to an area where they will be safer. When these swarming groups of bees are seen by individuals they then call their local Swarm Patrol, and the Swarm Patrol comes to remove the bees and take them to an area that will be better for them to build a new hive. The Swarm Patrol is a crew of people who are constantly on the lookout for swarms. Members of the Swarm Patrol regularly check areas that tend to have swarms. Example of these areas include neighboring apiaries or abandoned buildings. If anyone in the Weakley County area sees a swarm of bees, they are to contact Eric Braselton. Eric will then assess the situation and figure out the best possible solution to implement to catch the bees and relocate them to a safe new area.

"Swarming is good for beehives because it puts a new queen in the hive so that egg production will stay up so that the colony will stay a good size. This also is good because it breaks natural breeding cycles for pests, such as varroa mites. These pests are like ticks for bees.

"Overall, the swarming process helps clean out the hive," said Braselton. "For me, I think of it as more than a hobby; I think of it as spring cleaning for honeybees." Swarms are beneficial to apiaries because they increase the genetic diversity within the breeding population of bees, and therefore help to increase the number of hives within.

Through the knowledge he has gained while working at the UT Martin Apiary, Eric has risen to be assistant manager of the UT Martin apiary, and today he now has his own apiary at home, and he now sells his own honey and bees.

Eric made sure to remind me that the honey from the UT Martin Apiary can be purchased in the UT Martin Bookstore. The prices for this honey include: $2 for a small bear full of honey, $10 for a pound of honey, and $5 for lip balm made with this honey.

Braselton can be contacted by email at erijbras@ut.mt.edu or by phone at 864-770-5372.
PRESENTATION AT KIWANIS — Brad Thompson and Jackie Johnson shared information about the Town and Gown Association when they gave a joint presentation for Kiwanis at the March 21 meeting held in the University Center at UT Martin. Thompson works with the City of Martin as the director of economic and community development, and Jackie works with UT Martin as the interim director of alumni relations and annual giving. Thompson explained that the Town and Gown Association, now in its fourth year, “provides a network of resources for students, faculty, and staff, businesses, and Martin residents to collaborate on services, events, programs, commerce, and education to create an improved quality of life for all.” Johnson discussed current membership levels and the vision of the group, as she highlighted some of the important outcomes of increased collaboration, including internships, unified calendars, promotion of the city and university, and awareness of shared events. They both emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the City of Martin and UT Martin. Others on hand for the presentation were (second from left) Kiwanis president Vickie Hazlewood and Kiwanis vice president Danielle Fabianich.

WestStar to host 20th annual African-American leadership conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 20th annual African-American Leadership Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., April 26, at the STAR Center, located at 1119 Old Humboldt Road in Jackson.

The registration fee is $35 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register with the WestStar Leadership Program office by April 20, and seating is limited.

Stan Bell, radio personality for V101 and a Memphis educator, will be the keynote speaker. Bell received his bachelor’s degree in communications from UT Martin and his master’s and education specialist degrees from Union University. In addition to 30 years as a radio personality, Bell is also a career and technology instructor for Shelby County Schools. He currently teaches broadcasting at Wooddale High School and has been teaching with the district since 1993. Bell is a Marconi (Radio) Award Winner for Broadcast Excellence.

Attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. and will be welcomed at 8:30 by Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. Bell will deliver his keynote address beginning at 8:45, followed by Dr. Eric Jones, superintendent of the Jackson-Madison County School System, who will discuss educational issues.

Tiffany Nance, financial wellbeing coach for First Tennessee HOPE Inside in Jackson, will discuss “The Value of Money Management in Today’s Society” at 10:30. Mark Heaston, CARE officer for the City of Covington Fire Department and graduate of the WestStar Class of 2015, April Smith, chief financial (Continued on page 5)
WestStar...

(Continued from page 4)

Special officer for Loving Arms, LLC, in Jackson; and Robert Winston, doctor of internal medicine in Jackson, will lead a panel discussion titled "Truths and Myths in Alzheimer's and Dementia" at 11:15. This session will be followed by lunch and a welcome from Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

After the meal, participants will hear from Dr. Bob Smith, co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program and UT Martin chancellor emeritus, regarding the program’s 20th anniversary celebration. Smith is currently serving as advisor of leadership and talent to the University of Tennessee System president. Officer Tyrone Curry, of the Memphis Police Department, will then address crime-related concerns at 1:30. Awards and door prizes will be presented following the final speaker.

For more information, contact Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative specialist, at 731-881-3298, or email jjone239@utm.edu.

UTM, JSCC to host open house event

UT Martin’s Jackson Center and Jackson State Community College will host an open house event on Tuesday, April 17. The event will be held at JSCC’s McWherter Center between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on that day.

In December, UT Martin’s Jackson Center moved from its location on the 45 By-pass to Jackson State’s McWherter Center. The two institutions had entered into an articulation agreement in the fall which ensured a seamless transfer from JSCC to UTM.

Faculty and staff members from both institutions will be on hand to answer questions. Adult learners can learn about tuition-free options through the Tennessee Reconnect scholarship. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available to anyone coming to the event.

UTM holes orientation event

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event on April 13.

Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and student success, as well as housing and meal plan options. An optional tour of UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum, will start at 1 p.m.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 8-9 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9 a.m., followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30-10:45. Advising and registration will begin at 10:45.

Participants can choose to attend sessions on career planning and development, money matters, student life, student success center and campus technology. Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend. Additional Transfer and Adult Orientation sessions will be held on June 1 and July 20. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Author Bobbie Ann Mason speaking at Tennessee school

By The Associated Press
Posted Apr 4, 2018 at 8:16 AM
Updated Apr 4, 2018 at 8:17 AM

MARTIN — Kentucky author Bobbie Ann Mason will deliver the keynote address this week at the Southern Literary Festival being held at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The festival begins Wednesday and runs through Saturday. It's the first time UT Martin has hosted the festival, which was founded in 1937 by representatives from 10 Southern colleges.

Mason's address will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. All festival events are free and open to the public.

The festival has been held by a different member school each year, with the exception of 1942-46.

UTM Music, Arts Dept. children’s event set

The Department of Music and the Department of Visual and Theater Arts will stage a Spring Fling with the arts April 7, from 2 - 4:30 p.m. in the University of Tennessee - Martin Fine Arts Building, in Martin, Tenn.

This special event provides interactive activities for the entire family--children and adults both, with activities including make their own instrument, children’s theater first-hand, work with the dance ensemble, directing the New Pacer Singers, watching red hot pottery come out of the open fire kiln, and trying out a new instrument.

There is no charge and the public is invited to learn about the arts by doing.

Children must be accompanied by an adult when they attend.

For additional information, contact Doug Cook, (731) 881-7400, chair, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, or Dr. Julie Hill, (731) 881-7402, chair, Department of Music.
WestStar Launches Teacher Development Program

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program is launching a new teacher development program – WestTeach – beginning with the fall semester. Applications will be accepted until May 1.

WestTeach seeks to connect West Tennessee's K-12 teachers with the region's communities and industries and give them increased insight into economic needs and opportunities in the area. The five-day development program begins Aug. 27, and a final graduation banquet will be held Jan. 29, 2019, at UT Martin.

Program sessions will be held across West Tennessee over a five-month period. Topics include West Tennessee agriculture (Aug. 27 in Martin); entrepreneurship in West Tennessee (Aug. 28 in Union City); welfare and social consequences (Sept. 25 in Jackson); creating partnerships for economic development (Oct. 30 in Dyersburg); and industry tours (Nov. 27 in Covington and Brownsville).

Potential applicants should be interested in becoming leaders in their schools. All applicants must be nominated by their principal and the director or superintendent of schools. Selection is based on leadership achievements and the potential to contribute to the region's education system. One teacher per school district will be selected with no more than 30 members per class.

Tuition for the WestTeach program is $250, which must be paid by either the individual or the school system prior to the first session. Each participant to complete the course will be given a $150 gift card for classroom use upon graduation.

Applications are available online by visiting utm.edu/weststar and selecting "WestTeach Program" to the left.

WestTeach is sponsored by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, PLLC; Security Bank of Dyersburg; and SIC Management.

For more information or application assistance, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 731-88I-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu.

UTM Piano Ensemble To Perform American Music Concert April 12

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble will perform a concert of American music at 7:30 p.m., April 12, in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The program features composer Fredric Rzewski's "Winsboro Cotton Mill Blues," Aaron Copland's "Hoe-Down," Samuel Barber's "Souvenirs," Vincent Persichetti's "Appalachian Christmas Carols" and several of Douglas Townsend's "Fantasies on American Folk Songs."

UT Martin piano students Gian Garma, of Martin; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Abigale Plunk of Martin; Emily Campbell, of Trenton; Meleah Gateley, of Humboldt; and Anna Johnson of Dresden, will perform. Guest performers include Linda Farmer and Brandon Whaley, both of Dresden, and alumni from the UT Martin Department of Music.

The event is free and open to the public.

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

UTM Hosts Education Seminar To Highlight Student Potential

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies will host the annual Betty Graham Special Education Seminar from 3-8 p.m., April 19, in room 230 of the Boling University Center. Participating classroom teachers and administrators will receive three hours of professional development.

Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman, senior scientist emeritus from the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will present on a strength-based approach to education where teachers see children as "at potential" instead of "at risk."

This discussion will focus on how to document students' strengths, plan strength-based instructional experiences, and enhance communication with parents and families. This intentional type of student observation can help keep individual talents and abilities from being overlooked as educators focus on general challenges and difficulties.

Coleman directs Project U-STAR-PLUS (Using Science, Talents and Abilities to Recognize Students – Promoting Learning in Underrepresented Students) and has served multiple terms on the boards of The Association for Gifted, the National Association for Gifted Children, and the Council for Exceptional Children.

The Betty Graham Special Education Seminar is made possible by an endowment from Newell and Betty Graham, Union City residents and owners of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company locations in both Union City and Meridian, Mississippi.

For more information, contact Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education and seminar coordinator, at 731-881-7143 or csmith279@utm.edu.
WestStar launches teacher program

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WestTeach seeks to connect West Tennessee's K-12 teachers with the region's communities and industries and give them increased insight into economic needs and opportunities in the area. The five-day development program begins Aug. 27 and a final graduation banquet will be held Jan. 29, 2019, at UT Martin.

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Applications are available online by visiting utm.edu/weststar and selecting “WestTeach Program” to the left.

WestTeach is sponsored by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, PLLC; Security Bank of Dyersburg; and SIC Management.

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

Mathematics presentation planned for Monday night

University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member Dr. Curtis Kunkel, professor of mathematics, will present a public seminar titled “Applications of Differential Equations” at 6 p.m. Monday in Watkins Auditorium, located inside the Boling University Center.

Kunkel earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Baylor University, where he specialized in boundary value problems for ordinary differential and difference equations. He is now in his 11th year at UT Martin.

This presentation is part of UT Martin's Academic Speakers Program, which annually features top speakers who meet with students from UT Martin Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, co-director, UT Martin Honors Programs, at (731) 881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

Marketing professor recognized

Dr. Kevin Hammond, professor of marketing, has been selected as the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Featured Faculty Scholar for the spring 2018 semester.

A reception will be held in his honor beginning at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Paul Meek Library. A selection of Hammond's professional work will remain on display in the library through the coming months.

The Featured Faculty Scholar award, instituted during the 1996-97 academic year by the UT Martin Academic Council, is designed to recognize faculty members whose research and creative works are judged to be among the most prestigious of those produced by individuals at UT Martin.

Hammond joined the UT Martin faculty as an assistant professor of marketing in 1993 after three years as an instructor and teaching assistant at Louisiana Tech University and more than a decade in the financial world.

In addition to a long list of conference presentations and published journal articles, Hammond currently serves as chair of the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs Curriculum Committee and faculty advisor to the UT Martin chapters of both the Mu Kappa Tau National Marketing Honor Society and the Pi Sigma Epsilon National Professional Business Fraternity. He is also a member of the college’s graduate admissions committee and two of its academic assessment teams.
Student potential focus of seminar

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies will host the annual Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar from 5-8 p.m. April 19 in room 230 of the Boling University Center.

Participating classroom teachers and administrators will receive three hours of professional development.

Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman, senior scientist emeritus from the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will present on a strength-based approach to education where teachers see children as “at potential” instead of “at risk.”

This discussion will focus on how to document students’ strengths, plan strength-based instructional experiences and enhance communication with parents and families. This intentional type of student observation can help keep individual talents and abilities from being overlooked as educators focus on general challenges and difficulties.

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For more information, contact Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education and seminar coordinator, at (731) 881-7143 or csmitt279@utm.edu.
UPCOMING WRITERS CONFERENCE

Upcoming Writers Conference on April 28

If you enjoy writing and would like to explore what is going on with other writers in Perry County and across Middle Tennessee, this event is for you.

Perry County Cultural Arts Writers Conference, at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Community Center in Linden will feature writers from a wide range of genres.

A registration fee of $25 (adults) and $20 (students) will buy you a ticket to hear professional writers speak about their careers, sit in on small group discussions with these writers, or join songwriters for a “pull session,” and enjoy a delicious, catered lunch by Commodore Hotel and Café.

PCCAC president Sue Franks, a mystery/thriller novelist herself, says this event should appeal to all levels of writers from beginners and dabblers to professionals and everyone in between.

Here is a short sampling of writers who have been lined up to participate in this the first Writers Conference for the Perry County Cultural Arts Commission.

Singer/songwriters who have agreed to participate are locals Phil Thomas and Brian Warren who will be joined by Don Snyder and Don Singleton. Lisa Ramsey from Nashville will speak about “breaking-into” the Nashville Country Music scene.

Juliea Martinelli, radio news reporter for WPLN in Nashville, will speak about her early career as a writer and magazine copy editor.

Leanne Smith, an assistant professor at Lipscomb University, has a background in writing, design and administration. Smith’s first historical fiction novel, Leaving Independence was published in 2016, and her first short story, “On a Dark & Snowy Night” in 2017.

University of Tennessee at Martin will send technical writer Tricia Capansky and poet Sally Brannen to speak about their crafts.

Hickman County’s beloved playwright, Clay Harris, will talk about writing plays and community theater in this area.

The natural beauty and peaceful countryside of Perry County has attracted creative folks of every imaginable expression. The PCCAC to build a supportive community for any writer at any stage of expression to pursue their writing craft.

For more information and to register contact Dianne Blascuc, (931) 589-6050, Johnnia Elkins (931) 589-2140, or Melissa Goodwin (931) 593-2249.

Also, communicate with us by email at BuffaloRiverArtisans@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/PerryCountyCulturalArtsCommissionLindenTN

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, APRIL 5, 2018

Transfer And Adult Orientation Event

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event April 13th.

Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and student success, as well as housing and meal plan options. An optional tour of UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum, will start at 1 p.m.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 8 a.m. through 9 a.m. An official welcome will be followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30 a.m. through 10:45 a.m. Advising and registration will begin at 10:45 a.m.

Participants can choose to attend sessions on different areas.

Visit utm.edu/transfer orientation to register. There is no fee to attend. Additional Transfer and Adult Orientation sessions will be held June 1st and July 20th. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Lawmakers See Conspiracy In UT Board Alterations

By Sam Stockard

It's not that hard to light a fire under some state lawmakers, but the University of Tennessee FOCUS Act raised blood pressure considerably in the House of Representatives before barely passing with 51 votes.

Most of the ire was directed toward Gov. Bill Haslam, who has fewer than nine months left in his final term but would appoint the entire 12-member board by July before leaving office.

“I think the timing is all too clear and prescient,” says Rep. Andy Holt, a Dresden Republican, who says a governor’s representative told him all the appointments were lined up already.

“Whether the governor is planning on running for (UT) president or not, he has someone very close to him that will be trying to take that position. He’s engineered and manufactured this whole process to be a benefit to him and to his family.”

Holt, who holds degrees from UT-Knoxville and UT-Martin, was among 23 Republicans to oppose the measure. It flew through the Republican-dominated Senate 28-3.

“To say that the Haslams are involved in the UT system is to really relegate their significance down quite a bit. What we see is their influence has caused positions to be filled by individuals that I would not personally have endorsed, and it has detracted, I think, from the athletics programs at times,” Holt adds.

“But I think this is a process that has been engineered to allow for a further consolidation of control and all while guised as this great, efficient, new process, and really the reason I believe that is because you saw it in here today: this huge push.”

Holt raises this question: Why could the next governor and the next General Assembly not appoint a new UT board of trustees? Why does the entire 27-member board need to be booted by July 1 and replaced?

