New exhibit at UT Martin highlights Last's Japan trip

A new exhibit — titled "Stone Between Earth and Sky" — is open weekdays in the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum, located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It will run through April 20.

The exhibit includes photographs and stereoscopic images from Lane Last's travel to Hirosaki City, Japan, in fall 2014.

Last, a UT Martin professor of art, assembled the exhibit as part of his Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave project in spring 2016.

The exhibit is free and open to the public, a spokesman said.

Parking permits for visitors are available at no cost from the Paul Meek Library Circulation desk staff.

For more information about the new exhibit, contact the J. Houston Gordon Museum at (731) 881-7464 or by email at specoll@utm.edu.

Cups for the Cure slated for Saturday in Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Cups for the Cure, in correlation with World Cancer Day, from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the UT Martin Wesley Foundation.

Cups for the Cure will be selling handmade ceramic cups and mugs for a $15 donation.

One hundred percent of funds raised will go toward local cancer foundations and provide direct economic support to cancer patients in need. Cancer impacts many in the community and can create an economic burden for patients.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, created Cups for the Cure to support cancer patients and their families. McBeth's mother was diagnosed with cancer on Feb. 4, 2014, and passed away 21 days later. She received aid from the Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates, a foundation at the cancer center where she was receiving treatment.

The event is open to the public, and a variety of hot beverages and desserts will be available.

The UTM Wesley Foundation is located at 312 Lovelace Ave. in Martin.

For more information about Saturday's event, contact McBeth at (731) 881-7416.
Tour of the UT Martin Somerville Center Remodeling

94th District State Representative Ron Gant (2nd from left) and others took a tour last week of the UT Martin Somerville Center that is being remodeled. It is located in the old Methodist Hospital building on Lake Drive in Somerville. Also attending were, left to right, Somerville city administrator Bob Turner, Rep. Ron Gant, Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neill, Franklin Stanford, and Ray Rosser of Fayette County Title Company. The school is planning to open this August for classes.

Anna Clark Named Kiwanian Of The Year

The Kiwanis Club of Martin, Anita Bell, immediate past president, recently named Anna Clark as Kiwanian of the Year for 2015-2016. Anita made the announcement at the January 25 meeting of the club and presented Anna with a plaque. Anna is a faculty member in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at UT Martin where she is also co-coordinator of the Hortense Parrish Writing Center. A resident of Martin since 1981, Anna recognizes the value of community service and received the award for her service.
HJH pair take part in ACT event

Braxton Pham and Emma Webb represented Halls Junior High at the ACT Awareness Event held at the University of Tennessee Martin Center in Ripley on Jan. 20. Students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders participated in the event to learn about ACT alignment with the curriculum as well as tips to better prepare all students for the ACT.

2017 CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE ‘BLACK LIVES MATTER’

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2017 Civil Rights Conference, held Feb. 16-23 on UT Martin’s main campus, will focus on the theme “Social Justice in the Age of Black Lives Matter.” Kwame Rose, a social activist, artist and writer, will serve as the conference’s keynote speaker and will discuss the Black Lives Matter movement at 7 p.m., Feb. 23.

Rose is known for his articles and appearances for such media outlets as the Huffington Post, NPR News, CBS Radio News and USA Today. The Baltimore, Md, native travels the country speaking about the unrest in his hometown and the issue of policing black communities.

A schedule of conference activities is included below. All events are open to the public and held in Watkins Auditorium, inside UT Martin’s Boling University Center, unless otherwise noted. There is no admission charge unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 16 • UT Martin Black Student Association event: “Black Lives Matter: A Different Perspective”; 7 p.m.
Feb. 19 • Student Activities Council movie screening: “13th”; 6 and 9 p.m.
Feb. 20 • Florence Roach and the Ettaro Theater Company perform an original play, “Black Lives Matter”; 7 p.m.
Feb. 21 • Haley Simmons: “Poverty and Black Lives Matter”; 1 p.m.

