Courtney Price, of Memphis, and Jonathan Kirkland, of Martin, were recognized as the recipients of the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin fall 2020 commencement Saturday, Nov. 21. The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is presented to two graduating students who demonstrate outstanding campus and community service during their time at UT Martin.

Kirkland, a communications graduate, has served in a wide variety of leadership roles in his time at UT Martin, including as a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) leader; a student member of the UT Martin Five-Year Strategic Plan Student Experience and Success Implementation team; a Governor’s School for the Humanities counselor; a student member of the UT Martin Athletics Advisory Board; as well as a student assistant for the Division of Student Affairs. Kirkland also hosted the on-air program “UTM in Concert” for WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk.”

“Jonathan Kirkland exemplifies an excellent UT Martin student,” said Debi Adcock, administrative assistant for Division of Student Affairs. “He is a critical thinker, has the highest of integrity and is a staunch supporter of the university.” Price, a health and human performance graduate, was as an integral member of many organizations on campus dedicated to improving the minority experience at UT Martin. She has served as an executive committee member and president of the Black Student Association; a student member of the Civil Rights Conference planning committee; a member of the inaugural Multicultural Activities Council; a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast committee; as well as serving as a student employee in the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs. Price was also an active participant in “Service Saturdays” and “Captain’s Courageous Conversations.”

“Courtney is one of those students who leaves a mark on those she encounters,” Anthony Prewitt, assistant director for multicultural affairs, said in Price’s nomination letter. “She has cemented her legacy as a student advocate, leader and worker.”

Dr. Paul Meek served the UT Martin campus as executive officer, dean, UT vice president or chancellor from 1934 to 1967. This award was originally established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents. The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is the only award given during commencement each semester.
Kirkland Receives UTM’s Meek Leadership Award

(L to R) UT Martin’s Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Andy Lewter presented Jonathan Kirkland of Martin with one of two Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during the university’s commencement held Saturday, November 21, 2020.

Photo Courtesy of UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (November 23) – Jonathan Kirkland of Martin, and Courtney Price of Memphis, were recognized as the recipients of the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin fall 2020 commencement Saturday, November 21. The Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is presented to two graduating students who demonstrate outstanding campus and community service during their time at UT Martin.

Kirkland, a communications graduate, has served in a wide variety of leadership roles in his time at UT Martin, including as a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) leader; a student member of the UT Martin Five-Year Strategic Plan Student Experience and Success Implementation team; a Governor’s School for the Humanities counselor; a student member of the UT Martin Athletics Advisory Board; as well as a student assistant for the Division of Student Affairs. Kirkland also hosted the on-air program “UTM in Concert” for WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk.”

“Jonathan Kirkland exemplifies an excellent UT Martin student,” said Debi Adcock, administrative assistant for Division of Student Affairs. “He is a critical thinker, has the highest of integrity and is a staunch supporter of the university,” she added.

Price, a health and human performance graduate, was an integral member of many organizations on campus dedicated to improving the minority experience at UT Martin.
Shaley Dawson is the weekend meteorologist for WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News. She joined the team in November of 2020. Shaley is a Tennessee native from Lobelville, Tennessee, where she also attended Perry County High School.

Shaley found her interest in weather while studying ocean acidification in a biology course and soon transferred schools to the University of Tennessee at Martin. While she was studying at Martin, she became very interested in time series analysis and hurricanes. Since her time there, she has presented her research at the American Meteorological Society Annual Conference twice.

She is currently still a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, set to graduate in 2021. She will be obtaining a degree in geosciences with a concentration in climatology and a minor in statistics and geography, and a certification in GIS. She has also held several spots in the local American Meteorological Society Student Chapter, as well as president for a year.

When she isn't studying or looking at the weather, Shaley loves hiking, traveling, and just being outside. She is excited to be a part of the WBBJ team and to start her career.

Make sure to follow Shaley on social media!

- Twitter: @shaleywbbj7 (https://twitter.com/ShaleyWBBJ7)
- Facebook: @shaleywbbj7 (https://www.facebook.com/Shaleywbbj7)
- Instagram: @wx.shaley (https://www.instagram.com/wx.shaley/)
Gov. Lee Announces Leadership Transition at Department of Veterans Services

Monday, December 07, 2020 | 01:25pm

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Today, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced Major General Tommy H. Baker as the interim commissioner for the Department of Veterans Services. Former commissioner Courtney Rogers will return to the private sector.

"Gen. Baker is a committed public servant and I thank him for his willingness to lead the Department of Veterans Services during this critical time for our state," said Gov. Lee.

Gen. Baker previously served as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Tennessee National Guard (TNG) with the responsibility to assist the adjutant general in the oversight and administration of over 13,000 Soldiers and Airman in the TNG. He enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard in Huntingdon, Tennessee in 1980 and was commissioned as an armor officer in 1985. He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Tennessee-Martin with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration. He received his Masters Degree in Business Administration and Military Management from Touro University in 2003, and is a 2011 graduate of the United States Army War College with a Masters in Strategic Studies.
Brooks named Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee

The University of Tennessee at Martin has named Kayla Brooks as the recipient of the fall 2020 Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee award for her exemplary job performance and commitment to the university, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brooks is a senior communications major from Dickson and works for both WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk" as the program director and the Student Recreation Center as a yoga instructor. In the midst of the pandemic, Brooks has adapted her responsibilities in unique ways to ensure her duties to the campus community are fulfilled, including recording newscasts in the most acoustically-sound space in her apartment – the bathtub and hosting socially-distanced yoga in the quad.

In her three years at "The Hawk," Brooks has served as a news reporter, news director and is now the program director responsible for leading the executive team and station staff, writing and editing on-air and online stories, as well as arranging programming on social media. According to Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communications and faculty adviser of "The Hawk," of the 43 awards the radio station has won in the 2019-20 academic year, Brooks is responsible for over half.

Brooks also has worked at the Student Recreation Center as a yoga instructor since fall 2018 and hosts weekly classes, whether online or in-person, to promote wellness and good health.

"Kayla Brooks represents the best that the University of Tennessee at Martin has to offer in a student and as a student worker," said Dr. Robinson in Brooks' nomination letter. "She is smart, dependable, dedicated and reliable in achievement, accuracy, and above all, honest."

The award is given in honor of the late Beth Maloan, UT Martin director of budgeting and dedicated student employee advocate. A plaque and $1,000 check are presented to a student each spring and fall semester.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Fine Arts Building Phase II renamed the Northwest Tenn. Arts Center

Phase II of the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building construction project has been renamed the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center. The facility will be used by the fine and performing arts programs at UT Martin, as well as host guest performers, academic speakers, fundraising events, conferences and regional competitions. Construction for the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center will cost $40 million and requires a 6% match, or $2.5 million, raised by the university to receive state funding. Currently, the university has raised over $600,000 for the performance center. "I believe this facility will bring a new level of performers to Northwest Tennessee, enriching the lives of students and community members," said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, in a letter to donors. The Northwest Tennessee Arts Center is projected to bring more than 26,000 visitors to campus annually, provide new jobs on campus and in the community and is expected to contribute over $400,000 annually to the Northwest Tennessee economy through programs and partnerships in music, visual arts, children's programming, dance and film. Phase I of the Fine Arts Building construction was completed in 2013.

To donate to the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center, visit alumni.utm.edu/ntac. All gifts made are 100% tax deductible if itemized through the CARES Act.