Holt and a number of lawmakers say they believe Haslam wants to control the appointment of the next UT system president with Joe DiPietro’s contract running out at mid-year and push his plans to outsource jobs in University of Tennessee schools, from Knoxville to Chattanooga to Martin, none of which opted for a state contract adopted in 2017 for facilities management.

Others say they believe the Haslams are still peeved about the handling of the Vols football coach hiring and the ill-handled exit of former Athletics Director John Currie, who was suspended and recently bought out for $2.5 million.

Rep. Martin Daniel, a Knoxville Republican, couldn’t get any traction on amendments to postpone the board of trustees appointments until 2019 after Haslam leaves office and add more Knoxville campus representatives.
Daniel and Holt agree the board has allowed UT to go in the wrong direction, with everything from Sex Week at the Knoxville campus to an administrator in the Diversity Office encouraging professors to use gender-neutral pronouns when referring to students.

State Rep. John Ray Clemmons wasn’t torn up about those matters, but he was among those who blasted the bill before it escaped on the House floor.

Clemmons argues the University of Tennessee system doesn’t belong to the governor or the Haslam family, and he calls the governor’s effort to control the appointment of every member “offensive.”

The Nashville Democrat also contends the bill’s language would allow the board of trustees to sell property without giving proper notice, stop professors from conferring degrees and eliminate diversity on the board membership.

Clemmons throws in this zinger as well: “The last thing we want for UT is to become the Cleveland Browns.”

The reference applies to the governor’s brother, Jim Haslam, who owns the NFL’s weakest franchise, the Browns, but maintains a strong interest in UT and the Vols football program. The late Big Jim Haslam played on Gen. Bob Neyland’s 1951 national championship team.

Rep. David Hawk, the Greeneville Republican who shepherded the bill through the House, rebuffed the criticism, saying this is an effort to make the board more efficient and to bring in “world-class” leaders. Hawk told lawmakers his daughter is set to enroll at UT-Knoxville this fall.

“There’s nothing I’m going to do as a legislator or father to jeopardize the UT system,” Hawk said, noting Gov. Haslam “is not going to be governing this board from a rocking chair.”

Hawk also claims he’s been a fervent opponent of outsourcing in the Legislature and said that has nothing to do with his support of the legislation.

**Finding the votes**

Without the support of Democratic Reps. Raumesh Akbari and John DeBerry, both of Memphis, the measure might not have gained enough votes to pass the House. They were the only two Democrats to vote in its favor.

Haslam spokeswoman Jennifer Donnals points out the governor has said publicly several times he is not interested in being the UT president and that the bill’s purpose is to make the board more effective in its leadership of the UT system.

Akbari says most of the calls she received in opposition came from the United Campus Workers, and as a result she wanted to make sure the bill wasn’t designed to lead to outsourcing of university jobs to a private vendor.

But the bigger sticking point for her, she acknowledges, was student membership on the board, even though the person selected for that post will no longer hold a vote.
“I was going to vote no initially when they removed the student member. Once they added the student member back I was OK with the legislation,” adds Akbari, who served as a non-voting board of trustees member when she was in college while earning her bachelor’s degree at Washington University in St. Louis.

Akbari received support from the Haslam administration this session as it reduced its supplemental budget by $144,000 to pay for the bill reducing the cost of expungement for non-violent felons who complete court diversion programs. She says that had nothing to do with her vote.

“No, that was already taken care of. And as a matter of fact, I think that really had more to do with my Senate sponsor than anything else. I never had that type of conversation with the governor or his administration, and wouldn’t,” she continues. The Senate sponsor of the bill was Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, who carries legislation for the governor.

**FOCUS Act part II**

Haslam and supporters sold the measure this session as the second part of the initial FOCUS Act, which removed universities such as MTSU, TSU, University of Memphis and Tennessee Tech from Tennessee Board of Regents control and placed them under their own boards of trust.

While the governor has said those boards are working out well after only one year, House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh isn’t so sure.

Fitzhugh, who holds undergraduate and law degrees from UT, says, “If you like the color orange you should vote against this bill.”

He argues those boards haven’t really worked out as well as some would think, and he points to the MTSU board of trustees’ decision to give president Sidney McPhee a 15 percent pay raise recently, upping him to $400,000 from nearly $348,000. MTSU trustees said the number put McPhee in the middle of president pay rates at comparable universities.

Fitzhugh also notes problems at Tennessee Tech where the president recently backed away from a study on gliders that house refurbished engines for freight trucks. It was to be used to make an argument for repealing federal emissions standards.

In typical House fashion, though, Rep. Gerald McCormick fired back, at least at Clemmons, saying, “It upsets me a little to hear close to personal attacks on the governor and his family.”

McCormick, a Chattanooga Republican and Realtor, says the governor assured him the UT FOCUS Act was not “some kind of plot to appoint people to give him a job.”

To be sure, the governor is probably worth more than the entire General Assembly combined and doesn’t need to work.

Nevertheless, McCormick says, “I told him if he studies hard and gets a real estate license, he can work for me.”
The analysis

Half of the appointed members to the new board of trustees will have to be UT graduates. But that still ensures only five of them will be UT alumni. The others could come from Vanderbilt for all we know – and that could hurt the Vols even worse, though the Commodores have beaten them soundly the last few years.

Voting student and faculty will be appointed to one of four standing committees set up under the full board. Additionally, students and faculty will be placed on advisory boards to be set up at each UT campus. But those positions won’t hold the sway of full board members.

And between all of the separate committees and advisory councils one has to wonder where UT will find efficiency. But the biggest question is the timing. Why the rush?

The General Assembly is hoping to adjourn before the end of April, so either Haslam has his appointments set, as Holt alluded to, or he’ll be doing so in record time.

Otherwise, Tennessee taxpayers will have to pay for all lawmakers to come back to Nashville for another session. And for a governor known for pinching pennies, that isn’t efficient.

Author Bobbie Ann Mason speaking at UT Martin

MARTIN – Kentucky author Bobbie Ann Mason will deliver the keynote address this week at the Southern Literary Festival being held at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The festival runs through Saturday. It’s the first time UT Martin has hosted

the festival, which was founded in 1937 by representatives from 10 Southern colleges.

Mason’s address will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. All festival events are free and open to the public.

The festival has been held by a different member school each year, with the exception of 1942-46.
REMEMBERING DR. KING — Students, adults and children, black and white, marched Wednesday night through Historic Downtown Martin to the UTM campus to honor the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. King was in Memphis leading a strike of sanitation workers. After delivering a stirring speech at Ebenezer Baptist Church, King was assassinated the next day. He had led the fight for black civil rights for years throughout the South, and his "I Have a Dream" speech is credited by many for leading to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Wednesday's march was sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Civil Rights Conference Planning Committee.

Photo by Linda Thurston
Student potential focus of seminar at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies will host the annual Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar from 5-8 p.m. April 19 in room 230 of the Boling University Center.

Participating classroom teachers and administrators will receive three hours of professional development.

Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman, senior scientist emeritus from the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will present on a strength-based approach to education where teachers see children as “at potential” instead of “at risk.”

This discussion will focus on how to document students’ strengths, plan strength-based instructional experiences and enhance communication with parents and families. This intentional type of student observation can help keep individual talents and abilities from being overlooked as educators focus on general challenges and difficulties.

Coleman directs Project U-STAR-PLUS (Using Science, Talents and Abilities to Recognize Students Promoting Learning in Underrepresented Students) and has served multiple terms on the boards of The Association for Gifted, the National Association for Gifted Children and the Council for Exceptional Children.

WestStar launches teacher program

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program is launching a new teacher development program — WestTeach — beginning with the fall semester.

Applications will be accepted until May 1.

WestTeach seeks to connect West Tennessee’s K-12 teachers with the region’s communities and industries and give them increased insight into economic needs and opportunities in the area. The five-day development program begins Aug. 27 and a final graduation banquet will be held Jan. 29, 2019, at UT Martin.

Program sessions will be held across West Tennessee over a five-month period. Topics include West Tennessee agriculture (Aug. 27 in Martin); entrepreneurship in West Tennessee (Aug. 28 in Union City); welfare and social consequences (Sept. 25 in Jackson); creating partnerships for economic development (Oct. 30 in Dyersburg); and industry tours (Nov. 27 in Covington and Brownsville).

Potential applicants should be interested in becoming leaders in their schools. All applicants must be nominated by their principal and the director or superintendent of schools. Selection is based on leadership achievements and the potential to contribute to the region’s education system. One teacher per school district will be selected with no more than 30 members per class.

Tuition for the WestTeach program is $250, which must be paid by either the individual or the school system prior to the first session. Each participant to complete the course will be given a $150 gift card for classroom use upon graduation.

Applications are available online by visiting utm.edu/weststar and selecting “WestTeach Program” to the left.

WestTeach is sponsored by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, PLLC; Security Bank of Dyersburg; and SIC Management.

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu.
The 2018 University of Tennessee at Martin Lyric Opera Theater production of "The Medium" will be held April 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre in the Fine Arts Building.

Ghosts, séances, a fake psychic, fraught family relationships, alcoholism ... all lead to a tragedy in the end.

Gian Carlo Menotti's opera "The Medium" portrays alcoholic Madame Flora, who, for a fee, connects grieving clients to their deceased children with surreptitious assistance from her daughter and her adopted mute son.

Madame Flora, however, falls prey to her own 'artifice and experiences a ghost strangling her. Confronted with a real ghost, she confesses her scheme to the clients and drives them away, even as they refuse to believe her.

As it turns out, ghosts and alcohol mix poorly, and Madame Flora's newfound fears cause a deadly accident.

The opera is one hour long.

Admission is $6 for adults, and students with an I.D. and children younger than 12 will be admitted free.

Tickets will be sold at the door only; the ticket booth opens one hour before each performance.

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

Be advised that the opera content may not be suitable for young children.

The Medium' scheduled at UT Martin

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018 § THE JACKSON SUN

UTM, JSCC to host open house event

UT Martin's Jackson Center and Jackson State Community College will host an open house event on Tuesday, April 17. The event will be held at JSCC's McWherter Center between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

See BRIEFS, Page 4A

Briefs

Continued from Page 3A

1:30 p.m. on that day.

In December, UT Martin's Jackson Center moved from its location on the 45 By-pass to Jackson State's McWherter Center. The two institutions had entered into an articulation agreement in the fall which ensured a seamless transfer from JSCC to UTM.

Faculty and staff members from both institutions will be on hand to answer questions. Adult learners can learn about tuition-free options through the Tennessee Reconnect scholarship. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available to anyone coming to the event.

UTM piano ensemble performing

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble will perform a concert of American music at 7:30 p.m., April 12, in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

UTM rodeo tickets on sale

Advance tickets for the 50th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Spring College Rodeo, scheduled for April 12-14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion, are now on sale at select locations in West Tennessee and Kentucky.

Marty Clements and Rachel Vester are both EMA planners and instructors for: ALICE (active shooter training), Rape, Aggression and Defense (personal defense) and School Safety Specialists for Tennessee. Clements is also an NRA and state certified handgun instructor.

Seating is limited to the first 75 paid participants. Cost is $12 to cover materials, including a three-ring binder with a safety plan. Participants will leave with, and other expenses.

Registration is required to receive a confirmation number and an email that has paperwork to fill out and bring to the session.

To register, please call Vester at (731) 427-1271.
UT Martin kicks off 2018 Spring College Rodeo Thursday

April 7, 2018 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin's 2018 Spring College Rodeo runs April 12-14 and marks 50 years of success for the university team.

All three nights of competition begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex, located to the north of Graham Stadium.

All Thursday night tickets are $6 each. General admission adult tickets are $10 for the Friday night performance and $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7 for either night’s competition.

A weekend pass, which is good for all three performances, is also available for $20.

Child and student tickets apply to children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with valid Skyhawk ID cards. Children under six are admitted free of charge.
Dr. Curtis Kunkel to speak at UTM

University of Tennessee at Martin faculty member Dr. Curtis Kunkel, professor of mathematics, will present a public seminar titled "Applications of Differential Equations" at 6 p.m., April 9, in Watkins Auditorium, located inside the Boling University Center.

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In December, UT Martin's Jackson Center moved from its location on the 45 By-pass to Jackson State's McWherter Center. The two institutions had entered into an articulation agreement in the fall which ensured a seamless transfer from JSCC to UTM.

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UTM piano ensemble performing

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble will perform a concert of American music at 7:30 p.m., April 12, in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UTM Fine Arts Building.

The event featured performances by the University of Tennessee at Martin Chamber Wind Ensemble under the direction of conductor John Oetrich. The UT Martin New Pacer Singers, under the direction of conductor Mark Simmons, also performed while accompanied by the wind ensemble.

Solos were performed by Mallory Mayo, Rebekah Mansfield and Magdalena Martinez. The UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations held a reception after the performance.

For more information on the Chamber Wind Ensemble or the New Pacer Singers, visit the university website at: www.utm.edu

Mark Simmons, director of Choral Activities and conductor of the New Pacer Singers, explains a number to the audience during "Love in the Springtime."

Online gallery
For more photos from "Love in the Springtime," go to jacksonsun.com.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting the 50th annual Spring College Rodeo starting on Thursday, April 12 and going through Saturday, April 14 at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex.

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 children (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. Children ages 5 and under are free with a paid adult.

Action from all three nights can also be heard locally on Star 95.1 FM.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region “Rodeo of the Year” for 12 consecutive years. The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyoming June 10-16.

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.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is sponsoring a crawfish supper at the American Legion building on Wednesday, April 11 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 for the event that is put on by the UTM Rodeo Booster Club.

Thursday is Tyson, Obion County Complex Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events including bull riding will be featured while fans can enter a drawing for a chance to win an MTD riding lawnmower. The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will conduct the opening.

Friday is Tennessee Tractor, LLC Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events will be featured. Friday also serves as “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to raise money for breast cancer awareness. If the MTD riding lawnmower is not won on Thursday, a second drawing will take place that evening. 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 Martin Paving Company Championship Finals, where the top-10 contestants from the opening round will compete in a battle of the best of the best. Edward Jones Investments is sponsoring a free barbecue lunch at 11 a.m. at the downtown Martin Festival Park while a scholarship auction will follow at 12:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship Fund.
University of Tennessee transfer and adult orientation is April 13 in Martin

April 9, 2018

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event on April 13.

Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development and student success as well as housing and meal plan options.

An optional tour of UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum, will start at 1 p.m.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 8-9 a.m.

An official welcome will start at 9 a.m., followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Advising and registration will begin at 10:45 a.m.

Participants can choose to attend sessions on career planning and development, money matters, student life, student success center and campus technology.

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend. Additional Transfer and Adult Orientation sessions will be held on June 1 and July 20.

Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Gov. Bill Haslam announces 10 appointees to new, smaller University of Tennessee board of trustees

Gov. Bill Haslam on Monday celebrated the passage of one of his signature proposals this year, a measure reducing the size of the University of Tennessee's board of trustees and announced 10 appointees to the new board.

After considerable debate, House lawmakers passed the UT FOCUS Act (story/news/politics/2018/03/29/ut-focus-act-bill-proposing-overhaul-systems-governing-board-passes-tennessee-house/469105602/) to reduce the board from 27 to 12 members on March 29. The bill previously passed 27-3 in the Senate.

As well as reducing the size of the board, the bill Haslam signed into law Friday creates seven advisory boards for the separate UT campuses.

"We appreciate the General Assembly, especially the bill's sponsors, Sen. Mark Norris and Rep. David Hawk, for their partnership in passing this important legislation and we're excited to move forward with the implementation process," Haslam said in a statement.

"This restructuring will improve the effectiveness of the board and positively impact the multiple campuses that comprise the UT system. Additionally, the advisory boards will create a culture of creativity at the campus level, and will allow each of the boards to respond nimbly to the needs of their respective institutions."

The board will have 12 members in total, including the Commissioner of Agriculture and a non-voting student member — in addition to the 10 gubernatorial appointments.

Here are Haslam's 10 appointees.
All of the appointees are University of Tennessee alumni and at least two are from each grand division of the state, according to a news release from the governor's office.

A faculty member will also be appointed to the board’s Academic Affairs Student Success committee.

The appointments are effective July 1, subject to confirmation by the Tennessee General Assembly.

The passage of the measure completes one of the governor's main initiatives for his last year in office.

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**New UT Board To Include Three Former Athletes, Including A Basketball Star**

By CHAS SISK (PEOPLE/CHAS-SISK) • APR 9, 2018

A new board overseeing all four University of Tennessee campuses is expected to begin work on July 1.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
If Gov. Bill Haslam gets his way, three former athletes will soon be part of the University of Tennessee's new 12-person board.

Acting just days after state legislators approved the governor's proposal to reorganize UT's Board of Trustees, Haslam released his slate of nominees Monday.

