UT Martin orientation, registration scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a final orientation and registration session Aug. 10 for any students who have not yet attended an on-campus orientation.

Attendance at an orientation session is mandatory for all incoming freshmen. Students must have received an official acceptance letter from UT Martin to attend orientation. Registration is $45 per student and $20 per additional guest, including parents, guardians, siblings and friends. No tuition or fee payments are due until Aug. 22.

Orientation begins with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. An official welcome will begin at 8:45. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, travel-study opportunities and the transition to college will be held later in the morning.

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To register, visit utm.edu/soar. Anyone who has not yet attended orientation and cannot participate Aug. 10 should contact Mary Wiggins, assistant director of admissions, at (731) 881-7740 or munger@utm.edu as soon as possible.

Dr. Jim Byford, a familiar face to generations of Tennessee 4-Hers, plays and sings for a group during the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference held the week of July 23 at UT Martin. Byford, who retired from the university in 2009 and is dean emeritus for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, has continued his involvement with 4-H following his retirement. Prior to his time at UT Martin, he spent 20 years as extension wildlife specialist in Georgia and Tennessee, giving hundreds of presentations and writing numerous articles on wildlife conservation. He received the Friend of 4-H award in 2011 from the Tennessee 4-H Foundation and was named in 2016 to the national 4-H Hall of Fame.
Tennessee 4-H members from around the state headed home July 27 following the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The annual weeklong event rotates between the Knoxville and Martin campuses and recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. The 4-Hers, University of Tennessee Extension staff and 4-H volunteers arrived Monday, and activities concluded Thursday evening.

Approximately 375 4-Hers who have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology, and photography competed for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress. The theme for Roundup and for all 4-H programs in 2018 is “Tennessee 4-H: Branching from Our Roots.”

“4-H Roundup is one of our premier 4-H events that we have in the state of Tennessee. It’s an opportunity for young people to come together and really showcase their project work for the year,” said Dr. Dwight Loveday, interim 4-H assistant dean. “This is a time we come to recognize their accomplishments, honor those achievements, as well as have our All-Star Conference that really focuses on service and service to the community.”

Even though Roundup includes plenty of competition and educational sessions, he added that the event also offers “lots of fun learning experiences for (the 4-Hers), as well as a chance to make new friends across the state.”

Other 4-H Roundup activities included the Vol State Ceremony, election of the 2018-19 State 4-H Council officers and participation in a service-learning project. Service-learning projects included 4-Hers working with children at the Martin Housing Authority and UT Martin’s Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center, as well as assembling more than 250 care packages for the homeless that will be distributed through RIFA in Jackson.

“Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program,” said Justin Crowe, UT Extension 4-H specialist. “Each year, 4-Hers statewide perform tens of thousands of hours of service at an estimated value of over $2 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-Hers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities.”

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro was also honored this week when he received a Friend of 4-H award, one of the organization’s highest honors. The presentation came during Tuesday evening’s project achievement banquet and reception in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

“It was great to see President DiPietro receive the Friend of 4-H award,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “He has supported 4-H in many ways, both during his years with the UT Institute of Agriculture and as UT System president. We all appreciate Tennessee 4-H and the leadership it provides to our youth across the Volunteer State.”

4-H is the youth development program for University of Tennessee Extension. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and service learning to more than 180,000 youth in the fourth through 12th grades. 4-H also has more than 5,000 adult volunteers. UT Extension is one of four units in the UT Institute of Agriculture.
MICHELLE HORTON REMEMBERED — Family, friends, colleagues and former students gathered late Friday afternoon to dedicate the Michelle Horton Tribute Garden at UT Martin. Pictured are (from left) Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Michelle Horton’s daughter, Shelby, husband, Paul, and son, Lane, all of McKenzie; and Cindy West, dean, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Science. Shelby attends the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and Lane is a junior at McKenzie High School.

UTM garden dedicated in Michelle Horton’s memory

Family, friends, colleagues and former students gathered late Friday afternoon to dedicate the Michelle Horton Tribute Garden at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The garden is located on the quadrangle side of the sociology building where the late educator both studied as a student and taught as a faculty member. Horton died of cancer May 20, 2016, and more than $10,000 was raised to create the garden in her memory.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed those attending and thanked the project’s supporters, including the UT Board of Trustees, for approving the naming. He noted that Horton was both a UT Martin graduate and later a faculty member, “But her impact on her students is what’s been immeasurable, especially given the large demographic of first-generation college students that she taught right here in rural West Tennessee.”

Alicia Maya Donaldson, UT Martin social work program director and Horton’s friend and colleague, followed Carver on the program and briefly recalled Horton’s life and career. Among Horton’s professional accomplishments, she worked at UT Martin from 2002 until 2015, serving both as social work program director and earning the rank of professor. In 2008, she was appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen and reappointed by Gov. Bill Haslam to the Tennessee Social Work Board of Licensure. Horton was also elected in 2012 to the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education. “Michelle was one of a kind, always looking to serve others to make a better life for all that she touched,” Donaldson said.

Among those attending the dedication was Dr. Donna Massey, professor of criminal justice, who led efforts to establish the tribute garden. Massey said that the garden is important “because Michelle was important, and the work she did was important, and we miss her.”

Thanks to the efforts of Massey and others, Barrett Michelle Horton will be remembered by future generations as her legacy lives on through the tribute garden that bears her name.
UT Martin Final Orientation Slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin is scheduled to host a final orientation and registration session August 10th for any students who have not yet attended an on-campus orientation. Attendance at an orientation session is mandatory for all incoming freshman.

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Visit utm.edu/soar to register. Students that have not yet attended an orientation session and cannot participate August 10th, contact Mary Wiggins, assistant director of admissions, at 731-881-7740 or munger@utm.edu as soon as possible to discuss alternate accommodations.

For more information on registration fees or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
UTM in-state tuition to rise for 2018-19 academic year

The UT Board of Trustees approved a 3 percent tuition increase for students attending UTM during its annual meeting June at the UT Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville. The increase is effective for the 2018 fall semester. The in-state tuition increase is the maximum allowed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UTM in-state tuition and mandatory fees will now cost undergraduate students an additional $258 annually for students with 90 or more completed credit hours and an additional $276 annually for students with fewer than 90 completed credit hours. New tuition and fees will be $8,876 (for students with more than 90 hours) or $9,512 (students with fewer than 90 hours) for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate students enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.

Tuition is based on the "Soar in Four" program, which is designed to speed progress toward degree completion and was approved by the UT Board of Trustees in June 2016 for UTM. The program encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The 2018-19 academic year will be the third year of the "Soar in Four" program.

Graduate student tuition and mandatory fees for in-state graduate students will increase $151 per semester for a total of $5,512 per semester or $10,368 per academic year starting this fall. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester. For more information about tuition and fees, call the UTM Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020. The newly approved tuition schedule is available at utm.edu/tuition. UTM fall semester classes begin Aug. 27 at all campus locations.
Raven Wellington (center, left) and Joshua Reid (center, right), both of Jackson, attend Summer Orientation and Registration July 23 at the University of Tennessee at Martin, joining fellow members of the incoming freshman class to learn more about academic and student life opportunities, housing options, meal plans and student support services, as well as register for fall semester courses. The South Side High School graduates are pictured with Jarmisha Williamson (far left) and Mark Reid (far right). For more information about UT Martin and future orientation activities, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu. SUBMITTED
UT Martin students feel confident, safe

Erin Chesnut
UT Martin

MARTIN — According to a survey of almost 1,000 students enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2018 semester, students feel connected to and encouraged by their professors; are confident in the skills they learn in the classroom; and feel safe in the campus community. These results were reported in the third and final phase of a two-year research project conducted by Gallup Inc. to determine how academic and social experiences at UT Martin impact both current students and alumni. The phase-three survey gathered responses from 909 students who were enrolled during the spring 2018 semester.

While UT Martin scored higher than the national average in a number of areas, the results seem to reinforce the school’s message that UT Martin faculty and staff care about the long-term accomplishments of their students and want to help them succeed however possible.

Survey respondents show that UT Martin students are more likely than their national counterparts to seek the help and advice of faculty mentors. Sixty-seven percent of respondents say they meet with faculty members two or more times per year (compared to 59 percent nationally), and 61 percent of respondents say they talk to faculty and staff members about their career options often (compared to 45 percent nationally).

UT Martin faculty also make an effort to assist students with their career choices, and 79 percent of respondents say they have had a faculty-initiated conversation about their careers during their time at UT Martin. Only 63 percent of national respondents could say the same thing. Students also report having faculty mentors who encourage them, feeling important to their professors on a personal level, and having at least one faculty member who makes them excited about learning.

Eighty-eight percent of survey participants either agree or strongly agree that UT Martin is committed to academic excellence, and the same percentage feels academically challenged by their major coursework. Finally, 82 percent of respondents have someone at UT Martin they can count on to help plan their course to graduation, and 89 percent know where to go with questions about degree requirements.

UT Martin also surpassed national averages in areas where students were asked about the value, quality and relevance of their education both inside and outside of the classroom. Fifty-seven percent of respondents strongly agree they will graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the workplace, while only 36 percent of students nationally said they felt the same.

UT Martin’s results show almost double the number of positive responses to questions regarding whether the education received at UT Martin is worth the cost, as compared to the national average. In fact, 60 percent of survey respondents say they would still enroll at UT Martin if they could make the decision over again.

Finally, UT Martin students report feeling safe on campus (60 percent) and comfortable sharing unpopular ideas in class (33 percent). The national averages for the same questions are 39 and 22 percent, respectively. The survey also indicates that 54 percent of respondents feel that UT Martin would do the right thing if a student reported a sexual assault, as compared to only 36 percent of students nationally who are confident in their institutions.

Phase one of this project exclusively surveyed university alumni to discover how their UT Martin experiences impacted their lives after graduation. The results from 2,623 responses showed intense alumni pride and attachment to their alma mater. Phase two dealt with qualitative responses from 20 phone interviews with alumni who graduated between 2011 and 2016 and also yielded positive results.

For more information on this survey, or to see full demographic information for the response pools from this or any previous phase, contact the UT Martin Office of the Chancellor at 731-881-7500.
UT Martin names local students to honor roll

Aug 5, 2018

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2018 Chancellor's Honor Rolls. To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Local students who were honored include: Trisha N. Crutcher (Cedar Hill), Highest Honors; Brittany D. Edwards (Cedar Hill), Honors; William T. Gregory (Cross Plains), Highest Honors; Torger O. Torgersen (Cross Plains), Highest Honors; Madelyn M. Dycus (Greenbrier), High Honors; Erin T. Keenan (Greenbrier), High Honors; Hailey E. Williford (Greenbrier), Highest Honors; Christopher A. Avallone (Springfield), Honors; Ragan L. Sloan (Springfield), Highest Honors; Jason P. Repath (White House), High Honors; Kristen M. Speer (Goodlettsville), Highest Honors; Chelsea E. Frase (Pleasant View), Highest Honors; Shelby R. Guffey (Pleasant View), Honors; Timothy C. Minton (Pleasant View), High Honors; William M. Alexander (Portland), Highest Honors; Julia R. Anderson (Portland), High Honors; Trey D. Hinton (Portland), High Honors; Elizabeth F. Sapp (Portland), High Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference concludes at University of Tennessee at Martin

kmorris Aug 6, 2018

Dr. Jim Byford, a familiar face to generations of Tennessee 4-Hers, plays and sings for a group during the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference. Byford, who retired from the university in 2009 and is dean emeritus for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, has continued his involvement with 4-H following his retirement.

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Service-learning projects included 4-Hers working with children at the Martin Housing Authority and UT Martin’s Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center, as well as assembling more than 250 care packages for the homeless that will be distributed through RIFA in Jackson.

“Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program,” said Justin Crowe, UT Extension 4-H specialist. “Each year, 4-Hers statewide perform tens of thousands of hours of service at an estimated value of over $2 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-Hers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities.”

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SUPPORT FOR UTM — Warner Pace (left, UT Martin '75 and '85), owner of Kirkland's Antiques, Gifts and Interiors in Martin, is pictured with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver inside his store on Lindell Street. Pace made an estate pledge to the university that will help support student scholarships and the Ned Ray McWherter Institute.

UTM honors donors who gave $7.5 million in support

The University of Tennessee at Martin surpassed $7.5 million in annual giving during the 2017-18 year thanks to the support of thousands of university donors. This total breaks the university's previous five-year fundraising average of $5.9 million.

"I'm extremely grateful for the generosity of the University of Tennessee at Martin's alumni, friends and business partners this past year," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "Our future success depends on continued investment into our people and programs. There's much enthusiasm on campus about our path forward."

The four largest gifts in this fiscal year total $5 million and will directly benefit UT Martin students through scholarships and program enhancements.

Dr. Joyce Smith, a 1953 UT Martin graduate, and Dr. Ted Mosch, professor emeritus of political science, left the university a combined $2.2 million through their estates. Smith, of Huntsville, Alabama, died in March, and Mosch died in July. Both of these gifts will support scholarships campus-wide. An additional pledge from an anonymous donor will specifically be used to support agricultural scholarships after the donor's death.

Warner Pace (UT Martin '75 and '85), owner of Kirkland's Antiques, Gifts and Interiors in Martin, made the fourth pledge in support of campus scholarships and the Ned Ray McWherter Institute. The institute, named after the Weakley County native and former governor, seeks to prepare select students to change northwest Tennessee's economy and workforce through entrepreneurship and collaboration.

"UT Martin gave me a great start back in the fall of 1970, and I later finished with two degrees. I had to always work to pay my way, but I am thankful for my parents who instilled a great work ethic in me. I want to give back and make a difference in students' lives for years to come, those who are willing to work," said Pace.