For more information, contact Laura Suiter, UT Foundation director of development, at lsuiterl@utm.edu.

NEW PERFORMANCE VENUE — The next phase of The Fine Arts Building on UTM's campus will be a performance center that is expected to bring $400,000 annually to the Northwest Tennessee economy.
The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) recently awarded a $1,000 scholarship to Nicholas Carpenter of Crossville. Nick is a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) and is the son of Alan Carpenter. He is a junior working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Communications.

After graduation, Nick is planning on accepting his commission in the U.S. Army with intention to be an Active Duty Aviation officer. He hopes to enter the agricultural communications and logistics industry. He is currently employed at the UTM Skyhawk Battalion in Martin and is a member of the UTM ROTC, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Vice President of College Republicans. Nick's agriculture background includes beekeeping and raising cattle and chickens.
The TCC is a nonprofit organization established to promote the cooperative form of business through education and promotion of all types of cooperatives. TCC has two types of membership including “parent cooperatives” and “individual cooperatives.”

The TCC is made up of member representatives from various cooperative organizations in Tennessee. The total TCC membership is 60 members consisting of eight parent cooperatives and 52 individual cooperatives, including 19 electric cooperatives, 29 Tennessee Farmer Co-ops, five telephone cooperatives, three financial institutions, two milk cooperatives, one tobacco cooperative and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. Leadership for TCC is provided by 13 voting board members and six ex-officio members.

The TCC sponsors six college scholarships for agricultural students from each of Tennessee’s four-year agriculture programs: Austin Peay State University; Middle Tennessee State University; Tennessee Technological University; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; the University of Tennessee, Martin; and Tennessee State University.

The scholarship program, started in 1984, is an effort to acknowledge and aid the young people most likely to return to communities served by rural cooperatives. TCC considers the scholarships an investment in the future of cooperatives and their leadership. Several scholarship recipients from the past currently serve in one of Tennessee’s cooperatives or in one of the state’s agriculture-related agencies which work with, support and help build cooperative businesses.

To be considered for the $1,000 scholarship, the student must be a citizen of Tennessee; enrolled in a college of agriculture; maintain an overall grade point average of 2.5 out of a possible 4 points; and, if possible, be in his or her junior year of study.

For more information about Tennessee cooperatives, the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives or the TCC scholarship, contact Roberta Smith, TCC Administrative Secretary, at 423-447-2121 or via e-mail to smithr@bledsoe.net. For more information about Tennessee cooperatives, the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives or the TCC scholarship, please visit the TCC Web site at http://tennesseecouncilofcoops.org/.
Leighton Chappell had to Tennessee was watching Pat Summitt coach the Lady Vols on ESPN. Now as the student trustee for the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, Chappell, a UT Martin senior management major with a concentration in sport business, proudly advocates for the thousands of UT students and says he is trying his best amid the COVID-19 pandemic to present their needs to the board.

While Chappell serves in a non-voting role on the board, he knows how important his position is as a representative of the student body and hopes he can help make a difference for the University of Tennessee System.

"I would just really like to ... leave the UT System better than when (I) first joined," Chappell said. "As student trustee, I realize it's not like I'm the president; I can't just make things happen (just) like that. But if I could just make it slightly better in some way or some form, whatever that could be, that'd be awesome. That'd be successful for me."
UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver says he’s excited to have a Skyhawk representing students on the board.

"It is an honor to have a UT Martin student chosen to represent the University of Tennessee student body, and I am proud of how Leighton has served in this position so far," Carver said. "I am confident he will continue to represent the more than 50,000 UT students statewide in a positive and professional manner."

Selections for the UT Board of Trustees student representative rotate between campuses each year and must be nominated by the provost. The student trustee serves on the board for a year, beginning July 1.

Since his term began, Chappell has enjoyed connecting with students from each campus in the leadership position to understand what improvements he can help make for the UT student experience. One benefit he has advocated for is including breaks during the accelerated semester to help students, faculty and staff receive relief during an already stressful time.

'I try to pride myself on always listening and just making sure that I’m being objective, and I’m doing whatever’s best for the students," he said.

Chappell is also using this opportunity to learn life lessons and professional skills from the trustees to help him succeed in his future career. While pursuing a degree in management and a focus on sport business, Chappell hopes to serve in an administrative leadership position in the future and knows having the chance to learn from statewide leaders will benefit his career.

"What I want to do is understand why leaders make their decisions, the processes, all of that behind the reasoning," Chappell explained. "Being the student trustee allows me to be around all of these other trustees who are very successful people, very successful professionals and absorb their knowledge. To me, that’s pretty invaluable. I think I can ... apply that with sports management later on."

Chappell will be the first to say that he never expected to be chosen as the student trustee, much less attend college in Tennessee, but he is thankful to have the opportunity to serve the system he has grown to love. As a triplet, when his sister committed to UT Martin to play soccer in 2017, he and his brother were excited to find programs at the university for them as well.

Just as his family took a chance on UT Martin and he took a chance with the student trustee position, Chappell encourages students to make the most of the opportunities they have while in college.

"Just make the most of your opportunities," Chappell said. "Go embrace people; go embrace your opportunities; just make the most of it. ... UT Martin is definitely going to prove to you that it’s worth the experience."

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
$35,000 worth of drones donated to UT Martin

By Jessica Ladd | December 15, 2020 at 4:19 PM CST - Updated December 15 at 4:19 PM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - Corteva Agriscience, of Union City, donated 35 retired drones, valued at approximately $35,000, to the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The drones will be used in three new courses premiering in the fall of 2021 that will teach students the fundamentals of unmanned aerial systems and its emerging importance in the field of agriculture and natural resources management.

Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management and certified unmanned aerial systems pilot, will instruct the new courses and is excited to teach students how to utilize the drones in a protected, hands-on environment.

Smartt will teach students the fundamentals and operations of flying drones, how to maintain and repair the equipment, as well as prepare them for the FAA pilot certification exam.

“This is a real significant gift to be able to have drones we can utilize,” said Smartt. “We are really as a society just starting to use this technology. There are a lot of opportunities in ag and natural resources, and especially in the field of agriculture; the opportunities are incredible. I think there is going to be a lot of demand for (drone technology) in the future.”

Smartt fully expects drones and unmanned aerial systems to become important aspects of agriculture to benefit the environment and economy.

Of their many uses, the drones will primarily be used on the UT Martin Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources Teaching Complex to take photos of the fields in order to analyze and improve crop production.

The fleet of drones is comprised of fully functional drones, as well as inoperable units that can be used for spare parts to repair the working drones.

The donation was spearheaded by Corteva Agriscience employee and UT Martin alumnus Harlin Wilkin who graduated from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in 2011.
Foulks finishes school online while farming family land

MARTIN — "Good things come from the dark as long as you can have faith, as long as you persevere."

When Justin Foulks received the news during his junior year of college that his cousin had been killed in an accident, he knew the responsibilities of his family farm in Rondo, Ark., would now increase. As an agribusiness major, Foulks was preparing himself with the education he needed to help his great-uncle and cousin make the 3,200-acre farm as successful as possible; however, he never planned on running it without his cousin and mentor.

Now, the University of Tennessee at Martin fall 2020 graduate recently completed his first successful harvest while finishing his agriculture degree online.