They include Kara Lawson, a former Lady Vols basketball player who's now a basketball analyst on ESPN; Brad Lampley, a lawyer who played football at UT; and Bill Rhodes, a former UT-Martin golfer and the chief executive of AutoZone.

The new board will oversee affairs at UT's flagship campus in Knoxville, as well as UT-Martin, UT-Chattanooga and the UT Health Sciences Campus in Memphis.

"This restructuring will improve the effectiveness of the board and positively impact the multiple campuses that comprise the UT system," Haslam said in a prepared statement. "Additionally, the advisory boards will create a culture of creativity at the campus level, and will allow each of the boards to respond nimbly to the needs of their respective institutions."

Lawson played on three UT basketball teams that made the Final Four under Coach Pat Summitt and on the 2008 Olympic team that won a gold medal in Beijing. She also played 12 seasons in the WNBA before becoming a commentator.

She's one of three women and one of three non-white nominees who were included in Haslam's 10 picks. The state's agriculture commission and a non-voting student representative will also be on the new board.

State lawmakers are expected to hold a confirmation vote on the nominees before they adjourn for the year. If legislators approve, the appointments are scheduled to take effect July 1.

The complete list of the governor's nominees follows:

- John Compton, former President of PepsiCo and current partner with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice
- Kara Lawson, former Lady Vol and current basketball television analyst for ESPN and the Washington Wizards
- Donnie Smith, former President and Chief Executive Officer of Tyson Foods
- Sharon Pryse, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of The Trust Company
- Kim White, President and Chief Executive Officer of River City Company
- Bill Rhodes, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of AutoZone
- Melvin Malone, former Special Tennessee Supreme Court Justice and current practice group leader with Butler Snow LLP
- Bill Evans, former Director and Chief Executive Officer of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Raja Jubran, Chief Executive Officer of Denark Construction
- Brad Lampley, former Tennessee Volunteers football player and current partner in charge of the Nashville office of Adams and Reese, LLP
Farmers speak out on possible tariffs on soybeans

April 10, 2018 by Corallys Ortiz (http://www.wbbjtv.com/author/corallysortiz/)

GIBSON COUNTY, Tenn. — After President Donald Trump’s announcement of proposed tariffs on steel and other imports, China says they may impose tariffs on several U.S. imports.

“When they announced that China was going to put 25 percent tariff on soybeans, we saw such a huge price decline,” Danny Morris, a farm management specialist at the UT-Martin Agricultural Center in Trenton, said.

Those tariffs could also have an impact on our local soybean production, Morris says.

“The largest impact it will have is on our soybean prices here in the state of Tennessee,” Morris said. “Soybean is the largest commodity that we produce.”

China imports about two-thirds of overall soy products from the United States. The increases in tariffs could have a negative impact on local farmers.

“We’ve experienced low commodity prices for the past two years, going on three, and to 2018, which means net farm income that it produces is extremely low,” Morris said. “If the farmers are in a bad financial situation right now, and if they have lower soybean prices, that bad situation is going to continue and get even worse.”

Tennessee Soybean Association Executive Director Parks Wells says
farmers are just breaking even right now.

“It’s going to put a lot of people out of business, and it’s going to affect the retailers and everything else in the trade, so it can be very detrimental,” Wells said.

And if China doesn’t get soy products from the United States, Wells says they will buy from South American farmers instead.

“China has to buy soy,” Wells said. “They’ll either get it from us or South America, and there’s not enough in South America to fill their needs.”

Wells says it’s better to keep selling more instead of less, but Morris says he thinks that overall global demand shouldn’t decline.

“In my opinion, it will shift who China buys from,” Morris said. “If they don’t buy from us, they’ll be forced to buy from South America, but those customers that were existing customers of South America will likely have to shift their purchases to us. Global demand won’t decline because of this.”
UTM Prof To Begin Restoration Of WWI Memorial Fountain

Martin, Tenn. – Dr. Alice Catherine Carls, professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has begun research to restore the World War I Memorial Fountain located on the courthouse square in Jackson, originally erected by the Surgical Dressings Workers of Jackson shortly after the end of World War I.

Carls received a grant through the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program to restore the fountain, and the monument has been designated an official World War I Centennial Memorial by the World War I Centennial Commission.

According to Carls, the restoration project will include stripping and repainting the fountain, adding the original top back to the pillar, resetting the monument in its original location and adding a plaque to explain its historical significance. The current plaque lists many names of Madison County soldiers who died in World War I and some of the more prominent women who served as surgical dressings workers, but does not include the names of the many African American individuals who served the cause as well. This will be corrected in the new plaque.

"The purpose of this restoration is to remember all parts of that story and to honor every one of whom we are aware and who deserve to be named or mentioned," said Carls.

The women who served in the Surgical Dressings Workers of Jackson were members of the American Red Cross who were specially trained to sew surgical dressings and other medical bandages. According to Carls' research, the Jackson chapter may have been the only chapter in the United States to train an entire class of African American women in the technique of surgical dressings. The chapter sent almost 13,000 surgical dressings to various hospitals during the war.

Carls is a member of the Tennessee Great War Commission, which was created in 2014 by an act of the Tennessee State Legislature to memorialize the centennial anniversary of World War I and the sacrifices of the many Tennesseans who served their country. Carls was appointed to the commission by Gov. Bill Haslam.

Tennessee received three of the 100 Cities/100 Memorials grants distributed nationwide. The other two grants will be used to restore the tomb of Sgt. Alvin C. York in Pall Mall and the Tennessee War Memorial Building in Nashville.

For more information on the fountain restoration project, contact Carls at 731-881-7472 or accarls@utm.edu.
Mobile Veterans Center rolls into Jackson

April 10, 2018 by Josh Robinson (http://www.wbbjtv.com/author/joshrobinson/)

JACKSON, Tenn. — "It's about veterans helping veterans," Frederick Smith, the Mobile Vet Center technician, said.

“Our concern is to talk to the veteran about PTSD and about readjustment counseling services,” Smith said. “We lost about 20 veterans a day, and that's just way too many for us to lose.”

If you're a veteran, the Mobile Vet Center has a confidential hotline you or any family member can call to talk about experiences or anything you're struggling with. That number is 1-877-927-8381.

The Mobile Vet Center, which provides resources for veterans, is touring all of the University of Tennessee Martin centers in West Tennessee.

They made a stop Tuesday at the Jackson center, now located on Jackson State Community College's campus.

“They offer services dealing with behavioral and emotional issues that a veteran may be suffering from,” Kayce Beam, director of UT Martin's Jackson Center, said.

Jackson State also has a large veteran student population and is always looking for ways to help their students.

“We're here to give support to our students any way we can,” JSCC spokesman John McCommon said. “And this event is one way we can do that.”
The center helps veterans find benefits and get enrolled in the VA medical system.

Frederick Smith is a veteran and says having a mobile center has helped in many ways.

“There’s people in rural areas that can’t go see service reps or go to the main VA hospital. So we bring the service to them,” Smith said.

But their biggest concern is making sure veterans know they have someone to talk to.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

Coach presents program to Kiwanis Club

UT Martin Women’s Softball Coach Donley Canary described some of the factors that make him love this area and his work when he gave a presentation for the Kiwanis Club of Martin on March 28.

With him for the presentation were his wife Jenny, now retired from UT Martin, where she served as manager of ticket sales for athletics, and later an employee in campus recreation, and Skyhawk softball athlete Jodie Duncan, a senior majoring in sports business.

Among those welcoming Canary was Kiwanian and UT Martin retiree Bettye Giles, for whom the Bettye Giles Softball Field, dedicated on April 13, 1996, is named. Giles began her work at UT Martin in 1952 and was a driving force behind almost every program relating to women’s athletics. She served as director of athletics for 25 years and is one of the reasons why UT Martin is recognized as one of the pioneers for women’s intercollegiate athletics.

Darelle Fabianich, assistant athletics director for academics and student-athlete services, introduced Canary, who has visited Kiwanis previously and has many friends in the group.

“I love this area and love to do what I do,” Canary said. He said that he has been here for 17 years and loves the opportunity to recruit student athletes from all over the United States, to see them excel as athletes and students, to work on such a beautiful campus, and to be among outstanding faculty, staff, and community supporters.

He said everyone takes great pride in the softball facility, the great club house and field and the overall conditions at UT Martin.

Canary just recently logged win number 540. Other important numbers to Canary are 400 — the number of community service hours his team completed last fall; 80 — the number of bases stolen so far this season, with 11 bases stolen in one recent game; 22 — the number of games the team has left to play, as of March 28; and 3.545 — the team GPA.

Canary encouraged everyone to come out to enjoy some exciting fast-pitch Skyhawk softball.
Chinese tariffs could hit Tennessee farmers hard

By MIKE OSBORNE .  4/11/2018

MARTIN, Tenn. (OSBORNE) -- One of Tennessee’s foremost agricultural experts says the state’s farmers are deeply worried by the trade war President Trump has precipitated with China.

Dr. Todd Winters is the Dean of Agriculture for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dr. Winters says soybean farmers in West Tennessee are especially concerned about the trade impasse. He says farms in that region can range up to 10,000 acres and soybeans are big business.

"About one out of three rows of soybeans that are produced here in West Tennessee actually go to China, and if you look at the total U.S. exports soybeans make up about 60 percent of that which is almost $14 billion in U.S. soybeans going to China every year."

American farmers voted heavily for President Trump in 2016. Dr. Winter says farmers were pleased when Trump’s new EPA administrator began rolling back environmental regulations. They’re also pleased with the tax code changes the president recently signed into law.

But Dr. Winters says there’s a limit to their patience.

"Farmers are used to going through rough times, so I think they’re willing to stay with him for a little bit longer, but definitely there’s more and more concern all the time."

Dean Winter (https://www.utm.edu/departments/agnr/faculty/winters.php)s says soybean farmers could switch to growing corn instead, and sell the crop as feed to livestock producers, or to fuel producers for conversion to ethanol. But he says both of those products are also on China’s list of possible tariff targets.
Transfer, orientation event set for Friday

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event on Friday.

Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development and student success, as well as housing and meal plan options.

An optional tour of UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum, will start at 1 p.m.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 8-9 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9, followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30-10:45. Advising and registration will begin at 10:45.

Participants can choose to attend sessions on career planning and development, money matters, student life, student success center and campus technology.

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend.

Additional Transfer and Adult Orientation sessions will be held on June 1 and July 20.

Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

WestStar program to host conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 20th-annual African American Leadership Conference April 26 at the STAR Center in Jackson, located at 1119 Old Humboldt Road.

The event will run from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The registration fee is $35 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register with the WestStar Leadership Program office by April 20 and seating is limited.

Stan Bell, radio personality for W101 and a Memphis educator, will be the keynote speaker.

Bell received his bachelor’s degree in communications from UT Martin and his master’s and educational specialist degrees from Union University in Jackson. In addition to 30 years as a radio personality, he is also a career and technology instructor for Shelby County Schools. He currently teaches broadcasting at Wooddale High School and has been teaching with the district since 1993.

Attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. and be welcomed at 8:30 by Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. Bell will deliver his keynote address beginning at 8:45, followed by Dr. Eric Jones, superintendent of the Jackson-Madison County School System.

Tiffany Nance, financial wellbeing coach for First Tennessee HOPE Inside in Jackson, will discuss “The Value of Money Management in Today’s Society” at 10:30. Mark Heaston, CARE officer for the City of Covington Fire Department and graduate of the WestStar Class of 2015; April Smith, chief financial officer for Loving Arms LLC in Jackson; and Robert Winston, doctor of internal medicine in Jackson, will lead a panel discussion titled “Truths and Myths in Alzheimer’s and Dementia” at 11:15. This session will be followed by lunch and a welcome from Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

After the meal, participants will hear from Dr. Bob Smith, co-founder of the WestStar Leadership Program and UT Martin chancellor emeritus, regarding the program’s 20th anniversary celebration. He is serving as advisor of leadership and talent to the University of Tennessee System president.

Officer Tyrone Curry of the Memphis Police Department will address crime-related concerns at 1:30.

Awards and door prizes will close out the day.

Those interested in attending may send a check to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. Include the name, business, address, phone number and email address of all participants. Registrants may also call (731) 881-3298 to pay via credit card.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2018 Spring College Rodeo runs April 12-14 and marks 50 years of success for the university team. All three nights of competition begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex, located to the north of Graham Stadium.

All Thursday night tickets are $6 each. General admission adult tickets are $10 for the Friday night performance and $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7 for either night’s competition. A weekend pass—which is good for all three performances—is also available for $20.

Child and student tickets apply to children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with valid Skyhawk ID cards. Children under six are always admitted free of charge.

Rodeo became a collegiate sport at UT Martin in 1968 and quickly developed a reputation for success, winning the UT Martin Rodeo Invitational Championship for three consecutive years (1969-1971). Cowboy Skip Emmett became UT Martin’s first national champion in 1975 after capturing the national all-around cowboy title and winning the national bareback riding championship. The UT Martin program lived up to expectations after that, consistently dominating the Ozark Region and placing well in the national rankings.

In 2014, the men’s team made history as the first collegiate rodeo team from east of the Mississippi River to win a national team title at the annual College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming.

“In my opinion, Coach (John) Luthi and the way he runs his program there in Martin is, hands down, the best in the country,” said Jeff Askey (UT Martin ’10), a former Skyhawk cowboy from Pennsylvania. “When I was in college there were, I think, probably six or seven coaches across the country who had gone to school for Coach Luthi and had adapted some of his coaching techniques. … To me, that speaks to the level of (the) Martin program and the coach there, that other schools are copying him.”

“There are very few rodeo programs that I’ve seen or even heard of that can touch the impact and the unity and the professionalism that you’ll get at UT Martin,” said John Alley (’14), a former team member from Adams.

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**UT Martin changes their policy for Narcan**

April 12, 2018

Camila Rueda NBC 39 News

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the first college in West Tennessee to allow the carrying of Narcan.

Narcan is an overdose reversal agent for any opioid.

“The goal is for everyone to carry Narcan. We want individuals to know that it is in our day to day environments,” says Lassiter.

Lassiter, the regional overdose prevention specialist, says that 16 thousand teens become addicted to opioids every day, and one person dies every 19 minutes.

Officers on campus have received a training and are now carrying Narcan.

“Our campus is not immune to this problem. There’s a tool out there that we can put in our belt now that can help save a life and if we can do that and save somebody, we’re going to do that,” says Robbins.

Each unit has two doses in each box and the nasal spray doesn’t have to be inhaled. It is absorbed through the mucus membrane so it is effective even if the person is unconscious.

Students on campus told me they agreed with the steps their university was taking in changing their policy for Narcan.

It’s just an extra thing on campus that we could have that could save a life so as far as that goes it seems like it really couldn’t hurt anything in any way for anybody, it helps with the education of it and in the end supplies it,” says Castillaw.

Lassiter says that anyone around you could be vulnerable to an overdose, whether it is an older who took too many pills or a child who accidentally put one in their mouth.

Which is why she stresses the importance of everyone being able to carry it and hopes other universities get on board.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2018 Spring College Rodeo runs begins tonight and runs through Saturday night. It marks 50 years of success for the university team. All three nights of competition begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex, located to the north of Graham Stadium.

All Thursday night tickets are $6 each. General admission adult tickets are $10 for the Friday night performance and $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7 for either night’s competition. A weekend pass – which is good for all three performances – is also available for $20.

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"There are very few rodeo programs that I’ve seen or even heard of that can touch the impact and the unity and the professionalism that you’ll get at UT Martin," said John Alley (‘14), a former team member from Adams.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at 731-881-7660.
21 years at UTM Rodeo for this rodeo family

By Karen Campbell
Press Reporter

When they first met, he was coaching rodeo riders and she was behind the scenes, making sure what needed doing got done.

Three decades later and the roles John and Diane Luthi played then haven’t changed much.

John Luthi, head coach of the University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo program since 1997, has seen the team to their historic 2014 national championship when they became the first from east of the Mississippi to claim that title. The championship ensured that Luthi, himself a winner of 15 all around saddles during 22 years of competing, was named that year’s National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Coach of the Year.

Diane was the assistant director of Young Life for Tri-Lakes in Missouri when the couple first met at one of the Sankey Rodeo School options that are offered nationwide. While John coached alongside school founder Lyle Sankey, Diane helped Kathy Sankey with the faith-based elements of the program like nightly presentations and working behind the scenes with capturing videos, meals, etc.