The fourth-annual Captain's Challenge fundraising event, held during "I Heart UTM" week in April, raised more than $312,000 in 24 hours and supported more than 140 different campus areas. Alumni in 38 states and eight countries participated in this event, and 1,030 contributed.

Fundraising priorities for the 2018-19 academic year include regional and statewide scholarships, the Ned Ray McWherter Institute, a proposed Innovation and Product Realization Facility, and the addition of a concert hall to the Fine Arts Building.

"Including the university in your estate plans can bring peace of mind that your donation will be used as you request and will assist UT Martin for years to come," said Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s organizational structure is changing to better align with the new UT Martin Strategic Plan, approved in June by the UT Board of Trustees. The changes will combine two administrative positions into a single position that will manage functions responsible for research, outreach and economic development. All regular-credit academic programs previously managed by the university’s office of educational outreach will immediately report to Dr. Phil Cavalier, the university’s new provost.

“This idea surfaced as a major goal within the new strategic plan and was further refined by a task force that examined these functions,” said Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor. “An administrative position will be eliminated, and the academic and outreach missions of the university are streamlined through this reorganization.”

Dr. Brian Donavant, previously the interim executive director for educational outreach, will return to his faculty position in the criminal justice program and continue his leadership role with the Title III Grant program, which focuses on faculty development and student success. He will work directly with Carver through the end of this December as he completes several ongoing projects related to partnerships with area community colleges and a dual admissions program. The vacant executive director’s position with the office of educational outreach will not be filled.

Donavant is credited with his work to open the university’s newest center last summer in Somerville, initiating the UT Martin Jackson Center’s move to Jackson State Community College earlier this year and opening opportunities at the university for National Guard members who attend college through the Tennessee Strong tuition-reimbursement program.

“Dr. Donavant has done an exceptional job leading this effort for the past two and a half years,” Carver said. “I am grateful for his work to promote our centers, our online programs, expand dual credit and create numerous efficiencies within the Office of Educational Outreach. I look forward to working with him throughout the remainder of the year.”

With the reorganization, areas reporting to Cavalier include the university’s five educational-outreach centers, UT Martin Online and the dual enrollment program. A new position will lead the office of research, outreach, and economic development and manage the office of research, grants and contracts, economic development, non-degree programs, and coordinate UT Martin’s government relations efforts.

“I’m excited about the potential this new organizational structure has for moving the university forward, not only on the main campus, but throughout West Tennessee and beyond,” Carver said. “I’m grateful to our strategic plan steering committee and the reorganization task force for their vision in moving UT Martin to the next level.”
MARTIN, Tenn. — Family, friends, colleagues and former students gathered late Friday afternoon, July 27, to dedicate the Michelle Horton Tribute Garden at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The garden is located on the quadrangle side of the Sociology Building where the late educator both studied as a student and taught as a faculty member. Horton died of cancer May 20, 2016. More than $10,000 was raised to create the garden in her memory.

UT-Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed those attending and thanked the project's supporters, including the UT Board of Trustees for approving the naming. He noted that Horton was both a UT Martin graduate and later a faculty member. "But her impact on her students is what's immeasurable, especially given the large demographic of first-generation college students that she taught right here in rural West Tennessee."

Alicia Maya Donaldson, UT Martin Social Work Program director and Horton's friend and colleague, followed Carver on the program and briefly recalled Horton's life and career. Among Horton's professional accomplishments, she worked at UT Martin from 2002 until 2015, serving both as Social Work Program director and earning the rank of professor. In 2008, she was appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen and reappointed by Gov. Bill Haslam to the Tennessee Social Work Board of Licensure. Horton was also elected in 2012 to the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education.

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Among those attending the dedication was Dr. Donna Massey, professor of criminal justice, who led efforts to establish the tribute garden. Massey said that the garden is important "because Michelle was important, and the work she did was important, and we miss her."

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Final UT Martin orientation held August 10

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http://westkentuckystar.com

Wynonna Headlines Lions Club Telethon Concert
By West Kentucky Star Staff

PADUCAH - The annual Paducah Lions Club Telethon of Stars concert will bring some big name country stars to the Carson Center in September.

In a press release, WPSD said Wynonna and The Big Noise will headline the concert on September 22. Country star Collin Raye and Craig Wayne Boyd, who won Season 7 of NBC's "The Voice," will be special guests.

Tickets are on sale now at www.carsoncenter.org, and range from $15 - $35 each.

Another way to get involved in raising money for area centers that serve those with special needs is to make plans to attend the Gospel Show Recording Concert on September 9. The free event will be at Gospel Mission Church in Reidland, and will feature local performers and church choirs. Recording starts at 6 p.m.

The third way to help is to start collecting money now in preparation for the 62nd Telethon of Stars on November 17-18 on WPSD. This year, along with the open phone lines, a texting option and online donations, there will be a donation drop off site and a live watch party.

Money raised this year will be divided between three organizations; TLC of Southern IL, Easter Seals West Kentucky, and the UT-Martin Infant Stimulation Program.
ON CAMPUS

UT MARTIN FRESHMEN ATTEND ORIENTATION
Corey Slaughter (right), of Dyersburg, attended Summer Orientation and Registration at the University of Tennessee at Martin on July 23. Slaughter joined fellow members of the incoming freshman class to learn more about academic and student life opportunities, housing options, meal plans and student support services, as well as register for fall semester courses. The Dyer County High School graduate is pictured with his sister, Macy Slaughter, a current UT Martin student. Corey is the fourth Slaughter sibling to attend UT Martin. For more information about UT Martin and future orientation activities, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, August 8, 2018

UTM organizational structure changing as part of new plan

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Areas reporting to Cavalier include the university's five educational outreach centers, UT Martin Online and the Dual Enrollment Program. A new position will lead the Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development and manage the Office of Research, Grants and Contracts, economic development and non-degree programs and coordinate UT Martin's government relations efforts.
4-H honors announced

Thursday, August 9, 2018

Abby Parker of Shelbyville was recently recognized during Tennessee 4-H Roundup at the University of Tennessee at Martin with the Vol State award, the highest level of recognition a Tennessee 4-H member may achieve. Vol State is presented to high school juniors and seniors in recognition of excellence in all phases of 4-H work, as well as service and leadership rendered in their communities.

Submitted photo
Seven 4-H members received the Tennessee Farm Bureau Health Plans Nursing Scholarship at the recent Tennessee 4-H Roundup held at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Each received a $1,250 college scholarship based on 4-H accomplishments, academic achievements and financial need. The scholarships are provided by the Tennessee Farm Bureau Health Plans. Those present for the award presentation were, from left, Janesa Wine of Dickson; Reagan Bain of Jackson; Timothy Martin of Shelbyville; Sydnee Kalinsian of Bells; and Khole Arrowood of Ripley.

Submitted photo
Under Armour To Be Official Outfitter Of UTM Sports

AUGUST 9, 2018 AT 8:42 AM ▶ POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Martin, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin and Under Armour, Inc. announced a new partnership agreement. The Baltimore-based global leader in performance footwear, apparel and equipment will become the official outfitter of UT Martin beginning with the 2018-19 academic year.

As part of the multi-year agreement, Under Armour will provide on-field and training gear for 21 varsity sports. Additionally, Under Armour will outfit members of the athletic department including coaches and staff.

“We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Under Armour,” Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. “Our branding and visibility is very important here at UT Martin and we are proud that Under Armour will be representing our athletic department for many years to come.”

The new official outfitter agreement includes marketing entitlement that will complement Under Armour’s brand marketing campaigns through print and venue presence at the University.

UT Martin competes in the Ohio Valley Conference in the NCAA Division I ranks while the Skyhawk equestrian program is a member of the United Equestrian Conference in the National Collegiate Equestrian Association and the UT Martin rodeo program competes in the Ozark Region in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

UT Martin joins the growing Under Armour roster of NCAA partners that includes the University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Berkeley, University of Wisconsin, University of Notre Dame, Naval Academy Athletic Association, University of Maryland, Texas Tech University, Northwestern University, University of Cincinnati, Boston College, University of Utah, University of South Carolina and Auburn University.
62 percent of applicants to The University of Tennessee-Martin were admitted for fall 2017

EDUCATION

At The University of Tennessee-Martin, 82 percent of undergraduate students are traditional students - age 24 or younger - and 59 percent are female, according to the latest disclosure from the U.S. Department of Education.

The four-year public institution in Martin enrolled 6,772 students in fall 2017, including 6,330 in undergraduate and 442 in graduate programs, data shows. 8.8 percent of undergraduates transferred from another college or university.

90 percent of undergraduates are residents of Tennessee, and 8 percent are residents of other states. 2 percent are citizens of foreign countries.

The undergraduate student body is comprised mostly of students who identify as white (79 percent) and Black or African American (13 percent).

The school admitted 62 percent of the 4,884 students who applied for fall 2017. Of those who were admitted, 35 percent enrolled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The University of Tennessee-Martin admission</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicants</td>
<td>4,884</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted applicants</td>
<td>3,028</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WARNER PACE, left, a UT Martin '75 and '85 graduate and owner of Kirkland's Antiques, Gifts and Interiors in Martin, is pictured with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver inside his store on Lindell Street. Pace made an estate pledge to the university that will help support student scholarships and the Ned Ray McWherter Institute. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Warner Pace, Sr., of Ripley. The University of Tennessee at Martin surpassed $7.5 million in annual giving during the 2017-18 year thanks to the support of thousands of university donors. This total breaks the university's previous five-year fundraising average of $5.9 million.

"I'm extremely grateful for the generosity of the University of Tennessee at Martin's alumni, friends and business partners this past year," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "Our future success depends on continued investment into our people and programs. There's much enthusiasm on campus about our path forward."

"UT Martin gave me a great start back in the fall of 1970, and I later finished with two degrees. I had to always work to pay my way, but I am thankful for my parents who instilled a great work ethic in me. I want to give back and make a difference in students' lives for years to come, those who are willing to work," said Pace.
MELTON HONORED - Rachel Melton, a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored with the announcement of Rachel Melton Day in Martin on Tuesday. She was recognized for the publication of her book, "Est. 1873: An Illustrated History of Martin, Tenn.," and her work with the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Melton designed much of the signage to be used at this year's festival in September.
The UT Board of Trustees recently approved plans for UTM to offer a new Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business. This new degree program has been in the planning stages for the past two years, and all new courses will be taught by existing faculty members.

The program is an expansion of UTM's existing concentration where students studying general agriculture could take select courses in agricultural business. Now, students will be able to earn a specialized bachelor's degree in agricultural business with concentrations in areas such as agricultural marketing or agricultural finance.

"There is a large demand for agribusiness professionals. Nearly half of all agriculture jobs are directly related to agribusiness," said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics. "New students who enter the program will benefit from a specialized degree which will help them compete with existing programs. They will be able to market their degree as an agricultural business degree as opposed to a traditional agriculture degree."

Mehlhorn said current students pursuing the existing agricultural business concentration can choose whether to move to the new catalog requirements for the independent degree program or to continue on their current course of study. Incoming students automatically will be enrolled in the new degree program beginning with the fall 2018 semester.

With the addition of this new bachelor's degree, UTM now offers 18 bachelor's degree programs with more than 100 specialized concentrations as well as five graduate-level programs. The new B.S. in agricultural business will be offered through the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources within the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. For more information, contact the department at 731-881-7260.
The award-winning Tennessee Soybean Festival recently announce a new event this year, Froggyland's Got Talent. The new talent show is coordinated in partnership with Froggy 103.7 and will take place on Sept. 3 at the Oxford Street Stage.

"This partnership with Froggy 103.7 for Froggyland's Got Talent will be a great kick-off event to the Tennessee Soybean Festival," said David Belote, Tennessee Soybean Festival director. "We hope to bring people from all over to Martin to participate and support this show. We love to create events that put Martin and the Tennessee Soybean Festival on the map and I know this event will be a big hit."

The show will feature vocal groups, dancers, musicians, magicians and even comedians. Contestants will have one minute and 30 seconds to perform their talent in the qualifying rounds. If selected to compete, they will be eligible for the $1,000 grand prize.

Contestants must attend one of the two qualifying rounds to move on to the Froggyland's Got Talent Show on Sept. 3. The qualifying rounds are open to contestants 12 years of age or older and the first qualifying round will take place this Saturday at Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Registration will officially open at 1 p.m. and end at 2.

The second qualifying round, if needed, will take place on Aug. 18 at the same location with registration to officially open at 4 p.m. and end at 5.

Froggy 103.7 will be giving out five golden tickets to be awarded by the judges, which will allow each of the five recipients to automatically advance to the finals and bypass scoring and judging. All additional qualifying auditions will be viewable on the Froggy 103.7 website and viewers can vote for their favorite.

Following all performances in the qualifying rounds, the seven acts with the highest cumulative score will be invited to perform in the final round of Froggyland's Got Talent on Sept. 3, in addition to the five golden ticket winners.
UTM Receives Veteran Reconnect Grant; 1 Of 14 In State

PHOTO ID: UT Martin students (l-r) Zach Barker, Melissa Walker, Tyler Shaw and Bo Pate are all members of the Tennessee Army National Guard.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin is one of 14 institutions statewide to receive a 2018 Veteran Reconnect Grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. THEC awarded a total of $889,277 through the grant program this year, and UT Martin received $78,570.

According to a THEC press release, the 2018 grants are focused on improving prior learning assessments for student veterans returning to college. This assessment process examines a veteran’s military training and grants equivalent college credit for skills obtained during service, potentially allowing student veterans to complete their degrees in a shorter period of time. Selected institutions are responsible for developing and improving evaluation processes while ensuring this information is readily accessible to both prospective and incoming student veterans.