"I'll be the first generation to go to school for farming. My family's been farming since the early 1930s. The same land we're running over now, my family was raised on it," Foulks said. "My cousin ended up sending me off to school. I told him I had an interest in farming, and he (had been) teaching me the roles since I was 8. I still remember the day he said, 'Well, if you're going to do it, do it the right way and go to school, get your degree and come back. The farmland will be here forever.'"

EARNs degree — University of Tennessee at Martin student Justin Foulks recently graduated with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural business. He finished his degree online after a family member died during his junior year and he was needed back home to help run the farm.

"(My cousin) ended up passing away last year ... and somebody had to help my family with the leadership responsibilities on the farm, or we'd have ended up selling. So, I switched to completely online and started doing school full-time and farming full-time, and here I am at the finish line. It's been a journey, but I'm here."

While Foulks' plan for his future changed drastically during his college career, he has found peace and comfort through his faith to help him continue the legacy his grandfather and uncle have built. He knows the many hardships and challenges they faced have paved the way for him to be successful.

"Philippians 4:13, that's what I believe in. 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Every day is a blessing to wake up. This is God's country. If it wasn't for the good Lord, I don't know where I'd be," Foulks said. "I never, being so young, expected to endure such a harsh loss. Everybody says life is supposed to be peaches and cream when you're young, but for me, that was my mentor. He's the only reason I really went to school for farming. Seeing him do what he did inspired me. It inspired me to continue the same path. I know he's smiling because I'm carrying on the tradition. We're out here doing what he loved to do."

After working on a farm for most of his life, Foulks knew if he was going to go to college for agriculture, he needed a hands-on program that would give him a better understanding of the techni-
The hands-on experience is 10-times better than actually being in a classroom. Because I've seen both sides of being a farmer and being an agribusiness graduate, I've learned that - that farmers don't want somebody to tell them what to do that doesn't have experience," Foulks explained. "They need somebody to understand the hardships and everything that goes into farming, to understand the good days and bad days.

... I think UT Martin has helped me gauge what I need to do to be successful in the agriculture sector."

He says the many challenges he's overcame since moving his degree online couldn't have been achieved without the help and understanding of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. From having to do schoolwork in his truck and tractor to staying up late to turn in assignments because planting took longer than expected, Foulks has experienced the grace of faculty members who understand the difficulties of running a farm while also finishing school.

"I have to give a big shoutout to the AGNR office, all of them. It's a family over there. When (my cousin died), ... they said whatever we can do to help you, we've got to make sure you finish. That's all they cared about was 'we've got to make sure you finish,'" Foulks said. "They don't realize how good of a blessing they were to me."

Now that he has graduated, Foulks plans to help expand the farm. While he originally intended to watch it grow with his cousin, he knows that with what he learned at UT Martin, what his cousin taught him, as well as his faith, he will be prepared to handle whatever else comes his way.

"He definitely instilled in me to make sure I do everything I can do (to succeed)," Foulks said. "When you're farming, it's pretty much faith. You never know what's going to happen. Just focus on weed control, a little water and fertilizer, and the Lord will cover the rest."

Foulks graduated from UT Martin on Nov. 21 with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural business knowing everything he has been through has prepared him to carry on his family's tradition as a successful farmer.

Fine arts facility renamed at UTM

Phase II of the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building construction project has been renamed the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center.

The facility will be used by the fine and performing arts programs at UT Martin, as well as host guest performers, academic speakers, fundraising events, conferences and regional competitions.

Construction for the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center will cost $40 million and requires a 6 percent match, or $2.5 million, raised by the university to receive state funding.

Currently, the university has raised over $600,000 for the performance center.

"I believe this facility will bring a new level of performers to northwest Tennessee, enriching the lives of students and community members," Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, said in a letter to donors.

The Northwest Tennessee Arts Center is projected to bring more than 25,000 visitors to campus annually, provide new jobs on campus and in the community and to contribute over $400,000 annually to the northwest Tennessee economy through programs and partnerships in music, visual arts, children's programming, dance and film.

Phase I of the Fine Arts Building construction was completed in 2013.

To donate to the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center, go online to alumni.utm.edu/ntac.

For more information, contact Laura Sutter, UT Foundation director of development, at lsutter1@utm.edu.
Governor announces leadership transition at Department of Veterans Services

STAFF REPORTS
Dec 18, 2020


Former commissioner Courtney Rogers plans to return to the private sector.

"Gen. Baker is a committed public servant, and I thank him for his willingness to lead the Department of Veterans Services during this critical time for our state," said Lee.

Baker previously served as the deputy adjutant general of the Tennessee National Guard with the responsibility to assist the adjutant general in the oversight and administration of more than 13,000 soldiers and airmen in the TNG. He enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard in Huntingdon in 1980 and was commissioned as an armor officer in 1985.

He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor's degree in public administration. He received a master's degree in business administration and military management from Touro University in 2003 and is a 2011 graduate of the U.S. Army War College with a master's degree in strategic studies.
Lt. Governor McNally names Gallatin native Chase Johnson senior policy advisor

Katie Nixon, Nashville Tennessean  Published 1:51 p.m. CT Dec. 18, 2020  Updated 1:52 p.m. CT Dec. 18, 2020

Lt. Governor Randy McNally announced that Chase Johnson has joined the Office of the Speaker of the Senate as senior policy advisor.

Johnson succeeds Tim Sigler, who recently departed the office to join the University of Tennessee as Assistant Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy.

McNally spoke highly of Johnson, saying he’s an outstanding and welcome addition to the Speaker’s office.

“Chase Johnson is a valued member of our Senate team with experience in all aspects of our operations. Over the years, he has done fantastic work taking on many different challenges and excelling each time,” McNally said.

Johnson served as a research analyst for four of the Senate’s nine standing committees during his 15 years as a General Assembly staff member according to Adam Kleinheider, director of communications for the Office of the Lt. Governor.

Johnson served previously as research analyst for the Senate Judiciary Committee under Chairman Mike Bell, District 9.

Under McNally as senior policy advisor, Johnson will oversee a wide portfolio of research and policy duties in addition to serving as his staff designee on the State Building Commission.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and native of Gallatin, Johnson resides in Castillian Springs with his wife and three children.

Katie Nixon can be reached at knixon@gannett.com or (615) 517-1285.


UT Martin announces holiday closings

Posted on December 21, 2020 by Steve James

The University of Tennessee at Martin has closed all administrative offices for winter holiday this week.

The UT Martin administrative offices will also be closed on New Year’s Day, January 1.

This applies to offices on the main campus and at the five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville.

After the winter holiday, offices will open for regular business hours December 28 – 31, and will reopen on Monday, January 4, after New Year’s.

Spring semester classes begin January 14.
UTM among ‘best buys’
for 15th consecutive year

Institutional Research &
Evaluation Inc. has included
the University of Tennessee
at Martin among its listing of “America’s 100 Best
College Buys” for the 15th
consecutive year.

UT Martin was one of
five Tennessee institutions
earning recognition this fall
for the 2020-21 academic
year.

“The COVID-19 pan-
demic of 2020 has impacted
every family, every indus-
try and every institution
in America in immediate
ways, and in ways we will
not fully be able to measure
for years to come,” Lewis
Lindsey Jr., president of
Institutional Research &
Evaluation Inc., said in a
statement. “As we begin
the recovery process, it is
especially important for
people to have confidence
in their decisions regarding
higher education . . .