After the Luthis married they lived in Kansas until John, then coach for the Fort Scott Community College rodeo team, was tapped to become the UTM coach. They packed up their two-year-old daughter Katelyn and made their way to Martin. Twenty-one years later, Katelyn is soon to graduate from UT Knoxville and the Luthis continue to live out their commitment to their rodeo family.

Initially, Diane focused on making a home in Martin and enjoyed the fact that the practice arena was a short stroller-ride for she and her daughter to secure daily visits with John. Katelyn even hitched a ride now and then as John drove the tractor to prepare the practice space.

But primary responsibilities for Katelyn fell to Diane as the rodeo schedule is not only busy but requires long rides to compete in the various states of the Ozark Region which includes Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Alabama.

The Luthis gave Katelyn the option of a rodeo life of her own which she briefly enjoyed but once she reached junior high she traded boots for soccer and basketballs. That decision set well with Diane since, in John’s absence, she had hesitantly served as Katelyn’s rodeo helper.

“I didn’t feel comfortable hitching the trailers and doing the physical things it takes for rodeo,” said Diane, a former basketball player herself. “A lot more can go wrong if you don’t know what you’re doing. I knew what to do with basketball!”

Katelyn’s goal-oriented nature meant when she reached her high school playing days, she was doing conditioning at Westview High School at 6:30 a.m. and completing her school day with more practice after the final bell. That also meant mom had some rare time on her hands.

So, once again, she looked behind the scenes and filled it.

“Rodeo coaches don’t have lots of assistant coaches,” Diane explained. “John has 53 kids now on his team and 85 acres plus $100,000 of livestock to care for. So when Katelyn started school, I started as a volunteer doing whatever was needed.”

That volunteer role grew to part-time employment and has included doing ad sales for the annual rodeo program, producing a quarterly newsletter, and now overseeing the growing social media presence of UTM Rodeo. When Katelyn, her unpaid assistant, graduated as Valedictorian of her Westview class and went on to study mechanical engineering at the UT Knoxville, Diane tapped team members with social media expertise to grow her communications team. Their efforts have thus far resulted in more than 7,000 Facebook followers, established Twitter and Instagram accounts and, netted 240,000 views on Snapchat during the 3 days of the 2017 rodeo.

Katelyn’s studies in east Tennessee meant she missed out on some of the long rides to competitions that had formed the basis of much of their quality family time as they often added extra legs to the journey to enjoy after competition. But she was able to pull away for the 2014 College National Finals in Casper, Wyoming where she live “tweeted” the event on Twitter. There, the photo that now captures Diane’s heart was taken. It’s one of coach and daughter with eyes fixed on Katelyn’s phone. Due to the nature of rodeo scoring, immediate results are unknown. But Katelyn was online doing some of her own math. The photo captures the moment when both realize UTM had won the national championship.

Katelyn graduates this year and already has a position secured with Eastman Chemical in Kingsport. That goal oriented focus is something John passed on to not just his daughter but his rodeo family as well.

“I teach how to set goals and the importance of goals,” said John. “We teach that attitude makes a huge difference. We want them to understand that God is control and not us. Their job is to do the best they can.”

Both Diane and John have the kind of quiet faith that is more visible than verbal. Members of First Baptist Church Martin, they have spent their lives in service. Sometimes it’s in a rodeo arena and sometimes it’s behind the scenes.

Having never been a rodeo rider, Diane has gained an interesting perspective from the behind the scenes. She sees rodeo life as more a lifestyle than simply a sport, even comparing events like the upcoming UTM Rodeo to somewhat of a family reunion. She notes that horses become part of the family, cared for, celebrated and mourned when they are lost and where riders aren’t going one-on-one against a foe as much as trying to better their personal best – as well as looking out for one another.

“If you don’t have a rope, then someone will,” she added. “Even if the opposing team needs something, you provide it... You can compete and be friends with people. It’s different... and I like it.”
MOTHER'S FAVORITE PHOTO — Diane Luthi had this photo of her daughter Katelyn and husband John enlarged and framed as it captured a critical moment in both their family and UTM rodeo life. Due to the nature of rodeo scoring, immediate results are unknown. But Katelyn was online and doing some of her own math in 2014 at the Casper, Wyoming competition. The photo is shows the moment when both realize UTM had won the national championship.
The University of Tennessee at Martin proudly hosts the 50th annual Spring College Rodeo starting on Thursday, April 12 and going through Saturday, April 14 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 children 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.

Children 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/. Action from all three nights can also be heard locally on WCMT Mix 101.3 FM or online at this link: http://stream-6web.securenetsystems.net/v5/WCMT.

The UT Martin rodeo has been named the Ozark Region “Rodeo of the Year” for 12 consecutive years. The event serves as a platform for the upcoming College National Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Casper, Wyo. on June 10-16.

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, Pearl River Community College, Southern Arkansas University, University of Tennessee, Three Rivers College and University of West Alabama will take part in the festivities.

Thursday is Tyson, Obion County Complex Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events – including bull riding – will be featured while fans can enter a drawing for a chance to win an MTD riding lawn mower. The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will conduct the opening.

Friday is Tennessee Tractor, LLC Performance night. Timed events and rough stock events (including bull riding) will be featured. Friday also serves as “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to raise money for breast cancer awareness. If the MTD riding lawn mower is not won on Thursday, a second drawing will take place that evening. 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 Martin Paving Company Championship Finals, where the top-10 contestants from the opening round will compete in a battle of the best of the best. Edward Jones Investments is sponsoring a free barbecue lunch at 11 a.m. at the downtown Martin Festival Park while a scholarship auction will follow at 12:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship Fund.

Fans can follow all of this year’s UTM Rodeo happenings online through a variety of social media. Visit @utmrdeo for Facebook updates. A live feed of arena events is planned for Twitter@UTM_Rodeo. Photos and video shorts can be found on Instagram @utmrdeo.

For Snapchat users, a special filter will once again be used @UTMRODEO. Local businesses are also offering special sales and discounts throughout the remainder of the week and this weekend in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UTM Rodeo.
Tony Coleman,
UTM’s first full-time rodeo coach

By Karen Campbell
Press Reporter

If not for a chance encounter with a rodeo photographer, UTM might have missed the chance to rope in both a champion and a coach in its early days of rodeo.

Tony Coleman had been a student for two quarters in 1970-71. Disgruntled, he left and only returned in 1973, when, after meeting photographer Burn Gregory on the road, he learned that UTM had joined the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

As a member of the team, Coleman ultimately won back-to-back regional All Around championships and a national all-around title. He then became a part-time coach from 1979-91 and fulltime from 1991-96. Accomplishments during his time as competitor and/or coach include:

First ever appearance by a team cast of the Mississippi River at the national championship in 1974.

Part of the team that won their first Ozark Region championship in 1976. Eventually Coleman would see UTM rack up 17 regional championships from 1976-1996, many times with undefeated records.

Coleman became the second UT Martin cowboy to win a national All Around championship in 1977.

In 1992, leading the women’s team to finish third in the nation, its highest finish ever to that date.

Administratively, Coleman’s coaching responsibilities extended far beyond the arena.

“T had to get all the contracts for the rodeo, recruit kids to come, manage the scholarship program, procure practice stock, run the practice pen, and then there is some coaching that goes into it,” he acknowledged with a chuckle.

During his tenure, many of the activities and structures known as “the rodeo” come into being:

The annual university rodeo moved on campus for the first time to an outdoor arena on the north side of campus in 1979.

Launch of Martin Rodeo and Roundup Days

The dedication of the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion

The acquisition of the new Equine Center, with its 85-acre complex offering the UTM teams expanded area for practice stock.

In his final year at the coaching reins, Coleman witnessed both the UTM teams win the Ozark Region and advanced to the College National Finals in Boise, Montana.

When former all-around national champion, George Mesmer, took over as full-time coach while the search for a replacement began, both teams finished among the top 15 in the nation.

In 1996, Coleman was inducted into UTM Rodeo Hall of Fame.

When UTM went from peer-to-peer to bringing on a part-time coach, Coleman was a natural choice.

He had experience in every event but bull riding so, he acknowledged, “I knew a little bit.”

One thing he knew was that recruitment wasn’t always about finding the standout. “It’s not always the talent,” he said. “Kid’s gotta have the want to and try. Those are things you can’t teach. A lot of times I’d try to recruit kids that had the talent but weren’t quite there yet, because other schools wouldn’t be going after them.”

Finding women riders proved to be a special challenge due to the lack of earlier opportunities for competition. Barrel racers were much easier to come by than those who could rope and tie goats he explained. Plus, coaching a coed team often meant being a referee.

In 1994, Valerie Devilers, a 20-year-old rodeo team member from France, died in an accident in the practice arena.

“It hurt the whole team,” Coleman explained. “Everybody knows, rodeo is rodeo. It can happen. I’ve seen four or five guys die in the arena.

“It’s like everybody has the attitude it’s going to happen to the other guy. It’s not going to happen to me,” he noted of the realities of the inherent risks.

When asked what makes a rider return to the arena, knowing that the outcome isn’t guaranteed, Coleman reflected on the growth that comes from asking more of one’s self.

“Sure, you compete against everybody else,” he said. “But it’s really about you and the head of stock that day. You compete against that draw. Most of the time, if you don’t win, it’s not somebody else’s fault. It’s your fault or you didn’t draw a good enough head of stock.

Still, even Coleman admitted to one competition he avoided. “Bull riding... even if you make the whistle you still have to hit the ground, and I hated to hit the ground.”

“You get three girls in the same room and two of them are going to gang up against the other,” Coleman recalled. “When guys have a disagreement, they go out behind the barn have a fist fight and it’s over with.”

As a result, Coleman stressed fairly regularly, "If we are going to be a team, we are going to be a team. Everyone is going to pull together. Everybody needs to help everybody."

For all the successes in his 20+ years of involvement, Coleman and the UTM team weren’t immune from tragedies.

In 1996, Coleman left coaching and went into construction. More than a decade later, the rodeo champion did “hit the ground” in an on-the-job accident severely injuring his back. While difficulty walking and maneuvering stairs means being on site for events inside the arena like the 50th anniversary aren’t viable, he is looking forward to seeing old friends at some of the informal gatherings around town.
By Karen Campbell
Press Reporter

Growing the UTM social media presence has been quite a ride. Through it all, Diane Luthi, wife of UTM Coach John Luthi, and a part-time assistant for rodeo communication efforts, has happily shared the reins.

Listening and tapping into the experience of a generation for whom hashtags and @ signs are as natural as phone numbers and zip codes, Luthi has built an online community that includes more than 7,000 Facebook followers, 960 on Twitter; more than 1,600 on Instagram and, during last year's UTM Rodeo, netted 240,000 views on Snapchat.

Facebook was first.

"We had recruits trying to send video via Facebook to our personal pages," explained Luthi. One of those recruits, whose father was also in rodeo, contacted Luthi and said it was time for a team page. In 2012, Facebook hadn't yet made fan or business pages an option so Luthi created the UTM site as a separate personal page to fill the need. Eventually, the growth in followers resulted in the need to switch from a personal site to the current fan page.

During the 2013-14 season, Luthi's daughter Kate Lyn, her usual go-to for social media advice, was away at UT Knoxville studying mechanical engineering. But in the virtual world, she could still help her mother out and found that there was a pretty regular stream of questions coming through Facebook while her mother had limited wifi in the arena. Answering the questions there caused Katelyn to next suggest setting up a Twitter account which was not as dependent upon a laptop.

"I handed her my phone and said, 'Set it up,'" Luthi said.

As a result, Katelyn was able to "live tweet" the national championship event in Casper, Wyoming and announce to the online world that UTM captured the title. Photo and short-video-focused Instagram and Snapchat seemed like the next natural steps. But with Katelyn returning to school in east Tennessee, Luthi needed help. She enlisted the help of a senior on the rodeo team with a marketing major as a social media intern and soon interviews with team members (and the intern's senior project) were available at the click of a few keys.

Now social media interns are regularly along for the ride.

Last year, rodeo announcer Garrett Yerigan helped ensure a Snapchat milestone. An acknowledged fan of the mobile app that allows users to capture videos and pictures that self-destruct after a few seconds, Yerigan prompted the crowd to post experiences throughout the three-day UTM rodeo. His encouragement netted almost a quarter of a million views of the arena happenings.

To follow UTM Rodeo online, use the following:
@utm.rodeo for Facebook
@UTM_Rodeo for Twitter
@utmrdeo for Instagram
@UTMRODEO for Snapchat
Robertson County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

April 12, 2018

Several Robertson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-19 academic year.

- Brooklynne Elizabeth Barnhill, daughter of James and Elizabeth Barnhill, of Springfield, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.
- Shelby Lynn Batson, daughter of Andrew and Tonya Batson, of Springfield, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Rachel Marie Hannah, daughter of Wilson and Kathy Hannah, of White House, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

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

UT Martin's Jackson Center and Jackson State Community College will host an open house event on Tuesday, April 17. The event will be held at JSCC's McWherter Center between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on that day.

In December, UT Martin's Jackson Center moved from its location on the 45 By-pass to Jackson State's McWherter Center. The two institutions had entered into an articulation agreement in the fall which ensured a seamless transfer from JSCC to UTM.

Faculty and staff members from both institutions will be on hand to answer questions. Adult learners can learn about tuition-free options through the Tennessee Reconnect scholarship. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available to anyone coming to the event.

April 17 at 9 p.m. in the Rosemary and Harry Crisp II Arena. The event is presented by Bethel University's Prevention Services and Housing Department with sponsor support from WomMen's Resources and Rape Assistance Program (WRAP).

Take Back the Night is the earliest world-wide protest against sexual violence and violence against women.

UTM business center head Fuqua to speak at Chamber

Landy Fuqua, director of the Small Business Development Center at the UT Martin REED Center, will speak April 19 at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, 2508 E. Wood St. in Paris.

Fuqua's program will be on the topic of "Staying Relevant to Your Customer/Small Business Resources." The program will be from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fuqua's talk will feature the idea that every small business must evolve and adapt to stay relevant to its customer base. Business owners and employees should show a willingness to change with the times and be engaged with their customers rather than just selling their product or services.

"We are thrilled to bring the knowledge and available resources to Henry County and to have Landy share her expertise to our community," said Travis McLeese, Chamber executive director.

There is no cost to attend the event, but will require an RSVP in order to attend.

Email RSVPs to knorwood@paristnchamber.com.

For more information on the program, call 642-3434.

The 2018 UTM Lyric Opera Theater production of "The Medium" takes place at 7:30 p.m. April 20-21 at the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre in the Fine Arts Building.

Admission for the hour-long opera is $6 for adults, while students with an I.D. and children under 12 are admitted free. Tickets will be sold at the door only with the ticket booth opening one hour before each performance.

For more information, please contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402. Please be advised that the opera content may not be suitable for young children.
MARTIN, Tenn.—The 50th Annual University of Tennessee at Martin spring college rodeo kicked off Friday night.

The competition was held in the Ned Ray McWherter Agriculture Complex. The rodeo became a collegiate sport at UT Martin in 1968. Cowboy Skip Emmett was UT Martin's first national champion in 1975.

"We are a college amateur rodeo but we have been wrote up in every professional rodeo magazine horse publication and all as the 'Best East of the Mississippi,'" said Nelson Davis, UTM Rodeo Team Trainer.

General admission adult tickets are $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7. Weekend passes are $20.
Babylon Falls Tomorrow Night at Paducah Symphony Orchestra's Season Finale Performance

By GEORGE ELDRED & MELANIE DAVIS • APR 13, 2018

The Paducah Symphony Orchestra will be performing their 2017-2018 season finale concert this Saturday, April 14th. The performance features powerful works from several composers, including William Walton and Jacques Offenbach. PSO conductor, Raffaele Ponti, visits WKMS to discuss the upcoming event.

The PSO will end their season on a powerful note this Saturday, featuring Jacques Offenbach’s Orpheus in the Underworld (the origin of the famous 'can-can' theme), Leonard Bernstein’s only suite he created for a feature film, On the Waterfront, and William Walton’s Belshazzar’s Feast.

Belshazzar’s Feast, which will be performed in the second half of the concert, will feature the Paducah Symphony Chorus and choirs from Murray State University and UT Martin. It is a roughly 33 minute piece that tells the dramatic story of the fall of Babylon after the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar (and Belshazzar’s father), loots the Jewish Temple. Belshazzar’s princes, wives, and concubines use the sacred artifacts to worship "false gods, idols, and devils." As George puts it, Walton’s Belshazzar’s is a classic example of ‘you mess with me, you'll get yours.’

