University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach offers numerous ACT prep courses

By Kevin Morris - August 3, 2020

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses throughout the fall for students preparing for the test.

The ACT Digital One-Stop Success Tactics workshops will teach students test-taking strategies over Zoom in either two two-hour sessions on the first Tuesdays and Thursdays of each month or a four-hour session on select Saturdays. Math and Science Reasoning will be taught on Tuesdays, and English and Reading will be taught on Thursdays.

The four-hour Saturday sessions will cover all subjects on the ACT and will be held from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sept. 12 and Oct. 10. The registration fee is $60.

The two-hour sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be taught from 5-7 p.m. Registration fees for each course cost $30.

- Math and Science Reasoning: Aug. 4; Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.
- English and Reading: Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 8, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.

University Outreach is also offering the ACT Mastery Classes, which provide expanded, in-depth ACT prep instruction. Students will also be able to take a full practice exam and learn strategies not taught in the success tactics workshop. Each course has a registration fee of $50, but students will receive a $20 discount for registering for all four courses.

All classes are offered from 5-7 p.m.

- English Mastery Course: Sept. 21
- Math Mastery Course: Sept. 22
- Reading Mastery Course: Sept. 23
- Science Reasoning Mastery Course: Sept. 24

UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author Alex Beene will teach the courses. Beene currently serves as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and works primarily with rising high school juniors and seniors needing academic help with standardized testing.

Students are required to have access to a computer with video and audio capabilities in order to connect to Zoom.

To register, visit www.utm.edu/actprep.
UT Martin Parsons student becomes first-ever to graduate nursing program in three years

Posted on August 3, 2020 by Steve James in Local News

UT Martin Parsons student Mallory Clenney is the first student in UTM history to graduate from the nursing program in three years.

"(Becoming a nurse) was just something that stuck in my heart. I wanted to be a person that, in the future, could help these people whenever they are the most vulnerable and also help their family... (who) is also struggling," Clenney said. "I just want to be that sense of calm for them and be able to provide them the best care that I know how."

"From the moment I met Mallory, I was very impressed with her drive and dedication," said Christy Blount, Parsons Center nursing program coordinator. "She had started working toward her long-term goal to complete this degree in three years before even graduating from high school. I hope that Mallory is very happy with her choice to enter the nursing profession and she finds an area she loves."

Clenney, who graduated from Scotts Hill High School in 2017, said she decided to start preparing for nursing school early because she knew she was supposed to be a nurse and didn't want to waste any time. She quit playing basketball, began taking dual enrollment courses, earned 58 credits before graduating and entered the UT Martin nursing program the following August. While Clenney did struggle in her courses at times, she says it was a rewarding experience that made her the nurse she always wanted to be.

Now working at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, Clenney is confident that her education at the UT Martin Parsons Center has prepared her to be the best nurse she can be even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
According to Clenney, "not in 100 years" did she think she would ever be working as a nurse during a global pandemic, but through the hands-on training and trial simulations at the Parsons Center and in her residency, she learned how to treat patients and respond calmly in uncertain situations.

Clenney said working through the pandemic is "definitely scary," but that after observing the nurses who are treating the virus in the COVID-19 unit, as well as the nurses in other units/floors taking on strenuous workloads due to higher acuity level, she is confident in their ability to ensure the best care possible for their patients.

"Times are uncertain, but every nurse I have seen or trained with has blown me away. These nurses are amazing, and their dedication shows what nursing is about. I applaud every health-care worker for what they are doing; they are the calm in the midst of the storm, and I am proud to be learning from and working with them."

Now instead of being scared, she sees the pandemic as a chance to enhance her skills as a nurse to provide better treatments for her patients in the future.

"I feel like it's going to help my nursing career and help me," she said. "There is always an opportunity to learn."

Clenney is unsure of where her career as a nurse will take her, especially in the current climate. She does know as long as she continues to provide care and comfort for her patients, she will continue accomplishing her dream, just as she did by graduating with her nursing degree in three years.

*(photo: Mallory Clenney, a UT Martin Parsons Center student, is the first to graduate from the nursing program in three years. Clenney, as pictured, examines a fellow nursing student's eye during a lab at the UT Martin Parsons Center.)*
UT Martin Parsons student is first-ever to graduate nursing program within 3 years

August 3, 2020 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7eyewitnessnewsstaff)

MARTIN, Tenn. — UT Martin Parsons student Mallory Clenney became the first in the university's history to graduate the nursing program in three years.

Clenney, a 2017 Scotts Hill High School graduate, decided to not waste any time preparing for nursing school.

While in high school, she quit playing basketball, began taking dual enrollment courses, and earned 58 credits before graduating. She entered the UT Martin nursing program the following August.

"[Becoming a nurse] was just something that stuck in my heart," Clenney said. "I wanted to be a person that, in the future, could help those people whenever they are the most vulnerable and also help their family, [who] is also struggling."

"From the moment I met Mallory, I was very impressed with her drive and dedication," said Christy Blount, Parsons Center nursing program coordinator. "She had started working toward her long-term goal to complete this degree in three years before even graduating from high school."

Clenney is now employed at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, where she says working through the current COVID-19 pandemic is "definitely scary", but sees it as a chance to enhance her skills as a nurse.

"I feel like it's going to help my nursing career and help me," Clenney said. "There is always an opportunity to learn."
Numerous ACT prep courses planned throughout the fall

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses throughout the fall for students preparing for the test.

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UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author Alex Beene will teach the courses.

Beene currently serves as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and works primarily with rising high school juniors and seniors needing academic help with standardized testing.

Students are required to have access to a computer with video and audio capabilities in order to connect to Zoom.

To register, visit www.utm.edu/actprep.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.

UTM rec facilities to reopen Aug. 17 to students only

The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center, Elam Center and swimming pool will reopen Aug. 17 to registered UT Martin students, but will remain closed to the public in response to safety and health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recreation facilities will adopt modified hours of operation and guidelines, which students will be informed of before the beginning of the semester.

All UT Martin faculty, staff, retiree and family memberships will continue to be suspended until further notice.

For more information, visit https://www.utm.edu/departments/campusrec/ or utm.edu/coronavirus.
School-record 191 Skyhawks dial up OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll accolades

Posted on August 5, 2020 by Steve James in Local Sports

UT Martin shattered a school record with 191 student-athletes on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll list for the 2019-20 season.

This year’s number marks nearly a 50 percent increase from the 2018-19 academic year (128 honorees), and easily breaking the previous school record of 130 honorees on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll list in 2017-18.

Since joining the league in 1992, UT Martin has placed 2,279 student-athletes on the annual OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll.

A pair of Skyhawk teams generated the most OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll recipients in their respective sport for 2019-20. The UT Martin baseball squad led the way with 25 of the total 209 student-athletes for their sport while the Skyhawk men’s cross country team produced a league-high 12 student-athletes out of the 78 recognized in their sport.

On an individual basis, 10 different UT Martin student-athletes piled up their fourth career nod on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll list. Winston Cannon (baseball), Natalie Motor (women’s cross country/track and field), Ross Redmont (men’s golf), Jack Story (men’s golf), Kaitlin Korinek (rifle), Aalia Bivens (softball), Kara Martin (women’s track and field), Hannah Phillips (volleyball), Jade Bleskey (equestrian) and Savannah Metheny (equestrian) each accomplished that prestigious feat.

To be listed on the Commissioner’s Honor Roll, recipients must have achieved at least a 3.25 Grade Point Average, have been eligible and on the team throughout the competitive season in their NCAA-sponsored sport(s) and used a season of competition.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, spring-sport student-athletes who were eligible and met the GPA requirements, but saw their seasons cancelled (therefore not using a season of competition), received the award. Additionally, student-athletes who had pass/fail courses listed on their transcript were also made eligible so long as the institutional GPA’s are calculated according to institutional policy.

It was previously announced on Tuesday that 21 Skyhawks brought home a 2019-20 OVC Medal of Honor for their perfect 4.0 GPA’s.

UT Martin’s OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll recipients are listed below. Multiple asterisks indicate the number of years the student-athlete has qualified for the list:


Men’s Basketball (2): Eman Sertovic, Parker Stewart


Women’s Golf (1): Jordan Baker

Women’s Track and Field (6): Andrea Alford*, Kayla Anderson, Chelsie Brown, Abbie Glover, Mikayla Johnson, Kendra King

Women’s Volleyball (2): Charley Brandt, Innara Garcia

Equestrian (2): Savannah Metheny, Brooke McFadden

Rifle (3): Andrew Davis, William Gerber, Hunter Oates

Volleyball (1): Sarah Ward


Rifle (6): Abigail Donald, Nick Fares, Celia Gelpay***, Kaitlin Korinek****, Amanda Mayo, Rachel Mills**

Soccer (14): Alice Adams, Hendrikje Baumann***, Elin Berggren, Allie Buttry, Maria Castaldo, Kamryn Chappell***, Nicole Collins***, Morgan Glaenzer, Caty Hunt, Lotte Koot, Erica Myers, Bella Roberts***, Jacalyn Schubring**, Lexi Thomas***

Softball (11): Emily Alexander, Aalia Bivens***, Aly Bruner, Paige Clark***, Skyler Davis, Madelyn Ducys***, Maddi Long, Mallory Lowe, Mia Moddelmog, Shyanne Sheffield, Chayse Skinner

Women’s Tennis (7): Sina Albersmeier, Aziza Aubin, Amelia Campbell***, Jillian Niedzialowski, Mizuki Sakurai***, Natasha Sijan, Jule Streif***


UTM POOL REMAINS CLOSED

University of Tennessee at Martin officials have extended the closure of the Elam Center swimming pool through the month of July after evaluating the current COVID-19 pandemic conditions. All traditional recreational swimming, swimming lessons and pool parties are suspended indefinitely. A decision to safely reopen the swimming pool may be decided at a later date if COVID-19 conditions improve.

Members of the Housing Department at UT Martin greet incoming students for move-in days that began July 27 and continue until August 12.

UT Martin Students Move In for Fall Semester

MARTIN (July 30) — Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin began moving their personal belongings into on-campus housing for the fall semester Monday, July 27. Students can move on campus until Friday, August 12.

At check-in, students had their temperatures checked and were given a mask if they did not already have one. Students are not allowed to bring more than three people with them to help move in.

Ryan Martin, Assistant Director of Housing at UTM, said approximately 120 students are moving in every day.

Campus housing units are sanitized after move-ins. Students who are moving in must return home until August 13, when they are officially allowed to live in their units. No external guests are allowed on campus.

Martin stated many students are following guidelines very well.

"We appreciate everyone working with us and creating a safe environment for move-in," Martin shared.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Growing up in a family of medical professionals, Mallory Clenney knew from an early age that she wanted to follow in the footsteps of her mother and brother as a nurse but in her own style. On May 2, 2020, Clenney, who studied at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center, became the first student in UT Martin history to graduate from the nursing program in three years.

“(Becoming a nurse) was just something that stuck in my heart. I wanted to be a person that, in the future, could help these people whenever they are the most vulnerable and also help their family... (who) is also struggling,” Clenney said. “I just want to be that sense of calm for them and be able to provide them the best care that I know how.”