UT Martin is one of only two universities in the nation to host an annual Civil Rights Conference, and the event has been held each year since 2000. For more information, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7485.
STUDENTS, Braxton Pham and Emma Webb, represented Halls Junior High at the ACT Awareness event, January 20th, at the University of Tennessee Martin Center in Ripley. Students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders participated in the event to learn about ACT alignment with the curriculum as well as tips to better prepare all students for the ACT.

NEW UTM EXHIBIT — A new exhibit, titled "Stone between Earth and Sky," is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays, now through April 20 in the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum, located inside the Paul Meek Library. The exhibit includes photographs and stereoscopic images from Lane Last's travel to Hirosaki City, Japan in fall 2014. Last, a UT Martin professor of art, assembled the exhibit as part of his Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave project in spring 2016. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Parking permits for visitors are available at no cost from the Paul Meek Library Circulation desk staff. For more information, contact the J. Houston Gordon Museum at 731-881-7464 or by email at specoll@utm.edu.
Dresden quarterback
Winn signs with UTM

By RANDY CAVIN
Sports Editor

The deed is done and Dresden senior quarterback Dresser Winn is now a UT Martin Skyhawk.

Winn signed his National Letter of Intent on Wednesday, which was National Signing Day for universities and colleges from all levels across the nation.

The Dresden quarterback had some tough choices to make and he had initially committed to Western Michigan University the week before, then decommitted two days later. It just did not seem to be the right fit for him.

That gave UT Martin head coach Jason Simpson another chance at the quarterback he personally recruited. Simpson’s attention to Winn apparently paid off on Wednesday.

Winn proudly put on a Skyhawks cap to mark the big occasion before talking to the media. This has been a long ordeal and the star quarterback from Dresden is glad it is finally over.

“IT is a huge relief,” Winn said. “IT is good to have so many schools recruiting me. But at the same time it gets pretty stressful. You try to pick just the right one for you and I feel I made a great decision. Coach Simpson has been there for a while and it is a great program.”

Now that the recruiting process has finally passed and he has signed with the college of his choice, he can turn his focus on the remainder of the basketball season and move on to baseball when that season starts up.

“Now I can think about other people and not just recruiting,” Winn said. “Now I can just think about basketball and baseball, hopefully, and have fun with the rest of the high school.”

Winn did enjoy the recruiting process when it first started. Then it got to be really stressful towards the end with the schools that really wanted him. It first started with letters from schools and then the
WINN, 
FROM PAGE 1

ones that wanted him turned up the pressure, which increased the stress level.

"It always starts out getting cool letters from Clemson, Alabama and them," Winn said. "Then you wonder who is going to offer you and it narrows down. That is cool, but towards the end you have to figure out where you are going to go. That can be the grown-up business part of it. It gets real stressful when it comes to that."

Winn is cool under pressure as he was able to keep his head on his shoulders when he stepped out onto a football field. It always took a lot to rattle him, which rarely happened.

Most any high school football fan in the area knows what the young man has done on the gridiron. He guided the Lions to a 15-0 season and Class A state championship in 2016.

Winn's numbers in the championship are indeed championship material. He completed 15-of-23 passes for 245 yards and five touchdowns with no interceptions.

He rarely threw an interception. Winn only had two of his 196 passing attempts picked off his senior season. He completed 145 of those passes for a 74 percent completion rate, and 38 of those completions went for touchdowns. He finished with 2,928 passing yards.

Winn is also extremely mobile, which makes him a dual threat quarterback. He ran the ball 92 times for 893 yards and 13 additional touchdowns.

The new Skyhawk also won the 2015 Mr. Football Back award in Class A and was a semifinalist for the same award this past season.

Winn did have some help with the recruiting process and decision-making. His father, Albert "Peanut" Winn, works for a car dealership as a salesman and speaks the lingo of college recruiters quite well.