The concert will be held at the Carson Center in Paducah, KY at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 14th. For more information, visit the Paducah Symphony Orchestra website. (https://www.paducahsymphony.org/events/belshazzars-feast)
Security Bank partners with UTM for Community Bank Academic Project

Security Bank has had the pleasure of partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin in a Community Bank Academic Project consisting of a written paper and video. Security Bank officers and the students have worked for months conducting interviews, recording material, analyzing data, and perfecting the presentation. It has been our honor to work with this great group of young adults and hopefully help teach them about community banking and the role technology plays in it.

"It has been such an incredible experience for our executives to participate with these very talented students and staff to share information about our bank and the industry. We are in good hands as an economy as these students take their places in the work force in the coming months. Our staff has been engaged and enjoyed the enthusiasm that the students brought to this project. We were honored to be a part," stated David Hayes, Security Bank president and CEO. The Community Bank Case Study competition is an academic competition where undergraduate student teams partner with local community banks to conduct original case studies. For the 2018 competition, student teams will study how community banks utilize technology to streamline processes and better serve their consumers.

The competition is facilitated by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the nationwide organization of banking regulators from all 50 states and the U.S. territories. The goal of the competition is to build a further understanding of the community banking business model and the role community banks play in local communities, to connect students with bank executives, and to highlight the ways community banks impact local economic development. The competition will provide an opportunity for students to sharpen their quantitative and qualitative analysis skills.
Chief Scott Robbins demonstrates the latest UT Martin campus patrol vehicle. This will eventually replace police officers on bicycles and will save the University of Tennessee at Martin Police Department several thousand dollars in the long-haul.
At age 3, cowgirl Summer Weldon started riding a pony named Dandy. Now, 17 years later, the 6-foot-tall beauty will ride, but with a crown.

Weldon is the 2018 Miss Rodeo USA, and she is in Statesboro this week promoting the eighth annual Statesboro Kiwanis Rodeo, to be held Friday and Saturday at the Kiwanis Ogeechee Fairgrounds on Highway 67.

The 20-year-old brunette from Martin, Tennessee, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee/Martin, is studying cell and molecular biology and dreams of becoming a physical and occupational therapist. She competes for the UT Martin rodeo team in barrel racing.

But for now, she is touring the country, traveling over 100,000 miles from state to state to promote rodeo for the International Professional Rodeo Association.

She will visit sponsoring businesses, schools and other locations this week, dressed to the nines in western attire - boots, jeans, a big belt buckle, sparkly shirts and the ever-present crown on top of her hat. The slender young lady, who has participated in beauty pageants all her life, holds 14 other rodeo queen titles from five states in addition to Miss Rodeo USA.

She grew up competing, having fallen in love with rodeo after riding her aunt's barrel horse when she was in fifth grade. She competed in junior and high school rodeo in barrel racing, pole bending, breakaway roping, ribbon roping, goat tying and girls' cutting.

Weldon is a six-time qualifier for the National Junior High Finals and National High School Finals rodeos.

Becoming rodeo queen was a combination of dreams. With her love for horses and rodeo, paired with her enjoyment of beauty pageants, it seemed natural to compete in rodeo pageants. For the 2018 Miss Rodeo USA title, she won the three major classes: personality, speech and horsemanship.

Her favorite competition is barrel racing, in which she and her horse maneuver at top speed around three barrels placed in a cloverleaf pattern, running against the clock for best time. Striking and knocking over a barrel adds seconds.

"I appreciate how much hard work and time it takes to have a good run," she said.

But when she is in the stands, or standing outside the arena waiting for her turn around the barrels or to carry the American flag as Miss Rodeo USA, she enjoys watching saddle bronc riding the most.

Weldon also enjoys her duties as the face of rodeo.

"It is a lot of public relations, interviews, meeting and greeting the locals, and lots of promotion," she said. "I really do enjoy meeting people."

Heads turn when she enters a room; the tall, statuesque cowgirl has a commanding presence. She said the crown draws a lot of attention and "makes me more approachable. People want to meet and talk to you. I'll admit I like being in the spotlight a little bit."

During her year-long tour as Miss Rodeo USA 2018, Weldon will be talking about her platform, "Living Beyond Boundaries." As a future physical and occupational therapist, she said she "hopes to help individuals coping with disability by encouraging them to set goals and work hard to achieve them."

Inspired by a rodeo mentor who still enjoys life and lives it to the fullest in spite of being a paraplegic, Weldon said she "hopes to actively work with individuals with special needs" in the future.

Today, she rides two special horses in addition to others she encounters in her travels: a dun American Quarter Horse mare (adult female horse) named Baby Girl who is her Miss Rodeo USA horse, and her barrel horse, an American Quarter Horse mare named Rage.

What does she do besides riding and promoting rodeo?

"Well, rodeo pretty much consumes my life, but I also like to hunt whitetail deer," she said. Her biggest trophy buck was a huge nine-pointer.

Weldon will be on hand to meet people before the rodeo begins both Friday and Saturday, and will be seen in the arena as well.

Rodeo contractor Danny Hedrick of Hedrick Rodeo Company, a family-operated business based in Madisonville, Tennessee, will return with his stock for the annual rodeo, which draws a packed crowd each night.

The rodeo brings competitors from all over the world, including champions, as well as local competitors. The IPRA event is family oriented and includes children's activities and fun events as well as traditional bull riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling, roping and more.

Gates open at 5 p.m., and people are welcome to meet Weldon and other competitors, as well as visit vendors' booths for shirts, hats, buckles and leather items, as well as a variety of foods.

The rodeo begins at 7 p.m., and advance tickets are available at Anderson's General Store for $11 adults and $7 children. Tickets at the gate will be $16 for adults and $11 for children.
UTM Challenge: Raise $300,000 In 24 Hours

APRIL 17, 2018 AT 8:50 AM | POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2018 Captain's Challenge fundraising event April 18 ahead of “I Heart UTM” week and other end-of-semester activities.

Previous years have seen a weeklong fundraising challenge raise more than $250,000 in five days, but this year the goal is to raise $300,000 in 24 hours. Contributors can direct their donations toward any campus office or department, athletic unit, scholarship fund, special program or other activity.

Captain's Challenge has been part of “I Heart UTM” week since its inception in 2015, but this year it will be held as a separate event. Those wishing to make a Captain's Challenge gift or track the event’s progress can do so at challenge.utm.edu.

For more information, visit challenge.utm.edu or contact the UT Martin Office of Alumni Affairs at 731-881-7610.

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UTM, JSCC to host open house event

UT Martin’s Jackson Center and Jackson State Community College will host an open house event on Tuesday, April 17. The event will be held at JSCC’s McWherter Center between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on that day.

In December, UT Martin’s Jackson Center moved from its location on the 45 By-pass to Jackson State’s McWherter Center. The two institutions had entered into an articulation agreement in the fall which ensured a seamless transfer from JSCC to UTM.

Faculty and staff members from both institutions will be on hand to answer questions. Adult learners can learn about tuition-free options through the Tennessee Reconnect scholarship. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available to anyone coming to the event.

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UTM piano ensemble performing

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble will perform a concert of American music at 7:30 p.m., April 12, in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

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UTM rodeo tickets on sale

Advance tickets for the 50th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Spring College Rodeo, scheduled for April 12-14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion, are now on sale at select locations in West Tennessee and Kentucky.
UT MARTIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS HONORS LOCAL STUDENTS – Two Gibson County students were recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs during an annual awards banquet April 3.

- Anne Connell, of Milan, received a Dean’s Scholar Award for management and was named a faculty scholar by Dr. Sam Faught, associate professor of management.
- Benjamin Ort, of Medina, received a Faculty Scholar Award from Dr. Jamye Long, assistant professor of management.

The College of Business and Global Affairs is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and houses the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science and the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems. For more information, contact the college at 731-881-7227.
UTM drug take-back event set

The University of Tennessee at Martin's SOARx group – Students Organized Against Drugs – will partner with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to sponsor a Drug Take-Back Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 27, in the UT Martin Boling University Center. The university's new drug take-back box will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. prior to the Drug Take-Back Day events.

UT Martin is the first Tennessee university to have an entirely student-run drug abuse prevention organization and the first state campus to have its own drug take-back box. UT Martin installed the drug take-back box, located in the Department of Public Safety office in Crisp Hall, in March, and campus safety officers say it is already being used.

The box is intended for anonymous return of expired, unused or unwanted prescription or over-the-counter pharmaceuticals to take these items off the streets and away from those who may intentionally or unintentionally misuse them.

National Drug Take Back Day is April 28, and a city-wide take-back event is scheduled for that time. However, UT Martin's spring semester ends April 27, and SOARx members hope students will end their semesters on the right foot by properly disposing of any unnecessary pharmaceuticals in their possession. Members of the campus and local community are invited to visit the first floor of the Boling University Center during the event to dispose of any unwanted pharmaceutical items, no questions asked.

In addition to this event, SOARx has also spent the spring semester distributing Top Shelf ID coders to Weakley County businesses free of charge, courtesy of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition. These ID coders are made to be placed on top of an individual's driver's license to help cashiers, bartenders and other business professionals quickly confirm whether an individual is of drinking age.

SOARx distributed 826 ID coders to area businesses and has more than 100 more to give away.

If your establishment is interested in receiving these ID coders, contact Josh Greer, lecturer of health and human performance and SOARx faculty adviser, at 731-881-3318 or email jgreer12@utm.edu.

WOMEN OF THE RODEO REUNITED – The 50th anniversary of the UTM Rodeo offered the opportunity for early pioneers to reunite and remember. Known for their goat tying and barrel racing in the late 1960s and early 70s, pictured are (back row, from left) Barrie Harper, Terri Tucker Baxter, and Linda Hurst Barnes reflected on their days as champions in the arenas; (front) Gloria Howell, Beverly Bennett Ofenhausle. While their rodeo days focused solely on two options for women, today's rodeos offer six events for men and four events for women -- barrel racing, team roping, goat tying and breakaway roping.
50th Annual Spring Rodeo big success with huge crowds, lots of action

Another stirring rodeo is in the books at the University of Tennessee at Martin, as the campus hosted the 50th Annual Spring College Rodeo over the weekend at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Both UT Martin rodeo teams finished third in their respective standings, as the men’s squad earned 365 points while the women’s team accumulated 240 points.

Missouri Valley College won the men’s side with 1,030 points and Arkansas-Monticello took home the women’s title with 305 overall points.

A pair of UT Martin cowboys notched points in bareback riding, led by Houston Herbert. The senior posted second-place finishes in average (144) and in the short go (78), while splitting third in the opening round with a 66.

Jonny Walker also collected points in all three phases for UT Martin, finishing third in the short round (73), splitting third in the first round (66) and placing fourth with a 139 average.

Will McCraw scored points in every phase for UT Martin in calf roping, as he placed third with a time of 11.1 seconds in the short go, fourth with a 24.1 average and sixth with a 13-second effort in the opening performance.

In breakaway roping, Kayla Lombardo nearly swept all three categories for the UT Martin women’s squad. Her 6.0 average was the best in the field while her 3.1 seconds in the short go split first. Her first round time of 2.9 seconds ranked second in the field.

Two UT Martin cowboys posted points in steer wrestling. Cord Barricklow came in second in the short go (4.7) on his way to splitting third with an average of 10.6 seconds.

Logan Neal also accrued points in those two phases, as he placed fifth in both the second round (6.4) and in average (12.0).

In team roping, a pair of UT Martin duos accounted for points. Clay Tilley joined forces with McCraw to claim second place in the short round (6.7) and fifth place in the average (19).

Quentin Sawyer and Colton Matthews also dialed up points for UT Martin, as they finished fourth in the second go (7.6) and sixth in average (19.3).

Barrel racing was a dominant event for the UT Martin women’s team, as a total of five different cowgirls were responsible for points.

Raegan Taylor led the charge as she displayed the best average (26.67) and best short round time (13.38), while also placing third in the opening round (13.29).

Casey Allen also came through with points in all three phases, placing fourth with a 27.11 average, splitting fourth with a 13.4 first-round time and finishing fifth with a 13.71 time in the second go.

Bailey Forester (fourth with a 13.63 in the short go, fifth with a 27.24 average), Molly Hill (split fourth with a 13.4 in the first round) and Summer Conley (sixth with a 13.42 in the opening round) also received points for UT Martin.

UT Martin rounds out the regular season this week when it travels to Senatobia, Miss. for a rodeo hosted by Northwest Mississippi Community College. The rodeo will take place Friday through Saturday.
ROUGH RIDE — UT Martin's Ryan McDaniel attempts to ride the bull for eight seconds, but he could not stay on as the bull wanted no part of it. None of the 13 bull riders in the 50th Annual UTM Spring Rodeo earned any points as the bulls proved to be too tough to ride for eight seconds.

A BARREL OF FUN — The 50th anniversary of the UTM Rodeo brought crowds of participants and spectators to Martin over the weekend. Pictured is Raegan Taylor of the UTM team competing in the barrel races. See Page 11 for complete coverage of the rodeo.
SADDLE BRONC — UT Martin's Jack Smithson hangs on as long as he can in the saddle bronc riding competition at the 50th Annual UTM Spring Rodeo. Unfortunately for Smithson, he did not earn any points in his two attempts. Both UTM teams, men and women, finished in third place. Photos by Christel Lane

Education Notes

April 18, 2018

Jessie Douglas of Brookport, Illinois, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Douglas is pursuing a degree in education at The University of Tennessee at Martin.

http://www.paducahsun.com/
UT Martin hopes to raise $300,000 in one day

April 18, 2018 by Josh Robinson (http://www.wbbjtv.com/author/joshrobinson/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — "The old adage of 'it's better to give than receive' is very, very, very true," William Blankenship, a UTM alumnus, said.

"The first year we did Captain's Challenge, 83 percent of our gifts were under $100," Anderson said. "From someone that graduated last year to 20 years ago, anybody can give up a $20 gift or $25 gift."

They kicked off the challenge at 12 a.m. Wednesday, and by noon they had raised almost $195,000.

UT Martin officials say this helps alumni feel connected to the campus.

"They loved being part of campus when they were a student, and now they have that option to give back and invest in the lives of future students," Anderson said.

You can still donate and help them reach their goal. For more information about UT Martin and how to donate, visit challenge.utm.edu (https://challenge.utm.edu/).

The University of Tennessee at Martin set a big challenge for themselves on Wednesday — to raise $300,000 in just 24 hours.
"It's a good way to get a lot of people involved," Blankenship said. "The idea was not only to raise money but increase the number of contributors by getting them involved early in giving back to this university."

They started the Captain's Challenge four years ago, named after the UT Martin mascot Captain the Skyhawk.

This challenge helps UT Martin alums give back to groups that impacted them.

"Anywhere they want to designate their money, they can," Associate Director of Annual Giving Jared Anderson said. "So it's not going into one lump sum. They can give back to the program that they benefited from when they were a student."

Donors can choose from six specific categories from athletics to fine arts and agriculture.

The command post for the Captain's Challenge Wednesday at UT Martin is inside the Dunagan Alumni Center, and they say even a small donation can make a big impact.
Judge to speak to UTM grads

Judge Brandon Gibson, originally from Dyer County, will speak to the University of Tennessee at Martin's graduating class May 5 during spring commencement exercises.

Ms. Gibson has served as one of 12 judges on the Tennessee Court of Appeals since 2014.

Commencement will begin at 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university’s main campus.

Ms. Gibson was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals by Gov. Bill Haslam in December 2013 and sworn in Sept. 1, 2014. She was later retained in a state-wide retention election in August 2016 and is currently the only female judge sitting on the court.

She holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and a juris doctorate degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law.

Ms. Gibson is a member of both the Texas and Tennessee Bar Associations and serves on the Tennessee Judicial Conference Executive Committee, Legislative Committee and Technology Oversight Committee. She is also a member of the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct and was elected in 2013 as a fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation.

She is a graduate of Leadership Tennessee and serves on the board of directors for the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation.

UT Martin's spring 2018 commencement ceremony is a ticketed event, but there is no cost to attend. Tickets are distributed directly to graduating students prior to the event.

A live webcast will be available through the OVC Digital Network. Visit utm.edu on commencement day to view the webcast.

LOCAL STUDENTS INDUCTED — Obion County students (from left) Hailey Slaughter of Union City, James Hutchens of South Fulton, Laima Roberson of Troy and Kayce Mathenia of Union City were inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society recently during the chapter's annual induction ceremony and banquet. Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971 and honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines.
Professor to restore war monument

Dr. Alice Catherine Carls, professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has begun research to restore the World War I Memorial Fountain located on the courthouse square in Jackson, originally erected by the Surgical Dressings Workers of Jackson shortly after the end of World War I.

Dr. Carls received a grant through the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program to restore the fountain, and the monument has been designated an official World War I Centennial Memorial by the World War I Centennial Commission.