“From the moment I met Mallory, I was very impressed with her drive and dedication,” said Christy Blount, Parsons Center nursing program coordinator. “She had started working toward her long-term goal to complete this degree in three years before even graduating from high school. I hope that Mallory is very happy with her choice to enter the nursing profession and she finds an area she loves.”
Clenney, who graduated from Scotts Hill High School in 2017, said she decided to start preparing for nursing school early because she knew she was supposed to be a nurse and didn’t want to waste any time. She quit playing basketball, began taking dual enrollment courses, earned 58 credits before graduating and entered the UT Martin nursing program the following August. While Clenney did struggle in her courses at times, she says it was a rewarding experience that made her the nurse she always wanted to be.

Now working at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, Clenney is confident that her education at the UT Martin Parsons Center has prepared her to be the best nurse she can be even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Clenney, “not in 100 years” did she think she would ever be working as a nurse during a global pandemic, but through the hands-on training and trial simulations at the Parsons Center and in her residency, she learned how to treat patients and respond calmly in uncertain situations.

Clenney said working through the pandemic is “definitely scary,” but that after observing the nurses who are treating the virus in the COVID-19 unit, as well as the nurses in other units/floors taking on strenuous workloads due to higher acuity level, she is confident in their ability to ensure the best care possible for their patients.

“Times are uncertain, but every nurse I have seen or trained with has blown me away. These nurses are amazing, and their dedication shows what nursing is about. I applaud every health-care worker for what they are doing; they are the calm in the midst of the storm, and I am proud to be learning from and working with them.”

Now instead of being scared, she sees the pandemic as a chance to enhance her skills as a nurse to provide better treatments for her patients in the future.

“I feel like it’s going to help my nursing career and help me,” she said. “There is always an opportunity to learn.”

Clenney is unsure of where her career as a nurse will take her, especially in the current climate. She does know as long as she continues to provide care and comfort for her patients, she will continue accomplishing her dream, just as she did by graduating with her nursing degree in three years.
Skyhawk athletes set standard for academic honors

The Ohio Valley Conference unveiled its 2019-20 Medal of Honor recipients earlier this week, and UT Martin accounted for 21 student-athletes who posted a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average.

In addition, UTM shattered a school record with 191 student-athletes on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll list for the 2019-20 season.

The Skyhawks’ 21 OVC Medal of Honor representatives are the second-most in school history, barely trailing the 22 honorees during the 2013-14 season.

Overall, UT Martin has compiled 307 OVC Medal of Honor student-athletes since joining the league in 1992.

Individually, Mizuki Sakurai (women’s tennis) earned an OVC Medal of Honor for the third time in her career. Lenny Baumann (men’s cross country/men’s track and field), Daniel Smith (men’s cross country/men’s track and field), Nick Wolf (men’s golf) and Amelia Campbell (women’s tennis) picked up their second career OVC Medal of Honor award.

The Skyhawk men’s track and field, men’s golf and women’s tennis programs each chalked up the most OVC Medal of Honor winners in their respective sports.

UT Martin was responsible for three of the OVC’s 12 Medal of Honor recipients in men’s track and field, three of the OVC’s 12 winners in men’s golf and four of the OVC’s 17 recipients in women’s tennis.

In all, a record 286 OVC student-athletes earned a Medal of Honor in 2019-20 for their perfect 4.0 GPA’s, shattering the previous mark of 268 set last year.

The 191 Skyhawk representatives on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll marks nearly a 50 percent increase from the 2018-19 academic year (128 honorees).

The announcement easily broke the previous school record of 130 honorees in 2017-18. Since joining the league in 1992, UT Martin has placed 2,279 student-athletes on the annual OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll.

A pair of Skyhawk teams generated the most honor roll recipients in their respective sport for 2019-20.

The UT Martin baseball squad led the way with 25 of the total 209 student-athletes for their sport while the Skyhawk men’s cross country team produced a league-high 12 student-athletes out of the 78 recognized in their sport.

On an individual basis, 10 UT Martin student-athletes piled up their fourth career nod on the list.

Winston Cannon (baseball), Natalie Motor (women’s cross country/track and field), Ross Redmont (men’s golf), Jack Story (men’s golf), Kaitlin Korinek (rifle), Aalia Bivens (softball), Kara Martin (women’s track and field), Hannah Phillips (volleyball), Jade Bleskey (equestrian) and Savannah Metheny (equestrian) each accomplished that prestigious feat.

The OVC announced a record of 1,625 student-athletes on the 2019-20 version of the list, surpassing the previous mark of 1,384 honorees set a year ago.

To be listed, recipients must have achieved at least a 3.25 GPA, have been eligible and on the team throughout the competitive season in their NCAA-sponsored sport(s) and used a season of competition.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, spring-sport student-athletes who were eligible and met the GPA requirements, but saw their seasons cancelled (therefore not using a season of competition), received the award.
postponed because of health and safety concerns. A fully produced virtual induction ceremony is in the works and is expected to take place soon.

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020 includes Giles, former NFL head coach Jeff Fisher, current Vanderbilt head baseball coach Tim Corbin, former NFL quarterback Heath Shuler, former NBA guard Tony Delk, former NFL running back DeAngelo Williams, founder of Bristol Motor Speedway Bruton Smith, current Nashville Predators sports analyst Terry Crisp, former collegiate head basketball coach Sonny Smith, former Tennessee Golf Association executive director Dick Horton and former collegiate football head coach Carl Torbush.

Giles was the primary advocate for women's equality in sports in the state of Tennessee and was instrumental in their development of athletic opportunities. She has served on numerous national committees promoting the growth of women's sports, receiving the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports while additionally founding and serving as the first president of the Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation.

A Clarksville, Tenn. native, Giles started her UT Martin tenure as a professor of physical education in the fall of 1952. That same year, she began the university's women's tennis program and served as the head coach for eight years. In 1956, the tennis program was UT Martin's first women's sport to achieve varsity status.

In 1969, Giles was entrusted as UT Martin's first and only director of women's athletics - a role she would proudly serve until 1994. She jokingly convinced a tall, skinny UT Martin freshman from Ashland City, Tenn. that she had to play volleyball as a "conditioner" for basketball season. That student-athlete was Pat Head Summitt, who went on to become one of the best coaches in the history of basketball, winning 1,098 games and eight national women's championships at the University of Tennessee.

Giles' leadership and activism for women's athletics coincided with the Title IX movement, which was enacted by the United States Congress on June 23, 1972. Four years later, the first athletic grant-in-aid scholarship was awarded at UT Martin.

Retired since 1995, Giles remains an avid Skyhawk supporter. She was inducted into the UT Martin Hall of Fame in 1985 and the UT Martin softball program branded its stadium as "Bettye Giles Field" a little over a decade later. During Homecoming weekend of 2012, statues of Giles, Summitt and former UT Martin head women's basketball coach Nadine Gearin were unveiled outside of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on campus.

Established in 1966, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame enshrines and honors athletes, teams, coaches, sportswriters and sports administrators who have made an impact on the history of Tennessee sports. The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development oversees all operations along with the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors. For more information, please visit organization's website at www.tshf.net (http://www.tshf.net/).
Area residents are college graduates

MARQUETTE — A number of area residents have graduated from college in recent months:

A Marquette County resident was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 2. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual commencement was held in lieu of the traditional in-person ceremony and was live-streamed via Facebook Live and YouTube. An in-person graduation ceremony is currently being planned for this month in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. The student receiving an undergraduate degree was Alisa Marie Quayle of Ishpeming.

THE PARIS POST-TELLIGENCER WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

UTM Call Me MISTER program thrives

Justyn Johnson of Union City is one of the UT Martin students involved in the Call Me MISTER program, which is administered by Sam Tharpe of Paris.
“You have to make sure you have the experience; don’t let the experience have you.”

Through the University of Tennessee at Martin Call Me MISTER program, Justyn Johnson has done just that: made the most of every situation he’s experienced while in college.

The Call Me MISTER program, originally founded at Clemson University in 2000, is a leadership program that seeks to provide future teachers from diverse backgrounds with the tools and support needed to pursue successful careers in elementary and middle schools across the nation. “MISTER” stands for “Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models,” and the program’s goal is to provide underserved, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities with minority educators.

Sam Tharpe is the administrative coordinator of the program at UTM.

Johnson, a sophomore secondary education major from Union City, applied to the Call Me MISTER program in his senior year of high school with the hopes of becoming a history teacher in West Tennessee. As an African-American man, Johnson grew up without seeing minority male representation in the education system and wanted to help change that for future generations of students.

The Call Me MISTER program “is something that represents a lot more than just being male minority teachers. I think it is helping because ... some people go their entire school careers without ever having a minority teacher,” Johnson said. “For me, I hope that one day when I teach a kid that is like me, that might be mixed or might not come from a good home life, they can look at me and be like, ‘Well, he is like me, and he is successful. He is thriving in his life, so, why can’t I?’”

Austin Ferrell, academic coordinator of UT Martin’s Call Me MISTER program, explained that fewer than 2% of educators are minority males, so the purpose of the Call Me MISTER program is to encourage diversity in classrooms and provide minority males the resources to be effective educators and role models.

“The potential this program has in molding and shaping the students, not only students of color in K-12 but students in general by having ... that minority male in the classroom in their presence in schools, is very powerful,” Ferrell said.

Johnson credits two of his teachers from high school for inspiring him to become a teacher and says he wants to become the positive influence in his students’ lives that they were to him.

Having teachers who supported not only his educational growth, but also his personal well-being showed him the impact he could one day have on his students.

He wants to let his students know “that even though I’m their teacher, I can also be there to talk to them if they feel like they don’t have anyone else to talk to.”

STRONG BLACK LEADERSHIP

Johnson says he is currently receiving the mentorship and support he hopes to give back to his students in his classroom through the Call Me MISTER program.

“It has made a big difference because I know that UT Martin, in general, has a great support system, but, especially being an African-American or a mixed man, having other strong, powerful black men to support us like Anthony Prewitt (assistant director of multicultural affairs), Samuel Tharpe and Austin Ferrell means a lot to me,” said Johnson. “They’re an example of what I can get to as long as I stay on the right path.”

He says being in the Call Me MISTER program has afforded him opportunities he wouldn’t have had the chance to experience if he hadn’t been a part of the program, like living on campus and being involved in student organizations like SOAR (Summer Orientation and Registration) staff and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

“Those are aspects of my life I’ve enjoyed being a part of that I never thought I would be a part of. It was an interesting plot twist, but one I’ve enjoyed.”

While only in his second year as a MISTER, Johnson has already had the opportunity to serve in the West Tennessee community and see his impact first-hand. Through a mentorship partnership with minority students at Fulton Independent School District, granting scholarships to teachers in West Tennessee for their classrooms and working with the Rotary Club of Martin, Johnson has already accrued experiences he says will help him as a teacher.

As Johnson continues his education at UT Martin, Ferrell is excited to see his personal growth in life and the program.

“I want Justyn to continue being an effective leader for UTM,” said Ferrell. “I want him to continue to push and to eventually be a great role model teacher for other people to look up to, not only people in the Call Me MISTER program but people in the community, his students, his family and so on.”

When asked what advice he had for other students, Johnson said, “You have to make sure you have the experience; don’t let the experience have you. So, if something is going wrong in your life, don’t let that define who you are. Take that experience, make it a part of you and grow from it,” just as he has.