"It is their job to sell their school and program to you," Winn said about the recruiters. "My dad helped a lot because he could tell when they were just giving a sales pitch and not being dead serious. We could pick them apart because dad has done that a lot."

UT Martin also had something else to offer, which helped to lure the quarterback. Winn has a scholarship to play baseball for the Skyhawks.

He is putting that off to the side for now to work on football when the time comes to join the football team.

"I have a scholarship to play baseball," Winn said. "I can join the baseball team whenever I want. I am not sure if I am going to do it the first year or the second. Most likely I am going to do it the second year."

Winn will be joined by his Dresden teammate, running back Dylan Yates, who signed as a preferred walk-on for the Skyhawks.
Saturday’s Cups for the Cure to help combat cancer

By Tanna Norman
Special to The Press

Cancer. It is a word that no one ever likes to hear or talk about, but the impact that it has on families across the world is immense. Whether you have had cancer or not, this deadly disease finds its way into most everyone’s life at some point or another.

According to the American Cancer Society, one in two men will develop cancer during their lifetime, while one in three women will. Fortunately, survival rate continues to increase for both men and women with almost 5 million more people expected to live beyond a cancer diagnosis by 2024. The expenditures that come with this despicable disease often put a major strain on families, and as a result, they are left with empty pocketbooks affecting their ability to pay bills, provide for their family, etc.

One event in Martin, however, is setting out to help local cancer foundations and provide direct economic support to cancer patients in need. This Saturday, the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, the Wesley Foundation and the Guild of Studio 317 have teamed up to host an event called “Cups for the Cure” in association with World Cancer Day.

The afternoon will consist of a variety of hot and cold beverages served in handmade ceramic cups/mugs that you get to take home as well as desserts for a $15 donation. Approximately 350 uniquely made cups/mugs will be available for purchase. The event will be held at the UT Martin Wesley Foundation located at 312 Lovelace Avenue from 2 - 4 p.m. and is open to the public.

After several years of thought and his students’ input, UT Martin professor of art David McBeth thought of the Cups for the Cure event in honor of his mother who was diagnosed with cancer on Feb. 4, 2014. Just 21 days later after fighting cancer a second time, she passed away.

McBeth says that his mother always loved coffee, and “every morning she would fix a cup to sit and watch the news or read the paper. She didn’t like the big mugs though. She liked the smaller ones, because she could drink it all before it got cold. She would rather make a few trips to the kitchen than to have her coffee get cold.”

McBeth explains that him and his students Miranda Rutan, Beth White, Ashton Tatum and Teddy Vincent specially selected 12 to 14 ounces of clay for each cup, but they also made sure that some of the cups were a little smaller, just the way his mother would have liked them.

Thankfully, McBeth’s mother was given aid from a foundation at the cancer center where she was receiving treatment called the Joilet Oncology-Hematology Associates, and the family was not burdened by the costs.

McBeth hopes to give back to cancer patients and their families with the Cups for the Cure event, and he looks forward to many more years to come.

For more information about Cups for the Cure, contact McBeth at 731-881-7416.
How did UT Martin get Winn?

Relationships, major kept the Dresden QB close to home

BRANDON SHIELDS
USA TODAY NETWORK

MARTIN — Dresden quarterback Dresser Winn is one of the more gifted athletes to come from rural West Tennessee in the last few years.

He's good at three sports and has been offered college scholarships in two of them — football and baseball. He'd possibly receive basketball scholarship offers as well if he pursued them.

From the time he was in middle school leading a talented group of athletes from Dresden to football excellence every year, most in town thought Winn had a chance to go somewhere big.

That was a definite possibility as he had interest throughout his high school career from different programs in the Big Ten with some interest in the Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference as well.

But he wound up staying close to home at UT Martin.

"I've grown up 10 minutes down the road from UTM. I've gone to basketball games and know the campus," Winn said.

"I've always liked the school, and I want to major in ag-business.

"UTM is a great school for that. I'm glad I made the choice to be at UTM."

But it looked for a while that wasn't going to happen.