“Those institutions
included in the 25th
Anniversary Edition of
America’s 100 Best College
Buys will be among the
very first to prevail over
this crisis while providing
a superior educational
environment at the abso-
late lowest possible cost.
UT Martin has consistently
earned its place on this most
exceptional list in American
higher education."

To be considered for
this listing, institutions
must be accredited and
offer four-year bachelor’s
degrees; offer full resident-
ial facilities including both
residence halls and dining
services; have had an enter-
ing freshman class in fall
2019 with an average high
school grade point average
and SAT or ACT score at or
above the national average;
and have an out-of-state
cost of attendance below
the national average cost of
attendance for at least two
semesters.

“Every single student
and their family must look
for the absolute very best
return on their investment
dollar, now more than ever
before, and just as criti-
cally important the very
best return on their time
invested in attaining their
education,” Lindsey said.

“UT Martin exceeds expec-
tations for the serious stu-
dent looking for success.”

Other Tennessee univer-
sities recognized in the
listing were the University
of Tennessee at Knoxville,
the University of Tennessee
at Chattanooga, Tennessee
Technological University
and Lipscomb University.

UT Martin offers more
than 100 academic areas
of study within 18 under-
graduate degree programs.
Five graduate degrees are
also offered within 22 spe-
cialized concentrations.

In addition to the main
campus, UT Martin cen-
ters are located in Jackson,
Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and
Somerville, while online
degree options are avail-
able through UT Martin
Online. For more informa-
tion, go online to utm.edu
or follow UT Martin on
social media.
Corteva Agriscience donates $35,000 worth of retired drones to UTM

MARTIN — Corteva Agriscience of Union City donated 35 retired drones, valued at approximately $35,000, to the University of Tennessee at Martin to supplement three new courses premiering fall 2021 that will teach students the fundamentals of unmanned aerial systems and its emerging importance in the field of agriculture and natural resources management.

Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management and certified unmanned aerial systems pilot, will instruct the new courses and is excited to teach students how to utilize the drones in a protected, hands-on environment. Smartt will teach students the fundamentals and operations of flying drones, how to maintain and repair the equipment, as well as prepare them for the FAA pilot certification exam.

"This is a real significant gift to be able to have drones we can utilize," said Smartt. "We are really as a society just starting to use this technology. There are a lot of opportunities in ag and natural resources, and especially in the field of agriculture; the opportunities are incredible. I think there is going to be a lot of demand for (drone technology) in the future."

Smartt fully expects drones and unmanned aerial systems to become important aspects of agriculture to benefit the environment and economy. Of their many uses, the drones will primarily be used on the UT Martin Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources Teaching Complex to take photos of the fields in order to analyze and improve crop production.

"We talk a lot about giving our students tools for their toolbox so that when they go out, they’re going to be decision-makers, they’re going to be managers. We’re wanting them to be able to go into the workforce and be leaders, so this is something that they are going to need to know," said Smartt. "What the drone does for us, it helps us to have what is called actionable data. It allows us to have information that we can make decisions with that is cheaper and quicker."

The fleet of drones is comprised of fully functional drones, as well as inoperable units that can be used for spare parts to repair the working drones.

"In keeping with the spirit of UT Martin, we’re all about experiential learning, and without this donation, we couldn’t afford to buy units in order to let the class tinker with (the drones)," said Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering. "This donation is huge, and we appreciate it very much."

The donation was spearheaded by Corteva Agriscience employee and UT Martin alumnus Harlin Wilkin, who graduated from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in 2011.

For more information about the drone donation, contact Smartt at psmartt@utm.edu.

DONATE DRONES — Corteva Agriscience donated 35 drones to the University of Tennessee at Martin. Accepting them from Harlin Wilkin (right), Corteva employee and UT Martin alumnus, were Dr. Philip Smartt (left), professor of natural resources management; and Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering.
Dunagan to assume seat on county school board

BY KEN WALKER
POST-INTELLIGENCER

A University of Tennessee at Martin geology professor is the newest member of the Henry County Board of Education.

Stan Dunagan was elected Monday by the Henry County Commission to fill a vacant seat on the county school board. Dunagan was the only nominee for the position.

He'll replace Josh Frey, who resigned from the school board after he was elected as Henry County sheriff in November.

Dunagan will represent the 2nd District on the board, an area that includes the southern part of the county, including Henry, Mansfield and Oakland.

Dunagan and his wife, Stephanie, have lived in Henry County since 2001. Stephanie Dunagan is a doctor at the Griffey Clinic. The couple have two children at Henry County High School.

Dunagan has been a geology professor at UTM since 2006. He earned his doctorate in philosophy from UT Knoxville in 1998. He is the son of Nick Dunagan, who was UT Martin chancellor from 2001-07.

Monday's meeting was conducted at the county 911 offices on North Brewer Street. Only four commissioners attended in person, but the 11 others all attended via telephone conference call.

Social distancing was closely observed during the meeting, which was new County Mayor John Penn Ridgeway's first as the presiding officer.

In other action during the meeting:

- The county agreed to extend the withdrawal period for a 2018 loan to Henry County Medical Center for an additional year.
- The loan was procured in 2018 through the state's municipal loan pool based in Clarksville.
- The medical center was to get $9.2 million to buy new capital equipment, such as operating room tables, monitors, beds, instruments and scopes.
- Some of its current facilities — such as the cooling units — also were to be funded through the loan.
- The county was originally given three years to draw the proceeds of the loan from the program.
- But, since the COVID-19 pandemic struck this spring, there have been delays in various projects and construction stopped on certain aspects of the project.
- So, the county asked that it be given now until spring 2022 to withdraw that loan money.
- HCMC will pay the loan back over a 25-year payback period.
- Several budget amendments were approved, including one that allows payment of $25,000 as the county's share of a consulting fee to be paid to a Paducah firm that will work on getting a federal BUILD grant for the Highway 641 north widening project.
- Ridgeway introduced Jon Bolding via telephone to the commission. Bolding is the county's new veterans service officer.
- The commission approved three-year terms on the county Audit Committee for Bobby Milam, Melanie Dodd, Steve Greer, Kenneth Humphreys, Jill Coker and Jeremy Stone.
Stan Dunagan speaks to the Henry County Commission Monday after he was elected as a new member of the Henry County Board of Education from the 2nd District.

WILL PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH PROGRAM — Charis Waters is a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she majored in agriculture with a concentration in animal science and a minor in biology. Waters had the opportunity to participate in the Fellows Research Program in which she was able to work with Tyson and the UT Martin Teaching Farm. She worked alongside Dr. Craig Darroch, Dr. Linda Husmann, and Jessica Williams during her undergraduate research experience. The research, sponsored by Tyson Foods and the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board, assessed the effects of soybean hull litter on broiler livability, growth and behavior. Waters was able to present their research this past November to the Tennessee Academy of Science, where she placed first in the student poster competition. She is planning on going to the University of Georgia to pursue her masters in poultry science.
UTM student health employees receive COVID-19 vaccine

Nurse practitioner and UT Martin Student Health and Counseling Services Director Shannon Deal, of Martin, was among first responders and others who received the first of two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday at the Weakley County Health Department.

The health department was prepared to administer up to 200 shots in this first round of vaccinations for pandemic frontline personnel.