For more information about the Call Me MISTER program, contact Ferrell at aferrer01@utm.edu.
ELITE CLASS — Former UT Martin women's athletic director Bettye Giles is presented her Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame award from Hall representative Brad Willis on Tuesday afternoon in Martin. A pioneer in women's college athletics, she was the only women's AD at UT Martin and has served on numerous national committees promoting the growth of women's sports. Her induction was announced in February, and a banquet had been scheduled for Aug. 1 but was canceled for health reasons. A virtual ceremony is being planned.
Giles adds another Hall honor to long list

UT Martin and national pioneer for women's athletics Bettye Giles was presented her Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame award Tuesday at the Dunagan Alumni Center on campus.

It was announced on Feb. 17 that Giles was part of the star-studded 11-person Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020. The original banquet was set for Aug. 1 but was postponed because of health and safety concerns.

A fully produced virtual induction ceremony is in the works and is expected to take place soon.

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020 includes Giles, former Tennessee Titans' head coach Jeff Fisher, current Vanderbilt head baseball coach Tim Corbin, former University of Tennessee and NFL quarterback Heath Shuler, former Haywood High School, University of Kentucky and NBA guard Tony Delk, former NFL running back DeAngelo Williams, founder of Bristol Motor Speedway Bruton Smith, current Nashville Predators sports analyst Terry Crisp, former collegiate head basketball coach Sonny Smith, former Tennessee Golf Association executive director Dick Horton and former collegiate football head coach Carl Torbush.

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She has served on numerous national committees promoting the growth of women's sports, receiving the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports while additionally founding and serving as the first president of the Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation.

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She jokingly convinced a tall, skinny UT Martin freshman from Ashland City that she had to play volleyball as a "conditioner" for basketball season.

That student-athlete was Pat Head Summitt, who went on to become one of the best coaches in the history of basketball, winning 1,098 games and eight national women's championships at the University of Tennessee.

Giles' leadership and activism for women's athletics coincided with the Title IX movement, which was enacted by the United States Congress on June 23, 1972.

Four years later, the first athletic grant-in-aid scholarship was awarded at UT Martin.

Retired since 1995, Giles remains an avid Skyhawk supporter.

She was inducted into the UT Martin Hall of Fame in 1985, and the UT Martin softball program branded its stadium as "Bettye Giles Field" a little over a decade later.

During Homecoming weekend of 2012, statues of Giles, Summitt and former UT Martin head women's basketball coach Nadine Gearin were unveiled outside of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on campus.

Established in 1966, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame enshrines and honors athletes, teams, coaches, sportswriters and sport administrators who have made an impact on the history of Tennessee sports.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development oversees all operations along with the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

For more information, visit organization's website at www.tshf.net.

http://reportertoday.com/

Bristol County Student Receives Scholarship To Attend UT Martin

Posted Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:00 am

Martin, Tenn. — A Bristol County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2020-2021 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

• Abigail Hopkins, of Seekonk, daughter of John and Lisa Hopkins, will be a senior. She received the Giles/Gearin Women's Athletic Scholarship.

UT Martin is a four-year university located in northwest Tennessee and is part of the University of Tennessee System. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
UT Martin talks strategy to prevent further COVID-19 cases
Temi Adeleye, Mason Watkins
Aug 14, 2020

MARTIN, TN — Schools are getting ready to welcome students back for the fall semester.

One local university is already dealing with COVID-19 cases before classes begin. The University of Tennessee Martin begins classes on Monday. The university has 50 COVID-19 cases currently.

21 students are currently in isolation rooms.

UTM Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Andy Lewter explained what the university is doing to deal with those cases and to prevent more.

"If it's one of our residential students that tests positive, we will process everything," said Lewter. "Then we got a whole process if they're in an isolation room to help get them food and help check on them periodically throughout the day."

Students are required to wear masks.

"We're requiring all of students, faculty, and staff and visitors to wear masks any time they're in public on campus. So, unless they're alone, they probably need to have a mask on in almost every situation," said Lewter. "If they're outside and they're able to be away from people, that would be a time where they might not need to have a mask on, but we've said if you're inside a building, you need to have a mask on."

The university has already gone over training with students and campus leaders, educating them on guidelines to follow.
"Then we talk about things like making good choices about off-campus events, large crowds, travel to other places that might be experiencing spikes in cases," said Lewter.


He is making the rounds for two weeks on a diner tour to talk with people about COVID-19's impact on local businesses.

He said schools need the tools to protect everyone.

"One thing at the federal level I think we need to do more of in the next relief package is making sure that schools have enough tests that not only they can test students, but teachers and administrators," said Kustoff.

UT Martin campus leader Bailey Radnitzer was outside all day under the “Help Me” tent aiding students.

"It's so important, because so much that they know from normal life has been thrown out the window, their home life they're school life everything," said Radnitzer.

Lewter said they are here for their students every step of the way. He wants to ensure that the university does have COVID-19 tests on campus for students and staff.

The school said there are 1,700 students in dorms, which is 3% down from last year.

He said 50% of students have registered for all online classes, and 50% have registered for hybrid or in-person learning.
Ohio Valley Conference postpones all fall sports

by Jason Hall
Friday, August 14th 2020

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (WZTV) — The Ohio Valley Conference announced its decision to postpone all fall sports due to the concerns and uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision includes the postponement of football, men's and women's cross country, women's soccer, women's volleyball.

OVC football programs that are able to demonstrate a team's willingness and readiness to compete based on the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition and the NCAA's mental health guidance are approved to play up to four non-conference scheduled games.

The OVC Board asked the conference members to develop plans for conference competition and championships in the spring semester for impacted sports while making its determination.

Martín, TN -- Monday is the first day of class for several colleges and universities in the Local 6 area.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is one of them. They're already dealing with 50 student COVID-19 cases and 5 staff cases.

Adrianique Merriweather is a junior psychology major. Merriweather said this school year feels different.

"I'm used to the campus being really busy, and seeing a lot of familiar faces, and friends and everybody excited to go to class."

"And then I walked out my dorm this morning. And it was empty. And then for the people that I did see, they were really spaced out," Merriweather added.

Merriweather is concerned for freshman like Ashonta Johnson. Johnson said all her classes are online or video.

"Being physically in the classroom, I feel kind of helps other people better than sitting in front of a computer and doing it," Johnson said.

"Especially when you want to have study sessions with your classmates or you have group projects together,"

Only 50% of staff and campus are back on campus. Class sizes are also a lot smaller. Some teachers have even closed off some rows, to practice social distancing.

There are social distancing signs, hand sanitizing stations, and masks are required around campus. Chancellor, Keith Carver said 50 students and 5 staff have tested positive. And there's a plan in place if the virus continues to spread.

The biggest thing, I think different for this fall is we asked every faculty member to be ready to go online," Carver said.

"So in the event that we do need to move from face to face to hybrid, we can shift into a virtual remote format very quickly."

Merriweather and Johnson are still excited for the school year. They hope everyone can have fun and stay safe.

Chancellor Carver said the university has isolation rooms for students to stay in if they positive. On the main page of UTM's website, they will have daily updates on COVID-19 cases.
Classes begin at UT Martin, pandemic’s impact apparent on campus

August 17, 2020 by Julia Ewoldt (https://www.wbbitv.com/author/juliaewoldt/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — Monday morning was quiet on UT Martin’s campus. While one class met in the middle of the quad, some students weren’t even on campus.

"50% of our classes are being offered online, and about 50% of them are some type of hybrid way. So, it could be that they’re meeting some days a week and then some online, or it could be that they’re meeting in person, but in smaller classes than normal," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Andy Lewter.

Lewter says they are taking every precaution they can to keep students safe.

But even with the precautions, some students have already tested positive for COVID-19 and have had to quarantine, either at home, in their private dorm, or a designated dorm.

“We’re trying to monitor their health each day,” Lewter said. “They’ll have multiple checks to see how they’re doing.”
School officials are telling students they’re in charge of their own health. Part of that comes with no parties.

"No parties," Lewter said. "We’re really discouraging parties."

Lewter added, "We have some control over fraternity houses, but of course my concern is also off-campus apartments and local establishments — students gathering there."

The possibility of college students not following the rules is concerning some students, who say their grades depend on them staying healthy.

"I’m just trying to keep my head on, take all the safety precautions I can to prevent from being sick," freshman Melea Moore said.

And not just grades — some students' athletic seasons are riding on it.

"It depends on everyone else on campus and teams in other conferences and their schools," said senior Paige Pipkin. "So if they’re following the rules, it helps us a lot more to have a season."

Besides classes being held online, even fraternity and sorority rush will go virtual this year.

They’re meeting on Zoom at first, then in smaller and spread out groups.
Monte Belew resigns as Henry Co. Sheriff, accepts position at UT Martin

August 17, 2020 by WBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

HENRY COUNTY, Tenn. — Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew confirmed Monday he has resigned as sheriff, effective midnight.

Belew formally resigned through the Henry County Commission on Monday. He has accepted a position with the University of Tennessee at Martin as the university’s public safety director.

Belew has served as sheriff of Henry County for 14 years.

In the statement to the Henry County Commission, Belew said:

“I have been blessed to be your Sheriff for the past 14 years, and I have given my heart and soul to HCSO. I think we’ve helped a lot of Henry Countians and developed into one of the most progressive sheriff’s offices in the state. The credit belongs to the hardworking and dedicated men and women of HCSO. I am so proud to have been a small part of it. I know that, without a doubt, that the candidates that are running for Sheriff are qualified, experienced, and will take the Sheriff’s office to a new level.”

Belew said he is excited for the opportunity to join the University of Tennessee at Martin, and will miss Henry County as he moves into his new role.
By Shannon McFarlin News Director

Belew was emotional as he read his letter of resignation, dedicating his 14 years of service “to the memory of my father and the next 14 plus years to my family and a very special young man, Steel Bramlett, my new grandson.”

Belew begins his new position at UT Martin Tuesday morning as the campus begins its new school year.

Belew said, “I come to you tonight with a lump in my throat and also very excited about the future. After much prayer and thought, I have accepted the new position.”

Belew’s resignation is effective immediately and Chief Deputy Damon Lowe will serve in the capacity of sheriff until the November election. The County Election Commission is holding a special meeting Tuesday afternoon and will place the vacancy on the November ballot. Candidate petitions will be available for those interested.
"I have been blessed to be your Sheriff for the past 14 years and I have given my heart and soul to HCSO," Belew said. "I think we've helped a lot of Henry Countians and developed into one of the most progressive sheriff's offices in the state."

The credit, he said, "belongs to the hard working and dedicated men and women of the HCSO. I am so proud to have been a small part of it. I know without a doubt that the candidates that are running for Sheriff are qualified, experienced and will take the Sheriff's office to a new level."

Belew said, "I've always been told to keep the order of God, Family and Job. I haven't always done that and I apologize for that. I am extremely excited about this new opportunity and will miss Henry County as I move to UT Martin."

Belew said his resignation was presented "with a heavy heart. I'm just thankful to have been a part of the Henry Co. Sheriff's Office for 14 years. They were good memories and I look forward to plenty more. I love you all."