"Earning college credit for military training can be the difference between a student applying to a school or moving on to the next opportunity," said Mike Krause, THEC executive director. "When a veteran is able to use credit for their military training toward their college degree, they are more likely to persist and finish their program of study."

UT Martin hosted a workshop Aug. 9 to help faculty better understand the process of awarding college credit for skills obtained during military service. Representatives from THEC and the American Council of Education asked faculty representatives to evaluate a list of military occupational specialties and determine equivalent course credits available at UT Martin. This information, along with credits granted by other institutions, will be available online in the future.

The Veteran Reconnect Grant Program is part of Gov. Bill Haslam’s Drive to 55 initiative to increase the number of Tennessee adults with postsecondary degrees or certificates to 55 percent by the year 2025.

"Many veterans in Tennessee put their education on hold to serve our nation in the armed forces and, as a state, we have an obligation to support them in completing their education," said Haslam. "Through the Drive to 55, we can connect veterans with the postsecondary credentials that will help them further stand out in the workforce. Veteran Reconnect is one more way that Tennessee is investing in veterans and their future."

Other institutions receiving grants this year are Bethel University; East Tennessee State University; Lane College; Middle Tennessee State University; Nashville State Community College; Northeast State Community College; Roane State Community College; Tennessee State University; Tusculum University; the University of Memphis; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Walters State Community College.

For more information on UT Martin Veterans Services, contact Dyer at jdyer16@utm.edu or 731-881-1689. For information on the Veteran Reconnect Grant Program, contact Ken Hanson, THEC assistant director for adult learner initiatives, at ken.hanson@tn.gov or 615-253-7449.
UTM alumni helping build new Martin Public Library

Posted on August 11, 2018 by Steve James in Local News

UTM alumni are giving back to the community through the funding and design of the new Martin Public Library.

UTM alum Langdon Unger was the first president of the Martin Public Library Foundation, an organization established to receive charitable donations towards the funding of the new building and its services.

UTM chancellor emeritus Dr. Nick Dunagan is the current foundation president and says the city has received a $5.5 million dollar USDA Rural Development grant, but still needs $1.5 million dollars to complete the necessary funds.

The new two-story library will feature a large children's area and a teen zone, community meeting spaces, a dedicated genealogy research room, and workshop areas where community classes in skills such as cooking, sewing and painting can be taught.

The new library building will anchor the downtown Martin area on the corner of Lindell Street and University Street, where the Martin Police Department and UT Martin REED Center currently sit.

Fellow alum, David Warren, has designed libraries all over the world, and is working with the Jackson-based architectural firm TLM Associates Inc. to make the new Martin library a modern, state-of-the-art facility.

Construction on the new building is anticipated to begin in mid-2019 with hopes that the facility will open to the public in 2020.
MARTIN – One hundred percent of nursing graduates from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2018 class passed their National Council Licensing Examinations this year as first-time test-takers. The NCLEX is a mandatory examination to receive licensure as a registered nurse, and this total includes students from both the UT Martin main campus and the Parsons Center.

“The faculty at UT Martin value the current and future success of our students. We are committed to ensuring that our graduates are prepared for the NCLEX and their careers in the profession,” said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor of nursing and department chair. “Our curriculum is challenging yet preparatory for both the NCLEX and clinical practice, and our signature three years of clinical rotations play a key role in students' preparation.”

UT Martin has educated nurses for more than 45 years, and program graduates hold many positions in the health care field to make a difference in the lives of their patients.

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

“I think no matter where you attend school, the NCLEX is nerve-wracking. However, UTM prepared me more than I ever expected. We have a 100 percent NCLEX pass rate for a reason,” said Brittany Benjamin, a 2018 graduate from South Fulton.

Benjamin has secured a position in the orthopedic trauma unit at Vanderbilt University and says interviewers were impressed by her academic résumé.

“It goes to show how amazing our program is and how well known we are to employers. They know this program prepares us for life after graduation. Out of the largest selection of applicants at Vanderbilt, I landed my dream job, and I do believe that graduating from such a rigorous program is what helped separate me from other (applicants),” she said.

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

For more information on the UT Martin Department of Nursing, contact the department directly at 731-881-7080 or email nursing@utm.edu.
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UT Martin alumni assist with new city library

An artist's architectural rendering of the proposed library building shows a two-story structure facing Lindell Street in Martin. SUBMITTED.
ERIN CHESNUT
UT Martin

MARTIN – Alumni from the University of Tennessee at Martin are giving back to the community through the funding and design of a new library for the city of Martin. While the Martin Public Library Foundation includes many UT Martin graduates, Dr. Nick Dunagan ('68), UT Martin chancellor emeritus and current foundation president; and his wife, Cathy ('68); Langdon Under ('80), former foundation president; and David Warren ('67), library consultant and major project donor; are all serving in key leadership positions.

Under, a local attorney, served as the first president of the Martin Public Library Foundation and established the organization to receive charitable donations toward the funding of the new building and its services. Dunagan took over as the foundation's second president to focus on fundraising and make a difference in the future of the community.

"One of the reasons that I'm involved is because I think this is really going to be great for the community, and I'm excited about it," Dunagan said. "It was something that my wife (Cathy) and I talked about, and we both felt that this was an issue ... that could really make a difference for the community. So we said, 'Let's put our time and effort into this.' I'm out in front, but she offers a lot of good advice, also."

Dunagan says the city has received a $5.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program but still needs to raise $1.5 million to complete the necessary funds.

The new library will have numerous features, including a large children's area and a teen zone, community meeting spaces, a dedicated genealogy research room, and workshop areas where community classes in skills such as cooking, sewing and painting can be taught. The two-story building will anchor the downtown Martin area on the corner of Lindell and University streets, where the Martin Police Department and UT Martin REED Center currently sit. The police department will relocate to a new building currently under construction north of town.

Warren ('67), who has designed libraries all over the world, is working with the Jackson-based architectural firm TLM Associates Inc. to ensure the new Martin library is truly a modern, state-of-the-art facility of which the community can be proud.

"(Warren) has provided untold credibility, suggestions and expertise. In addition to being a major donor, he's looking at all of our plans and making sure that we have a 21st century library," Dunagan said.

Dunagan feels the construction of a modern library will not only serve current Martin residents but assist with the recruitment of employees to work in area industries, including UT Martin.

"I think (the library) will be a very positive recruiting tool for UT Martin, as well as anybody that's looking to settle in Martin, whether they're with MTD or any other business, or a business that's looking to locate here in the future. ... (People moving in) want a safe environment. They want an environment that's going to be conducive to their kids getting the very best foundation for an education," Dunagan said.

According to Dunagan, the current C.E. Weldon Library building is a historic landmark in the community, having previously served as the town post office, and will be maintained as a city building after the construction of the new library.

Construction on the new building is anticipated to begin in mid-2019, with hopes that the facility will open to the public in 2020.

For more information on the City of Martin Public Library or to contribute to the fundraising campaign, contact Dunagan at: ndunagan@utm.edu
All UTM nurses pass licensing test

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Benjamin has secured a position in the orthopedic trauma unit at Vanderbilt University and says interviewers were impressed by her academic resume.

“It goes to show how amazing our program is and how well-known we are to employers. They know this program prepares us for life after graduation. Out of the largest selection of applicants at Vanderbilt, I landed my dream job, and I do believe that graduating from such a rigorous program is what helped separate me from other (applicants),” she said.

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UT Martin received a $889,277 grant this year, and UT Martin veterans returned $78,570. The University of Tennessee at Martin is one of 14 institutions statewide to receive a 2018 Veteran Re connect Grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. THEC awards a total of $889,277 through the grant program each year, and UT Martin received $78,570.

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ATTENDS ORIENTATION — Cole Nanney, of Martin, attended summer orientation and registration at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Aug. 10. Nanney is a graduate of Westview High School, and plans to major in agricultural business. With him is his mother Kelley Nanney.
WC residents receive scholarships

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Peyton Black, son of Julie Donaldson, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the University Scholar Award and the Chancellor Scholarship.

- Reid Chandler, son of Homer and Shari Chandler, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the James and Donna Westbrook Family Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

- Braden Cooper, son of Steve and Joy Cooper, of Dresden, will be a freshman. He received the Southwest Family Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

- William Erwin, son of John and Teresa Erwin, of Sharon, will be a junior. He received the Rebecca Murphy Shelton Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

- Bri Hampton, of Martin, daughter of Jerri Hampton McFarland and Brandy Hudson, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Music Award, the Martin Kiwanis Scholarship, the Harold Conner Scholarship, the Band Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

- Kyle Hart, son of David and Dana Hart, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

- Karly Ogg, of Martin, daughter of Scotty Ogg and Brandy Workman, will be a junior. She received the Tennessee Farmers Co-Op Scholarship.

- Rex Roberts, son of Lee and Anna Roberts, of Sharon, will be a sophomore. He received the Jere B. Ford Memorial Scholarship and the Excellence Scholarship.

- Nathan Willis, of Martin, son of Jennifer Powers, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

- Nathan Winstead, son of Allen and Rebecca Winstead, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Local students receive UT Martin scholarships

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Mahala Perry, daughter of Tim and Jennifer Perry of Humboldt, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Advance Scholarship.

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Jaclyn Baker of Dyer, daughter of Gary Glisson, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Promise Scholarship.

Morgan Campbell, daughter of Jerald and Sonya Campbell of Trenton, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Laquita Clark of Trenton will be a senior. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.

Jennifer Easterday of Milan will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.

Joshua London, son of Brett and Mary Gay London of Dyer, will be a sophomore. He received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.
CROSSER ATTENDS SOAR AT UTM – Brittle Crosser (left), of Medina, attended Summer Orientation and Registration at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Aug. 10. Crosser is a graduate of South Gibson High School and plans to major in nursing. Crosser was accompanied by her mother, Kristi Walker.
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ACT boot camp sessions offered several times at local university

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host ACT boot camp sessions from 8 a.m. to noon Aug. 25, Oct. 20 or Dec. 1 on the main campus in Martin.

The registration fee is $45 per student.

These sessions are intended to help high school students prepare for the ACT college entrance exam or improve upon previous scores. Alex Beene, lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three West Tennessee counties, will help students discover time-saving strategies to complete the exam and learn to study effectively.

Beene is an adjunct instructor for UT Martin as well as a published author and local educator. He has mentored more than 1,000 students preparing for the ACT and SAT exams in the past six years.

All students should bring a pencil and paper to the workshop.

ACT boot camp sessions will also be hosted at UT Martin's educational outreach centers. Additional dates are Oct. 16 at the UT Martin Jackson Center; Sept. 15 at the UT Martin Parsons Center; and Oct. 13 at the UT Martin Somerville Center. A workshop will also be held Sept. 29 at Henry County High School in Paris.

To register for any of these dates, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082.
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"The faculty at UT Martin value the current and future success of our students. We are committed to ensuring that our graduates are prepared for the NCLEX and their careers in the profession," said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor of nursing and department chair at UT Martin.

"Our curriculum is challenging yet preparatory for both the NCLEX and clinical practice, and our signature three years of clinical rotations play a key role in students' preparation."

UT Martin has educated nurses for more than 45 years, and program graduates hold many positions in the health-care field to make a difference in the lives of their patients.

Students who leave UT Martin with a bachelor of science in nursing degree complete more than 900 clinical hours in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state and gain experience in surgical, intensive care, maternity, pediatric, geriatric, mental health and emergency units, among others.

Classes are also provided on topics such as leadership skills and community-based nursing in addition to clinical learning opportunities.

"I think no matter where you attend school, the NCLEX is nerve-wracking. However, UTM prepared me more than I ever expected. We have a 100 percent NCLEX pass rate for a reason," said Brittany Benjamin, a 2018 graduate from South Fulton.

"Although I was nervous, I was confident after I left (the exam). ... It's all because UT Martin sets their standards high, and we all excel because of it."

Ms. Benjamin has already secured a position in the orthopedic trauma unit at Vanderbilt University and says interviewers were impressed by her academic résumé.

"It goes to show how amazing our program is and how well known we are to employers. They know this program prepares us for life after graduation. Out of the largest selection of applicants at Vanderbilt, I landed my dream job, and I do believe that graduating from such a rigorous program is what helped separate me from other (applicants)," she said.
UTM Nursing grads “pass” rate 100%

One hundred percent of nursing graduates from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2018 class passed their National Council Licensure Examinations this year as first-time test-takers. The NCLEX is a mandatory examination to receive licensure as a registered nurse, and this total includes students from both the UT Martin main campus and the Parsons Center.

“The faculty at UT Martin value the current and future success of our students. We are committed to ensuring that our graduates are prepared for the NCLEX and their careers in the profession,” said Dr. Mary Radford, associate professor of nursing and department chair. “Our curriculum is challenging yet preparatory for both the NCLEX and clinical practice, and our signature three years of clinical rotations play a key role in students’ preparation.”

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“It goes to show how amazing our program is and how well known we are to employers. They know this program prepares us for life after graduation. Out of the largest selection of applicants at Vanderbilt, I landed my dream job, and I do believe that graduating from such a rigorous program is what helped separate me from other (applicants),” she said.

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

For more information on the UT Martin Department of Nursing, contact the department directly at 731-881-7080 or email nursing@utm.edu.
UTM Receives Veteran Reconnect Grant

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is one of 14 institutions statewide to receive a 2018 Veteran Reconnect Grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. THEC awarded a total of $889,277 through the grant program this year, and UT Martin received $78,570.

According to a THEC press release, the 2018 grants are focused on improving prior learning assessments for student veterans returning to college. This assessment process examines a veteran’s military training and grants equivalent college credit for skills obtained during service, potentially allowing student veterans to complete their degrees in a shorter period of time.

Selected institutions are responsible for developing and improving evaluation processes while ensuring this information is readily accessible to both prospective and incoming student veterans.