According to Dr. Carls, the restoration project will include stripping and repainting the fountain, adding the original top back to the pillar, resetting the monument in its original location and adding a plaque to explain its historical significance.

The current plaque lists many names of Madison County soldiers who died in World War I and some of the more prominent women who served as surgical dressings workers, but does not include the names of the many African American individuals who served the cause as well. This will be corrected in the new plaque.

"The purpose of this restoration is to remember all parts of that story and to honor every one of whom we are aware and who deserve to be named or mentioned," Dr. Carls said.

The women who served in the Surgical Dressings Workers of Jackson were members of the American Red Cross who were specially trained to sew surgical dressings and other medical bandages. According to Dr. Carls' research, the Jackson chapter sent almost 13,000 surgical dressings to various hospitals during the war.

Dr. Carls is a member of the Tennessee Great War Commission, which was created in 2014 by an act of the Tennessee State Legislature to memorialize the centennial anniversary of World War I and the sacrifices of the many Tennesseans who served their country. Carls was appointed to the commission by Gov. Bill Haslam.

Tennessee received three of the 100 Cities/100 Memorials grants distributed nationwide. The other two grants will be used to restore the tomb of Sgt. Alvin C. York in Pall Mall and the Tennessee War Memorial Building in Nashville.

For more information on the fountain restoration project, contact Dr. Carls at (731) 881-7472 or accarls@utm.edu.

Captain’s Challenge under way

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting the 2018 Captain’s Challenge fundraising event today ahead of “I Heart UTM” week and other end-of-semester activities.

Previous years have seen a weekend fundraising challenge raise more than $250,000 in five days, but this year the goal is to raise $300,000 in 24 hours. Contributors can direct their donations toward any campus office or department, athletic unit, scholarship fund, special program or other activity.

Captain’s Challenge has been part of “I Heart UTM” week since its inception in 2015, but this year it will be a separate event. Those wishing to make a Captain’s Challenge gift or track the event’s progress can do so at challenge.utm.edu.

UT Martin participating in take-back

The University of Tennessee at Martin SOARRx group — Students Organized Against Drugs — will partner with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to sponsor a Drug Take-Back Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 27 in the UT Martin Boling University Center.

Prior to the event, the university’s new drug take-back box will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m.

UT Martin is the first Tennessee university to have an entirely student-run drug abuse prevention organization and the first state campus to have its own drug take-back box.
Judge Brandon Gibson, originally from Dyer County, will speak to the University of Tennessee at Martin's graduating class May 5 during spring commencement exercises. Gibson has served as one of 12 judges on the Tennessee Court of Appeals since 2014. Commencement will begin at 11 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university's main campus.

Gibson was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals by Gov. Bill Haslam in December 2013 and sworn in Sept. 1, 2014. She was later retained in a state-wide retention election in August 2016 and is currently the only female judge sitting on the court. She holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and a juris doctorate degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law.

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Local Students Inducted Into Phi Kappa Phi

A group of students from Weakley County was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society on April 10 during the chapter's annual induction ceremony and banquet. Pictured after the ceremony are (front row, l-r) Kaitlyn Scott, Addison Hazlewood, Michelle Fieser and Alissa Quayle, all of Martin; Claire Oliver, of Gleason; Kaitlyn Sanders, of Greenfield; Aleya Brent, of Dresden; (back row) Elizabeth Francisco, of Gleason; Jesse Burks, of Martin; Christopher Mayo, of Gleason; and Hallie Butler, Katie Huggins and Jacob Last, all of Martin. Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971 and honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines.
Vanguard To Perform "Gruesome Playground Injuries" April 26-27

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Vanguard Theatre will present "Gruesome Playground Injuries," by playwright Rajiv Joseph, at 8 p.m., April 26-27, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Vanguard Little Theatre.

Supporters of the Arts contributors can reserve seats in advance by calling the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400. All other tickets are available at the door only. Tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for children and UT Martin students with ID. The box office opens at 7 p.m. before each performance.

"Gruesome Playground Injuries" follows the lives of Doug and Kayleen over 30 years. The pair first meets in the elementary school nurse’s office and run into each other from time to time after various personal injuries. This unconventional love story is a dark comedy showing the connection between two people when they allow their wounds to show.

Four directors will collaborate on the eight scenes which comprise the performance, and 12 different actors will play the two characters over the course of three decades. Parents are advised this performance contains adult language and content and may not be suitable for children.

For more information, contact the department at 731-881-7400.

Student Coalition to Host UTM Drug Take-Back Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin's SOARx group - Students Organized Against Drugs - will partner with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to sponsor a Drug Take-Back Day from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 27, in the UT Martin Boling University Center. The university's new drug take-back box will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. prior to the Drug Take-Back Day events.

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In addition to this event, SOARx has also spent the spring semester distributing Top Shelf ID coders to Weakley County businesses free of charge, courtesy of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition. These ID coders are made to be placed on top of an individual's driver's license to help cashiers, bartenders and other business professionals quickly confirm whether an individual is of drinking age.

SOARx distributed 826 ID coders to area businesses and has more than 100 more to give away.

If your establishment is interested in receiving these ID coders, contact Josh Greer, lecturer of health and human performance and SOARx faculty advisor, at 731-881-3318 or email jgreer12@utm.edu.

UT Martin's Drug Take-Back Day is sponsored by SOARx, the Weakley County Prevention Coalition, the UT Martin Healthy Hawks organization and the Martin Business Association.

For more information, contact Greer at 731-881-3318 or email jgreer12@utm.edu.
Ripley resident named to Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Mary Grace Ray of Ripley was recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Ray was initiated at The University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ray is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines.
Clarksville student chooses unusual minor in UTM studies

Shaina Camien of Clarksville faces criticism for her undergraduate research, but she isn’t going to let that stop her from pursuing a topic she loves.

“When I tell people that I’m minoring in African-American studies, they ask, ‘Why? Why would you do that?’ and I think that’s why I do it,” she said. “I think there’s such a stigma that ‘you can’t do that because you are Caucasian.’ However, I don’t see the relevance of my race on my degree choice. I study this subject for the same reasons a college student studies anything – because I have a genuine interest in it. But, I also see its importance in society today.”

Camien, a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is part of the University Scholars Program, which requires students to complete a two-year undergraduate thesis project. She is devoting her research time to examining how African-American literature is taught in the United States and hopes to develop curricula to better incorporate these varied literary voices.

“I think it’s important (to teach African-American literature) because I think students have to realize that not every successful man and woman is a white male or white female, and white Eurocentric literature is not the only literature out there,” she said. “I think (students) can learn that there are other viewpoints and other cultures that are just as important to learn. And that, with individuality, comes a certain source of expression. Not every type of expression has to be the same. There isn’t a cookie-cutter sort of person in the world.”

Camien says she hears reluctance from all sides of the racial issue regarding her choice of research topic, but those comments only fuel her passion to find out why people feel the way they do.

“How can I know how you walk in your shoes if I don’t first reach out and show you that I care enough to learn about (you)?” she asked.

Camien is an English major and plans to graduate in the spring of 2019. In addition to participating in the University Scholars Program, she is also part of the Ned Ray McWherter Institute and serves as a resident assistant for the UT Martin Office of Housing.
INAUGURAL CONCERT — Check out the Inaugural Chancellor's Orchestra Concert on Saturday, April 28, at 3 p.m. in Fulton Theatre. The Chancellor's Orchestra is an honor orchestra made up of high school string players from all over West Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky. Featuring works from Schubert, John Williams, and the conducting debut of UTM's Chancellor Keith Carver, this concert is sure to be engaging and exciting for music lovers of all ages.

Vanguard Theatre to present 'Gruesome Playground Injuries'

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Vanguard Theatre will present "Gruesome Playground Injuries," by playwright Rajiv Joseph, at 8 p.m., April 26-27, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Vanguard Little Theatre.

Supporters of the Arts can reserve seats in advance by calling the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400. All other tickets are available at the door only. Tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for children and UT Martin students with ID. The box office opens at 7 p.m. before each performance.

"Gruesome Playground Injuries" follows the lives of Doug and Kayleen over 30 years. The pair first meets in the elementary school nurse's office and run into each other from time to time after various personal injuries. This unconventional love story is a dark comedy showing the connection between two people when they allow their wounds to show.

Four directors will collaborate on the eight scenes that comprise the performance, and 12 different actors will play the two characters over the course of three decades.

Parents are advised this performance contains adult language and content and may not be suitable for children.

For more information, contact the department at 731-881-7400.
Interim coach tag removed, Jenkins officially UTM baseball head coach

University of Tennessee at Martin athletics director Kurt McGuffin announced he has removed the interim tag and officially tabbed Ryan Jenkins as the Skyhawk head baseball coach.

Jenkins originally joined UT Martin as an assistant coach in July 2017 before he was elevated to head coach in December on an interim basis. He is officially the 11th head baseball coach in school history.

"I have been impressed with how Coach Jenkins has handled not only this season, but his vision for the Skyhawk baseball program going forward," McGuffin said. "He was thrown into a difficult situation and has handled it with the utmost professionalism. I am confident in Coach Jenkins' ability to lead this program to greater heights in the future."

Jenkins has guided UT Martin to a pair of victories over nationally ranked opponents in 2018. The Skyhawks posted a 13-10 win at then-No. 13 Southern Miss on Feb. 24 before claiming a 4-3 road victory on March 10 at Ohio Valley Conference leader Tennessee Tech, which is currently ranked No. 21 in the nation after a Division-I-best 20-game winning streak.

Jenkins has been a steady leader for UT Martin in 2018. The Skyhawks lost their top returning hitter to an injury in the first week of the season and were forced to play their first 16 games on the road. Four freshmen have combined for a total of 114 starts across the infield for UT Martin, which has had a three-game winning streak in mid-March, while running into some tough luck as of late as 11 of its losses have come by three or fewer runs.

"I am extremely grateful to Chancellor Keith Carver and our athletic director Kurt McGuffin for this opportunity," Jenkins said. "I have only been at UT Martin for a short time, but I have come to love the community and this campus. I believe in this program - we have had some ups and downs this season but we are building things the correct way. I am excited for the potential and growth of Skyhawk baseball."

A native of Millbrook, Ala., Jenkins is in his fifth season as a collegiate coach. He was an assistant at the College of Charleston in 2017, overseeing five All-Colonial Athletic Association recipients while developing a Major League Baseball draft selection.
WestStar launches Teacher Development Program

UTM's WestStar Leadership Program is launching a new teacher development program called "WestTeach," which will begin in the 2018 fall semester at UTM. WestTeach seeks to connect West Tennessee’s K-12 teachers with the region's communities and industries and give them increased insight into economic needs and opportunities in the area.

Program sessions will be held across West Tennessee over a five-month period. The five-session development program begins Aug. 27, and a final graduation banquet will be held Jan. 29, 2019, at UTM. Topics include West Tennessee agriculture (Aug. 27 in Martin); entrepreneurship in West Tennessee (Aug. 28 in Union City); welfare and social consequences (Sept. 25 in Jackson); creating partnerships for economic development (Oct. 30 in Dyersburg); and industry tours (Nov. 27 in Covington and Brownsville).

Potential applicants should be interested in becoming leaders in their schools. All applicants must be nominated by their principal and the director of schools. Selection is based on leadership achievements and the potential to contribute to the region’s education system. One teacher per school district will be selected with no more than 30 members per class each year.

Tuition for the WestTeach program is $250, which must be paid by either the individual or the school system prior to the first session. Each participant to complete the course will be given a $150 gift card for classroom use upon graduation.

Applications are available online by visiting utm.edu/weststar and selecting “WestTeach Program” to the left. WestTeach is sponsored by the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, PLLC; Security Bank of Dyersburg; and SIC Management.

For more information or application assistance, contact WestStar Program Coordinator Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu. Applications will be accepted until May 1.

Education seminar highlights student potential

The UTM Department of Educational Studies will host the annual Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar from 5-8 p.m., on Thursday, April 19, in room 230 of the Boling University Center. Participating classroom teachers and administrators will receive three hours of professional development credit.

Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman, senior scientist emeritus from the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will present on a strength-based approach to education where teachers see children as “at potential” instead of “at risk.”

This discussion will focus on how to document students’ strengths, plan strength-based instructional experiences, and enhance communication with parents and families. This intentional type of student observation can help keep individual talents and abilities from being overlooked as educators focus on general challenges and difficulties.

Coleman directs Project U-STAR-PLUS (Using Science, Talents and Abilities to Recognize Students – Promoting Learning in Underrepresented Students) and has served multiple terms on the boards of the National Association for Gifted Children and the Council for Exceptional Children.

The Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar is made possible by an endowment from Newell and Bettie Graham, Union City residents and owners of the Coca Cola Bottling Company locations in Union City. For more information, contact Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education and seminar coordinator, at 731-881-7143 or csmit279@utm.edu.
DEPARTMENTAL HONORS - Breydon Horton, of Camden, was recognized by the UTM Department of Communications during an annual awards reception on Wednesday, April 4. He received the Dorothea and Robert Norton Scholarship for public speaking students. Housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the communications program offers concentrations in broadcasting, media design, news, editorial, and public relations.

PHI KAPPA PHI - Kenneth Gaston, of Big Sandy, was inducted into the UTM chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society on Tuesday, April 10, during the chapter's annual induction ceremony and banquet. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. The UTM chapter honors students, faculty, and staff who have reached high levels of academic success.
UTM honors two local students

4/19/2018

Two Carroll County students were recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during an annual awards reception April 4. The students received scholarships, travel funding and other special honors as determined by department faculty members.

Jillianne Moncrief, of McLemoresville, won the Nanney-Segebarth Scholarship.

Jacob Owen, of McKenzie, received a Communications Academic Excellence Award.

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

contact the department at 731-881-7546.
Radio Financial Talk Show Host Dave Ramsey (10-11am and 6-9pm on WCMT) was guest speaker at the fifth annual Ned Ray McWherter Institute on UT Martin’s Campus Thursday night.

Ramsey shared his philosophy for Financial Peace and recommended written goals to achieve success.

Meanwhile Tosh Farms of Henry and Final Flight Outfitters of Midway were recipients of the R. Clayton McWhorter Innovator Award.

The Dave Ramsey Show can be heard on WCMT stations 96.1, 99.7, 100.5, 103.3 and 1410.
"I Heart UTM" week will be held April 22 to April 27 to celebrate school pride and the final week of spring semester classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The schedule for the week is as follows:

On Sunday, April 22, UT Martin Baseball will play against SIUE at 1. At 12:30, UT Martin Student Government is sponsoring free hot dogs and hamburgers.

On Monday, April 23, the Mike Munkel BBQ will occur at Pacer Pond from 4:30 to 6:30. A donation of 5 canned goods will get you a FREE "I Heart UTM" tank top (limit one per person).

On Tuesday, April 24, Donuts for Donors takes place at the UC North Patio. Students can come by and write a thank you letter to donors and receive a free donut or piece of fruit.

On Wednesday, April 25, Seniors can drive through the Dunagan Alumni Center to get a blueberry muffin, an orange crush and an alumni car decal from 9 to 12. From 12 to 3, Camel Rides and a petting zoo, sponsored by the Office of Student Life, will be available for students, faculty, and staff. Senior Walk will start at 3 at the UC North Patio. Students can write thank you cards to professors.

On Thursday, April 26, UT Martin Undergraduate Alumni Council will visit areas businesses to take pictures in support of UT Martin. Fire & Ice Night will take place from 6 to 9 between Phase 1 and Phase 2 with FREE snow cones, popcorn and fire pits with S'mores.

On Friday, April 27, students are invited to Chill Out In The Quad with free Chick-Fil-A Tea and Lemonade along with free snow cones and popcorn sponsored by Student Health. They are also invited to play corn hole and other games in between classes.

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Vanguard Theatre will present "Gruesome Playground Injuries," by playwright Rajiv Joseph, at 8 p.m., April 26-27, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Vanguard Little Theatre.

Supporters of the Arts contributors can reserve seats in advance by calling the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400. All other tickets are available at the door only at $15 for adults and $5 for children and UT Martin students with ID. The box office will open at 7 p.m. each night. "Gruesome Playground Injuries" follows the lives of Doug and Kayleen over 30 years. The pair first meets in the elementary school nurse's office and run into each other from time to time after various personal injuries.

Four directors will collaborate on eight scenes with 12 different actors playing the two characters over the course of three decades.