Belew received a standing ovation from the commission and the several visitors at the meeting which included his wife, Cori; Chief Deputy Lowe, members of the sheriff's office, County Mayor candidates John Penn Ridgeway and Tim Wirgau and others.

County Mayor Brent Greer voiced his appreciation for the job Belew has performed as Sheriff and he and several commissioners voiced their regret at his resignation.

Sheriff Belew shares a moment with Chief Deputy Damon Lowe as Commissioner Drew Williams waits in line to bid him farewell.

Top Photo: Sheriff Monte is emotional as he announces his resignation, as Commissioner James Travis and County Mayor Brent Greer listen.

Photos by Shannon McFarlin.
Longtime Henry County Sheriff named UT Martin Director of Public Safety

Jillianne Moncrief
Aug 18, 2020

MARTIN, TN — Longtime law enforcement professional and Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew has joined the University of Tennessee at Martin as the new director of public safety.

Blew recently resigned as the Henry County Sheriff after 14 years on the job.

UT Martin Office of University Relations says Belew is a UT Martin criminal justice graduate and served as Henry County Sheriff since 2006 and previously served as a Tennessee State Trooper and a patrolman, school resource officer and teacher for the Jackson Police Department.

“We're excited that Sheriff Belew has joined the UT Martin community,” said Petra McPhearson, UT Martin vice chancellor for finance and administration, in a statement. "His background in law enforcement, training and community relations make him an incredible leader for our public safety team.”

UT Martin says Belew is now responsible for directing UT Martin's efforts to provide a safe, secure and orderly environment for members of the university community and campus visitors. He will also lead crime prevention activities and education, enforcement activities and interact extensively with students, faculty, staff members and others who are associated with or impacted by the university.

"I am honored and excited about becoming a part of the University of Tennessee at Martin family," Belew said in a statement. "I look forward to working with all students and faculty as public safety director. My number-one goal is the safety and security for everyone at UTM, and I want to continue making UTM a great place to be.”

UT Martin says Belew’s law-enforcement experience includes completion of professional-development opportunities with the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and the Tennessee Highway Patrol Cadet School.

Additionally, UT Martin says he was honored as the Henry County 4-H Outstanding Service Award recipient in 2004, the Tennessee Constables Sheriff of the Year in 2009, and the Woodmen of the World Community Leadership Award in 2010.
Giles inducted into Hall of Fame

University of Tennessee at Martin and national pioneer for women’s athletics Bettye Giles was presented her Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020. The original banquet was set for Aug. 1 but was postponed because of health and safety concerns. A fully produced virtual induction ceremony is in the works and is expected to take place soon.

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020 includes Giles; former NFL head coach Jeff Fisher, current Vanderbilt head baseball coach Tim Corbin, former NFL quarterback Heath Shuler, former NBA guard Tony Delk, former NFL running back DeAngelo Williams, founder of Bristol Motor Speedway Bruton Smith, current Nashville Predators sports analyst Terry Crisp, former collegiate head basketball coach Sonny Smith, former Tennessee Golf Association executive director Dick Horton, and former collegiate football head coach Carl Torbush.

Giles was the primary advocate for women’s equality in sports in the state of Tennessee and was instrumental in their development of athletic opportunities. She has served on numerous national committees promoting the growth of women’s sports, receiving the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports while additionally founding and serving as the first president of the Tennessee College Women’s Sports Federation.

“I am so proud a bunch of us, meaning women in collegiate institutions, that got together in 1969 and decided it was time for women to be involved in collegiate athletics,” Giles said. “To have scholarships and to have the same emphasis that the sports for men in colleges was in all of those years. It took a lot of work—a lot of hard work, and a lot of driving and meetings and so forth. In my memories in athletics, that is what I am most proud of.”

A Clarksville native, Giles started her UT Martin tenure as a professor of physical education in the fall of 1952. That same year, she began the university’s women’s tennis program and served as the head coach for eight years. In 1956, the tennis program was UT Martin’s first women’s sport to achieve varsity status.

In 1969, Giles was entrusted as UT Martin’s first and only director of women’s athletics—a role she proudly served until 1994. She jokingly convinced a tall, skinny UT Martin freshman from Ashland City that she had to play volleyball as a “conditioner” for basketball season. That student-athlete was Pat Head Summitt, who went on to become one of the best coaches in the history of basketball, winning 1,098 games and eight national women’s championships at the University of Tennessee.

There are several women influenced by Giles who never got the same recognition that Summitt received.
Belew resigns as sheriff to take job at UT Martin

Monte Belew hopes the next 14 years go as well for him as the last 14 have. It’ll just be in a different location.

Belew, Henry County sheriff since 2006, turned in his resignation Monday to the Henry County Commission. He has decided to take a job as public safety director at his alma mater, the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The resignation became effective at midnight Monday. As of today, Chief Deputy Damon Lowe assumes the responsibilities of the sheriff’s office, though he does not assume the title or the office itself.

Belew made his mark during his tenure as sheriff. Among the changes he instituted, all with an eye toward helping the community as a whole, were the jail garden program, in which inmates raise vegetables for free to the public, and the work release initiative, which allows certain inmates to fill real jobs in the outside world, letting them...
Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew resigned from the job he has had since 2006 during Monday's meeting of the Henry County Commission.

Here's the statement Belew read to the commissioners:

"I come to you tonight with a lump in my throat and also very excited about the future. After much prayer and thought, I have accepted a new position with the University of Tennessee at Martin as their public safety director."

"I have been blessed to be your sheriff for the past 14 years and I have given my heart and soul to HCSO. I think we've helped a lot of Henry Countians and developed into one of the most progressive sheriff's offices in the state. The credit belongs to the hard working and dedicated men and women of HCSO. I am so proud to have been a small part of it. I know that without a doubt that the candidates that are running for sheriff are qualified, experienced, and will take the sheriff's office to a new level."

"I've always been told to keep the order of God, family, and job. I haven't always done that and I apologize for that. I am extremely excited about this new opportunity and will miss Henry County as I move to UT Martin."

"I would like to dedicate my 14 years as sheriff to the memory of my father and the next 14-plus years to my family and a very special young man, Steel Bramlett, my new grandson (who was born last week)."

"Thank you!"
OBION CO. STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO UT MARTIN

August 19, 2020 @ 8:19 am Shannon McFarlin

MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2020-2021 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Kaylee Cook, of Union City, daughter of Shawn and Lori Cook, will be a freshman. She received the Alumni Valedictorian Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

Liv Murphy, of Kenton, daughter of Laura Murphy, will be a freshman. She received the Alumni Valedictorian Scholarship and the Deans Scholarship.

Haley Straka, of Obion, daughter of Mari Straka and William Straka, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Deans 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 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.

HENRY CO. STUDENT EARS UTM SCHOLARSHIP

August 19, 2020 @ 8:22 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn. – A Henry County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2020-2021 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Morgan Klinzing, of Paris, daughter of Paula Parham and George Klinzing, will be a senior. She received the Jodi Woods Memorial 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 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Giles, a Pioneer in Women Athletics, Receives State Sports Hall of Fame Award

MARTIN (August 11) — The University of Tennessee at Martin and national pioneer for women's athletics Bettye Giles was presented her Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame award August 11, 2020, at the Dunagan Alumni Center.

It was announced February 17, 2020, Giles was part of the star-studded, 11-person Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020. The original banquet was set for August 1, 2020, but was postponed because of health and safety concerns due to the pandemic. A fully-produced virtual induction ceremony is expected to take place soon.

Giles was the primary advocate for women's equality in Tennessee sports and was instrumental in the development of athletic opportunities for women. She has served on numerous national committees promoting the growth of women's sports, receiving the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports while additionally founding and serving as the first president of the Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation.

A Clarksville, Tennessee, native, Giles started her UT Martin tenure as a professor of physical education in the fall of 1952. That same year, she began the university's women's tennis program and served as the head coach for eight years. In 1966, the tennis program became UT Martin's first women's sport to achieve varsity status.

In 1969, Giles was entrusted as UT Martin's first and only director of women's athletics—a role she proudly served in until 1994.

During her time as director, she jokingly convinced a tall, skinny UT Martin freshman from Ashland City, Tennessee, that she had to play volleyball as a "conditioner" for basketball season. That student-athlete was Pat Head Summitt, who went on to become one of the best coaches in the history of basketball, winning 1,088 games and eight national women's championships at the University of Tennessee.

Giles' leadership and activism for women's athletics coincided with the Title IX movement, which was enacted by the United States Congress on June 23, 1972. Four years later, the first athletic grant-in-aid scholarship was awarded at UT Martin.

Retired since 1995, Giles remains an avid Skyhawk supporter. She was inducted into the UT Martin Hall of Fame in 1985, and the UT Martin softball program named its stadium, "Bettye Giles Field," a little over a decade later. During Homecoming weekend of 2012, statues of Giles, Summitt and former UT Martin head women's basketball coach Nadine Gearin were unveiled outside of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on campus.

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020 includes Giles, former NFL head coach Jeff Fisher, current Vanderbilt head baseball coach Tim Corbin, former NFL quarterback Heath Shuler, former NBA guard Tony Delk, former NFL running back DeAngelo Williams, founder of Bristol Motor Speedway Bruton Smith, current Nashville Predators sports analyst Terry Crisp, former collegiate head basketball coach Sonny Smith, former Tennessee Golf Association executive director Dick Horton and former collegiate football head coach Cari Torbush.

Established in 1966, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame enshrines and honors athletes, teams, coaches, sportswriters and sports administrators who have made an impact on the history of Tennessee sports. The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development oversees all operations, along with the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors. For more information, visit the organization's website at www.tshf.net.
Belew, Henry County Sheriff Named UT Martin Director of Public Safety

MARTIN — Longtime law enforcement professional and Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew has joined the University of Tennessee at Martin as the new director of public safety. The UT Martin criminal justice graduate has served as Henry County sheriff since 2006 and previously served as a Tennessee State Trooper and as a patrolman, school resource officer and teacher for the Jackson Police Department.

“We’re excited that Sheriff Belew has joined the UT Martin community,” said Petra McPherson, UT Martin vice chancellor for finance and administration, in a statement. “His background in law enforcement, training and community relations make him an incredible leader for our public safety team.”

In his new role, Belew is responsible for directing UT Martin’s efforts to provide a safe, secure and orderly environment for members of the university community and campus visitors. He will also lead crime prevention activities and education, enforcement activities and interact extensively with students, faculty, staff members and others who are associated with or impacted by the university.

“I am honored and excited about becoming a part of the University of Tennessee at Martin family,” Belew said in a statement. “I look forward to working with all students and faculty as public safety director. My number-one goal is the safety and security for everyone at UTM, and I want to continue making UTM a great place to be.”

Belew’s law enforcement experience includes completion of professional-development opportunities with the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and the Tennessee Highway Patrol Cadet School. He was honored as the Henry County 4-H Outstanding Service Award recipient in 2004, the Tennessee Constables Sheriff of the Year in 2009.

UT Martin Students In Isolation as Semester Begins

MARTIN (August 17) — The fall semester began at UT Martin Monday and the campus is already dealing with positive COVID-19 cases. There are reportedly 50 active cases in students and five active cases of staff members who are under quarantine, according to information released by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The university has many plans in place to help these students who are living on campus continue their coursework while in quarantine.