Other UTM student health employees receiving the vaccination were senior LPN Patricia Floyd, of Union City, and medical receptionist Jenny Harrison, of Martin.
UT Martin Receives Donation of Drones From Corteva Agriscience of Union City

Corteva Agriscience donated 35 drones to the University of Tennessee at Martin. Pictured (L to R) are Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management; Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering; and Harlin Wilkin, Corteva employee and UT Martin alumnus.

BY SARAH KNAPP
UTM University Relations

MARTIN (December 15) — Corteva Agriscience, of Union City, donated 35 retired drones, valued at approximately $35,000, to the University of Tennessee at Martin to supplement three new courses premiering fall 2021 that will teach students the fundamentals of unmanned aerial systems and its emerging importance in the field of agriculture and natural resources management.

Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management and certified unmanned aerial systems pilot, will instruct the new courses and is excited to teach students how to utilize the drones in a protected, hands-on environment. Smartt will teach students the fundamentals and operations of flying drones, how to maintain and repair the equipment, as well as prepare them for the FAA pilot certification exam.

Smartt fully expects drones and unmanned aerial systems to become important aspects of agriculture to benefit the environment and economy. Of their many uses, the drones will primarily be used on the UT Martin Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources Teaching Complex to take photos of the fields in order to analyze and improve crop production.

“We talk a lot about giving our students tools for their toolbox so that when they go out, they’re going to be decision-makers. They’re going to be managers. We’re wanting them to be able to go into the workforce and be leaders, so this is something that they are going to need to know,” said Smartt. “What the drone does for us, it helps us to have what is called actionable data. It allows us to have information that we can make decisions with that is cheaper and quicker.”

The fleet of drones is comprised of fully functional drones, as well as inoperable units that can be used for spare parts to repair the working drones.

The donation was spearheaded by Corteva Agriscience employee and UT Martin alumnus Harlin Wilkin who graduated from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in 2011.

For more information about the drone donation, contact Smartt at psmartt@utm.edu.
Henry County Medical Center welcomes pharmacy residents

Special to The Ledger
Dec 24, 2020

PARIS, Tenn. - Henry County Medical Center has welcomed welcome Caitlin Jackson and Wesley Clark to its PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program. Both have been at HCMC since July and are involved in many projects throughout the organization.

Originally from Cunningham, Tennessee, Jackson received a bachelor's degree in nutrition in 2015 from East Tennessee State University. She began her pharmacy journey at Sullivan University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2017 and graduated in June 2020. Soon after, she joined HCMC as a PGY-I pharmacy resident.

"This residency at Henry County Medical Center has given me ample opportunities to expand my clinical knowledge and improve my patient care skills," said Jackson. "I have found the pharmacy partners to be dedicated to their profession and always willing to assist me with anything. It has been an excellent experience thus far."

HCMC's other pharmacy resident, Clark, is originally from Gleason, Tennessee. He graduated from Greenfield High School in Greenfield, Tennessee in 2011. He attend the University of Tennessee at Martin where he graduated with a degree in Biology in 2016. Clark began his pharmacy training at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis. After his clinical rotation experiences, he decided he wanted to pursue additional clinical training and was accepted into the PGY-1 pharmacy residency program at HCMC.

Clark shared, "At Henry County Medical Center, I have the opportunity to expand my clinical skillset and medication knowledge and play a direct role in patient care in a number of areas within the hospital including the critical care unit, emergency department, Lake Haven psychiatry unit, and general medicine floors."

"We are very excited to have Caitlin and Wes with us this year at Henry County Medical Center," said Paula Bell, HCMC's director of pharmacy and PGY-1 residency program director. "They are from this area, which typically provides extra motivation when it comes to caring for patients. Being from small towns, they appreciate the privilege to care for our local community, and at times, people we have known our entire life. We are excited for what the future holds for Caitlin and Wes here at HCMC and for all of their future endeavors."

Henry County Medical Center's PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program prepares residents with the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to become a well-rounded pharmacy practitioner and an adjunct pharmacy school faculty member serving a community hospital. A pharmacy resident is a licensed pharmacist that pursues additional training to gain a better understanding of how to apply the knowledge and skills learned in school to real patients, situations, and settings. Residency training is crucial to new pharmacists, who are going into a healthcare environment that involves ever-changing roles and responsibility.

During a residency, the resident will get the chance to work with patients as part of an interdisciplinary team, sharpening their critical thinking skills, and learning the subtleties of leadership. They also will have the opportunity to be exposed to different facets of practice and learn about the many and varied career paths available to pharmacists today. The 12-month program provides the necessary opportunities for highly motivated pharmacists to achieve their professional goals.
UT-M Spring Classes Slated

University of Tennessee at Martin's spring semester is slated to resume January 14th, and students will have until January 20th to register for courses.

The spring semester will feature in-person, online and hybrid courses, and the main campus and five centers follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. UT Martin will also continue to enforce its mask mandate and social distancing guidelines to promote safety and protect the campus community. Students, faculty and staff without a medical or religion exemption who plan to return to campus for the spring semester are required to have the flu vaccination. For more information regarding the vaccine requirement, visit utm.edu/departments/shcs/flu.

The spring semester schedule is as follows:

Jan. 14th - Classes begin
Jan. 18th - Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
March 29th - April 2nd - Spring break
April 30th - Classes end
May 3rd - 7th - Final exams
May 8th - Commencement

For students considering transferring to UT Martin this spring, applications are still available online at utm.edu/apply and will continue being processed through the holidays. Transfer students will need to request college transcripts, or for immediate review, submit unofficial transcripts to admissions@utm.edu. A virtual orientation for the upcoming semester will be held Jan. 8th for transfer students and first-time freshmen.

For prospective students, in-person and virtual tours will resume Jan. 4th. In-person tours of the main campus are scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

To schedule a campus visit, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012. UT Martin centers can be reached at the following numbers:

- Jackson Center: 731-425-9277
- McNairy County Center/Selmer: 731-646-1636
- Parsons Center: 731-847-3880
- Ripley Center: 731-221-8778
- Somerville Center: 901-465-7313

Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at utm.edu/coronavirus.

Additional UT Martin spring semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Undergraduate Studies at 731-881-7012. UT Martin centers can be reached at the following numbers:

- Jackson Center: 731-425-9277
- McNairy County Center/Selmer: 731-646-1636
- Parsons Center: 731-847-3880
- Ripley Center: 731-221-8778
- Somerville Center: 901-465-7313
Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M., has announced the addition of Andy Holt to the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Holt will serve as Director of Business Development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

"Rural economic development and recovery from the pandemic are priorities of the Department and Governor Bill Lee," Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M., said. "TDA has been given the opportunity to lead projects focused on these priorities and the addition of Andy Holt will be a significant enhancement to our work. Andy's personal and professional experience in farming, along with his education in agriculture and economics, will support our efforts towards recruitment, recovery, and expansion."

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, District 76 covering Weakley County and parts of Carroll and Obion Counties from 2010 to 2020. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. He and his wife, Ellie, own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agri-tourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden. Holt is a former Financial Services Officer at Farm Credit Services and former Greenfield Fertilizer Manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative.

"As a first-generation farmer, I have chosen agriculture not only as my profession, but more importantly, as a lifestyle for our family," Holt said. "I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to the State of Tennessee in this new capacity, leveraging my relationships, knowledge, and skills to strengthen the agriculture industry and community. There are only two words on the Tennessee State Seal, and this new position will combine them both – Agriculture and Commerce. I will work to see both thrive during my service with the team at the Department of Agriculture."