Which sport?

Winn's recruitment became more and more busy in the two months since Dresden won the Class 1A state championship. It had quieted down for much of 2016 after coaches began hearing he'd decided to pursue college baseball over football. But actually playing football for one more season began to change his mind on that.

"I'd always have one more season of football left, and then we started playing this past season and I realized this was going to be my last season of playing."

See Winn, Page 10D

Winn

Continued from Page 1D

Winn said, "After thinking about it, I wasn't really comfortable with that thought.

"I love playing all sports. Basketball is probably my favorite sport. But there's nothing like Friday night lights and the thrill of being a part of that. And I know college football Saturdays are special too, and I want to get the chance to be a part of that for four or five years."

Winn was back on the football recruiting circuit — taking visits to places like Memphis and Indiana and a handful of Ohio Valley Conference schools.

Memphis head coach Mike Norvell even took a university bus to Dresden to visit Winn before the Lions left for the state title game in Cookeville. The new coaching staff at Indiana made visits with him the following week. But the scholarship offer never came.

"Memphis actually talked about blue-shirting me," Winn said. "Where I'd commit to them and enroll, but my scholarship would count toward next year's class. I wanted to get started in a program this fall, though."

Which college?

Interest from Indiana waned. Winn turned down the blue-shirt offer from Memphis. But a new NCAA FBS program came calling when Western Michigan let Winn know they were interested in his talents. The Broncos had recently had a coaching change after the team had gone undefeated before falling to Wisconsin in the Cotton Bowl this past season.

Winn went on an official visit in January and received an offer from the program that finished the season ranked in the top 15. It was his biggest offer yet.

"I loved my visit up there — the coaches, the players I got to know, the facilities," Winn said. "It's a D1 program that's had some success, and they wanted to work my skill set into the position and make it work for them."

"It had everything I could want in a college football program."

That's why Winn announced his commitment to the program on Jan. 25 on his Twitter account, a week before national signing day. It was met with plenty of congratulations for the decision. Winn said he received plenty of social media and text messages telling him he'd made a good decision. But he wasn't so sure.

"I liked everything about the program, but honestly, Kalamazoo, Mich., isn't a place I think I'd enjoy spending the next four or five years," Winn said.

Winn talked to his parents and other mentors about what to do. One of those mentors was someone with whom he'd have important conversations in the coming days, but they'd had plenty of big conversations in the previous years leading up to this decision. That person was UT Martin head football coach Jason Simpson.

Making a change

Simpson has been at UTM for 12 seasons. So, he's been around long enough to have plenty of connections around West Tennessee, but especially Weakley County, where Martin and Dresden are both located.

Simpson said he saw early on Winn could possibly be a recruit that was good enough to be at UTM if he didn't go to a bigger program. He took this recruitment opportunity on personally.

"I took this one on personally, so I've gotten to know him for four years," Simpson said. "And I don't just like him because of what he can do as a quarterback. I just like him as a kid, as a young man.

"He's a good person to be around and talk about football or life in general."

So it wasn't totally out of the ordinary when Simpson got a text from Winn on Jan. 26, the day after he committed to another school.

"I told him that wasn't sure I'd made the right decision," Winn said. "And he gave me some good advice."

"I wanted him to go where he thought it was best for him to go, because I've grown to like him enough to want to see him succeed even if it's not in our program," Simpson said. "And I told him if Western Michigan is where he thinks he needs to go, then he needs to go there and do well.

"But at the same time, God isn't a God of confusion. If Dresser and his family had talked and played about this, then they'll be shown what they need to do."

Involved in that text conversation was a question from Dresser: "Do you still have a scholarship for me?" The answer from Simpson was a quick and simple yes.

"I called Western Michigan's coaches to let them know what I was thinking and that I didn't think I needed to go there, and I did that to give them a few days to find another quarterback or a receiver or someone that would use the scholarship I'd been offered," Winn said. "After that I called Coach Simpson to ask about the possibility of coming over for my official visit on Saturday."