Students who have tested positive and live on campus are being encouraged to stay on campus during their isolation. Those students were moved to a designated isolation room in the on-campus housing facilities. Students will have meals and groceries delivered to their room and all laundry is handled for the students.

UT Martin

...From Front Page

All isolation rooms are furnished with a mini-fridge, microwave and television. The student, once placed in an isolation room, will not be permitted to leave. The students will continue their classes online as all classes this semester have been formatted to be in-person and online.

During this time the parents of students who test positive and are in isolation will receive regular updates on the students’ recovery process.

All students who were in close contact with a positive COVID-19 person need to quarantine for 14 days.

By the end of this week, UT Martin plans to have started new protocols for all staff members. All employees will be asked to complete an online survey regarding their recent health each day before starting work. If the survey is completed and the employee shows signs of feeling unwell or possibly having COVID-19, they will be asked to work from home.

The university is adding an active daily case count to the UT Martin website that all students and local residents can access.
Belew resigns as Henry sheriff to take job at UT-Martin

KEN WALKER • Paris Post-Intelligencer
Aug 20, 2020

Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew speaks during a function in Paris, Tennessee Monday. Belew resigned as sheriff after 14 years.
Paris Post-Intelligencer photo

PARIS, Tenn. — Monte Belew hopes the next 14 years go as well for him as the last 14 have. It'll just be in a different location.

Belew, Henry County sheriff since 2006, turned in his resignation Monday to the Henry County Commission. He has decided to take a job as public safety director at his alma mater, the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The resignation became effective at midnight Monday. As of today, Chief Deputy Damon Lowe assumes the responsibilities of the sheriff's office, though he does not assume the title or the office itself.

Belew's resignation comes on the heels of County Mayor Brent Greer's announcement last month that he is resigning effective Nov. 3. The commission also officially accepted Greer's resignation Monday.

An emotional Belew delivered a prepared statement to the commissioners in which he said he had been thankful to be a part of the county's government. A former Tennessee Highway Patrol trooper, Belew first ran in 2006 and never had an opponent in any of his four election campaigns. Belew's term actually doesn't expire until 2022.

County Attorney Rob Whitfield told the commission that the Henry County Election Commission will need to meet today in order to place both the county mayor's and sheriff's office on the ballot for the November elections here.

Belew certainly wasn't chained to his desk during his tenure. His active role in still solving crimes and dealing with major incidents was perhaps best illustrated in 2018 when he and one of his officers were credited with capturing a Stewart County man, Kirby Gene Wallace, who was a suspect in multiple murders. Wallace had been the subject of a seven-day manhunt involving multiple agencies from across the state.
Whitfield said it's his understanding prospective candidates for either position may begin picking up their qualifying petitions on Wednesday. Both races will be to fill out those unexpired terms through 2022.

Belew made his mark during his tenure as sheriff. Among the changes he instituted, all with an eye toward helping the community as a whole, were the jail garden program, in which inmates raise vegetables that the sheriff's department then gives away for free to the public, and the work release initiative, which allows certain inmates to fill real jobs in the outside world, letting them pay their court fines, pay a stipend to the county and save enough money for themselves that they can have a decent nest egg when they're released from jail.

He also helped create the Metro Crime Unit, a special unit staffed by his own officers as well as officers from the Paris Police Department. The MCU targets drug operations and other crimes that take place in both jurisdictions.

Countians receive UTM awards
By Shirley Nanney - August 20, 2020

Two Carroll County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in recognition of departmental achievements during the 2019-20 academic year.

- Morgan Spring, of McKenzie, received the Outstanding Environmental Management Student Award.

- Amanda Steele, of Yuma, received the Outstanding Dietetic Student Award.
UT MARTIN IMPLEMENTS NEW TITLE IX POLICY

August 20, 2020 @ 9:18 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn. — The U.S. Department of Education has mandated a new Title IX policy, effective Aug. 14, updating the measures higher education institutions, like the University of Tennessee at Martin, use to address sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence and stalking cases involving students, employees and third-party university contractors.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Through the Title IX policy, UT Martin works to create and maintain a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living and working environment free from sexual harassment. The purposes of the Title IX policy are to define and prevent the effects of prohibited conduct including sexual assault, rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, dating and domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation and retaliation; identify support and reporting options for students and employees; address all university employees’ obligation as mandatory reporters; and identify the grievance procedures the university conducts to thoroughly investigate any reports of prohibited conduct.

"These are significant changes to our policy that will provide equality and due process to all parties involved in this process," said Joe Henderson, UT Martin Title IX coordinator. "Please be patient as we work through these new changes to strengthen our university community."
The major changes to the Title IX policy include:

- **Prohibited conduct:** The previous regulations, titled “Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and Stalking,” has been expanded to include a broader definition of prohibited conduct, and is now titled the “Policy on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking.” To be considered sexual harassment, the actions must be unwelcome conduct, severe, pervasive, objectively offensive and denies equal access to the university’s educational programs.

- **Supportive measures:** Both the complainant (alleged victim) and respondent (accused) have to be provided with equal access to supportive measures in order to conduct a fair and impartial investigation. Supportive measures include access to medical care, counseling, legal resources, housing and classroom relocation and more.

- **Investigations:** In order for an investigation to begin, the complainant must submit a written formal complaint to the Title IX coordinator to request an investigation. Also, investigative procedures now include mandatory written notices to each party involved in the investigation.

- **Hearing process:** A hearing officer will now oversee the hearing process to determine what actions will result from the evidence provided during the hearing. Previously, the Title IX coordinator made recommendations at the conclusion of the investigation; however, under the new regulations, it will fall to the hearing officer’s judgment. Both the complainant and the respondent will now also have access to the assistance of an adviser during the investigation and hearing process who will be responsible for cross-examining participants in the hearing on behalf of their party.

The obligation of all university employees as mandatory reporters has not changed with the new regulations. Training for the new Title IX policy will be required in the fall.

The University of Tennessee System has worked since the announcement on May 6, 2020, to overhaul the current operating Title IX and student conduct policies in compliance with the new regulations. On Aug. 4, the UT Board of Trustees approved the recommended changes to the policy.

UT Martin’s new Title IX policy can be read at utm.edu/sexualmisconduct. For more information, contact Henderson at 731-881-3505 or jhende33@utm.edu.
The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2020 (https://www.tennessean.com/story/sports/college/vanderbilt/2020/02/27/vanderbilt-baseball-tim-corbin-tennessee-sports-hall-fame/4859263002/) induction will be televised on Aug. 29 in some markets in the state and Aug. 30 in others.

It will be a two-hour telecast hosted by Titans broadcaster Mike Keith.


Dolly Parton was named Tennessean of the Year; Titans running back Derrick Henry was the Pro Athlete of the Year, and the Titans were the Pro Team of the Year. Former Vanderbilt and NBA basketball player Perry Wallace was honored posthumously with the David Williams Significant Historical Achievement Award.

Other honorees: Cumberland baseball coach Woody Hunt (Coach of the Year), Pat Summitt Lifetime Achievement Award, Vanderbilt pitcher Kumar Rocker and UT football player Trey Smith (co-Amateur Male Athletes of the Year), Vanderbilt bowler Maria Bulanova (Amateur Female Athlete of the Year), UT swimming and diving team (Female Amateur Team of the Year) and Vanderbilt baseball team (Male Amateur Team of the Year).

"Due to the challenges of the (COVID-19) pandemic, we changed our approach of our yearly induction program thanks to the diligent work of our board acting in the best interest of everyone's health and well-being." Brad Willis, chief advancement and operations officer of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, said in a statement. "We look forward to honoring this class in-person when the time is right, but, we are excited to officially induct this star-studded class with this televised special."

Each inductee's acceptance speeches were recorded along with interviews.

Notable sports figures who were associated with the inductees and interviewed include former Titans star Eddie George, PGA Tour pro Brandt Snedeker, major leaguer Tony Kemp and Predators CEO and President Sean Henry.

A week-long silent auction beginning Aug. 24 will precede the event featuring items including a Titans team-issued football autographed by Fisher, a Parton autographed guitar, a baseball signed by Corbin and more.

The special will be broadcast in these markets on these stations:

Nashville — NewsChannel5+, Comcast Xfinity channel 250, Charter Spectrum channel 182, Digital Channel 5.2, Aug. 29, 7 p.m.

Jackson — EPlusTV6, Aug. 29, 7 p.m.

Johnson City — WJHL CBS 11, Aug. 29, noon (ET)

Chattanooga — WDEF News 12, Aug. 30, noon (ET)

Memphis — WLMT CW30, Aug. 30, 4 p.m.

The event also will be streamed online on the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (http://tsshf.net) website. @TheTSHF on Twitter and @TNSportsHallofFame on Facebook.

Reach Mike Organ at 615-259-8021 or on Twitter @MikeOrganWriter.
Longtime Henry County sheriff named UT Martin director of public safety

Longtime law enforcement professional and Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew has joined the University of Tennessee at Martin as the new director of public safety.

Blew, a UT Martin criminal justice graduate, has served as Henry County sheriff since 2006. He previously served as a trooper with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and as a patrol officer, school resource officer and teacher for the Jackson Police Department.

"We’re excited that Sheriff Belew has joined the UT Martin community," said Petra McPhearson, UT Martin vice chancellor for finance and administration. "His background in law enforcement, training and community relations makes him an incredible leader for our public safety team."

In his new role, Belew is responsible for directing UT Martin’s efforts to provide a safe, secure and orderly environment for members of the university community and campus visitors. He will also lead crime prevention activities, education and enforcement activities and interact extensively with students, faculty, staff members and others who are associated with or impacted by the university.

MONTE BELEW

"I am honored and excited about becoming a part of the University of Tennessee at Martin family," Belew said in a statement. "I look forward to working with all students and faculty as public safety director. My number-one goal is the safety and security for everyone at UTM, and I want to continue making UTM a great place to be."

Blew’s law enforcement experience includes completion of professional development opportunities with the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and the Tennessee Highway Patrol Cadet School.

He was honored as the Henry County 4-H Outstanding Service Award recipient in 2004, the Tennessee Constables Sheriff of the Year in 2009 and with the Woodmen of the World Community Leadershıp Award in 2010.

Skyhawk Creed to be signed at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will sign the “Skyhawk Creed” into effect at 9 a.m. Friday in front of the Skyhawk banner at Boling University Center.

The document was created in response to students’ concerns of social injustices on campus and represents the values and mission of the university, which strives to foster a diverse and inclusive community.

The creed — based on the principles of “respect,” “responsibility” and “right choices” — will be signed by UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver; provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, interim chief diversity and inclusion officer Dr. Mark McCloud, vice chancellor for student affairs Dr. Andy Lewter, Student Government Association president Hunter McCloud and Black Student Association president Kalyin Bailey as representatives of the entire university community.

“The creed came about from discussions from students being upset that people here could be mistreated based upon race or gender, or any other thing that can make us different,” McCloud said. “The whole concept of the creed is... as voluntary members of this community, as students, as staff, as faculty, we believe that people should be respected. We believe we need to take responsibility for our actions and hold other people accountable for theirs.

“We also believe that the right choice is to create an environment where people are free to belong.”