Parents are advised this performance contains adult language and content and may not be suitable for children.
Alyson Brown, of Pinson, received the Outstanding Management, Marketing and Information Systems Student Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin on April 8 during the university's annual Honors Day ceremony. Brown is a senior, majoring in management. Find more information about UT Martin or schedule a campus tour by calling 731-881-7020. SUBMITTED
Lightfoot receives award from UT-Martin

Hannah Lightfoot, of Hampshire, received the Outstanding Health and Human Performance Student Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university's annual Honors Day ceremony April 8. Lightfoot is a sophomore studying exercise science and wellness.

UT Martin Communications department honors local student

Jason Repath of White House was recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during an annual awards reception April 4. Repath received one of two Wayne Tansil Scholarships for news-editorial students.

Drug take-back day at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin's SOARx group — Students Organized Against Drugs — will partner with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to sponsor a Drug Take-Back Day from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 27, in the UT Martin Boling University Center. The university's new drug take-back box will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. prior to the Drug Take-Back Day events.
The ninth annual Sterling Awards ceremony was held on Equal Pay Day, which was April 10 this year, in the J. Walters Barnes Center at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. The "Sterling Awards: 20 Most Influential Women in West Tennessee" program began as a partnership between the Jackson Area Business and Professional Women and The Jackson Sun in 2010 to recognize women for their leadership and contributions to their communities.

Each year, 20 women are honored from nominations of approximately 80 women from counties all across West Tennessee. The Board of Selectors reviews nominations that include pages of material containing information on awards, leadership and volunteerism in order to select the winners.

Jackson attorney Mary Jo Middlebrooks was awarded the 2018 Sue Shelton White Award by Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist for her role as a community activist and her work to influence legislation to improve the lives of women and children across Tennessee. Judy Ferguson Bivens, of Selmer, was named the Outstanding Woman Military Veteran for 2018 for her 26 years of service in the U.S. Air Force and her assistance to veterans across West Tennessee as a Veterans Service Officer.

Leland Burress of The Jackson Sun served as emcee for the event.

The winners of the Sterling Awards this year represented careers in banking, education, government, health care, law, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, and private business.

For more information about the Sterling Awards, and other programs for women, visit the Jackson Business and Professional Women website: www.jacksonareabpw.com
The University of Tennessee at Martin and Jackson State Community College celebrated their recent partnership with an open house on April 17 at the JSCC McWherter Center. The McWherter Center is the new home of the UT Martin Jackson Center, which relocated from its previous address off the Highway 45 Bypass earlier this spring.

Both JSCC President Allana Hamilton and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver were present at the event and stressed the importance of the alliance between the two institutions and the pathway it creates for student success in the region.

"For UT Martin, coming to a place like Jackson State that has a 51-year tradition of educating students and being a provider for higher education in this region for 51 years, and being able to come here and be a part of this tradition and provide greater access to the region – we’re just excited to be a part of that," said Carver. "Dr. Hamilton and her colleagues at Jackson State have given us a warm welcome, and we look forward to many years of a great partnership here in West Tennessee."

Kayla Patel is a junior attending classes at the UT Martin Jackson Center, which she says has allowed her to continue her UT Martin degree after moving for her husband’s career. JSCC students agree that finishing their core education courses and taking advantage of free tuition while at Jackson State will open doors for them to finish four-year degrees through UT Martin in the coming years.

The UT Martin Jackson Center’s new location also benefits nontraditional students in the area who may be unable to travel to the main campus in Martin each day. The UT Martin Jackson Center offers upper-division courses in a variety of subject areas. For more information, contact Kayce Beam, center director, at 731-425-9277 or email kbeam1@utm.edu.

Alyson Brown, of Henderson, was recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs during an annual awards banquet April 3. Brown received one of the Horace and Sandra Dunagan Rising Leader awards and was named a faculty scholar by Dr. Taeuk Kang, assistant professor of management. The College of Business and Global Affairs is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and houses the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science and the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems. For more information, contact the college at 881-7227.
University of Tennessee Martin honors local student Brandon Jones

April 23, 2018

Brandon Jones, of Henderson, was recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during an annual awards reception April 4. He received the M. Sue Kahle Excellence in Leadership Award and the Outstanding Service for the National Association of Black Journalists Award from the UT Martin chapter. Jones was also honored with a Chairman’s Outstanding Senior Award for the public relations course sequence.
WestTeach applications accepted until May 1

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program is launching a new teacher development program — WestTeach — beginning with the fall semester. Applications will be accepted until May 1.

WestTeach seeks to connect West Tennessee’s K-12 teachers with the region’s communities and industries and give them increased insight into economic needs and opportunities in the area. The five-day development program begins Aug. 27.

Program sessions will be held across West Tennessee over a five-month period. Topics include West Tennessee agriculture (Aug. 27 in Martin); entrepreneurship in West Tennessee (Aug. 28 in Union City); welfare and social consequences (Sept. 25 in Jackson); creating partnerships for economic development (Oct. 30 in Dyersburg); and industry tours (Nov. 27 in Covington and Brownsville).

Potential applicants should be interested in becoming leaders in their schools. All applicants must be nominated by their principal and the director or superintendent of schools. Selection is based on leadership achievements and the potential to contribute to the region’s education system.

One teacher per school district will be selected with no more than 30 members per class.

Tuition for the WestTeach program is $250, which must be paid by either the individual or the school system prior to the first session. Each participant to complete the course will be given a $150 gift card for classroom use upon graduation.

For more information or application assistance, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or email vgrimes@utm.edu.
BEN ALLEN, of Trenton, received the Cunningham Outstanding Freshman Award and the George and Ruth Horton Curricula Award for pre-health science students during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day ceremony April 8.

ROBERT RAYBURN, of Trenton, received the Outstanding Computer Science Student Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day ceremony April 8.

LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE HONORS DAY AWARDS – Four students from Gibson County were recognized during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day ceremony April 8.

Benjamin Allen, of Trenton, received both the Cunningham Outstanding Freshman Award and the George and Ruth Horton Curricula Award for pre-health science students.

Robert Rayburn, of Trenton, received the Outstanding Computer Science Student Award.

Samuel Walgren, pictured of Milan, received the Marvin L. Downing Lower Division History Award.

For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.

UT MARTIN DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES HONORS LOCAL STUDENT – Lauren Hoke, of Milan, was recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages during an annual awards banquet April 12. Hoke received the Outstanding Modern Foreign Language Major or Minor Award for French. The UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages is housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. For more information, contact the department at 731-881-7300.
Edlin Named UT-Martin Top Social Work Student

MARTIN — Rachel Edlin, a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received the award of "Outstanding Social Work Student" during the Honors Day ceremony held Sunday, April 8. The elite students selected for the awards are chosen by their respective faculty members. Rachel is a Social Work major (Behavioral Science) and has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her college career. Rachel is the daughter of Chris Edlin and Cathy Edlin and the granddaughter of Phyllis Edlin and JoAnn Cooper.

Two Countians Honored at UT-Martin

MARTIN (April 11) — Two Carroll County students were recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications during an annual awards reception April 4. The students received scholarships, travel funding and other special honors as determined by department faculty members.

Jillianne Moncrief, of McLemoresville, won the Nanney-Segebarth Scholarship.

Jacob Owen, of McKenzie, received a Communications Academic Excellence Award.

The UT Martin Department of Communications is housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and offers concentrations in broadcasting, media design, news editorial and public relations. For more information, contact the department at 731-881-7546.

Capps awarded UTM Freshmen Scholarship

Hannah Capps, daughter of Rob and Kimberly Harrison of Dyersburg and Barry and Dana Capps of Martin was awarded the University of Tennessee-Martin Communications Freshmen Scholarship. Dr. Robert Nanney, department chair requested to visit Dyer County High School in order to present Hannah with her scholarship on Friday, April 20. Hannah plans on majoring in communications with a sequence in public relations and a minor in Spanish. She plans to use this degree to pursue a career in marketing. Pictured above, (L-R) Dr. Robert Nanney, Hannah Capps, Kimberly Harrison and DCHS English Honors Instructor Tina Greenlee.
UTM Students Receive Honors Day Awards

MARTIN, Tenn., April 18, 2018 – LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE HONORS DAY AWARDS – Five Weakley County residents received awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony April 8.

Areli Aguilar, of Martin, received the Gallien Award.

Emma Fieser, of Martin, received the Norman Lillegard Outstanding Philosophy Student Award. She was also inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Ashley Mendez Garcia, of Sharon, received the Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Undergraduate Student Award.

Ashley Kite-Rowland, of Martin, received the Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Graduate Student Award.

Kaitlyn Sanders, of Greenefield, received the Student Group of the American Association of Family and Consumer Science Award.

For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Drug take-back day at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s SOARx group – Students Organized Against Drugs – will partner with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to sponsor a Drug Take-Back Day from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 27, in the UT Martin Boling University Center. The university’s new drug take-back box will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. prior to the Drug Take-Back Day events.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting its annual "I Heart UTM" week to celebrate school pride and the final week of spring semester classes.

Festivities began Sunday and run through Friday. Events are for faculty, staff and community members as well as students. Sunday was marked as Athletics Day, while Monday was Philanthropy Day and Tuesday was the Donuts for Donors event.

Today was a special day for seniors, faculty members and staff. The senior drive-thru was held this morning at Dunagan Alumni Center, where seniors planning to graduate in either the spring or fall could "drive through" the center to collect blueberry muffins, Orange Crush drinks and alumni car decals. Hump Day camel rides and a petting zoo were also set up in the university quad this afternoon.

Senior walk — a special tradition to honor all graduating senior students — was set for 3 p.m. today. Students were to begin their walk outside Boling University Center and travel through the quad to the Elam Center for graduation practice, saying goodbye to faculty and staff members along the way. This is an annual spring event, with the community invited to help line the sidewalk and wish the class of 2018 well.

Thursday will be a day for the community to show UT Martin pride. Local businesses and schools are encouraged to display "I Heart UTM" posters and wear UT Martin apparel. A "fire and ice" event, sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Housing, will be held from 6-9 p.m. in the University Village. Sno cones, popcorn and s'mores will be provided.

The week wraps up Friday with alumni day. The Office of Campus Recreation will have various lawn games set up in the quad from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Chick-fil-a lemonade and sweet tea will be provided. The Office of Student Health and Counseling Services will also be giving away sno cones and popcorn to visiting alumni.

All events include giveaway items of various types.

For more information on "I Heart UTM" week, contact the UT Martin Office of Alumni Affairs at (731) 881-7610.

**UT Martin hosting Scholarfest events**

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting "Scholarfest" through April 29 to celebrate undergraduate research from across campus. All events are free and open to the public. Several events have already been held and several more remain.

Among the events already held were the annual Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference; a reading by author Silas House as part of the Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speaker Series; an Assessment Day which featured presentations by campus units showcasing assessment methods used to improve campus procedures and academic expectations; and the joint UT Martin-Murray State Sigma Xi Research Symposium.

Poster sessions from various departments are planned for this second week of Scholarfest. Nurse Excellence Day was held Monday to highlight the research of students and faculty from the Department of Nursing. Students from the Department of Biological Sciences will display their work from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday on the second floor of Brehm Hall.

A discussion on the psychology of learning and cognition was held this morning for those interested in human brain development.

Those interested in the arts can view student work from 1-5 p.m. weekdays in the Fine Arts Building Gallery and attend performances of "Gruesome Playground Injuries" at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the Vanguard Little Theatre. For more information, contact the department at (731) 881-7400.

The Weakley County Film Festival will host a screening of submitted films at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Vanguard Little Theatre. Festival judges will present prizes to the winning films and the UT Martin Improv Alliance will perform for those in attendance.

Scholarfest will officially end with a reception at 5 p.m. Sunday in the Boling University Center Welcome Center.

For more information on any of the Scholarfest activities, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, co-director of UT Martin Honors Programs, by phone at (731) 881-7436 or by email at lerews@utm.edu.
EARNs Award — Ashton Priest of Union City received a Communications Academic Excellence Award recently during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications’ annual awards reception. Students received scholarships, travel funding and other special honors as determined by department faculty members.

Children’s center marks 25 years

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center will celebrate 25 years in its current location with a ceremony from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday outside the facility. The center, originally known as the “Happy House,” was first located on Moody Avenue to the east of campus before relocating to Pat Head Summitt Drive.

It was later named for Dr. Margaret Perry, UT Martin’s sixth chancellor, on Aug. 12, 1998. She served as chancellor from 1986-1997.

Leanne Snider, center director, says 1,279 children have been enrolled at the children’s center since the current building opened March 12, 1993. The center is licensed to keep 99 children between 6 weeks and 12 years of age and is manned by 18 teaching staff members, one cook and 14 UT Martin student employees.

The Perry Children’s Center was the last campus building constructed by the UT Martin Physical Plant, and many of those employees are still working on campus today.

The anniversary program will include remarks from Perry as well as Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin’s current chancellor, and Snider.

A short performance will be given by the pre-kindergarten children.

The event is open to the general community. The families of both past and present center enrollees, as well as any past employees or student workers, are particularly invited to attend.

In the event of rain, the anniversary celebration will be moved inside the building.

For more information, contact the center at (731) 881-7715.

At the college level

Several local residents were recently initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Inducted were:

• Samantha Davis of Kenion, who was initiated at Middle Tennessee State University;

• Kaycee Mathenia of Union City, who was initiated at the University of Tennessee at Martin;

• Garrow Miles of Union City, who was initiated at the University of Mississippi;

• Laina Roberson of Troy, who was initiated at the University of Tennessee at Martin;

• Hailey Slaughter of Union City, who was initiated at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
STUDENT HONORED

Kevin Bartholomew of South Fulton received one of two Duke Drumm-WCMT Scholarships, as well as the department's Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award, during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications' annual awards reception recently. Students received scholarships, travel funding and other special honors as determined by department faculty members.

Local student honored

Technical difficulties plagued a photo that was published with a story on Sarah Dicus of Henry being honored at a UT Martin awards banquet in Monday's Post-Intelligencer. Dicus received the Anna H. Clark English 100 or 110 Essay award from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at UT Martin.

Drug take-back day at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin's SOARx group - Students Organized Against Drugs - will partner with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to sponsor a Drug Take-Back Day from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., April 27, in the UT Martin Boling University Center. The university's new drug take-back box will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. prior to the Drug Take-Back Day events.
The Martin Business Association will be hosting a ribbon cutting.

The Martin Business Association will be hosting a ribbon cutting with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and the new UT Martin student group, Students Organized Against Drugs (SOARx) for the new UT Martin drug take-back box installed in March. The ribbon cutting will take place on Friday at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Public Safety at Crisp Hall. The ribbon cutting is in conjunction with the UT Martin Drug Take-Back Day event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The UTM event is coordinated by SOARx with hopes students will end their semesters on the right foot by properly disposing of any unnecessary pharmaceuticals in their possession.

This new drug take-back box is provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and allows students, employees and community members away to safely dispose of prescription drugs and other unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals.

The UT Martin drug take-back box is the fifth permanent location in Weakley County. Accepted items include all prescription and over-the-counter medications; veterinary medications; medicated ointments, lotions or drops; liquid medications in leak-proof containers; inhalers; and pills in any packages, including glass, plastic, Ziploc bags, or foil packs. The National Prescription Drug Take Day is April 28.

For more information, follow the Weakley County Prevention Coalition on Facebook.
Students win logo contest for Milan No-Till Field Day

University of Tennessee at Martin students Christina Hobson of Leesburg, Fla., and Brad Lyell of Union City designed the official logos for the 2018 Milan No-Till Field Day, hosted every other year by the University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Milan.

This event is one of the largest crop production field days in the nation, and this year’s activities mark the event’s 30th anniversary.

No-Till Field Day organizers chose Hobson’s and Lyell’s designs from a pool of submissions from fellow UT Martin senior graphic design majors. Lyell’s design will be used on event programs, while Hobson’s will adorn event caps. This is the second time event officials have allowed UT Martin students to submit design proposals.

“We gathered several of our field and office staff and laid all the designs on our conference table and started making selections. It took several votes, but we finally decided to go with the two designs,” said Dr. Blake Brown, director of the UT AgResearch and Education Center at Milan. “All the work submitted was exceptional.”

When asked how this experience will help her professionally, Hobson said the project was extremely beneficial. “My future is doing work just like that, so I got to step into it before graduation,” she said.

Real-world work is an important component of UT Martin academics, and Lyell says the exercise helped improve his professional communications skills.

Sarah Haig, assistant professor of art, has facilitated the design competition among her students for the past two field day events.

For more information, contact Haig at 731-881-3404 or shaigl@utm.edu.
Several Weakley County students were recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs during an annual awards banquet.