"He was already getting stuff together with his ag-business guy at the school. That let me know he still really wanted me to be at UTM."

Committing to UTM

Winn publicly decommitted from Western Michigan on Friday Jan. 27. He
Dresden’s Dresser Winn’s good at three sports and has been offered college scholarships in two of them – football and baseball.

was silent on social media after that when it came to football recruiting with the exception of an occasional retweet. He went to UTM on Saturday and met with some of the current Skyhawk players and recruits who were a part of UTM’s signing class. He talked with Simpson, toured the campus he was already familiar with and got to know a few other Skyhawk players better at Simpson’s house that night.

“Official visits at UTM are the same as official visits everywhere else,” Winn said. “They sell the recruit on the program and the school and everything both have to offer.

“I already knew what it had to offer, but everywhere we went that day, it seemed like one more little confirmation every time that UTM was the place to be.”

Winn told Simpson he planned to sign with UTM on Wednesday, national signing day. Word began to spread through Dresden, Martin and beyond during the interim time, but he never broadcast the decision.

“I figured I’d had enough commitment and decommitment posts in the last few days,” Winn said with a laugh. “I wanted to wait and make it official before I said anything publicly.”

Moving on from here

Winn is a part of the Dresden basketball team and is a key part of the Lions baseball team. He wants to try to help both programs enjoy success similar to what the football team enjoyed last fall with its state championship.

In the meantime, he plans to start doing UTM’s workout plan when basketball is finished. Winn said he’s been offered a scholarship by Skyhawk baseball coach Rick Robinson. He’s still undecided if he’ll play both sports or not.

“I told him I want him to play because I’ll enjoy going and watching him play on Sunday afternoons in the spring,” Simpson said. “But that’s his decision.”

Winn said he’s confident in his agriculture major choice as it can be helpful to find a job in nearly any field after college if he’s done with football at that point.

“It doesn’t have to be in agriculture,” Winn said. “The business part of it is a business degree, and that’s a pretty open market for finding a job with a degree.

“That combined with the relationships with the people I already have at UTM and the fact I get to play football and possibly baseball – UTM is the right place for me.”

Contact Brandon Shields at 425-9751
UTM will offer first manufacturing engineering concentration in Tennessee

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering recently announced plans to add a concentration in manufacturing engineering. This would be the first and only training program for manufacturing engineers in Tennessee, and only the second in the southeast, and the university hopes to help fill a statewide employment gap in the industry.

"There is a high demand for manufacturing engineers (with undergraduate degrees) in the state, and nobody is producing them," said Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and interim chair, UTM Department of Engineering. "Companies are having to hire engineers and train them in skills that they could learn as part of their education."

The university plans to offer the new specialized courses beginning in the 2017 fall semester, and this will be the first engineering concentration added to UTM’s course offerings since the department was created in 1996.

Manufacturing is a major industry in the state, with 53 positions available per 1,000 people. However, the University of Miami offers the only bachelor’s-level training program for manufacturing engineers in the southeast. This forces local companies seeking manufacturing engineers to either recruit out-of-state graduates or hire an engineer from another specialization.

"Engineers in other disciplines are having to learn these skills after they go on the job and by trade, not education, become a manufacturing engineer," said LeMaster. This creates a difficult situation for new graduates who are faced with an unexpected learning curve.

"They’re going to get there, but how many months or weeks do they have to put in to pick up those skills that we could have taught them here if we had this concentration already in place," said Dr. Jared Teague, associate professor of engineering. "This new concentration will help graduates be job-ready more quickly."

According to the Academic Program Supply and Occupational Demand Projections for 2012-2025, the state of Tennessee produces an average of 234 engineering graduates each year in the mechanical, electrical, and industrial concentrations. Only eight of those graduates choose industrial engineering, and none specialize in manufacturing engineering. There are, however, an average of 295 statewide job openings in this industry each year, with 120 of those requiring industrial or manufacturing engineers.