“Earning college credit for military training can be the difference between a student applying to a school or moving on to the next opportunity,” said Mike Krause, THEC executive director. “When a veteran is able to use credit for their military training toward their college degree, they are more likely to persist and finish their program of study.”

UT Martin hosted a workshop Aug. 9 to help faculty better understand the process of awarding college credit for skills obtained during military service. Representatives from THEC and the American Council of Education asked faculty representatives to evaluate a list of military occupational specialties and determine equivalent course credits available at UT Martin. This information, along with credits granted by other institutions, will be available online in the future.

The Veteran Reconnect Grant Program is part of Gov. Bill Haslam’s Drive to 55 initiative to increase the number of Tennessee adults with postsecondary degrees or certificates to 55 percent by the year 2025.

“Many veterans in Tennessee put their education on hold to serve our nation in the armed forces and, as a state, we have an obligation to support them in completing their education,” said Haslam. “Through the Drive to 55, we can connect veterans with the postsecondary credentials that will help them further stand out in the workforce. Veteran Reconnect is one more way that Tennessee is investing in veterans and their future.”

Other institutions receiving grants this year are Bethel University; East Tennessee State University; Lane College; Middle Tennessee State University; Nashville State Community College; Northeast State Community College; Roane State Community College; Tennessee State University; Tusculum University; the University of Memphis; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Walters State Community College.

For more information on UT Martin Veterans Services, contact Dyer at jdyer16@utm.edu or 731-881-1689. For information on the Veteran Reconnect Grant Program, contact Ken Hanson, THEC assistant director for adult learner initiatives, at ken.hanson@tn.gov or 615-253-7449.
Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Peyton Black, son of Julie Donaldson, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the University Scholar Award and the Chancellor Scholarship.

Reid Chandler, son of Homer and Sharis Chandler, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the James and Donna Westbrook Family Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

Braden Cooper, son of Steve and Joy Cooper, of Dresden, will be a freshman. He received the James and Donna Westbrook Family Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

William Erwin, son of John and Teresa Erwin, of Sharon, will be a junior. He received the Rebecca Murphy Shelton Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

Bri Hampton, of Martin, daughter of Jermi Hampton McFarland and Brandy Hudson, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Kyle Hart, son of David and Dana Hart, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

Rex Roberts, son of Lee and Anna Roberts, of Sharon, will be a sophomore. He received the Jere B. Ford Memorial Scholarship and the Excellence Scholarship.

Nathan Willis, of Martin, son of Jennifer Powers, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

Nathan Winstead, son of Allen and Rebecca Winstead, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

Event planned at UTM — "What Your Mama Didn't Tell You and Your Girlfriends May Not Know" is the theme for the second annual What-Women-Want event to be held Oct. 16 at UTM's Boling University. Vendor booths are still available for this event with keynote speaker Dr. Lisa Piercey, a West Tennessee native who serves as the executive vice president at West Tennessee Healthcare. The event includes dinner and a fashion show and is co-sponsored by WLJT and West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Hospital. To reserve a vendor's booth for $50, call 800-366-9558 or 731-881-7561.
National Night Out Highlights

UTM SCHOLARSHIPS

Lauderdale County students, who have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, include Sarah Barnes, of Ripley, who will be a senior. She received the Jim and Frances Fitzhugh Scholarship.

Magan Connell, who will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.

Tylor Rouser, who will be a freshman. He received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Advance Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Bldg., or by calling 731-881-7040.
UTM receives Veteran Reconnect Grant

UTM is one of 14 institutions statewide to receive a 2018 Veteran Reconnect Grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. THEC awarded a total of $889,277 through the grant program this year, and UTM received $78,570.

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UTM hosted a workshop Aug. 9 to help faculty better understand the process of awarding college credit for skills obtained during military service. Representatives from THEC and the American Council of Education asked faculty representatives to evaluate a list of military occupational specialties and determine equivalent course credits available at UTM. This information, along with credits granted by other institutions, will be available online in the future.

The Veteran Reconnect Grant Program is part of Gov. Bill Haslam’s Drive to 55 initiative to increase the number of Tennessee adults with postsecondary degrees or certificates to 55 percent by the year 2025.

"Many veterans in Tennessee put their education on hold to serve our nation in the armed forces and, as a state, we have an obligation to support them in completing their education," said Haslam. "Through the Drive to 55, we can connect veterans with the postsecondary credentials that will help them further stand out in the workforce. Veteran Reconnect is one more way that Tennessee is investing in veterans and their future."

Other universities receiving grants this year are Bethel, ETSU, Lane College, MTSU, TSU, Tusculum University, University of Memphis, and UT. State community colleges receiving grants include Nashville, Northeast, Roane, and Walters.

For more information on UTM Veterans Services, contact Dyer at jdyer16@utm.edu or 731-881-1689. For information on the Veteran Reconnect Grant Program, contact Ken Hanson, THEC assistant director for adult learner initiatives, at ken.hanson@tn.gov or 615-253-7449.
Area students receive UTM scholarships

Several Benton County students have been awarded scholarships to attend UTM for the 2018-19 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Sophomore Chey Eben, daughter of Cindy Eben, of Camden, received the Retired Accounting Faculty Scholarship. This award is in addition to any other scholarships or awards she has received in the past.

Freshmen Jazzlynn Coffey, daughter of Tiffany Coffey, of Camden; and Adam Johnson, son of James and Denise Johnson, of Big Sandy; both received Achieve Scholarships.

The Achieve Scholarship is awarded competitively to in-state students, and is $500 per year, or up to $2,000 for four years. On average, students receiving this scholarship hold a high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 or higher, and earn ACT composite scores of 21 or above. Students must attend full time and maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA at the end of each spring semester in order to get the award again the next fall.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UTM Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 731-881-7040.

RECORD HIGH -- New Student Orientation at UTM Parsons was well attended. The first ever Alumni Skyhawk Sendoff Reception was held for new students, with speakers from financial aid, career services, and the Paul Meek Library available to help. UTM Parsons expects to enroll 400 students for the fall semester, the highest enrollment in the school's history. Classes begin Aug. 27.
Local students take part in Tennessee Governor's School

8/17/2018

Rutherford County Students Samuel Cothron, Anna Green and William Ren, all of Smyrna, and Hannah Tritschler (not pictured), of Murfreesboro, spent the month of June at the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. The students were chosen to participate after a rigorous application process. Selected students earn six hours of college credit in the agricultural sciences and participate in hands-on, real-world agriculture. SUBMITTED
A UT Martin Department of Public Safety Officer is among 10 law enforcement officers to graduate from the TBI’s Leadership Academy.

UTM Public Safety Officer Tara Beauchamp (pictured front center) and nine other law enforcement officers from across the state graduated from the fifth TBI Leadership Academy this week.

The Academy was created to enhance leadership training for law enforcement executives from across the state. The two week course is geared toward individuals who already have at least five years of law enforcement experience, and at least three years of supervisory experience.

Along with the UT Martin Department of Public Safety, other agencies represented in the 2018 TBI Leadership Academy include: Morristown Police Department, Shelbyville Police Department, Bartlett Police Department, and Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office.

Five members of supervision at TBI were also among the graduates of this month’s Academy.
**NEW TOOL AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS**

MARTIN, Tenn. – Transfer students from any institution can now use the University of Tennessee at Martin’s transfer equivalency self-service feature to determine how earned college credits will apply toward any UT Martin degree program.

“We know the first question transfer students ask when looking at colleges and universities is related to how their coursework will transfer into a new degree program. TESS makes that process quick and easy, and the system can be accessed at any time,” said Destin Tucker, director of the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

This online tool provides an unofficial transcript evaluation for potential transfer students and allows them to see how transfer credits may be used toward a new degree program. Official transcript and degree evaluations will be completed after UT Martin admission. The credits to be evaluated must have been earned in 1995 or later.

Users can access the self-service program at utm.edu/tess. Online instructions are available through the UT Martin Registrar’s website at utm.edu/tessinfo.

Students must complete a minimum of 25 percent of degree coursework through UT Martin to receive a UT Martin degree.

For more information or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitmco@utm.edu.

**UT MARTIN TO BEGIN FALL SEMESTER AUG. 27**

MARTIN, Tenn. – Fall semester courses begin Aug. 27 for students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This includes all five educational outreach centers as well as the main campus. Incoming freshmen begin moving into on-campus residence halls Aug. 24 during Move-In Mania, which kicks off Welcome Weekend and First-Year Initiative for new students.

Other significant fall semester dates include:
- Sept. 3 – Labor Day holiday; university is closed
- Sept. 15 – Family Weekend
- Oct. 15-16 – Fall break; no classes meet; university offices are open
- Oct. 27 – Homecoming
- Nov. 21-23 – Thanksgiving holiday; no classes meet; university closed Nov. 22-23
- Dec. 7 – Last day of class
- Dec. 10-14 – Final exams
- Dec. 15 – Commencement

All tuition and fee payments are due by Aug. 22 to avoid having course schedules dropped. Financial assistance refunds will be distributed during the week of Sept. 10.

For additional information or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

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**FREE Training Opportunity: “Life in the State of Poverty” Simulation**

The UT Martin Social Work Department and the NW Council on Children and Youth invites you to attend this FREE Training Opportunity, “Life in the State of Poverty”, Friday, September 7, 2018, at UT Martin. This Simulation Training is limited to the first 55 Registrants. See attached information below and flyer to register.

“LIFE IN THE STATE OF POVERTY” TRAINING

Date: Friday, September 7, 2018
Time: 9:30 AM – Noon
Location: UT Martin – Boling University Center Ballroom
Registration Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4aa9a72fa658-f1f

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF SIMULATION BOOTHS**

Professionals who have been through the training, are needed to staff the booths for the Poverty Simulation on Friday, September 7th. Please help us make this a successful event. Volunteers would need to arrive by 8:30 am.

UT Martin Social Work Department is also looking for volunteers to help staff the booths for the Students’ Simulations. Below find the online link where you can sign up to volunteer for the September 7th Community Poverty Simulation or the two student events to be held in October. You can also email Dana Cobb or Amy McLean if you can volunteer.

Here is the link for volunteer sign up:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4aa9a72fa658-f1f

Please contact Dana.Cobb@utm.gov or Amy McLean at amylean@utm.edu if you need any additional information.

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http://www.theherald-news.com

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**Local students receive scholarships**

Aug. 19, 2018

Following is a list of local students who received scholarships in 2017 and 2018. We will continue to run schools in alphabetical order as space permits.

- Thomas Joseph Ricko of Plainfield – Chancellor Scholarship to attend UT Martin
Passing the torch of greatness

Rev. Conner remembered at Homecoming event

By KAREN CAMPBELL Press Reporter

A weekend focused on remembering and celebrating culminated on Saturday evening as the Weakley County Alumni Association, graduates, families, and friends gathered at the University of Tennessee at Martin to focus on “Passing the Torch of Greatness.” The sold-out dinner and presentation recognized the legacy of educator and the Rev. Harold Conner, bestowed scholarships on 2018 Westview graduates and rejoiced with the reunited United Collegiate Choir.

Following a welcome by Association president Beverly Claybrooks, nine former members of the choir started by Rev. Conner performed favorites from their earlier days behind the microphones. Orrin Cowley Jr. and Danny Donaldson provided music during the dinner that saw close to 200 gathered around tables reminiscing.

Claybrooks and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige both recalled the words of Rev. Conner, “You must be the best that you can be,” as they addressed the crowd. Claybrooks particularly praised the mayor’s assistance in the ongoing pursuit of having a Martin street named for the evening’s inspiration and a monument recognizing the birthplace of the Weakley County Training School where Conner served as the final principal before integration.

Harold T. Conner Jr., Marshall Conner and Cathie Conner Holmes stood beside a table laden with honors and remembrances of their father as they shared their own memories of the educator whose influence was felt on the playing field, in the classroom, and behind the pulpit.

Conner, who died last year, was the first black administrator at UTM. He was instrumental in starting many campus organizations and programs including the Black Student Association, the Freshman Studies Program, the Highest Praise Gospel Choir and the Peer Enabler Program that mentors entering students. He was a U.S. Army veteran, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and an ordained Baptist minister, serving as pastor of the Fuller Street Baptist Church in Dresden for almost five decades.

Fellow event organizer Tara Tansil-Gentry announced and introduced the three scholarship winners for the year: Reed Chandler, who was already in classes at Murray State and was represented by his mother Shuris Diggs-Chandler; Malik Jones, who will be

See CONNER, Page 2

CONNER, From Page 1

attending UTM; and Holly Harrison, who is at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

The evening program concluded a day filled with a morning parade and activities in Weldon Park that included a petting zoo, exotic animals, sales of designer goods, a concert and lots of food options.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host ACT boot camp sessions from 8 a.m.-noon, Aug. 25, Oct. 20 or Dec. 1, on the main campus in Martin. The registration fee is $45 per student.

These sessions are intended to help high school students prepare for the ACT college entrance exam or improve upon previous scores. Alex Beene, lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three West Tennessee counties, will help students discover time-saving strategies to complete the exam and learn to study effectively.

Beene is an adjunct instructor for UT Martin as well as a published author and local educator. He has mentored more than 1,000 students preparing for the ACT and SAT exams in the past six years.

All students should bring a pencil and paper to the workshop.

ACT boot camp sessions will also be hosted at UT Martin’s educational outreach centers. Additional dates are Oct. 16 at the UT Martin Jackson Center; Sept. 15 at the UT Martin Parsons Center; and Oct. 13 at the UT Martin Somerville Center. A workshop will also be held Sept. 29 at Henry County High School in Paris.

To register for any of these dates, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

(Continued on page 12)
Perry receives scholarship

Several students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Among the recipients is Mahala Perry, daughter of Tim and Jennifer Perry, of Humboldt, who will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Advance Scholarship.