The event is closed to the public in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
NEW HALL OF FAMER - Bettye Giles, the first and only director of women’s athletics at UTM, receives her Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame award from Brad Willis, TSHF chief advancement and operations officer.

UTM pioneer inducted to Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
UTM and national pioneer for women's athletics Bettye Giles was presented her Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (TSHF) award Aug. 11 at the Dunagan Alumni Center. Giles is part of the distinguished TSHF Class of 2020.

The primary advocate for women's equality in Tennessee sports, Giles was instrumental in the development of athletic opportunities for women throughout the nation. She served on numerous national committees promoting the growth of women's sports, founded and served as the first president of the Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation, and received the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports.

Giles started her UTM tenure as a professor of physical education in the fall of 1952, when she began the university's women's tennis program and served as the head coach for eight years. In 1956, the tennis program became UTM's first women's sport to achieve varsity status. In 1969, Giles was appointed UTM's first and only director of women's athletics, a role she proudly filled until 1994.

While director, Giles jokingly convinced a tall, skinny UTM freshman from Ashland City that she had to play volleyball as a "conditioner" for basketball season. That student-athlete was Pat Head Summitt, who went on to become one of the best coaches in the history of college basketball.

Giles' leadership and activism for women's athletics coincided with the Title IX movement, which was enacted by the U.S. Congress on June 23, 1972. Four years later, the first athletic grant-in-aid scholarship was awarded at UTM. Retired since 1995, Giles remains an avid Skyhawk supporter.

The TSHF Class of 2020 includes Giles, former NFL head coach Jeff Fisher, former NFL quarterback Heath Shuler, former NFL running back DeAngelo Williams, former NBA guard Tony Delk, former college head basketball coach Sonny Smith, former college head football coach Carl Torbush, former Tennessee Golf Association executive director Dick Horton, and Bristol Motor Speedway founder Bruton Smith. Current Vanderbilt head baseball coach Tim Corbin and current Nashville Predators sports analyst Terry Crisp also are inductees.

Established in 1966, the TSHF enshrines and honors athletes, teams, coaches, sportswriters, and sports administrators who have made an impact on the history of Tennessee sports. The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development oversees all operations along with the TSHF Board of Directors. For more information, visit www.tshf.net.

YEARS OF SERVICE - Bettye Giles began her tenure at UTM in the fall of 1952, as a professor of physical education and the head women's tennis coach. In 1969, she became the UTM director of women's athletics, holding that position until her retirement in 1994.
GOOD COMPANY - During UTM homecoming weekend of 2012, statues of former Women's Athletics Director Bettye Giles, basketball player Pat Head Summitt, and former UTM head women's basketball coach Nadine Gearin were unveiled outside of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

UT-M Balloon Animal Classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is partnering with Inflation Animation Engineer to host an online balloon animal-building course to help enhance critical-thinking skills and develop communication skills for students in fourth grade and up.

Participants will learn how to make seven balloon animals through interactive virtual lessons. The class will begin August 29th with a Zoom kick-off meet and greet with instructor and Inflation Animation Engineer, Steve Christmas. A celebration Zoom meeting will be held September 12th for participants to show off their creations.

Registration for the course includes a kit of everything students will need to create balloon animals, such as a professional hand pump, 115 balloons, access to the video lessons and a copy of "Twisting Balloons Loving STEM & Engineering Winners" booklet by Inflation Animation Engineer. Siblings can be added to the course for an extra fee.

The deadline to register is August 21st. To register, visit www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/balloon.php.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, 731-881-7104 or dmount@utm.edu.
UTM officials sign ‘Skyhawk Creed’ to promote racial equality on campus

August 21, 2020 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — A local university is making changes in response to students’ calls for racial equality.

“‘We’re just really making a statement,’” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

“This is only the beginning,” said Kaylyn Bailey, president of the Black Student Association at UTM.

Friday, UTM officials signed the ‘Skyhawk Creed,’ saying they will promote standards of respect, responsibility, and right choices.

“Maybe they can model that and be a beacon for that in their communities, in their families, and in their work networks, maybe it can really make a difference,” Carver said.

This comes after two incidents on campus. One — racist flyers were distributed on the hoods of vehicles. The other — three students were involved in a video Chancellor Carver described as ‘disturbing.’

“We had a group of students that we met with, and also some faculty and staff,” Carver said.
Punishments for the three students involved in the video were never released.

“Once students go in the student-conduct process, federal privacy law protects that process,” Carver said.

Some students want to know if students are being held accountable for their actions.

“Personally I feel like they got off scot-free because of the first amendment, and we’re a public institution,” Bailey said. “I know we can’t go against the law, but there has to be some other consequences, because they offended a lot of people, myself included.”

But she does believe this creed is a start to making a change on campus.

“It kind of sets the students accountable for their actions, and makes sure the students affected feel safe and know we care about them,” Bailey added.

“We want to be a respectful place, a place we know that is going to have varying opinions, but a place where we can be civil and talk about differences and still have respect for the other person,” Carver said.

Carver said more than 100 hours of meetings prompted the decision to make the creed.
The Skyhawk Creed states, "The University of Tennessee at Martin is an educational community committed to excellence in personal integrity and intellectual growth in a diverse and inclusive environment. As a voluntary member of this community: I will respect the rights and property of all persons and treat them with dignity and civility. I will take responsibility for my actions and hold others accountable for theirs, while demonstrating a concern for others, their feelings, and their sense of belonging. I will make right choices that will demonstrate academic integrity, discourage bigotry and hate, and strive to learn from the unique differences of people and opinions. I pledge to model these principles and values and encourage others to follow my example."

Carver, McCloud and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Acree Cavalier discussed the importance of each principle of the creed during the signing. Each encouraged students, faculty and staff to be civil when discussing difficult conversations, to hold themselves and others accountable for what they say and do, as well as to have integrity and an open mind.

"While we can't always control what other people say, we can control who we are, and we want the world to know who we are as an institution and individuals," said McCloud.

Dr. Sean Walker, Faculty Senate president, Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, and Kaylin Bailey, president of the Black Student Association, also signed the "Skyhawk Creed."

For more information about the "Skyhawk Creed," contact McCloud at mmcclo5@utm.edu.

Photo: UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Mark McCloud and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Acree Cavalier sign the “Skyhawk Creed” into effect Aug. 21.
MARTIN, Tenn. – "James R. Vinson, Box 98 Sharon Tenn., 5-27-57, Bricklayer," reads the tile in red ink. For 65 years, this tile laid in a bathroom in Clement Hall on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus unbeknownst to all but the bricklayer who signed it, James R. Vinson.

However, after recent infrastructure renovations to Clement Hall, Vinson's signature was recovered from the construction debris, bringing light to the now 90-year-old Union City resident and the legacy he literally built at UT Martin.

According to a press release from Sarah Knapp – Staff Writer, Addenda Editor Office of University Relations The University of Tennessee at Martin – Vinson began working at UT Martin as a bricklayer in 1957 when he was 27 years old with his father who taught him the trade. With Clement Hall as his first project, Vinson was later contracted to help build and repair at least seven buildings on campus including the Paul Meek Library, the Student Recreation Center, multiple residence halls as well as the Hall-Moody Administration Building brick sign.
"I was just responsible for laying the brick and tile," said Vinson. "I wasn't the boss or nothing, I was just a hired hand doing my job. What they told me to do, I'd do it."

Even if Vinson had never done what they asked him to do before, he said he'd try to do it to the best of his abilities, and if the lead contractor didn't approve of it, he'd tear it down and try again.

After finding the tile, Kent Cook, the superintendent for Barger Construction, the company responsible for the renovations to Clement Hall, contacted Dana Hagan, project coordinator for the Physical Plant, to let her know he found something she should see. Much to Hagan's surprise, when Cook handed her the tile, she quickly recognized the name as a man she had gone to church with for 40 years.

"My heart just immediately started pounding and my eyes welled up, and I was just like, 'What in the world? I know him!' said Hagan. "What are the chances? This is a miracle."

Vinson said he never expected to see the tile he laid so many years ago again, and when Hagan returned the tile to him, he couldn't help but tear up and hug her.

"I was shocked," Vinson said when asked how he reacted to Hagan giving him the tile. "I didn't realize I'd ever see it again."

Hagan says the whole experience has been "overwhelming" as the renovations in Clement Hall are only happening in specific locations and "the chances of us cutting out the thing that held that (tile) ... is truly a miracle."

Vinson currently has the tile on display in his home above his brick fireplace as a reminder of the life he built for himself through hard work.

Vinson grew up in the 1930s in a house near the Heating Plant on campus. He saw UT Martin grow from the wheat fields he and his brother used to play in to the university that would teach his children and grandchildren.

Vinson's bricklaying legacy is best exhibited in the Hall-Moody Administration Building front sign, which he helped build in his 60s. His family loves to remind him of his work at UT Martin every time they drive by the university sign.

"Whoever's in the car with me ... says, 'There's your sign!'" he said.

While Vinson enjoyed working at UT Martin and the surrounding area, he and his wife of 40 years, Glenda, often found themselves traveling across the country with a bricklaying team to build churches.

Just when the Vinsons and Hagan didn't think the chances of finding the tile could get any more unbelievable, one church in West Tennessee Vinson helped rebuild happened to be Cook's home church that burned down, which they discovered after meeting.
"That’s the best part of it to me," said Cook regarding his church. "It’s pretty interesting to meet someone who built a building 62 years ago. ... I was surprised he was still living and that anyone knew who he was."

Overall, they have traveled to 37 different states as well as the Philippines, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Brazil to brick churches.

"It’s been an adventure," said Vinson. "I’ve enjoyed every bit of the work I’ve done (at UT Martin) and around."

(PHOTO: James Vinson, a 90-year-old bricklayer from Union City, helped build the Hall-Moody Administration Building brick sign in the 1990s - courtesy Sarah Knapp Staff Writer, Addenda Editor Office of University Relations The University of Tennessee at Martin)

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How student journalists are covering the COVID-19 pandemic as campus cases rise

Shamarria Morrison
Aug 25, 2020

MARTIN, TN - College campuses across the U-S are forced to make changes just days after starting classes because of a spike in COVID-19 cases.

News about infections and students not following guidelines are highlighted by student journalists on campus.

The college campus, University of Tennessee-Martin, is fairly empty because students are doing hybrid learning.

Despite this, student journalists are keeping content on the airwaves of the college radio station WUTM-FM.
"We've all risen to the occasion," said Kayla Brooks, program director of WUTM. "There was no one here who was like, 'do I really have to come back to work', everyone was eager to come back and ready to keep reporting and ready to keep WUTM on air."

Brooks, a former intern at WPSD, works with Tatum Baldwin, the news director, to keep the station running.

"If we get sent home again, I will need to find ways to come up with stories without being on campus," said Baldwin, "but also get the stories of how a student is going through this pandemic."

How students are going through this pandemic directly impacts the local community. The student newspaper made a special pandemic paper for campus.

"We did a bunch of updates for what was going on while everyone was gone," said, Taylor Larson, the co-executive director of the student paper named 'The Pacer'. "We want to continue to do it that way because we feel like we're going to miss a lot that we don't realize we're missing."

If Pacer staff ever has to get answers administrators about COVID-19 they said they're ready.