Holt's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Business with a minor in Animal Science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a focus on Economics and Finance. He will begin his new duties with TDA in January.
NASHVILLE – Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher has announced the addition of Andy Holt to the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Holt will serve as director of business development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

"Rural economic development and recovery from the pandemic are priorities of the Department and Governor Bill Lee," Hatcher said. “TDA has been given the opportunity to lead projects focused on these priorities and the addition of Andy Holt will be a significant enhancement to our work. Andy's personal and professional experience in farming, along with his education in agriculture and economics, will support our efforts towards recruitment, recovery, and expansion.”

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives District 76 covering Weakley County and parts of Carroll and Obion counties from 2010 to 2020. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. He and his wife, Ellie, own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agri-tourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden. Holt is a former financial services officer at Farm Credit Services and former greenfield fertilizer manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative.

“As a first-generation farmer, I have chosen agriculture not only as my profession, but more importantly, my wife, Ellie, and I have chosen agriculture as a lifestyle for our family,” Holt said. “I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to the state of Tennessee in this new capacity, leveraging my relationships, knowledge, and skills to strengthen the agriculture industry and community. There are only two words on the Tennessee State Seal, and this new position will combine them both - Agriculture and Commerce. I will work to see both thrive during my service with the team at the Department of Agriculture.”

Holt’s educational background includes a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics and business with a minor in animal science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He earned his master of business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a focus on economics and finance. He will begin his new duties with TDA in January.
University of Tennessee board adds UT Martin student as new trustee

Growing up in Flushing, Michigan, the only connection Leighton Chappell had to Tennessee was watching Pat Summitt coach the Lady Vols on ESPN. Now, as the student trustee for the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, the UT Martin senior management major with a concentration in sport business proudly advocates for the thousands of UT students and says he is trying his best amid the COVID-19 pandemic to present their needs to the board.

While Chappell serves in a non-voting role on the board, he knows how important his position is as a representative of the student body and hopes he can help make a difference for the University of Tennessee System.

"I would just really like to leave the UT System better than when I first joined," Chappell said. "As student trustee, I realize it's not like I'm the president; I can't just make things happen (just) like that. But if I could just make it slightly better in some way or some form, whatever that could be, that'd be awesome. That'd be successful for me."

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver says he is excited to have a Skyhawk representing students on the board. "It is an honor to have a UT Martin student chosen to represent the University of Tennessee student body, and I am proud of how Leighton has served in this position so far," he said. "I am confident he will continue to represent the more than 50,000 UT students statewide in a positive and professional manner."

Selections for the UT Board of Trustees student representative rotate between campuses each year and must be nominated by the provost. The student trustee serves on the board for a year, beginning July 1.

Since his term began, Chappell has enjoyed connecting with students from each campus in the leadership position to understand what improvements he can help make for the UT student experience. One benefit he has advocated for is including breaks during the accelerated semester to help students, faculty and staff receive relief during an already stressful time.

"I try to pride myself on always listening and just making sure that I'm being objective, and I'm doing whatever's best for the students," he said.

Chappell is also using this opportunity to learn life lessons and professional skills from the trustees to help him succeed in his future career. While pursuing a degree in management and a focus on sport business, Chappell hopes to serve in an administrative leadership position in the future and knows having the chance to learn from statewide leaders will benefit his career.

"What I want to do is understand why leaders make their decisions, the processes, all of that behind the reasoning," Chappell explained. "Being the student trustee allows me to be around all of these other trustees who are very successful people, very successful professionals, and absorb their knowledge. To me, that's pretty invaluable. I think I can apply that with sports management later on."

Chappell will be the first to say he never expected to be chosen as the student trustee, much less attend college in Tennessee, but he is thankful to have the opportunity to serve the system he has grown to love. As a triplet, when his sister committed to UT Martin to play soccer in 2017, he and his brother were excited to find programs at the university for them as well.

Just as his family took a chance on UT Martin and he took a chance with the student trustee position, Chappell encourages students to make the most of the opportunities they have while in college. "Just make the most of your opportunities," he said. "Go embrace people; go embrace your opportunities; just make the most of it. UT Martin is definitely going to prove to you that it's worth the experience."

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

NAMED STUDENT TRUSTEE — Leighton Chappell, UTM senior management major, was sworn in as the student trustee of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees by Obion County and Weakley County Circuit Court Judge Jeff Parkham.
Holt to join Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture

Tennessee Agriculture commissioner Charlie Hatcher, DVM has announced the addition of Andy Holt to the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Holt will serve as director of business development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

"Rural economic development and recovery from the pandemic are priorities of the Department and Governor Bill Lee," Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, DVM said. "TDA has been given the opportunity to lead projects focused on these priorities and the addition of Andy Holt will be a significant enhancement to our work. Andy's personal and professional experience in farming, along with his education in agriculture and economics, will support our efforts towards recruitment, recovery, and expansion."

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, District 76 covering Weakley County and parts of Carroll and Obion Counties from 2010 to 2020. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. He and his wife, Ellie, own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agri-tourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden. Holt is a former Financial Services Officer at Farm Credit Services and former Greenfield Fertilizer Manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative.

"As a first-generation farmer, I have chosen agriculture not only as my profession, but more importantly, my wife, Ellie, and I have chosen agriculture as a lifestyle for our family," Holt said. "I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to the State of Tennessee in this new capacity, leveraging my relationships, knowledge, and skills to strengthen the agriculture industry and community. There are only two words on the Tennessee State Seal, and this new position will combine them both – Agriculture and Commerce. I will work to see both thrive during my service with the team at the Department of Agriculture."

Holt’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Business with a minor in Animal Science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a focus on Economics and Finance. He will begin his new duties with TDA in January.
UT Martin receives donated drones

Corteva Agriscience, of Union City, donated 35 retired drones, valued at approximately $35,000, to the University of Tennessee at Martin to supplement three new courses premiering fall 2021 that will teach students the fundamentals of unmanned aerial systems and its emerging importance in the field of agriculture and natural resources management.

Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management and certified unmanned aerial systems pilot, will instruct the new courses and is excited to teach students how to utilize the drones in a protected, hands-on environment.

Smartt will teach students the fundamentals and operations of flying drones, how to maintain and repair the equipment, as well as prepare them for the FAA pilot certification exam.

"This is a real significant gift to be able to have drones we can utilize," Smartt said. "We are really as a society just starting to use this technology. There are a lot of opportunities in ag and natural resources, and especially in the field of agriculture; the opportunities are incredible. I think there is going to be a lot of demand for (drone technology) in the future."

Smartt fully expects drones and unmanned aerial systems to become important aspects of agriculture to benefit the environment and economy.

Of their many uses, the drones will primarily be used on the UT Martin Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources Teaching Complex to take photos of the fields in order to analyze and improve crop production.

"We talk a lot about giving our students tools for their toolbox so that when they go out, they're going to be decision-makers, they're going to be managers," Smartt said. "We are wanting them to be able to go into the workforce and be leaders, so this is something that they are going to need to know. What the drone does for us, it helps us to have what is called actionable data. It allows us to have information that we can make decisions with that is cheaper and quicker."

The fleet is comprised of fully functional drones, as well as inoperable units that can be used for spare parts to repair the working drones.