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

UTM BOUND — Katie Clapper (center) of South Fulton attended Summer Orientation and Registration at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. Miss Clapper joined fellow members of the incoming freshman class to learn more about academic and student life opportunities, housing options, meal plans and student support services, as well as register for fall semester courses. The South Fulton High School alum was joined by her parents, Donnie and Kim Clapper.
UTM choir to join Foreigner onstage

Though the band Foreigner has been asking to be shown what love is for more than 40 years, their visit to the Tennessee Soybean Festival and collaboration with the University of Tennessee-Martin choir reveals they have a pretty good handle on compassion.

On Sept. 7, an additional 25 voices will join the group onstage at the Festival Park Amphitheater for the classic hit “I Want to Know What Love Is.” And in recognition of the effort, Foreigner will donate $500 to the choir for appearing with the band. In addition to the donation, the band has enlisted the choir to sell Foreigner CDs at the concert to raise monies for Foreigner’s charity partner, The Grammy Foundation.

Foreigner representatives note that “both Foreigner and The Grammy Foundation are intent upon helping to keep music education available to students as part of the core curriculum in high schools throughout North America.” Hence, the entire proceeds of the choir’s CD sales from this show are contributed to this initiative.

Released in December 1984 and the biggest among the many hits by the band, the ballad has become an opportunity to share the stage with various choirs and choral groups around the world.

Mark Simmons, director of choral activities at the University of Tennessee at Martin, said the students who will be performing are excited to be part of such an iconic event.

“Even though the performance is coming very quickly after the first day of school, the ensemble that is singing is the New Pacer Singers, a chamber choir in the department,” he explained. “Students register for classes well before the beginning of school, so it hasn’t been difficult to gather a group to sing! They’ll be ready to go on day one!”

He pointed out that the funds donated to the choral program in the department of music will go for ongoing operational materials like new music and equipment used during performances throughout the community.

Simmons, who is also associate conductor with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, noted that two days before, the group will be singing with the Jackson Symphony on the main stage.

He said the choirs regularly sing with large groups like the Jackson Symphony and Paducah Symphony.

“Even though singing with a rock band is obviously different, the choir is accustomed to being on stage with a larger group with a larger sound, so they will be pretty comfortable on stage. They’ll have a blast,” he concluded.

Foreigner and 38 Special will perform beginning at 8 p.m. on Sept. 7. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org. The featured sponsor for this concert is Vowell & Sons Inc.

Meet Foreigner, score free tickets in Press contest

Foreigner is showing Martin area audiences some love by making two free tickets available for their September concert at the Festival Amphitheater as well as a chance to spend some time with the band in a meet and great.

A Facebook photo contest will determine the winners of the free tickets and the opportunity to shake hands with a band that has not only delivered nine Top 10 hits but is now one of only five classic rock artists (including the Eagles, AC/DC, Bruce Springsteen and Journey) that have received platinum status over the last 10 years for albums including new material.

To enter, click on the Share the Love event on the Weakley County Press Facebook page and find the comment button. Click there and add a photo of you holding the Tennessee Soybean Festival book in a creative pose. The photo with the most likes as of midnight Sept. 3 will score the tickets and meet the band. Winners will be announced on Facebook Sept. 4 and appear in the Sept. 5 edition of the Press.

BEAUCHAMP GRADUATES — Tara Beauchamp (front row, third from right) of UTM’s department of safety was among 10 recent graduates of the TBI Leadership Academy. Also pictured are (back row, from left) TBI Director David Rausch; Tony Hall, Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office; Mark Lewis, TBI; Terry Reed, TBI; Brian Crews, Shelbyville Police Department; Jim Williams, TBI; TBI Training Assistant Director Richard Moore; (front row) Gary Bean, Morristown Police Department; Donna Nelson, TBI; Tara Beauchamp – UT Martin Department of Public Safety; Josh Savley, TBI; and Christopher Golden, Bartlett Police Department.
At the college level

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year. They include:

- Hannah Carlisle, daughter of Chris and Brittnay Carlisle of South Fulton, who will be a freshman. She received the Alumni Valedictorian Scholarship and the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Jordan Copeland, daughter of Stephanie Copeland of Hornbeak, who will be a sophomore. She received the Achieve Scholarship.
- Savanna Copelen, daughter of Chris and Tammy Copelen of South Fulton, who will be a freshman. She received the Health and Human Performance Scholarship and the Excellence Scholarship.
- Lisa Franco of Troy, daughter of Maria Garay, who will be a senior. She received the Genex Nursing Scholarship, the David Hogan/Baptist Hospital Scholarship and the Raymond and Maxine Bratcher Scholarship.
- Cecilee Morris, daughter of Carey and Janet Morris of Troy, who will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Rebecca Schnell of Union City, who will be a freshman. She received the Elam Transfer Promise Scholarship.
- Rebecca Strickland of Rives, daughter of Ted and Ruth Barnett, who will be a freshman. She received the Amanda Alice Berry Family and Consumer Science Scholarship and the Advance Scholarship.
- Cassidy Tidwell, daughter of Royce Tidwell of Rives, who will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Two students from Obion County will receive diplomas or certificates from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology's W.J. Neese Campus in Paris during commencement exercises Friday.

The graduates will include John M. Elward of Rives, motorcycle/ATV repair; and Chris Bell of Troy, residential building maintenance.

Semester courses set to start

Fall semester courses begin Monday for students at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

This includes all five educational outreach centers, as well as the main campus. Incoming freshmen begin moving into on-campus residence halls Friday during Move-In Mania, which kicks off Welcome Weekend and First-Year Initiative for new students.

Other significant fall semester dates include:

- Sept. 3 — Labor Day holiday; university is closed.
- Sept. 15 — Family Weekend.
- Oct. 15-16 — Fall break; no classes meet, but university offices are open.
- Oct. 27 — Homecoming.
- Nov. 21-23 — Thanksgiving holiday; no classes meet and the university is closed Nov. 22-23.
- Dec. 7 — Last day of class.
- Dec. 10-14 — Final exams.
- Dec. 15 — Commencement.

All tuition and fee payments are due by today to avoid having course schedules dropped. Financial assistance refunds will be distributed during the week of Sept. 10.

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

New tool available to transfer

Transfer students from any institution can now use the University of Tennessee at Martin’s transfer equivalency self-service feature to determine how earned college credits will apply toward any UT Martin degree program.

“We know the first question transfer students ask when looking at colleges and universities is related to how their coursework will transfer into a new degree program. TESS makes that process quick and easy, and the system can be accessed at any time,” said Destin Tucker, director of the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

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Users can access the self-service program at utm.edu/tess. Online instructions are available through the UT Martin Registrar’s website at utm.edu/tessinfo.

Students must complete a minimum of 25 percent of degree coursework through UT Martin to receive a UT Martin degree.

For more information or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
Fall semester starts at UT-Martin

Fall semester courses begin Aug. 27 for students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This includes all five educational outreach centers as well as the main campus. Incoming freshmen begin moving into on-campus residence halls Aug. 24 during Move-In Mania, which kicks off Welcome Weekend and First-Year Initiative for new students.

All tuition and fee payments are due by Aug. 22 to avoid having course schedules dropped. Financial assistance refunds will be distributed during the week of Sept. 10.

For additional information or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Hickory Withe Community Association Visits The UT Martin Somerville Center

On Thursday, August 9, members of the Hickory Withe Community Association visited the UT Martin Somerville Center and toured the facility. Director Kara Tapp presented an overview of the Center and how its many opportunities and outreach programs are becoming the hub of educational advancement in our community including dual credit high school curricula, continuing education for various professions, and a wide variety of college courses accredited through the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Hickory Withe Community Association is one of the most active community organizations in Fayette County and proudly continues the heritage of Hickory Withe. Members of the organization expressed their thanks to Director Tapp and were very impressed with all the activities and excitement that is evident at the UT Martin Somerville Center which is still in its first year of existence. Any group interested in touring the facility or individuals interested in learning about the opportunities that abound at the Center are urged to call 901-465-7313.
UTM Fall Semester Begins August 27

Fall semester courses begin Aug. 27 for students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This includes all five educational outreach centers as well as the main campus. Incoming freshmen begin moving into on-campus residence halls Aug. 24 during Move-In Mania, which kicks off Welcome Weekend and First-Year Initiative for new students.

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https://www.thunderboltradio.com

Wendell Alexander honored with UTM scholarship

Posted on August 23, 2018 by Steve James in Local News

The Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment, established by his grandsons, Jake Bynum and Alex Bynum, and their wives, Alyssa and Kate, respectively, will be used to reward and support Weakley County high school graduates who study agriculture or agricultural business at UT Martin.

UT Martin will also name a laboratory in the new Beef Cattle Teaching and Demonstration Area the “Wendell Alexander Lab” in honor of Alexander’s dedication to local agriculture. The new complex will be located on Gardner-Hyndsvor Road on the north side of the UT Martin main campus.

Mr. Alexander was a longtime cattleman and businessman in Weakley and Obion counties, establishing Wendell Alexander Realty in 1986.

Wendell Alexander passed away last year at his Dresden home and is survived by his wife, Shirley, one daughter, nine grandsons and three great-grandchildren.
Rudy Gatlin looking forward to appearance at Soybean Festival

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

A conversation with Rudy Gatlin isn't unlike listening to a Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers favorite song. The topics can vary from musical theater, to golf, to travel, but the lessons of respect and faith learned at an early age track throughout.

Rudy is the youngest brother behind Steve and the eldest, Larry, and the three have been performing together for more than 60 years. On Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. they will bring their country and gospel hits to the Festival Park Amphitheater as part of the Tennessee Soybean Festival lineup.

When soybeans are mentioned, Rudy was quick to chime in, “I love edamame! Can’t get enough.”

And then added, “Thank God for farmers there raising those soybeans. Farming is certainly a tough way to make a living but praise the Lord for those who work from ‘can to can’t’.

Such acknowledgments reflect a faith that was instilled in the brothers in childhood and that makes its way into their music and their actions.


“Larry likes to say Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had their take and we have ours,” Rudy explained of their approach. “We did the hymns album several years ago and we love them. These songs are a little edgy and different, but they have the same message.”

When the album first came out and surprised some listeners, Larry was clear that songs like “Young Jewish Lawyer,” “An American With a Remington” and “I Have Not Been About My Father’s Business” were intentional.

“Steve, Rudy and I didn’t get where we are by playing it safe,” he was quoted as saying. “We have always pushed the envelope, we have always crossed borders others were afraid to cross and we’re not going to stop now... and that’s the Gospel According to Gatlin.”

The brothers’ lives are filled with more than musical storytelling. They live their faith in action as well.

“I hate it when people don’t have much respect for farmers, military, elders, law enforcement, farmers especially,” Rudy said of the respect that is reflected in both his music and speech.

An avid golfer, Rudy helps raise money for various charities through golf tournaments including several he’s hosted. He’s met the greats and played alongside Tom Kite at the AT&T National Pro Am and “came close to winning that a couple of times” he says. When asked about his handicap, he noted that currently he’s “back up to a 1.6.”

On Twitter, Rudy also reflects his patriotism as he promotes the “Gatlin Brothers USA Collection” of jeans, suits, shirts and more and proudly proclaims it part of an effort “to buy American made clothing and help bring jobs back to the USA!”

Since formally forming the group in 1976, the brothers have taken home Grammys, been inducted into the Grand Ole Opry, won numerous awards and secured their place in both country and gospel music. But their musical interests don’t stop there.

Rudy’s love of musical theater has seen him starring in the role of Curly in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Oklahoma,” and the part of Frank Butler in Irving Berlin’s “Annie Get Your Gun.”

When pushed to reveal his favorite musical and the role he’d have loved to fill, his answer came relatively easy.

“There’s so many but Les Misérables is my all-time favorite. I’d love to have tackled Jean Valjean. I can do Curly in ‘Oklahoma’ and Frank in ‘Annie Get Your Gun’ but doing Jean Valjean might take more training,” he added with a chuckle.

After decades in the music business, some might suspect that the brothers would be looking at retiring but such is not the case. Rudy reports they always have projects in the works and they do 10-12 days a month on the road. The pride is evident in Rudy’s voice as he notes that traveling isn’t a challenge some of the younger artists they’ve encountered can meet.

“This ain’t for everybody,” he explained of the rigors that now have the three in airports more often that tour buses. “They can’t get up early in the morning, get on a plane, drive an hour to the gig, do the set up and then the show and head back to the hotel. You’ve got to be in pretty good shape to pull that off. And ... we’re still in pretty good shape.”

Even after a short conversation, one gathers that Rudy may not simply be referring to the physical with some statements as he adds, “We were raised in a Christian home and I never doubted. I strayed, got sideways for a while but I always knew there was the Heavenly Father watching out for me.

“We are very blessed and ever mindful to thank him for his blessings, our ability and talent and the ability to still do this at our age,” he concluded.
Statues without hearts; stones with no feeling
That's what we'll become if we let love get away.

The Gatlin Brothers

UTM fall semester classes start next week

Fall semester courses begin Aug. 27 for students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This includes all five educational outreach centers as well as the main campus. Incoming freshmen begin moving into on-campus residence halls Friday during Move-In Mania, which kicks off Welcome Weekend and First-Year Initiative for new students.

Other significant fall semester dates include:
• Sept. 3 – Labor Day holiday; university is closed
• Sept. 15 – Family Weekend
• Oct. 15-16 – Fall break;

no classes meet; university offices are open
• Oct. 27 – Homecoming
• Nov. 21-23 – Thanksgiving holiday; no classes meet; university closed
• Nov. 22-23
• Dec. 7 – Last day of class
• Dec. 10-14 – Final exams
• Dec. 15 – Commencement

All tuition and fee payments were due by Aug. 22 to avoid having course schedules dropped. Financial assistance refunds will be distributed during the week of Sept. 10.
Carver discusses improvements, challenges with UTM faculty

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, spoke to university faculty and staff Tuesday during the annual fall faculty meeting that precedes each fall semester. Carver discussed improvements and expected challenges regarding student enrollment and discussed implementation of the university’s five-year strategic plan.