Industrial and manufacturing engineers overlap in many areas, however there are key differences that make the transition from one to the other more difficult than assumed. The training for industrial engineers is management-oriented and focuses on the worker to improve production. The training for manufacturing engineers is process-oriented and emphasizes improving the production process and creating a high-quality product in the most efficient way possible.

At UTM, the difference is seen in 27 hours of specialized coursework. The new concentration would focus on meeting the needs of existing companies in West Tennessee and training a highly qualified workforce to take those companies into the coming years.

"We recruit in manufacturing engineering, that’s what we’re actually looking for," said Jody Jones, engineering manager with NSK in Dyersburg. "We’ve got mechanical engineers that we normally hire to make that transition, but it would be a lot easier for us to partner with someone like UTM and actually help develop that curriculum. We could hire our people straight out of school and have them come right to work."

The Bachelor of Science in engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. For more information on ABET accreditation, visit abet.org. For more information on the new concentration, contact the department at 731-881-7571.
Annual UTM Civil Rights Conference to examine ‘Black Lives Matter’

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2017 Civil Rights Conference, to be held Feb. 16-23 on UTM’s main campus, will focus on the theme “Social Justice in the Age of Black Lives Matter.” UTM is one of only two universities in the nation to host an annual Civil Rights Conference, and the event has been held each year since 2000.

All events are open to the public and held in Watkins Auditorium, inside UTM’s Boling University Center, unless otherwise noted. There is no admission charge unless noted. For more information about the schedule of events, contact conference organizer Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history, at 731-881-7465.

Notable Event Speakers:

Kwame Rose, a social activist, artist, and writer, will serve as the conference’s keynote speaker and will discuss the Black Lives Matter movement at 7 p.m., Feb. 23. Rose is known for his articles and appearances for such media outlets as the Huffington Post, NPR News, CBS Radio News, and USA Today. The Baltimore, Md., native travels the country speaking about the unrest in his hometown and the issue of policing black communities.

Haley Simmons, a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, serves as director of public policy for the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce and as a special assistant for policy, strategy, and accountability for the city of Memphis. He has worked in the office of former U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, and spent two years serving in the Peace Corps in Moldova.

A historian of the black female experience, Dr. Amrita Myers earned her doctorate in U.S. history from Rutgers University, specializing in African American and women’s history. She is interested in race, gender, sexuality, power, freedom, and citizenship.

Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown is an assistant professor of contemporary dance at Indiana University. Her research focuses on social justice and uses original dance to explore modern-day social constructs. Her current research focuses on critical dance pedagogy, funded by a grant from the College Arts and Humanities Institute.

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson is co-executive director for the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market. She is a longtime activist focusing on the issues of mountaintop removal mining and environmental racism in central and southern Appalachia. She has served on the National Council for the Student Environmental Action Coalition and is an organizer with Concerned Citizens for Justice.

CIVIL RIGHTS - Rev. William Barber, a member of the board for the NAACP, served as keynote speaker during UTM’s 2016 Civil Rights Conference.
The University of Tennessee System has awarded Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science at UTM, a 2017 University of Tennessee President’s Award. Roberts received a President's Award for his efforts to expand educational offerings at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The series of awards was created in 2016 to honor the role of UT employees in fulfilling the university's mission, and celebrate those whose academic and professional achievements serve as a model for their system colleagues statewide.

Nominations for the 2017 awards were accepted in four categories in accordance with the UT System's mission statements: Educate, which honors accomplishments that enhance educational offerings and diverse learning environments; Discover, which honors discoveries and applications of knowledge; Connect, which honors engagement and service; and Support, which honors efforts in support of educational excellence, discoveries and applications of knowledge, outreach, engagement and service.

Roberts, nominated in the “Educate” category, is director and co-founder of...
Award
Continued from Page 3A

UT Martin's veterinary technology program and director of the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostics Lab, which provides support to local livestock producers and veterinary professionals in the case of unknown animal death.