"In keeping with the spirit of UT Martin, we are all about experiential learning, and without this donation, we could not afford to buy units in order to let the class tinker with (the drones)," Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering, said. "This donation is huge, and we appreciate it very much."

The donation was spearheaded by Corteva Agriscience employee and UT Martin alumnus Harlin Wilkin, who graduated from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in 2011.

For more information about the drone donation, contact Smartt at psmartt@utm.edu.

NICE GIFT — UT Martin professor of natural science resources management Dr. Philip Smartt (left) and professor of agricultural engineering Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn receive $35,000 worth of donated drones from Corteva Agriscience in Union City. Harlin Wilkin, an employee with Corteva and UT Martin alumnus presented the drones to Dr. Smartt and Dr. Mehlhorn.
UT Martin looks forward to spring semester

Winter holiday has arrived at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and soon to follow is the beginning of spring semester. Classes resume Jan. 14, and students will have until Jan. 20 to register for courses.

The spring semester will feature in-person, online and hybrid courses, and the main campus and five centers follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. UT Martin will also continue to enforce its mask mandate and social distancing guidelines to promote safety and protect the campus community. Students, faculty and staff without a medical or religion exemption who plan to return to campus for the spring semester are required to have the flu vaccination. For more information regarding the vaccine requirement, visit utm.edu/departments/shcs/flu.

For students considering transferring to UT Martin this spring, applications are still available online at utm.edu/apply and will continue being processed through the holidays. Transfer students will need to request college transcripts, or for immediate review, submit unofficial transcripts to admissions@utm.edu. A virtual orientation for the upcoming semester will be held Jan. 8 for transfer students and first-time freshmen.

For prospective students, in-person and virtual tours will resume Jan. 4. In-person tours of the main campus are scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. To schedule a campus visit, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or visit utm.edu/tour. Visitors must come to campus with a cloth face covering and be prepared to wear it during meetings and social interactions.

Additional UT Martin spring semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.

Former State Rep. Andy Holt to join TN. Dept. of Agriculture

Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. has announced the addition of Andy Holt to the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Holt will serve as Director of Business Development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, District 76 covering Weakley and Obion Counties from 2010 to 2020. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. He and his wife, Ellie, own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agri-tourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden. Holt is a former Financial Services Officer at Farm Credit Services and former Greenfield Fertilizer Manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative.

Holt’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Business with a minor in Animal Science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a focus on Economics and Finance. He will begin his new duties with TDA in January.
UT Martin looks forward to spring semester

Winter holiday has arrived at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and soon to follow is the beginning of spring semester. Classes resume Jan. 14, and students will have until Jan. 20 to register for courses. The 2021 spring semester will feature in-person, online and hybrid courses.

The main campus and five centers are following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. UT Martin will also continue to enforce its mask mandate and social distancing guidelines to promote safety and protect the campus community.

Students, faculty and staff without a medical or religion exemption who plan to return to campus for the spring semester are required to have the flu vaccination. For more information regarding the vaccine requirement, visit utm.edu/departments/shcs/flu.

The spring semester schedule is as follows:
- Jan. 14 — Classes begin.
- Jan. 18 — Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- March 29-April 2 — Spring break.
- April 30 — Classes end.

- May 3-7 — Final exams.
- May 8 — Commencement.

For students considering transferring to UT Martin this spring, applications are still available online at utm.edu/apply and will continue being processed through the holidays. Transfer students will need to request college transcripts or, for immediate review, submit unofficial transcripts to admissions@utm.edu.

A virtual orientation for the upcoming semester will be held Jan. 8 for transfer students and first-time freshmen.

For prospective students, in-person and virtual tours will resume Jan. 4. In-person tours of the main campus are scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. To schedule a campus visit, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or visit utm.edu/tour.

Visitors must come to campus with a cloth face covering and be prepared to wear it during meetings and social interactions.

Additional UT Martin spring semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or the Office of Graduate Studies at (731) 881-7012.

Holt to join Tennessee Department of Agriculture

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Agriculture commissioner Charlie Hatcher, DVM has announced the addition of Andy Holt to the business development division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA).

Holt will serve as director of business development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

"Rural economic development and recovery from the pandemic are priorities of the Department and Governor Bill Lee," Hatcher said. "TDA has been given the opportunity to lead projects focused on these priorities and the addition of Andy Holt will be a significant enhancement to our work. Andy's personal and professional experience in farming, along with his education in agriculture and economics, will support our efforts towards recruitment, recovery and expansion."

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, District 76 covering Weakley County and parts of Carroll and Obion counties from 2010 to 2020. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

He and his wife, Ellie, own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agri-tourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden. Holt is a former financial services officer at Farm Credit Services and former greenfield fertilizer manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative.

"As a first-generation farmer, I have chosen agriculture not only as my profession, but more importantly, my wife, Ellie, and I have chosen agriculture as a lifestyle for our family," Holt said. "I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to the State of Tennessee in this new capacity, leveraging my relationships, knowledge and skills to strengthen the agriculture industry and community. There are only two words on the Tennessee state seal, and this new position will combine them both — agriculture and commerce. I will work to see both thrive during my service with the team at the Department of Agriculture."

Holt’s educational background includes a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics and business with a minor in animal science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He earned his master of business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a focus on economics and finance. He will begin his new duties with TDA in January.
Holt to Join Department of Agriculture

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M., announced the addition of Andy Holt to the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Holt will serve as director of Business Development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

“Rural economic development and recovery from the pandemic are priorities of the Department and Governor Bill Lee,” Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. said. “TDA has been given the opportunity to lead projects focused on these priorities and the addition of Andy Holt will be a significant enhancement to our work. Andy’s personal and professional experience in farming, along with his education in agriculture and economics, will support our efforts towards recruitment, recovery, and expansion.”

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, District 76 covering Weakley County and parts of Carroll and Obion Counties from 2010 to 2020. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. He and his wife, Ellie, own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agri-tourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden. Holt is a former Financial Services Officer at Farm Credit Services and former Greenfield Fertilizer Manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative. He and wife, Ellie, have seven children and reside near Dresden.

“As a first-generation farmer, I have chosen agriculture not only as my profession, but more importantly, my wife, Ellie, and I have chosen agriculture as a lifestyle for our family,” Holt said. “I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to the State of Tennessee in this new capacity, leveraging my relationships, knowledge, and skills to strengthen the agriculture industry and community. There are only two words on the Tennessee State Seal, and this new position will combine them both – Agriculture and Commerce. I will work to see both thrive during my service with the team at the Department of Agriculture.”

Holt’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Business with a minor in Animal Science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a focus on Economics and Finance. He begins his new duties with TDA in January.
UT Martin Named Among 100 Best College Buys

MARTIN (December 18) — Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc. has included the University of Tennessee at Martin among its listing of “America’s 100 Best College Buys” for the 15th consecutive year. UT Martin was one of five Tennessee institutions earning recognition this fall for the 2020-21 academic year.

“The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has impacted every family, every industry and every institution in America in immediate ways, and in ways we will not fully be able to measure for years to come,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., president of Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc., in a statement. “As we begin the recovery process, it is especially important for people to have confidence in their decisions regarding higher education.

Those institutions included in the 25th Anniversary Edition of ‘America’s 100 Best College Buys’ will be among the very first to prevail over this crisis while providing a superior educational environment at the absolute lowest possible cost. UT Martin has consistently earned its place on this most exceptional list in American higher education.”