The university ended a six-year enrollment decline in fall 2017, and Carver says this semester will also see an increase in the number of first-time, full-time freshman students.

“We’re going to be up, again, significantly, perhaps as many as 100 or more in first-time, full-time freshmen,” he said. “We had a class of 1,052 first-time, full-time freshmen last year, and we’re expecting 1,150 this year, so that is the way we want to go. ... Getting this pipeline these last two years of getting more than 1,000 freshmen to come is really exciting to me.”

According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee is expected to see a decrease in high school graduates statewide over the next six years. Carver says UT Martin’s current recruitment and retention efforts are addressing this challenge early.

“We’re recruiting now every sophomore that fits our entry profile across the state. So if they’re a sophomore and they meet our entry requirements, or look like they’re going to, they’re hearing from us when they’re 15 or 16 years old. That’s important as we continue to grow recognition,” he said. In addition to high school students statewide, UT Martin is also focusing recruitment efforts on student veterans, adults who have started but not completed college degrees, and out-of-state students within 250 miles of the main campus.

The university is also beginning implementation of the five-year strategic plan approved by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees in June. Among the goals to be addressed are improving a sense of belonging among minority students; reorganizing a specialized Office of Research, Grants and Economic Development; and using donor gifts to create competitive student scholarships.

“We have been educating students here, on this soil, for 118 years. And I know, from what our students and alumni tell us, that you, that we, have done an excellent job in getting them ready, making them feel like they belong and making them feel like we have poured into them,” said Carver.

“It’s time to go back to work. Our students are here. They’re about to be in our residence halls, they’re about to be in our cafeteria, they’re about to be in our library. They’re certainly going to be in our classrooms,” he added. “So it’s time again to roll up our sleeves and do what we’ve been doing for more than a hundred years here, and be a difference-maker in the lives of our students.”

Various college deans and department heads introduced new faculty and staff members during the meeting, including Dr. Phillip Acree Cavalier, who will begin his first semester at UT Martin as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615. The UT Martin Strategic Plan is available online at utm.edu/strategic.
UT Martin alumni help build new city library

Alumni from the University of Tennessee at Martin are helping fund and design a new library for the city of Martin.

Several UT Martin graduates are serving in key leadership positions on the Martin Public Library Foundation to help build the new library for the city. Those serving on the foundation include Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus and current foundation president, and his wife, Cathy Dunagan; Langdon Unger, former foundation president; and David Warren, library consultant and major project donor.

Cathy and Nick Dunagan graduated in 1968, Warren graduated in 1967 and Unger graduated in 1980, all from UTM. Dunagan is also the father of Stan Dunagan from Paris.

Unger, a local attorney, served as the first president of the Martin Public Library Foundation and established an organization to receive charitable donations toward the funding of the new building and its services. Dunagan took over as the foundation’s second president.

“One of the reasons that I’m involved is because I think this is really going to be great for the community, and I’m excited about it,” he said. “It was something that my wife and I talked about, and we both felt that this was an issue ... that could really make a difference for the community. So we said, ‘Let’s put our time and effort into this.’ I’m out in front, but she offers a lot of good advice, also.”

Dunagan said the city has received a $5.5 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Program but still needs to raise $1.5 million to complete the necessary funds.

The new library will have multiple features including a large children’s area and a teen zone, community meeting spaces, a dedicated genealogy research room, and workshop areas where community classes in skills such as cooking, sewing and painting can be taught. The two-story building will anchor the downtown Martin area on the corner of Lindell Street and University Street, where the Martin Police Department and UT Martin REED Center are located. The police department will relocate to a new building currently under construction north of town.

Warren, who has designed libraries all over the world, is working with the Jackson-based architectural firm TLM Associates Inc. to ensure the new Martin library is truly a modern, state-of-the-art facility of which the community can be proud.

“(Warren) has provided untold credibility, suggestions and expertise. In addition to being a major donor, he’s looking at all of our plans and making sure that we have a Twenty-First century library,” said Dunagan.

Dunagan feels the construction of a modern library will not only serve current Martin residents but assist with the recruitment of employees to work in area industries, including UT Martin.

“I think (the library) will be a very positive recruiting tool for UT Martin as well as anybody that’s looking to settle in Martin, whether they’re with MTD or any other business, or a business that’s looking to locate here in the future. ... (People moving in) want a safe environment. They want an environment that’s going to be conducive to their kids getting the very best foundation for an education,” he said.

According to Dunagan, the current C.E. Weldon Library building is a historic landmark in the community, having previously served as the town post office, and will be maintained as a city building after the construction of the new library.

Construction on the new building is anticipated to begin in mid-2019 with hopes that it will open to the public in 2020.

For more information on the City of Martin Public Library or to contribute to the fund-raising campaign, contact Dunagan at ndunagan@utm.edu.
UT MARTIN PHOTO

This is an artist's rendering of what the new city of Martin's public library would look like once it's built.

UT Martin holding
ACT boot camp

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host ACT boot camp sessions from 8 a.m. to noon on Aug. 25, Oct. 20 and Dec. 1 on the main campus in Martin. A workshop will also be held Sept. 29 at Henry County High School. The registration fee is $45 a student.

The sessions are intended to help high school students prepare for the ACT college entrance exam or improve upon their previous scores. Alex Beene, lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three West Tennessee counties, will help students discover time-saving strategies to complete the exam and learn to study effectively.

Beene is an adjunct instructor at UT Martin as well as a published author and local educator. He has mentored more than 1,000 students preparing for the ACT and SAT exams in the past six years.

All students should bring a pencil and paper to the workshop. ACT boot camp sessions will also be hosted at UT Martin's educational outreach center. Additional dates include: Sept. 15 at the UT Martin Parsons Center, Oct. 16 at the UT Martin Jackson Center and Oct. 13 at the UT Martin Somerville Center.

To register for any of these dates, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
UTM Begins Fall Semester Courses

Fall semester courses are scheduled to begin August 27th for students at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This includes all five educational outreach centers as well as the main campus.

Incoming freshmen begin moving into on-campus residence halls August 24th during Move-In Mania, which kicks off Welcome Weekend and First-Year Initiative for new students.

Other significant fall semester dates include Labor Day holiday university is closed, September 3rd; Family Weekend, September 15th; Fall Break, no classes meet but university offices are open, October 15th through October 16th; Homecoming, October 27th; Thanksgiving holiday, no classes meet and the university closed, November 22nd through November 23rd; last day of class, December 7th; final exams, December 10th through December 14th; and Commencement, December 15th.

All tuition and fee payments are due by August 22nd to avoid having course schedules dropped. Financial assistance refunds will be distributed during the week of September 10th.

For additional information, contact the office of admissions at 731-881-7020.

Online Tool For Transfer Students

Transfer students from any institution can now use the University of Tennessee at Martin's transfer equivalency self-service feature to determine how earned college credits will apply toward any UT Martin degree program.

"We know the first question transfer students ask when looking at colleges and universities is related to how their coursework will transfer into a new degree program. TESS makes that process quick and easy, and the system can be accessed at any time," said Destin Tucker, director of the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

This online tool provides an unofficial transcript evaluation for potential transfer students and allows them to see how transfer credits may be used toward a new degree program. Official transcript and degree evaluations will be completed after UT Martin admission. The credits to be evaluated must have been earned in 1995 or later.

Users can access the self-service program at utm.edu/tess. Online instructions are available through the UT Martin Registrar's website at utm.edu/tessinfo.

Students must complete a minimum of 25 percent of degree coursework through UT Martin to receive a UT Martin degree.

For more information or assistance, contact 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
Pharmacy Tech. Course Offered

Community members interested in becoming pharmacy technicians are encouraged to register for a comprehensive course offered from 6 p.m. through 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 11th through November 1st at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center.

This course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's licensure exam. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions, and defining drugs both by generic and brand names. Participants will learn about dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, billing and reimbursement.

The registration fee includes textbooks and supplies. This course includes 50 hours of classroom instruction plus an 80-hour clinical experience.

UT Martin will also offer the pharmacy technician program from 6 p.m. through 9:30 p.m., Thursdays, September 6th through December 20th, at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer; and the same time on Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 25th through November 15th at the UT Martin Jackson Center; and from 8 a.m. through noon, Saturdays, September 8th through December 15th, at the Parsons Center.

Participants who have done farm work in the past two years may qualify for financial assistance through the Tennessee Opportunity Programs.

For more information or to register, call 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/pharmacy.

UT Martin Offers Phlebotomy Course

Community members seeking careers in the health-care field are encouraged to register for a 90-hour phlebotomy technician program offered from 6 p.m. through 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 18th through December 11th, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center.

This program prepares students to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work include terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice, and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely.

The registration fee for this course includes textbooks and supplies. The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of class and is an additional fee paid directly to the National Healthcare Association.

UT Martin will also offer the phlebotomy technician program from 6 p.m. through 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 18th through December 11th, on the main campus in Martin, and at the same time on Mondays and Wednesdays, September 10th through December 17th, at the UT Martin Somerville Center.

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

For specific course requirements, fees and tuition, or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/phlebotomy.
Clinical Medical Assistants Course

Those wishing to prepare for a career in health care are invited to register for the clinical medical assistant program scheduled to be held from 8 a.m. through noon, on Saturdays, September 8th through June 29th, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. Student tuition includes all supplies and textbooks.

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about the UT Martin course, fees and tuition, or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs, general classes and the Ripley Center.
Scholarship Established To Honor Late Wendell Alexander At UTM
Martin, Tenn. – A new scholarship established at the University of Tennessee at Martin will honor the legacy of the late Wendell Alexander, longtime resident and businessman in Obion and Weakley counties.

The Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment, established by Wendell’s grandsons, Jake and Alexander Bynum, along with their wives, Alyssa and Kate Bynum, respectively, will be used to reward and support Weakley County high school graduates who study agriculture or agricultural business at UT Martin. Jake Bynum is Weakley Co. Mayor and Alexander Bynum is current owner and operator of Wendell Alexander Realty.

Applicants must demonstrate successful academic performance, and financial need may be considered. The chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources will determine the amount of the award on a year-to-year basis.

UT Martin will also name a laboratory in the new Beef Cattle Teaching and Demonstration Area the “Wendell Alexander Lab” in honor of Wendell’s dedication to local agriculture. The new complex will be located on Gardner-Hynds Road on the north side of the UT Martin main campus.

Wendell was born in 1935 on his family farm in Rives and graduated from Rives High School. He then enlisted in the Army and completed a tour of duty in Germany before returning to Tennessee and enrolling at John A. Gupton College in Nashville. Wendell later began a career in the funeral business in Columbia while simultaneously earning his real estate license.

He returned to the Weakley County area in 1970 to partner in Alexander Auctions and Real Estate and Alexander Insurance in Martin. Wendell was a lifelong learner and always enjoyed working on the cattle farm he shared with his wife, Shirley. He established Wendell Alexander Realty in 1986, and the business is currently owned and operated by his grandson, Alexander Bynum.

Wendell died in 2017 at his Dresden home and is survived by his wife, one daughter, nine grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

For more information on the Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment and how to contribute, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.
UT Martin community helps freshmen move onto campus

August 24, 2018 by Julia Ewoldt

MARTIN, Tenn. — Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin started moving into their dorms Friday morning with the help of other students, faculty and staff.

Chancellor Keith Carver takes a hands-on approach to leading the university.

"I've moved a lot of boxes today, plugged in a lot of refrigerators and microwaves," Carver said. "But really, I've dried a lot of tears too, for parents."

Carver says he helps parents come to terms with dropping off their student for the first time at college. "I think I've been more of a counselor to the parents though than a help to the students. It's tough. It's tough to send them off to college," he said.

Meanwhile, their kids are getting a big welcome from returning students and staff.

"It's like the best day of the year because all of the students are coming back, and that's what we really look forward to, and the energy is just great," senior UTM student Macy Watkins said.

She says returning students all step in to help freshmen get settled. "There are volunteers from different organizations here on campus and people from the community coming to help," she said.

Students say they can't wait to show the new students the campus. "I just love to see everyone's smiling faces and get to know the new students and to make friendships with them," Watkins said.

Classes at UT Martin start Monday, Aug. 27.
Week full of activities set at Martin's Soybean Festival

Concerts and dozens of other special events highlight the annual Soybean Festival in Martin, Sept. 1-9.

While many activities are planned around the city, including at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the concerts are scheduled for Festival Park, 400 S. Lindell St., which is on the left as you turn left in downtown Martin to go to the UTM campus.

The first concert is at 7 p.m. Sept. 1 with the Martin Community Band.

There's another — the Sunday Sundown Concert — at 7 p.m. Sept. 2, and it will be followed by a "fireworks spectacular."

On Labor Day, Sept. 3, there are two performances of "Sesame Street Live ...'C' is for Celebration." The first will be at 11 a.m. with the second at 5 p.m.

At 8 p.m. Sept. 4, the Soybean Festival will present "Let's Hang On!," a Frankie Valli tribute.

The Jackson Symphony concert is set for 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5. Switchfoot, an American alternative rock band from San Diego, hits the stage at 8 p.m. Sept. 6.