- Bobby Bruce, of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award for a graduate student from Dr. Ashley Kilburn, professor of marketing and coordinator of graduate programs.
- Morgan Curlin, of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award for an undergraduate student from Kilburn.
- Elysia Duke, of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award from Dr. Chris Baxter, professor of political science and chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science.
- Addison Hazlewood, of Martin, received a Dean's Scholar Award for marketing and a Faculty Scholar Award from Dr. Melanie Bruce, assistant professor of marketing.
- Dalis Lampkins, of Gleason, received a Faculty Scholar Award from Dr. Anderson Starling, assistant professor of political science.
- Erica Little, of Gleason, received a Faculty Scholar Award from Dr. Malcolm Koch, lecturer of political science and executive director of the Center for International Education.
- Claire Oliver, of Gleason, received the Financial Management Award and was named a faculty scholar by Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance.
- Patricia Ramos, of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award from Dr. Sean Walker, associate professor of management.
- Alisa Quayle, of Martin, received a Faculty Scholar Award from Dr. Michael Park, associate professor of marketing.

The College of Business and Global Affairs is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and houses the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science and the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems. For more information, contact the college at (731) 881-7227.
Innovators receive recognition

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

Family-owned businesses were in the spotlight last week when the Ned Ray McWherter Institute (NRMI) presented this year's R. Clayton McWhorter Innovation Recognitions at the fifth Igniting Innovation event. Tosh Farms and Final Flight Outfitters received the nods from sophomores of the Institute, who select honorees based on contributions to West Tennessee.

Tosh Farms, with its 105-year history, was recognized for its continuing emphasis—evident by even a quick tour of their website—on innovation. Twenty-year-old Final Flight Outfitters Inc. was also honored, notably for its expanding physical and online presence.

Tosh Farms, based in Henry, presently consists of 16,000 acres of farmland, 11 sow farms that produced over 750,000 market hogs last year with predictions of 950,000 next year, more than 380 employees, and 80 contract growing partners, including at least 12 in Weakley County.

Innovation is so important at Tosh Farms that a website page is devoted to the topic noting "it is one of our six-core values and is part of our mission statement. We work hard to stay abreast of the latest breakthroughs...." Jimmy Tosh, owner and chief executive officer, noted in an interview with the Press, "If you're standing still, you're falling behind. Industry has changed tremendously over the last 20-30 years. You've always got to adapt and find the new tech. If you don't, you are going to be out of business."

Some examples of new technology utilized at Tosh Farms include:
- Solar panels
- GPS and precision mapping to ensure efficient utilization of fields
- Variable rate planting which allows increased production in the most fertile areas

See INNOVATORS, Page 12
LOCAL STUDENTS INDUCTED
— A group of students from Weakley County was recently inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during the chapter's annual induction ceremony and banquet. Those inducted were (front row, from left) Alisa Quayle, of Martin; Claire Oliven of Gleason; Kaitlyn Sanders, of Greenfield; and Aleya Brent, of Dresden; (back) Elizabeth Francisco, of Gleason; Jesse Burks, of Martin; Christopher Mayo, of Gleason; and Hallie Butler, Katie Huggins and Jacob Last, all of Martin. Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971 and honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines.

FACULTY MEMBERS INDUCTED
— University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members (from left) David McBeth, professor of art; Dr. John Schommer, professor of mathematics; Dr. Abigail Shelton, associate professor of chemistry; and Dr. Emalee Buttrey, assistant professor of animal science, were recently inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during the chapter's annual induction ceremony and banquet. Not pictured is Dr. Joaquin Goyret, associate professor of biology. Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971 and honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines.
Drug Take-Back Day slated for Saturday

Unused prescription drugs pose a danger to young people and to risk-takers of all ages. Leaving them in the home provides a temptation that can be avoided.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is set for Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. As part of this major health and safety initiative, the Weakley County Prevention Coalition will host three take-back events in Weakley County.

According to the DEA’s Atlanta Division, formerly Tennessee’s field division, a record 34 tons (68,053 pounds) of drugs were collected in Tennessee during the October 2017 Take-Back Day. On that one day, Tennesseans turned in more drugs than Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio combined.

To help maintain these record-setting numbers, community members are encouraged to stop by one of these local take-back locations to drop off their unused or expired medications, especially pain relievers and other prescription drugs. Law enforcement officers and pharmacists will be on hand to accept the medications and safely dispose of them, no questions asked.

Drugs will be accepted at Tennova Healthcare Volunteer Martin, the Fred’s Pharmacy in Dresden and the Fred’s Pharmacy in Greenfield.

“Fifty-three percent of Americans who use prescription drugs recreationally got them from a friend or relative, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention,” said Suzanne Harper, director, Weakley County Prevention Coalition. “Take-Back Days are a safe and easy way to protect your loved ones and to get these drugs out of your home.”

Free medication lock boxes will be available on site at all three locations for anyone who wishes to take one home. There will also be information about Naloxone opioid overdose prevention kits, and more information about opioids and the prevention coalition. Martin and Dresden locations will be set up outside to accommodate drive-through drop-offs, and the Sweet Retreat Cupcake Truck will be on site at Dresden Fred’s Pharmacy during the event.

If you can’t make it to a take-back event, Weakley County now has five permanent drug drop boxes that will take your unused meds year-round. They can be found at Martin Police Department, the sheriff’s department in Dresden, Sharon City Hall, Greenfield Police Department and Crisp Hall on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

To find additional drop boxes outside of Weakley County, visit http://countieslockitdropit.org/drop-box-finder/ to find a drop box in your community.

In April 2017, Americans turned in more than 900,000 pounds of prescription drugs at almost 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners.

Tennesseans discarded 31,183 pounds of prescription drugs. In its 12 previous take-back events, the DEA and its partners have collected more than 6.4 million pounds — about 3,200 tons — of pills.

For more information on the National Take-Back Initiative, visit https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

SAFETY COUNTS — Members of the community are teaming up this Saturday to provide county residents with a way to dispose of unused prescription drugs. Pictured are, from left, Suzanne Harper (WCPC Director), Josh Greer (UTM), Brad Harris (Martin Housing Authority), Melesa Lassiter (WCPC Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist), Whitney Wright (Drug Take-Back Committee Chair, Savant), Kristy Robinson (Martin Housing Authority) and Linda Smith (Civil Air Patrol).
FRIEND AND MENTOR REMEMBERED — A bench in the University of Tennessee at Martin quadrangle was dedicated April 20 in memory of the late Sandra Koch, a Martin resident, former UT Martin faculty member and wife of Dr. Malcolm Koch, executive director of the UT Martin Center for International Education. Alum Nathan Daniels hosted the dedication in honor of the influence Sandra Koch had on his studies and his career before her death in August 2016. The bench was purchased by the UT Martin International Club using funds raised during the 2017 Captain's Challenge event. Pictured after the dedication are (from left) Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Dr. Malcolm Koch, husband of the late Sandra Koch; and Nathan Daniels, UT Martin alum and mentee of Sandra Koch.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program will host a gubernatorial forum from 5-7 p.m., May 10, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. Attendees must have a ticket to enter the auditorium. Tickets can be downloaded free of charge until May 7 by visiting eventbrite.com and searching for "WestStar."

A welcome reception for attendees and candidates will begin at 4 p.m. in the Boling University Center Welcome Center. Both events are open to the public, and a link to a live webcast of the forum will be made available closer to the event date.

All attendees must enter through the main doors to the Boling University Center off the Mt. Pelia Road parking lot. Metal detectors will be used at the doors, and all bags are subject to search. No one will be permitted to enter Watkins Auditorium while a candidate is speaking.
Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, will serve as forum moderator. Each candidate will have 15 minutes to discuss questions posed by Kinnard, and speaking order will be randomly determined prior to the event.

Diane Black, a Tennessee congresswoman representing the 6th District; Randy Boyd, former commissioner of Tennessee Economic and Community Development; Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville; Craig Fitzhugh, minority leader of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Beth Harwell, speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; and Bill Lee, president and CEO of Lee Company in Nashville, have confirmed participation in the event.

Candidates will be introduced by Brett Lashlee, chairman of the 2018 WestStar Leadership Development class, following official welcomes from Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. The forum is coordinated by the 2018 WestStar class as a group project.

Winners announced in Tennessee AP college journalism awards

The Associated Press

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Updated April 28, 2018 11:03 AM

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Winners of the 2017 Tennessee Associated Press Broadcasters & Media Editors college contest were announced Saturday at the John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville.

Students from 17 schools submitted more than 300 entries in the contest to honor the best in Tennessee college journalism in 2017.

The AP is a not-for-profit news cooperative representing 1,400 newspapers and 5,000 broadcast stations in the United States.

College TV:

TV Feature Story: 1, Lee University, "The River Maze"; 2, Julia Ewoldt, University of Tennessee at Martin, "The King at UT Martin."
TV Sports Reporting: 1, Lee University, "Trevor Mullikin at Five Point Boxing"; 2, Tyler Lamb, Middle Tennessee State University, "Fall Camp in Full "Swing" for Blue Raider Baseball."

TV Sports Coverage/Program: 1, Regan Vasquez and Martha Douhne, Lee University, "Trevor Mullikin"; 2, Vanderbilt University.

Videographer: 1, Martha Douhne, Lee University; 2, Robert Bagwell, Middle Tennessee State University."

TV Specialized/Topic Reporting: 1, Isaac Fowler and Tim Morris, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Welcome Home Brother"; 2, Lee University, "Rate My Professors: Lee University Edition."

TV Investigative/In-Depth Reporting: 1, Isaac Ward, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Defenders of the Dream: Life After War in East Tennessee."

TV News Story: 1, Beverly Banks, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Tennessee Governor Proposes Gasoline Tax Increase"; 2, Karess Clemons, Tennessee State University, "TSU- Shooting Follow-up Package."

TV Newscast: 1, Belmont University; 2, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Television Reporter: 1, Jake Albright, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Food for College Students in a SNAP"; 2, Caitlin Alexander, Belmont University, "Nashville Vigil for Las Vegas."

College newspaper:

Feature Story: 1, Imaan Malik, Middle Tennessee State University, "Stylish Hajibs Make a Fashion Statement"; 2, Ali Renckens, Union University, "Lord, Preserve My Life: Students Coping with Mental Illness Seek Physical and Spiritual Balance."

Sports Reporting: 1, Andrew Preston, Trevecca Nazarene University, "Ten Volleyball Players to Not Return to Team Next Year"; 2, Cutler Klein, Vanderbilt University, "A Football Life: Kyle Shurmur's Journey From a Football Family to Vanderbilt Stardom."

News Graphic/Illustration: 1, Abigail Potter, Middle Tennessee State University; 2, Jay Luzardo, Lee University, "Lee Pacifist Club Protests in Shelbyville."

College Photojournalist: 1, Adrien Terricabras, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Football vs LSU"; 2, Benjamin Little, Austin Peay State University.

Specialized / Topic Reporting: 1, Trevecca Nazarene University, "Ongoing Coverage of DACA Students at Trevecca"; 2, Emma Ayers and Brian Ericson, Lee University, "New LeeU System Monitors Students With Dropout Risk."

Investigative/In-Depth Reporting: 1, Ashley Coker, Middle Tennessee State University, "Black Graduates Owe Twice as Much Than White Grads"; 2, Sarah Friedman, Vanderbilt University, "Sexual Misdemeanor Charge Against Board of Trust Member Surfaces."
News Story: 1, Joannah Beckler, Lee University, "Lee Pacifist Club Protests in Shelbyville"; 2, Annie Tieu and Alex Holcomb, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Rally at Confederate Monument Draws Thousands."

Newspaper Reporter: 1, Brooklyn Dance, Trevecca Nazarene University; 2, Raina Wiseman, East Tennessee State University.

College radio:

Radio Feature Story: 1, Kristen Gallant, Middle Tennessee State University, "Franklin Goat Farm"; 2, Annie Hobbs, Middle Tennessee State University, "Dog Agility Contest."

Radio Sports Reporting: 1, Russell Vannozzi, Lipscomb University, "Bison Basketball Wrap"; 2, Cutler Klein, Vanderbilt University, "Vandy Radio Interview with Vanderbilt Basketball Legend Shan Foster."

Radio Sports Coverage/Program: 1, John Thornton and Jordan Taylor, University of Tennessee at Martin, "UT Martin vs. Ole Miss - Football"; 2, Cutler Klein, Vanderbilt University, "Vanderbilt vs. UT Soccer Highlights."

Use of Sound: 1, Alexis Marshall, Middle Tennessee State University, "Marshall - Pet Lessons"; 2, Kristen Gallant, Middle Tennessee State University, "Franklin Goat Farm."

Radio Specialized/Topic Reporting: 1, Alexis Marshall, Middle Tennessee State University, "Tennessee Tent Revival"; 2, Victoria Leuang, Middle Tennessee State University, "2017 Solar Eclipse."

Radio Investigative/In-Depth Reporting: 1, Sophie D. Grosserode, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Heat and Homelessness"; 2, Natalie King, University of Tennessee at Martin, "Interview with Meg Kinnard, AP Reporter."

Radio News Story: 1, Katie Inman, Middle Tennessee State University, "9-11 Tribute"; 2, Chandler Whitaker, Middle Tennessee State University, "Tenn. Move Over Law."

Radio Newscast: 1, Ashley Shores, University of Tennessee at Martin; 2, Shane Wofford, University of Tennessee at Martin.

Radio Reporter: 1, Ashley Shores, University of Tennessee at Martin; 2, Shane Wofford, University of Tennessee at Martin.

College Online:

Online Spot Coverage: 1, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Fans Protest Tennessee's Potential Schiano Hiring"; 2, Brooklyn Dance, Trevecca Nazarene University, "Suspects Involved with Attempted Kidnapping Located."

Online Feature Story: 1, Tayhlor Stephenson, Middle Tennessee State University, "A Letter a Day"; 2, Clark Hubbard, Union University, "Perspective: I was a College Aged Ball Boy."
Online Sports Reporting: 1, Simon Gibbs, Vanderbilt University, "From West Africa to West End: Ejike Obinna's Remarkable Journey to Vanderbilt"; 2, Noah Houck, Austin Peay State University, "A Call Home: Kentel Williams."

Online Sports Coverage/Program: 1, Austin Peay State University, "The Govs Snap 29-Game Losing Streak"; 2, JeLenah Ashmore, Tennessee State University, "Planned.

Online Graphics Design: 1, Emilee Robinson and Brittany Wolfe, University of Memphis, "Minimalism and Consumerism Through the Years"; 2, Addie James, University of Memphis, "Planned Parenthood."

Online Multimedia Journalist: 1, Erin Franklin, Lipscomb University; 2, Harrison Baldwin, Belmont University, "The Man Behind the Bells."

College Media Website: 1, Belmont University, "Belmont Vision"; 2, Vanderbilt University, "The Vanderbilt Hustler."

Online Specialized / Topic Reporting: 1, Vanderbilt University, "LGBT Issues"; 2, Andrew Wigdor, Middle Tennessee State University, "Santa Train Brings Joy to Coal Country."

Online Investigative/In-Depth Reporting: 1, Emilee Robinson and Brittany Wolfe, University of Memphis, "Too Much Stuff"; 2, Zach Gilchriest, Belmont University, "SGA's Largest Expenditures Grant Petitions and ASGA Conference Trip."

Online Ongoing Coverage: 1, Tyler Wymbles and Damichael Cole, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, "Football Coach Hiring"; 2, Vanderbilt University, "DACA."

Online Multimedia Package: 1, Lipscomb University, "Lipscomb Reacts to Once-in-a-Lifetime Total Solar Eclipse"; 2, Christian Volk and Alexandra Pounders, University of Memphis, "Memphis Musicians Struggle to Leave Mark."

A list of winners can be found at http://discover.ap.org/contests/tennessee. 

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**Roots of Rhythm to tour West Tennessee in May**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Ensemble will take its Roots of Rhythm performance on the road May 10-12 to visit seven regional schools.

The ensemble will give private appearances May 10 at Pope Elementary School in Jackson and Selmer Elementary School in Selmer. A public performance at Southaven High School in Southaven, Mississippi, will begin at 6 p.m. that evening. The tour will also include private performances at White Station Middle School in Memphis and Houston Middle School in Germantown on May 11, with a public performance beginning at 5 p.m. at Memphis University School. The tour will end May 12 with private performances at Colonial Middle School in Memphis.

There is no charge to attend the public performances. Those with children attending schools on the tour schedule should contact the school directly regarding guest attendance.

Roots of Rhythm is a unique percussion performance combining music, history and geography to show the migration of musical patterns around the globe. The ensemble performs with a variety of instruments native to countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, Mali, Brazil and others.

For more information on the Roots of Rhythm performance or to book a future tour date for your school, visit utm.edu/roots.