"Our motto at the pacer is seek the truth," said Evan Parkhill, co-executive director of the Pacer. "So we believe in trying to get to the bottom of whatever it is and report it accurately and fairly."

That means speaking truth to power even if it's their own college.

UTM currently has 16 active COVID-19 cases.
UT MARTIN FINE ARTS GALLERY REOPENS WITH PHOTO SERIES ON “COMMUNITY”

August 25, 2020 @ 8:57 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery will reopen to the public Aug. 26, featuring the photo series “Community: UT Martin through the lens of Nathan Morgan.”

Morgan currently serves as the assistant director of the Office of University Relations but came to UT Martin in 2013 as the university photographer. Morgan selected 25 photos to be featured in the gallery he says best represent the “authentic life” of UT Martin since he began photographing the campus community.

From events such as rodeo and homecoming to the iconic architecture on campus, viewers will see UT Martin as Morgan does through his camera.

“My hope is that this gallery captures the essence of our community and life as I see it at UT Martin,” said Morgan. “I feel like what I do here at UTM is document the community, and I want to leave a legacy through my work. I want to show what life was like during the two thousand-teens to early two thousand-twenties.”

The “Community” gallery’s opening night will be livestreamed on the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts Facebook page, beginning at 5 p.m., Aug. 25. Morgan will discuss the history of the photographs and why he selected them for the gallery. He hopes viewers will take the time to appreciate each photograph he selected and examine the small details deliberately captured in each frame.

The exhibit will be open from 1 – 5 p.m., Aug. 25 – Sept. 25. Masks are required in the Fine Arts Gallery, and only six visitors are allowed inside at a time.

For more information, contact Dr. Carol Eckert, chair of the visual and theatre arts department, at 731-881-7400.
UTM implements new Title IX regulations

The U.S. Department of Education has mandated a new Title IX policy, effective Aug. 14, updating the measures higher education institutions, like the University of Tennessee at Martin, use to address sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence and stalking cases involving students, employees, and third-party university contractors.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

The purposes of the Title IX policy are to define and prevent the effects of prohibited conduct including sexual assault, rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, dating and domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation and retaliation; identify support and reporting options for students and employees; address all university employees' obligation as mandatory reporters; and identify the grievance procedures the university conducts to thoroughly investigate any reports of prohibited conduct.

The major changes to the Title IX policy include:
- The previous regulations, titled "Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and Stalking," has been expanded to include a broader definition of prohibited conduct, and is now titled the "Policy on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking." To be considered sexual harassment, the actions must be unwelcome conduct, severe, pervasive, objectively offensive and denies equal access to the university's educational programs.
- Supportive measures: Both the complainant (alleged victim) and respondent (accused) have to be provided with equal access to supportive measures in order to conduct a fair and impartial investigation. Supportive measures include access to medical care, counseling, legal resources, housing, classroom relocation, and more.
- Investigations: In order for an investigation to begin, the complainant must submit a written formal complaint to the Title IX coordinator to request an investigation. Also, investigative procedures now include mandatory written notices to each party involved in the investigation.
- Hearing process: A hearing officer will now oversee the hearing process to determine what actions will result from the evidence provided during the hearing. Previously, the Title IX coordinator made recommendations at the conclusion of the investigation; however, under the new regulations, it will fall to the hearing officer's judgment. Both the complainant and the respondent will now also have access to the assistance of an adviser during the investigation and hearing process who will be responsible for cross-examining participants in the hearing on behalf of their party.

The obligation of all university employees as mandatory reporters has not changed with the new regulations. Training for the new Title IX policy will be required in the fall.

The University of Tennessee System has worked since the announcement, on May 6, to overhaul the current operating Title IX and student conduct policies to be in compliance with the new regulations.

On Aug. 4, the UT Board of Trustees approved the recommended changes to the policy.

UTM's new Title IX policy can be read at utm.edu/sexualmisconduct. For more info, contact Joe Henderson at 731-881-3505 or jhende33@utm.edu.

Local student receives scholarships to attend UTM

A Weakley County student has been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2020-21 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Natalie Weidenbach of Martin, daughter of Troy and Ameigh Weidenbach, will be a sophomore. She received the Alumni Valedictorian Scholarship and the Chancellor's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UTM Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling 731-881-7040.
BRICKLAYING LEGACY — James Vinson, a 90-year-old bricklayer from Union City, helped build the Hall-Moody Administration Building brick sign in the 1990s.

Legacy laid in tile: bricklayer’s mark on UT Martin uncovered

“James R. Vinson, Box 98 Sharon Tenn., 5-27-57; Bricklayer,” reads the tile in red ink. For 63 years, this tile laid in a bathroom in Clement Hall on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus — unknown to all but the bricklayer who signed it, James R. Vinson.

However, after recent infrastructure renovations to Clement Hall, Vinson’s signature was recovered from the construction debris, bringing light to the now 90-year-old Union City resident and the legacy he literally built at UT Martin.

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IN RESPONSE — UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Mark McCloud and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Acree Cavalier sign the “Skyhawk Creed” into effect Aug. 21.

UT Martin officials sign Skyhawk Creed

University of Tennessee at Martin officials, including Chancellor Keith Carver and interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Mark McCloud, signed the “Skyhawk Creed” into effect Friday, Aug. 21, at the Boling University Center.

The creed, based on “respect,” “responsibility” and “right choices,” symbolizes the values and mission of UT Martin in its effort to promote a welcoming and diverse university. The document was created in response to students’ concerns of social injustices on campus.

The Skyhawk Creed states, “The University of Tennessee at Martin is an educational community committed to excellence in personal integrity and intellectual growth in a diverse and inclusive environment. As a voluntary member of this community: I will respect the rights and property of all persons and treat them with dignity and civility. I will take responsibility for my actions and hold others accountable for theirs, while demonstrating a concern for others, their feelings, and their sense of belonging. I will make right choices that will demonstrate academic integrity, discourage bigotry and hate, and strive to learn from the unique differences of people and opinions. I pledge to model these principles and values and encourage others to follow my example.”

Carver, McCloud and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Acree Cavalier discussed the importance of each principle of the creed during the signing. Each encouraged students, faculty and staff to be civil when discussing difficult conversations, to hold themselves and others accountable for what they say and do, as well as to have integrity and an open mind.

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Dr. Sean Walker, Faculty Senate president, Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, and Kaylin Bailey, president of the Black Student Association, also signed the “Skyhawk Creed.”

For more information about the “Skyhawk Creed,” contact McCloud at mmcclou5@utm.edu.
COVID-19 reported at UT Martin

By Amanda Mansfield
Press Reporter

UT Martin students returned to classes Aug. 17 with new restrictions in place and with information on the number of active positive COVID-19 cases at the university, with updates being made daily to its website.

On Aug. 17, the number of reported active positive cases was at 48 students and four faculty/staff. This information has left some students, faculty/staff, parents, and community members feeling uneasy about how the university is prepared to contain the virus, which can range from asymptomatic to deadly, putting a strain on this area’s already diminished medical capacity.

We spoke to Chancellor Keith Carver about this issue recently, and he explained those numbers more in detail. “That number is not reflective of only the Martin campus,” he said.

While there were 48 students who had tested positive for COVID-19 on or by

SEE UTM COVID-19 PAGE 2

UTM COVID-19 FROM PAGE 1

Aug. 17, Carver stated that number includes all regional centers. UT Martin has satellite campuses in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Carver also explained that when the initial number of active positive cases was released, “we had just tested all full sports athletes, which was an NCAA requirement.” He went on to say, “When you test a whole group who may be asymptomatic, you will get a number which allows us to get a handle on who might be positive. When you see numbers coming in from colleges across the nation, there is a good chance that some of that was required testing of athletes by the NCAA.”

Carver stated how pleased he is with the student health services on campus, faculty, and student affairs staff in the navigation of these uncertain times.

At UT Martin, there is an area designated for isolation/quarantine, where students who live in the residence halls are moved to when they test positive or have been exposed to the virus. Assistant Director of University Relations, Nathan Morgan, stated that currently there are 13 students occupying one isolation room on the main campus. Meals are brought to the students and their coursework is delivered.

Carver did state they give those students the option to return home; however, “we would like for them to stay on campus, but depending on the individual or the family, they might choose to go back home.”

On the issue of contact tracing and re-entering classes, Carver explained that contact tracing is done just as it is in the community. Those who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to remain in contact with the Department of Human Services, who inquired about their contact with others, including students they interact within the classroom. Those people will then be notified by DHS. Students are not required to re-test with a negative result before re-entering their dorm or a classroom, according to Morgan.

While many classes on UT Martin’s main campus have gone to a virtual setting, several classes are still meeting in person, some even have been held outside in the Quad. Masks are required, and social distancing rules are being enforced by faculty and staff.

A wellness check-in app has been made available to students. According to one student we spoke with, the self-screening app is being required to enter any campus building. This app, called medical, asks students questions such as, “Do you have the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc?”

An assessment must be conducted daily, as it is easily trackable and visible on the students’ phones. It is up to each individual student, however, to report symptoms truthfully. In addition to the symptom tracker, the app has features to upload documents and keep track of necessary appointments, should a student test positive for COVID-19. Carver maintains that UT Martin is assessing the situation very closely and is responding to the needs of students while on campus.

Students at UT Martin have reported, however, that some are not behaving or coffee shops, they could unknowingly spread this to the community.”

Ultimately, it is up to the students to remain diligent in following the rules set forth by the university and Weakley County. The problem we are facing, however, is that many students might not fully understand the ramifications of their actions.

One parent we spoke with, who has a student living on campus said, “I feel scared for my child because many young adults are not known for their compliance with the rules. The reason we sent our child to live on campus is because we have a person in our household who is very high risk.

So, having our student live on campus keeps the virus contained, should there be an outbreak. But, when they are allowed to leave campus, who knows if they are following the rules?”

Additionally, UT Martin has many commuter students who must go on campus for in-person classes, and they are not monitored when they return home.

“How many people on campus are possibly spreading COVID-19, thinking because they don’t feel sick, they are not positive?” one student stated.

With so many positive cases showing up among UT Martin fall athletes, many of whom were asymptomatic, some students are wondering why all UT Martin students cannot be tested in order to get a more accurate representation of the true numbers. One student commented, “I would feel safer, as a UTM student, if everyone is required to be tested.”

Some steps that UT Martin has taken include requiring all student staff and faculty to wear a face covering while on campus, limiting guests in dorm rooms to one UT Martin student, and requiring students to get a seasonal flu vaccine, except they have a valid and documented reason not to. The requirement to get
Monte Belew named head of UT Martin public safety

Longtime law enforcement professional and Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew has joined the University of Tennessee at Martin as the new director of public safety. The UT Martin criminal justice graduate has served as Henry County sheriff since 2006 and previously served as a Tennessee State Trooper and as a patrolman, school resource officer and teacher for the Jackson Police Department.

"We’re excited that Sheriff Belew has joined the UT Martin community," said Petra McPhearson, UT Martin vice chancellor for finance and administration, in a statement. "His background in law enforcement, training and community relations make him an incredible leader for our public safety team."

In his new role, Belew is responsible for directing UT Martin’s efforts to provide a safe, secure and orderly environment for members of the university community and campus visitors. He will also lead crime prevention activities and education, enforcement activities and interact extensively with students, faculty, staff members and others who are associated with or impacted by the university.