Then, at 8 p.m. Sept. 7, two groups — .38 Special and For-
MARTIN, Tenn. – The State Collaborative on Reforming Education has named Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, to its steering committee. Carver is one of three new members rotated onto the committee, which is comprised of policymakers, educators, elected officials, business leaders and parents statewide.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to serve on the SCORE Steering Committee. SCORE is committed to closing all of Tennessee's achievement gaps by income, race, location and student need by 2020, and I am pleased that UT Martin can help represent higher education in this forum," said Carver.

SCORE is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy and research institution focused on creating educational policies and practices to promote student success statewide. Founded in 2009 by Sen. Bill Frist, former U.S. Senate majority leader, SCORE supports K-12 education across Tennessee and works to ensure that all students graduate high school ready for postsecondary education and the workforce.
Community members interested in becoming pharmacy technicians are encouraged to register for a comprehensive course offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Thursdays, Sept. 6–Dec. 20, at the University of Tennessee at Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer.

This course will prepare students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's licensure exam. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions, and defining drugs both by generic and brand names. Participants will learn about dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, billing and reimbursement.

The registration fee for this course is $1,199 per person, which includes textbooks and supplies. This course includes 50 hours of classroom instruction plus an 80-hour clinical experience.

UT Martin will also offer the pharmacy technician program from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 11–Nov. 1 at the UT Martin Ripley Center and Sept. 25–Nov. 15 at the UT Martin Jackson Center. The UT Martin Parsons Center will host a course from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Sept. 8–Dec. 15.

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

For information, contact the UTM Office of Educational Outreach at 881-7104.
Freshman are moving in and getting ready to start their journey at the University of Tennessee at Martin. And no matter where they’re coming from, older students make them feel welcome.

Freshman representing 26 different states started coming into Martin around 5 am on Friday.

They were welcomed with more than 500 students and volunteers ready to help move into their dorms.

"I’m asking about our daughter and where she’s coming from and what she’s majoring in, so it certainly made me feel like this is a big family and they all take care of each other," said Paula Barry.

Student volunteers took on various roles, like elevator duty, outside duty, and greeter.

Collectively, volunteers put in over 1,700 hours.

"The students volunteering on move-in day told us about the benefits that they have seen in the past and that they hope to bring to the freshman moving in.

"It makes them want to keep coming back each semester, it keeps retention rates up, it keeps spirits high, it keeps morale high, it keeps everybody feeling like a family here."

Families who are leaving their children, as well as the students who are leaving, felt the need to express their gratitude.

"It’s just great to know that they care about freshman, you know."
NEW AG SCHOLARSHIP — The late Wendell Alexander (center), longtime local resident and businessman, is pictured with two of his grandsons, Alexander Bynum (left), current owner and operator of Wendell Alexander Realty, and Jake Bynum, mayor of Weakley County. Alexander and Jake, along with their wives, Kate and Alyssa, respectively, have established the Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment at UT Martin in Wendell’s memory.

Alexander honored with UTM scholarship

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He returned to the Weakley County area in 1970 to partner in Alexander Auctions and Real Estate and Alexander Insurance in Martin. Wendell was a lifelong learner and always enjoyed working on the cattle farm he shared with his wife, Shirley. He established Wendell Alexander Realty in 1986, and the business is currently owned and operated by his grandson, Alexander Bynum.

Wendell died in 2017 at his Dresden home and is survived by his wife, one daughter, nine grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

For more information on the Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment and how to contribute, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.
Keith Carver to speak at prayer breakfast

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, will serve as keynote speaker during the Tennessee Soybean Festival's annual prayer breakfast hosted by the Martin Ministerial Alliance. The free breakfast is open to the public and begins at 6:45 a.m., Sept. 5, at First Baptist Church in Martin.

"Dr. Carver has always been a most gracious community servant and supporter of the Tennessee Soybean Festival. There is no doubt that his presentation at the prayer breakfast will be inspiring, creative, and one that builds upon our community," said Dr. David Belote, festival executive director.

The event includes food as well as special music and prayer for the festival, the city of Martin, the state of Tennessee and the nation. Carver will present the morning's devotional lesson.

The 25th-annual Tennessee Soybean Festival runs Saturday through Sept. 9, and a complete schedule of events is available at tennesseesoyonbeanfestival.org or in the free festival program books available at many local retailers.

25th anniversary celebration

Tennessee Soybean Festival begins Thursday

The Tennessee Soybean Festival is marking its 25th year with headline entertainment, award-winning children's events and new features to appeal to a broader audience.

Events begin this week. The Rotary Club is sponsoring a golf tournament Thursday at Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon and Martin Made Music will feature Larry Brewer in concert at the Lindell at 8 p.m. Friday.

The Minecraft Farming Challenge is Saturday at the UTM campus, as well as the Annual Bicycle Rodeo, the Sidewalk Art Contest, Touch a Truck, the Terra Thesaurus Show, a Build Your Own Instrument workshop.

Saturday also brings the Tailgate Party in Virginia Weldon Park, featuring large-screen coverage of UT and UTM football games. The Martin Community Band performs downtown at 7 p.m. and the Biodiesel Truck and Tractor Pull will be held at Martin Recreation Complex.

Movie Night will be held in Weldon Park at 8 p.m. Saturday.

On Sunday, the Guitar Art Contest will be exhibited starting at 2 p.m., in the UTM Fine Arts Building, and Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers will perform downtown, followed by fireworks.

Labor Day brings the Makers Faire art exhibit, Sesame Street Live performances, the unveiling of the restored IC caboose and Magical Martin Day, which has won numerous state and national awards for its events.

The Froggyland's Got Talent contest will be held at 7 p.m. at the Oxford Street Stage.

For more information on Tennessee Soybean Festival events visit www.tennesseesoyonbeanfestival.org.

LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS — (From top) Bleachers are being installed in Festival Park, banners are up and Ryan Robinson checks final details on the restored IC caboose.
Nursing students earn 100 percent pass rate on licensure exam

JACKSON—Every student who graduated from Jackson State’s nursing program in 2017 passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on his or her first attempt, an achievement that earned praise from the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

The NCLEX is a nationwide exam for nursing school graduates to obtain a license, which allows them to practice. It is administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Sherry Richardson, nurse consultant with the Tennessee Board of Nursing, wrote a letter to Jackson State after students achieved the 100 percent pass rate, saying “the Board wishes to commend you and the faculty of the nursing program for this significant achievement and extends best wishes for continued success in the future.”

Jackson State typically has a high pass rate on the NCLEX, and it is not unusual for every student to pass. Now in its 27th year, the school’s nursing program has earned a reputation as one of the most respected in the state, and it continues to enhance its offerings, said Dr. Leslie West Sands, Dean and Program Director of Nursing.

The Jim Moss Center for Nursing, which opened in 2015, features state-of-the-art labs and equipment that utilize the same technologies as hospitals. Equipment in the facility includes human obstetric, pediatric and adult simulators that enable faculty to simulate real-life scenarios.

The two-year registered nursing program also has a high employment rate.

In a survey, 100 percent of those who responded reported being employed as a registered nurse within a year of graduation. (Two percent of graduates surveyed did not respond.)

Jackson State Community College provides accessible learning opportunities that enhance the lives of individuals, strengthen the workforce and empower the diverse communities of West Tennessee.

The institution offers traditional and contemporary associate degrees, certificates, continuing education and enrichment, and college-readiness programs.

UTM names local students to Chancellor’s honor rolls

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2018 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Those recognized were:
- Gleason — Carly D. Greer, high honors.
- Greenfield — Michael Johnson, highest honors.
- Martin — Reed C. Daniels, highest honors; Jessica R. Gathings, highest honors; Alex P. Kastner, honors; Taylor D. Lewis, honors; Andrei V. Malacapay, highest honors; Andrew V. Malacapay, highest honors; Hannah K. Moore, highest honors; Mindy A. Roberts, high honors; Parker C. Stewart, highest honors; Luke A. Winters, highest honors.

In addition, Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Weakley County include:
- South Fulton — Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla, highest honors.
- Weakley County — Divya Rajan, highest honors.
- Martin — Talal Alahmadi, honors; Abdulaziz M. Alanazi, highest honors; Fadhel Alanazi, honors; Khalil Alkhazzab, high honors; Wardah Alshaikhussain, highest honors; Nawaf O. Alshammary, honors; Ahmed Howaidi, highest honors; Yi-An Jian, highest honors; Pengfei Qi, honors; Pengcheng Ren, highest honors; Bo Zou, high honors.

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

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, spoke to university faculty and staff Aug. 21 during the annual Fall Faculty Meeting that precedes each fall semester. Carver discussed improvements and expected challenges regarding student enrollment and discussed implementation of the university's five-year strategic plan.

The university ended a six-year enrollment decline in fall 2017, and Carver says this semester will also see an increase in the number of first-time, full-time freshman students.

"We're going to be up, again, significantly, perhaps as many as 100 or more in first-time, full-time freshmen," he said. "We had a class of 1,052 first-time, full-time freshmen last year, and we're expecting 1,150 this year, so that is the way we want to go. Getting this pipeline these last two years of getting more than 1,000 freshmen to come is really exciting to me."

According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee is expected to see a decrease in high school graduates statewide over the next six years. Carver says UT Martin's current recruitment and retention efforts are addressing this challenge early.

"We're recruiting now every sophomore that fits our entry profile across the state. So if they're a sophomore and they meet our entry requirements, or look like they're going to, they're hearing from us when they're 15 or 16 years old. That's important as we continue to grow recognition," he said.

In addition to high school students statewide, UT Martin is also focusing recruitment efforts on student veterans, adults who have started but not completed college degrees, and out-of-state students within 250 miles of the main campus.

The university is also beginning implementation of the five-year strategic plan approved by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees in June. Among the goals to be addressed are improving a sense of belonging among minority students; reorganizing a specialized Office of Research, Grants and Economic Development; and using donor gifts to create competitive student scholarships.

"We have been educating students here, on this soil, for 118 years. And I know, from what our students and alumni tell us, that you, that we have done an excellent job in getting them ready, making them feel like they belong and making them feel like we have poured into them," said Carver.

"It's time to go back to work. Our students are here. They're about to be in our residence halls, they're about to be in our classrooms, they're about to be in our library. They're certainly going to be in our classrooms," he added. "So it's time again to roll up our sleeves and do what we've been doing for more than a hundred years here, and ... be a difference-maker in the lives of our students."

Various college deans and department heads introduced new faculty and staff members during the meeting, including Dr. Phillip Acree Cavalier, who will begin his first semester at UT Martin as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615. The UT Martin Strategic Plan is available online at utm.edu/strategic.
Gibson County students receive UTM scholarships

MARTIN, Tenn. — Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Jaclyn Baker, of Dyer, daughter of Gary Glisson, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Promise Scholarship.
- Morgan Campbell, daughter of Jerald and Sonya Campbell, of Trenton, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Laquita Clark, of Trenton, will be a senior. She received the Alex Haley Scholarship.
- Jennifer Easterday, of Milan, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.
- Joshua London, son of Brett and Mary Gay London, of Dyer, will be a sophomore. He received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.
- Mahala Perry, daughter of Tim and Jennifer Perry, of Humboldt, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Advance Scholarship.

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

UTM names honor students

MARTIN, Tenn.—The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2018 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Medina — Gage M. Schneeberger, Highest Honors.
- Milan — Anne S. Connell, Highest Honors; Danielle M. Huber, Honors; Erin E. Kelley, Highest Honors.
- In addition, Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Gibson County include:
- Martin — Alex P. Kastner, Honors; Hannah K. Moore, Highest Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
‘A Great Place To Live’ Mural Completed

Local UTM student and artist, Clay Palmer has completed a mural that he painted on a building owned by Alex Bynum located on Jefferson Street across from the Dresden’s Farmer’s Market. The mural, which depicts scenes from Dresden’s history, was commissioned by Bynum and his wife Kate Moore Bynum. Palmer is currently looking for more mural opportunities in Dresden.

UT Martin Names Local Students To Summer Semester Chancellor's Honor Roll

MARTIN, Tenn.—The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2018 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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Gleason – Carly D. Greer, High Honors.
Greenfield – Michael Johnson, Highest Honors.
Martin – Reed C. Daniels, Highest Honors; Jessica R. Oalhings, Highest Honors; Alex P. Kastner, Honors; Taylor D. Lewis, Honors; Andrei V. Malacapay, Highest Honors; Andrew V. Malacapay, Highest Honors; Hannah K. Moore, Highest Honors; Mindy A. Roberts, High Honors; Parker C. Stewart, Highest Honors; Luke A. Winters, Highest Honors.

In addition, Chancellor's Honor Roll honorees with ties to Weakley County include:

Martin to host 25th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival

Martin is hosting the 25th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival Sep. 1-8, with an impressive line-up of live entertainment and activities offering something the whole family will enjoy.

The festival begins on Thursday with a golf tournament at Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon, sponsored by Martin Rotary Club.

On Friday, Martin Made Music will feature Larry Brewer in concert at The Lindell, located at 218 S. Lindell St., starting at 8 p.m.
**UT Martin Scholarship and Naming In Honor Of Longtime Local Businessman Wendell Alexander**

MARTIN, Tenn. – A new scholarship established at the University of Tennessee at Martin will honor the legacy of the late Wendell Alexander, longtime resident and businessman in Obion and Weakley counties.

The Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment, established by Wendell’s grandsons, Jake and Alexander Bynum, along with their wives, Alyssa and Kate Bynum, respectively, will be used to reward and support Weakley County high school graduates who study agriculture or agricultural business at UT Martin. Applicants must demonstrate successful academic performance, and financial need may be considered. The chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources will determine the amount of the award on a year-to-year basis.

UT Martin will also name a laboratory in the new Beef Cattle Teaching and Demonstration Area the “Wendell Alexander Lab” in honor of Wendell’s dedication to local agriculture. The new complex will be located on Gardner-Hynads Road on the north side of the UT Martin main campus.