To be considered for this listing, institutions must be accredited and offer four-year bachelor’s degrees; offer full residential facilities including both residence halls and dining services; have had an entering freshman class in fall 2019 with an average high school grade point average and SAT or ACT score at or above the national average; and have an out-of-state cost of attendance below the national average cost of attendance for at least two semesters.

“Every single student and their family must look for the absolute very best return on their investment dollar, now more than ever before, and just as critically important the very best return on their time invested in attaining their education,” said Lindsey. “UT Martin exceeds expectations for the serious student looking for success.”

Other Tennessee universities recognized in the listing were the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tennessee Technological University and Lipscomb University.

UT Martin offers more than 100 academic areas of study within 18 undergraduate degree programs. Five graduate degrees are also offered within 22 specialized concentrations.

In addition to the main campus, UT Martin centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, while online degree options are available through UT Martin Online. Learn more at utm.edu and follow UT Martin on social media.

UT Martin Looks Forward to Spring Semester

MARTIN (December 18) — Winter holiday has arrived at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and soon to follow is the beginning of spring semester.

Classes resume January 14, 2021, and students will have until January 20, 2021, to register for courses.

The spring semester features in-person, online and hybrid courses, and the main campus and five centers follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UT Martin will also continue to enforce its mask mandate and social-distancing guidelines to promote safety and protect the campus community.

Students, faculty and staff without a medical or religious exemption who plan to return to campus for the spring semester are required to have the flu vaccination.

For more information regarding the vaccine requirement, visit utm.edu/departments/shcs/flu.

The spring semester schedule is as follows:
* January 14 — Classes begin
* January 18 — Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
* March 29 — April 2 — Spring break
* April 30 — Classes end
* May 3-7 — Final exams
* May 8 — Commencement

For students considering transferring to UT Martin this spring, applications are still available online at utm.edu/apply and will continue being processed through the holidays.

Transfer students will need to request college transcripts, or for immediate review, submit unofficial transcripts to admissions@utm.edu.

A virtual orientation for the upcoming semester will be held January 8 for transfer students and first-time freshmen.

For prospective students, in-person and virtual tours will resume January 4.

In-person tours of the main campus are scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

To schedule a campus visit, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or visit utm.edu/tour.

Visitors must come to campus with a cloth face covering and be prepared to wear it during meetings and social interactions.

Additional UT Martin spring semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.

UT Martin centers can be reached at the following numbers:
* Jackson Center: 731-445-9277
* McNairy County Center/Selmer: 731-646-1636
* Parsons Center: 731-447-3000
* Ripley Center: 731-221-9775
* Somerville Center: 901-465-7313

Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at utm.edu/coronavirus.
RECEIVES COVID-19 VACCINE - Shannon Deal, of Martin, director of UT Martin Student Health and Counseling Services and nurse practitioner, was among first responders and others who received the first of two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine December 23, 2020, at the Weakley County Health Department. The health department was prepared to administer up to 200 shots in this first round of vaccinations for pandemic frontline personnel. Other UT Martin student health employees receiving the vaccination were Patricia Floyd, of Union City, senior licensed practical nurse, and Jenny Harrison, of Martin, medical receptionist. First responders across the county and members of the health care profession also received vaccinations last week. Photo courtesy of UT Martin/University Relations
Holt to Join State Department of Agriculture

NASHVILLE (December 23) – Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. announced the addition of Andy Holt to the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Holt will serve as Director of Business Development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

"Rural economic development and recovery from the pandemic are priorities of the Department and Governor Bill Lee," Commissioner Hatcher said. "TDA has been given the opportunity to lead projects focused on these priorities and the addition of Andy Holt will be a significant enhancement to our work. Andy's personal and professional experience in farming, along with his education in agriculture and economics, will support our efforts towards recruitment, recovery, and expansion," he added.

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, District 76 covering Weakley County and parts of Carroll and Obion counties from 2010 to 2020. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

He and his wife, Ellie, own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agri-tourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden.

Holt is a former Financial Services Officer at Farm Credit Services and former Greenfield Fertilizer Manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative.

"As a first-generation farmer, I have chosen agriculture not only as my profession, but more importantly, my wife, Ellie, and I have chosen agriculture as a lifestyle for our family," Holt said. "I appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to continue my service to the State of Tennessee in this new capacity, leveraging my relationships, knowledge, and skills to strengthen the agriculture industry and community. There are only two words on the Tennessee State Seal, and this new position will combine them both – Agriculture and Commerce. I will work to see both thrive during my service with the team at the Department of Agriculture," Holt added.

Holt's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Business with a minor in Animal Science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a focus on Economics and Finance.

He will begin his new duties with TDA in January.

See Holt on Page 2
Holt to join Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Commissioner Dr. Charlie Hatcher has announced the addition of Andy Holt to the Business Development Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Holt will serve as Director of Business Development in support of economic development initiatives, as well as agriculture and forestry industry expansion.

"Rural economic development and recovery from the pandemic are priorities of TDA," Hatcher said. "TDA has been given the opportunity to lead projects focused on these priorities, and Andy Holt will be a significant addition to our work. His personal and professional experience in farming and his education in agriculture and economics will support our efforts towards recruitment, recovery, and expansion."

Holt served in the Tennessee House of Representatives for District 76, representing Weakley and parts of Carroll and Obion Counties from 2010-20. During his tenure, Holt served on several committees and was chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. He and wife Ellie own and operate Holt Family Farms, an agritourism and diversified livestock farming operation in Dresden. Holt is a former financial services officer at Farm Credit Services and former Greenfield fertilizer manager at Weakley County Farmers Cooperative.

“As a first-generation farmer, I have chosen agriculture not only as my profession, but more importantly, Ellie and I have chosen agriculture as a lifestyle for our family,” Holt said. “I look forward to the opportunity to continue serve in this new capacity, leveraging my relationships, knowledge, and skills to strengthen the agriculture industry and community. There are only two words on the state seal - Agriculture and Commerce - and I will work to see both thrive during my service at TDA.”

Holt’s educational background includes a BS in agricultural economics and business with a minor in animal science from UT Knoxville. He earned his MBA from UT Martin with a focus on economics and finance. He will begin his new duties with TDA in January.
UTM plans for spring semester

Winter holiday is in full swing at UTM, and soon to follow is spring semester. Classes resume Jan. 14, and students have until Jan. 20 to register for courses.

The spring semester will feature in-person, online, and hybrid courses. The main campus and five centers will continue to follow CDC guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. UTM also will continue to enforce its mask mandate and social distancing guidelines to promote safety and protect students.

Students, faculty, and staff without a medical or religion exemption who will return to campus for the spring are required to have the flu vaccination. For more information regarding the vaccine requirement, visit utm.edu/departments/shcs/flu.

The 2021 spring semester schedule is as follows:
- Jan. 14 - Classes begin
- Jan. 18 - MLK, Jr. Day
- Mar. 29-Apr. 2 - Spring break
- April 30 - Classes end
- May 3-7 - Final exams
- May 8 - Commencement

For prospective students, in-person and virtual tours will resume Jan. 4. To schedule a campus visit, call 731-881-7020 or visit utm.edu/tour. Visitors must come to campus with a cloth face covering and be prepared to wear it during meetings and social interactions.

Additional UTM spring semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012. Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at utm.edu/coronavirus.