"I am honored and excited about becoming a part of the University of Tennessee at Martin family," Belew said in a statement. "I look forward to working with all students and faculty as public safety director. My number-one goal is the safety and security for everyone at UTM, and I want to continue making UTM a great place to be."

Belew’s law-enforcement experience includes completion of professional-development opportunities with the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and the Tennessee Highway Patrol Cadet School. He was honored as the Henry County 4-H Outstanding Service Award recipient in 2004, the Tennessee Constables Sheriff of the Year in 2009 and with the Woodmen of the World Community Leadership Award in 2010.
**SIGN CREED** — University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver (left), interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Mark McCloud (center) and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Acree Cavalier signed the "Skyhawk Creed" into effect Friday.

**Skyhawk Creed officially signed at University of TN at Martin**

University of Tennessee at Martin officials — including chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Mark McCloud — signed the "Skyhawk Creed" into effect Friday at the Boling University Center.

The creed, based on "respect," "responsibility" and "right choices," symbolizes the values and mission of UT Martin in its effort to promote a welcoming and diverse university. The document was created in response to students' concerns of social injustices on campus.

The Skyhawk Creed states, "The University of Tennessee at Martin is an educational community committed to excellence in personal integrity and intellectual growth in a diverse and inclusive environment. As a voluntary member of this community: I will respect the rights and property of all persons and treat them with dignity and civility. I will take responsibility for my actions and hold others accountable for theirs, while demonstrating a concern for others, their feelings, and their sense of belonging. I will make right choices that will demonstrate academic integrity, discourage bigotry and hate, and strive to learn from the unique differences of people and opinions. I pledge to model these principles and values and encourage others to follow my example."

Carver, McCloud and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Acree Cavalier discussed the importance of each principle of the creed during the signing.

Each encouraged students, faculty and staff to be civil when discussing difficult conversations and to hold themselves and others accountable for what they say and do, as well as to have integrity and an open mind.

"While we can't always control what other people say, we can control who we are, and we want the world to know who we are as an institution and individuals," McCloud said.

The creed was also signed by Dr. Sean Walker, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for Student Affairs; and Kaylin Bailey, president of the Black Student Association.
Crafton scholarship recipients named

The E. C. Crafton Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce its recipients for the 2020-21 school year. Scholarships are given on a yearly basis and are awarded to students attending a University of Tennessee campus and majoring in health care.

Returning students receiving scholarships are Benjamin Allen, UT Martin, Pre-Med; Abigail Allen, UT Martin, Health and Human Performance; and McKinley Burkett, UT Martin, Nursing.

First-year students receiving scholarships are Hannah Avery, UT Martin, Nursing; Bryce Franks, UT Martin, Kinesiology; Trae Halford, UT Martin, Nursing; and Carl Nowell, UT Martin, Public Health.
Bricklayer's Mark on UT Martin Uncovered

Courtesy of UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (August 24) — “James R. Vinson, Box 98 Sharon, Tenn., 5-27-57, Bricklayer,” reads the tile in red ink. For 68 years, this tile laid in a bathroom in Clement Hall on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus was unknown to all but the bricklayer who signed it, James R. Vinson.

However, after recent infrastructure renovations to Clement Hall, Vinson’s signature was recovered from the construction debris, bringing light to the now 90-year-old Union City resident and the legacy he literally built at UT Martin.

Vinson began working at UT Martin as a bricklayer in 1957 when he was 27 years old with his father who taught him the trade. With Clement Hall as his first project, Vinson was later contracted to help build and repair at least seven buildings on campus including the Paul Meek Library, the Student Recreation Center, multiple residence halls as well as the Hall-Moody Administration Building brick sign.

“I was just responsible for laying the brick and tile,” said Vinson. “I wasn’t the boss or nothing. I was just a hired hand doing my job. What they told me to do, I’d do it.”

Even if Vinson had never done what they asked him to do before, he said he’d try to do it to the best of his abilities, and if the lead contractor didn’t approve of it, he’d tear it down and try again.

After finding the tile, Kent Cook, the superintendent for Barger Construction, the company responsible for the renovations to Clement Hall, contacted Dana Hagan, project coordinator for the Physical Plant, to let her know he found something she should see. Much to Hagan’s surprise, when Cook handed her the tile, she quickly recognized the name as a man she had gone to church with for 40 years.

“My heart just immediately started pounding and my eyes welled up, and I was just like, ‘What in the world? I know him!’” said Hagan. “What are the chances? This is a miracle.”

Vinson said he never expected to see the tile he laid so many years ago again, and when Hagan returned the tile to him, he couldn’t help but tear up and hug her.

“I was shocked,” Vinson said when asked how he reacted to Hagan giving him the tile. “I didn’t realize I’d ever see it again.”

Hagan says the whole experience has been “overwhelming” as the renovations in Clement Hall are only happening in specific locations and “the chances of us cutting out the thing that held that tile ... is truly a miracle.”

Vinson currently has the tile on display in his home above his brick fireplace as a reminder of the life he built for himself through hard work.

Vinson grew up in the 1930s in a house near the Heating Plant on campus. He saw UT Martin grow from the wheat fields he and his brother used to play in to the university that would teach his children and grandchildren.

Vinson’s bricklaying legacy is best exhibited in the Hall-Moody Administration Building front sign, which he helped build in his 60s. His family loves to remind him of his work at UT Martin every time they drive by the university sign.

“Whoever’s in the car with me ... says, ‘There’s your sign!’” he said.

While Vinson enjoyed working at UT Martin and the surrounding area, he and his wife of 40 years, Glenda, often found themselves traveling across the country with a bricklaying team to build churches.

Just when the Vinsons and Hagan didn’t think the chances of finding the tile could get any more unbelievable, one church in West Tennessee Vinson helped rebuild happened to be Cook’s home church that burned down, which they discovered after meeting.

“That’s the best part of it to me,” said Cook regarding his church. “It’s pretty interesting to meet someone who built a building 82 years ago ... I was surprised he was still living and that anyone knew who he was.”

Overall, they have traveled to 87 different states as well as the Philippines, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Brazil to build churches.

“It’s been an adventure,” said Vinson. “I’ve enjoyed every bit of the work I’ve done (at UT Martin) and around.”
Above, James Vinson, a 90-year-old bricklayer from Union City, helped build the Hall-Moody Administration Building brick sign in the 1990s. Below Left, UT Vinson James Vinson: James Vinson is a 90-year-old bricklayer from Union City, Tennessee. Vinson began his work at UT Martin in 1957 and has helped construct seven buildings at UT Martin, including the Hall-Moody Administration Building brick sign in the 1990s. Below Right, UT Vinson Tile: James Vinson, a 90-year-old bricklayer from Union City, signed this tile in 1957 when constructing Clement Hall at UT Martin. Vinson said he never expected to see the tile again and was "shocked" to see it uncovered.

UT Martin Receives National Multiple Rankings

MARTIN (August 19) — The University of Tennessee at Martin received numerous national rankings for its online master's programs and overall affordability.

Washington Monthly ranked UT Martin 31st in its 2020 "Best Bang for the Buck" category among southern colleges for helping "students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices."

The UT Martin online Master of Science in Education degree with a major in counseling received national rankings for its affordable, accelerated program.

Collegevaluesonline.com ranked the degree 11th for its rigorous and fast-paced program in the Top 20 Accelerated Master's in School Counseling Online Programs for 2020 category.

Online-Psychology-Degrees.org also ranked the program 11th in the Top 30 Master's Degrees in Educational Psychology Online 2020 listing.

Bestcounselingdegrees.net listed the degree 23rd in its Most Affordable Online Master's in School Counseling Programs for 2020.

For more information about the university's rankings, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Classes are in the second week at UT Martin after students returned to campus for the first time since March.

Chief Communications Officer Bud Grimes tells Thunderbolt Radio News how the university prepared for the fall semester.

(AUDIO)

Grimes says amid changes on campus, things are running smoothly.

(AUDIO)

UT Martin is conducting classes in a hybrid mode, with both in-person and online classes.

Official numbers won't be released until late next week, but UT Martin Chief Communications Officer Bud Grimes says enrollment looks to be down slightly this fall.

(AUDIO)

Grimes says with COVID-19, maintaining the multiple areas of the university's communications has been a challenge.

(AUDIO)
DISCOVERY PARK, UT MARTIN PARTNER WITH FREE DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS
August 31, 2020 @ 3:24 pm Shannon McFarlin

Discovery Park of America

(https://discoveryparkofamerica.com/) is partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin (https://www.utm.edu/) to provide free digital resources to teachers and parents who are now navigating the world of virtual education. Many students are spending more time learning from home because of the threat of the coronavirus COVID-19.

Hosted by Katie Jarvis from Discovery Park, professors from UT Martin share a fun and entertaining 20-30 minute Zoom lesson utilizing their area of expertise. Topics covered include Japanese, computer science, astronomy, public speaking, history, music, geology and more. The lessons are recorded on Zoom and shared on Discovery Park's education resource page.

While the lessons target students in grades six through nine, they are available to anyone interested in the topics covered.

"This is a great opportunity for a university and a museum, both located in Northwest Tennessee, to collaborate together to bring rich, educational content not only to our local communities, but to students and lifelong learners around the world," said Polly Brasher, Discovery Park's education director. "Our mission is to inspire children and adults to see beyond, and we're thrilled we can implement that mission beyond the walls of our museum in such a unique way."

Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese at UT Martin, shared her thoughts on why technology and this partnership is so important today more than ever.
There can be no doubt that technology has brought our world closer together than ever before. As an educator, I believe that we all should be curious what is going on outside our immediate borders and, above all, be compassionate toward one another," said Hammond. "I consider teaching the Japanese language and culture at UT Martin to be a great privilege because it enables me to contribute to the goal of intercultural peace and understanding. I am very excited about our partnership with the Discovery Park of America and look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with Discovery to the benefit of all of us, here and abroad."

Discovery Park also recently announced free virtual field trips that provide a unique, standards-based educational program that may be experienced from home or a classroom.

Since opening, Discovery Park has provided support for teachers and administrators in taking STEAM and history teaching out of the classroom and applying it in a hands-on, state-of-the-art experience at the museum and heritage park located in Union City, Tenn. They are still hosting student groups for field trips and are open to the public. They are strictly following all recommended health and safety guidelines for employees and guests (https://discoveryparkofamerica.com/guidelines/) including masks.

The first six recordings from the partnership include:

- "Storytelling with Alice (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yf7R372o2Jc&feature=youtu.be)" and "Programming in Python (3) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xUjYNoHeIk&feature=youtu.be)" with Dr. Kate Ericson, associate professor of computer science
- "Why is physical activity important? (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVSdMp2zu40&feature=youtu.be)" with Dr. Tim Dasinger, assistant professor of health and human performance
- "Introduction to German (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5VSFbDGu00&feature=youtu.be)" with Dr. Charles Hammond, professor of German
- "How to Organize and Deliver an Effective Speech (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyTjxK5o-Po&feature=youtu.be)" with Dr. Teresa Collard, communications professor

These and more can be found at discoveryparkofamerica.com/education (https://discoveryparkofamerica.com/education/).