Wendell was born in 1935 on his family farm in Rives and graduated from Rives High School. He then enlisted in the Army and completed a tour of duty in Germany before returning to Tennessee and enrolling at John A. Gupton College in Nashville. Wendell later began a career in the funeral business in Columbia while simultaneously earning his real estate license.

He returned to the Weakley County area in 1970 to partner in Alexander Auctions and Real Estate and Alexander Insurance in Martin. Wendell was a lifelong learner and always enjoyed working on the cattle farm he shared with his wife, Shirley. He established Wendell Alexander Realty in 1986, and the business is currently owned and operated by his grandson, Alexander Bynum.

Wendell died in 2017 at his Dresden home and is survived by his wife, one daughter, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

For more information on the Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment and how to contribute, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.

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**Local residents named to UTM 2018 Summer Chancellor’s Honor Roll**

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Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla, of South Fulton, made the UTM Chancellor’s Honor Roll with Highest Honors.

Drew W. Love, of Hickman, made the UTM Chancellor’s Honor Roll with High Honors.

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

Community members seeking careers in the health-care field are encouraged to register for a 90-hour phlebotomy technician program offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 18-Dec. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

This program prepares students to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work include terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice, and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely.

The registration fee for this course is $1,799 and includes textbooks and supplies. The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of class and is an additional $105 paid directly to the National Healthcare Association.

UT Martin will also offer the phlebotomy technician program from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 6-Dec. 13, at the UT Martin Ripley Center and at the same time on Mondays and Wednesdays, Sept. 10-Dec. 17, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center.

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

For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/phlebotomy.

At the college level

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2018 Chancellor's Honor Rolls.

Several students from Obion County are among the honorees.

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The local honorees include:

- Obion — Allison M. Priest, honors.
- Rives — Malissa A. Mathis, highest honors.
- South Fulton — Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla, highest honors.
- Troy — George M. Carroll, high honors; Anna D. Logan, highest honors; and Lauren A. Robertson, highest honors.
- Union City — Brady T. Baird, highest honors; Mary V. Carpenter, high honors; Megan L. Dunn, high honors; Aubree A. Guess, highest honors; and Ashley N. Yates, high honors.

The Volunteer Center for Rural Development recently announced several students have been selected to the McWherter Scholars scholarship program for the 2018-19 scholastic year.
UTM chancellor talks enrollment and strategic plan

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, spoke to university faculty and staff last week during the annual Fall Faculty Meeting that precedes each fall semester.

Carver discussed improvements and expected challenges regarding student enrollment and discussed implementation of the university’s five-year strategic plan.

The university ended a six-year enrollment decline in fall 2017, and Carver says this semester will also see an increase in the number of first-time, full-time freshman students.

“We’re going to be up again, significantly, perhaps as many as 100 or more in first-time, full-time freshmen,” he said. “We had a class of 1,052 first-time, full-time freshmen last year, and we’re expecting 1,150 this year, so that is the way we want to go. ... Getting this pipeline these last two years of getting more than 1,000 freshmen to come is really exciting to me.”

According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee is expected to see a decrease in high school graduates statewide over the next six years. Carver says UT Martin’s current recruitment and retention efforts are addressing this challenge early.

“We’re recruiting now every sophomore that fits our entry profile across the state. So if they’re a sophomore and they meet our entry requirements, or look like they’re going to, they’re hearing from us when they’re 15 or 16 years old. That’s important as we continue to grow recognition,” he said.

In addition to high school students statewide, UTM is also focusing recruitment efforts on student veterans, adults who have started but not completed college degrees, and out-of-state students within 250 miles of the main campus.

The university is also beginning implementation of the five-year strategic plan approved by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees in June.

Among the goals to be addressed are improving a sense of belonging among minority students; reorganizing a specialized Office of Research, Grants and Economic Development; and using donor gifts to create competitive student scholarships.

“We have been educating students here, on this soil, for 118 years. And I know, from what our students and alumni tell us, that you, that we have done an excellent job in getting them ready, making them feel like they belong and making them feel like we have poured into them,” Carver said.

“It’s time to go back to work. Our students are here. They’re about to be in our residence halls, they’re about to be in our cafeteria, they’re about to be in our library. They’re certainly going to be in our classrooms,” he added.

“So it’s time again to roll up our sleeves and do what we’ve been doing for more than a hundred years here, and ... be a difference-maker in the lives of our students.”

College deans and department heads introduced new faculty and staff members at the meeting, including Dr. Phillip Acree, Cavalier, who will begin his first semester as provost.

Dr. Carver selected to serve on committee

The State Collaborative on Reforming Education has named Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, to its steering committee.

Carver is one of three new members rotated onto the committee, which is comprised of policymakers, educators, elected officials, business leaders and parents statewide.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to serve on the SCORE Steering Committee. SCORE is committed to closing all of Tennessee’s achievement gaps by income, race, location and student need by 2020, and I am pleased that UT Martin can help represent higher education in this forum,” Carver said.

SCORE is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy and research institution focused on creating educational policies and practices to promote student success statewide. Founded in 2009 by Sen. Bill Frist, former U.S. Senate majority leader, SCORE supports K-12 education across Tennessee and works to ensure that all students graduate high school ready for postsecondary education and the workforce.
25th Annual Soybean Festival kicks off Saturday

By CHRIS MENNEES
Senior Staff Reporter

Tennessee Soybean Festival executive director David Belote says "there's nothing like the bean."

And the bean — as in the soybean — will take center stage starting this weekend in downtown Martin.

The 25th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival kicks off Saturday and runs through Sept. 9, offering dozens of special events, concerts and exhibits for children, adults and families.

This year's concerts include Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers (free) on Sunday, with a fireworks show; Sesame Street Live, Monday; A Frankie Valli tribute (free), Tuesday; the Jackson Symphony, Sept. 5; Switchfoot, Sept. 6; 38 Special and Foreigner, Sept. 7; and Gretchen Wilson and Big & Rich with Cowboy Troy, Sept. 8.

Concert prices and ticket information may be found online at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org. The website also has a full schedule of festival events, times and admission information.

In addition, copies of this year's commemorative Soybean Festival book are available from The Messenger's front counter.

The City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin are partnering with other local businesses and representatives to sponsor this year's silver anniversary festival.

"As I look back on the past quarter-century, it's obvious that the Tennessee Soybean Festival has made an impact on the culture and history of the Martin area," UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. "UT Martin has been a major sponsor of the Tennessee Soybean Festival for much of its existence, and several university employees were instrumental in its creation all those years ago.

"As a strong supporter of agricultural education and our local producers, the university is proud to partner with the City of Martin each year to offer the week of entertainment, food, crafts and community that make this festival such a success," he said.

Dr. Carver will serve as keynote speaker during the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival Prayer Breakfast, set to begin at 6:45 a.m. Sept. 5 at Martin First Baptist Church.

During the Foreigner concert next week, members of the UT Martin choral program will also perform one song with the group under the direction of associate professor of music Dr. Mark Simmons.

Over the years, the award-winning Tennessee Soybean Festival has grown to include more than 100 events — including musical entertainment, a unique live shark show, traveling performances such as aerial (See Page 15, Col. 4)

Soybean...
(Continued from Page 1) artists and a car show, as well as the traditional carnival, craft fair and food vendors.

A highlight Monday — which is Labor Day — will be Magical Martin Day from 3-7 p.m. at Virginia Weldon Park downtown.

Featured will be children's favorite superheroes and princesses, themed activity booths, amusement rides, games, free food booths and more.

Senior Staff Reporter
Chris Menees may be contacted by email at cmenees@ucmessenger.com.

Phlebotomy technician program to be available

Community members seeking careers in the healthcare field are encouraged to register for a 90-hour phlebotomy technician program to be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from Sept. 18 to Dec. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Classes will be held from 6-9:30 p.m.

This program prepares students to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work include terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely.

The registration fee for this course is $1,799 and includes textbooks and supplies. The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of class and is an additional $105 paid directly to the National Healthcare Association.

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

For course requirements or to register, contact the Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7104 or visit utm.edu/phlebotomy.
Wendell Alexander honored with UTM scholarship, naming

A new scholarship established at the University of Tennessee at Martin will honor the legacy of the late Wendell Alexander, long-time resident and businessman in Obion and Weakley counties.

The Wendell Alexander Scholarship Endowment, established by Wendell’s grandsons, Jake Bynum and Alexander Bynum, along with their wives, Alyssa Bynum and Kate Bynum, respectively, will be used to reward and support Weakley County high school graduates who study agriculture or agricultural business at UT Martin.

Applicants must demonstrate successful academic performance, and financial need may be considered. The chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources will determine the amount of the award on a year-to-year basis.

UT Martin will also name a laboratory in the new Beef Cattle Teaching and Demonstration Area the “Wendell Alexander Lab” in honor of Alexander’s dedication to local agriculture. The new complex will be located on Gardner-Hynds Road on the north side of the UT Martin main campus.

Alexander was born in 1935 on his family farm in Rives and graduated from the former Rives High School.

He then enlisted in the Army and completed a tour of duty in Germany before returning to Tennessee and enrolling at John A. Gupton College in Nashville. He later began a career in the funeral business in Columbia while simultaneously earning his real estate license.

He returned to the Weakley County area in 1970 to partner in Alexander Auctions and Real Estate and Alexander Insurance in Martin. He was a lifelong learner and always enjoyed working on the cattle farm he shared with his wife, Shirley. He established Wendell Alexander Realty in 1986, and the business is currently owned and operated by his grandson, Alexander Bynum.

Alexander died in 2017 and is survived by his wife, a daughter, nine grandsons and three great-grandchildren.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2018 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

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

Students making the list included Jessica L. Sorrell, Highest Honors, of Gates; Alan B. Smith, High Honors, of Ripley; and Madison E. Mountjoy, Highest Honors, of Dyersburg.

Garrett A. Todd, of Camden, was among those students to achieve “High Honors.” Todd formerly served as a youth minister at the Camden Church of Christ.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve at least a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students are named to the Honor roll with one of three distinctions: Honors (GPA=3.2 to 3.49), High Honors (GPA=3.5 to 3.79), or Highest Honors (GPA=3.8 to 4.0).
UTM Parsons to host ACT class

The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center will host an ACT boot camp session from 8 a.m. to noon, Sept. 15, at the center on Tennessee Ave. in Parsons. The registration fee is $45 per person.

These sessions are intended to help high school students prepare for the ACT college entrance exam or improve upon previous scores. All students should bring a pencil and paper to the workshop.

Alex Beene, lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three West Tennessee counties, will help students discover time-saving strategies to complete the exam and learn to study effectively. An adjunct instructor for UTM as well as a published author and local educator, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students preparing for the ACT and SAT exams in the past six years.

In addition to the class at Parsons on Sept. 15, ACT boot camp sessions also will be held Sept. 29 at Henry County High School in Paris, Oct. 13 at the UTM Somerville Center, and Oct. 16 at the UTM Jackson Center. To register for any of these dates, visit utm.edu/act-prep. For assistance, contact UTM at 731-881-7082.

Carver to speak at prayer breakfast

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, will serve as keynote speaker during the Tennessee Soybean Festival’s annual prayer breakfast hosted by the Martin Ministerial Alliance.

The free breakfast is open to the public and will begin at 6:45 a.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church in Martin.

“Dr. Carver has always been a most gracious community servant and supporter of the Tennessee Soybean Festival. There is no doubt that his presentation at the prayer breakfast will be inspiring and creative,” said Dr. David Belote, festival executive director.

The event includes food as well as special music and prayer for the festival, Martin, Tennessee and the nation. Carver will present the morning’s devotional lesson.

The 25th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival runs from Sept. 9. A complete schedule of events is available online at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org, or in the festival program books available at many local retailers, including The Messenger office.
Tennessee Soybean Festival, UTM continue close relationship

The University of Tennessee at Martin is proud of its sponsorship of and relationship with the 25th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, Sept. 1-9.

"As I look back on the past quarter-century, it's obvious that the Tennessee Soybean Festival has made an impact on the culture and history of the Martin area," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, said in a recent news release.

The Tennessee Soybean Festival Hall of Fame includes many with UT Martin connections, including the late Dr. Jerry Gresham, former festival director, festival founder and UT Martin professor emeritus of animal science; Steve Vantrease, former festival director and current director of the UT Martin Ned Ray McWherter Institute; and David Belote, current festival director, former UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and current co-director of the university's First-Year Initiative Program.
UT Martin bans smoking on campus

August 30, 2018 by Julia Ewoldt (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/juliaewoldt/)

WEAKLEY COUNTY, Tenn. — A policy implemented July 1 of this year bans smoking on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s campus.

(https://images.wbbjtv.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Screen-Shot-2018-08-30-at-1.06.52-PM.png) "That would include vaping. That would include any university vehicles or personal vehicles while on campus or any property that belongs to the university," Lt. Charles Jahr from Public Safety said.

Students, who have been on campus only a week, say they can already see a difference.

“You would just walk outside and smoke would just blow in your face from people who would like to smoke right outside the door,” student Kayla Harris said.

“There’s not as many people gathered outside of buildings waiting on their next class to start,” student Case Cook said. “There’s, you see right there, there’s nobody out smoking.”

Students say it makes their walks to class much more pleasant. “There’s not as many people smoking outside Humanities. I have two classes there this semester, so it’s definitely cut down,” student Kenley Schwartz said.

Professor Tim Hacker said it all goes back to health insurance. “The state is paying to keep us healthy, and we should not be breathing other people’s smoke,” Hacker said.

But ultimately, he’s surprised at the new policy. “I’m surprised that they made the ruling. I did not think that we would do that, but I really think that it came down to the point I made just a moment ago, that the state is paying for our health insurance,” he said.