Roberts, a Martin native, holds a Bachelor of Science from UT Martin and received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Tennessee Knoxville. He began his work with the UT Martin faculty in 2009 and was promoted to his current rank in 2013. Roberts was instrumental in the design of UT Martin's veterinary health technology program in 2010, and his efforts led directly to the program's successful accreditation in 2014. He is also a primary educator in the pre-veterinary science program, which has seen record-breaking numbers of veterinary school acceptances in recent years.

"Dr. Roberts is unquestionably a terrific educator and ambassador for UT Martin pre-veterinary students. He has worked tirelessly to make a difference in students' lives both in the classroom and in their career advancements in both the pre-veterinary and veterinary technician programs," wrote Dr. Jim Thompson, dean of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, in one of Roberts' nomination letters. "I have not seen one of his students stumble under the rigors of the professional degree program (at UT), and they have uniformly been absolutely excellent colleagues to their fellow students. These students have all, uniformly, credited Dr. Roberts' leadership for encouraging them to be team players and for helping them to accomplish their educational career goals."

In addition to his regular teaching and research duties, Roberts is also one of six professors who mentor students in the university's Ned Ray McWherter Institute and participates annually in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, held each summer for selected high school students.

UT Martin faculty members Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music, and David McBeth, professor of art, received two of the three inaugural University of Tennessee President's Awards in 2016 in the "educate" and "connect" categories, respectively.

Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT System president, will officially present the University of Tennessee President's Awards after his State of the University of Tennessee address Feb. 21 in Nashville. Roberts and his fellow award-winners from across the state will each receive a commemorative plaque and a cash award for their accomplishments.

UTM Rodeo pageant set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant March 4 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the campus of UTM.

The pageant is open to all girls, ages birth to 20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only.

Doors will open at noon, with pageants as follows: birth-12 months at 1, 1-3 years at 1:30, 4-6 years at 2, 7-9 years at 2:30, 10-12 years at 3, 13-15 years at 3:30 and 16-20 years at 4.

Registration is at the door only. Cost is $25 for beauty only, with side categories available for an additional fee.

The winner of the 16-20 age division will be required to participate in UTM Rodeo Week activities and is eligible to compete in Territorial Queens Review/Strawberry Festival.

Junior, Teen and Miss division queens will be recognized at UTM Rodeo performances April 6, 7 and 8.

For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.
Social activist Kwame Rose is the keynote speaker at University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Civil Rights Conference this month.

Rose is known for speaking at rallies and protesting media coverage following the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, including a confrontation with Geraldo Rivera of Fox News. The conference involves events centered around the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. Organizer and UTM history professor David Barber said he feels it's important to assert that black lives do matter in this country.

"The object of our conference is not only to highlight the work of the civil rights movement, but to keep the issues that the civil rights put forward at the top of a national agenda," Barber said.

Barber said he wants people to understand the issues of civil rights and social justice in the context of Black Lives Matter. The conference begins on February 16.

One of UT Martin’s biggest events begins next week when the 2017 Civil Rights Conference honors Black History Month.

The Black Student Association opens the conference with “Black Lives Matter: A Different Perspective” February 16th at 7, as “Social Justice in the Age of Black Lives Matter” is the conference’s theme.

Social activist Kwame Rose is the keynote speaker of this event and he will speak February 23rd at 7 that evening on the busiest day of the conference, which also features the UTM Gospel Choir and a panel led by professors Dr. Henry Parker and Dr. David Barber.

UT Martin is one of only two colleges in the nation that hold an annual Civil Rights Conference.
McKenzie Band Members Selected to UTM Honor Bands

MARTIN (January 26-28) — The University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted musicians from approximately 80 Tennessee and Kentucky schools for its 38th Annual Honor Band Festival. Students were selected to participate based on individual musical accomplishments and director's recommendations. The musicians auditioned for chair placement in one of four bands on Thursday afternoon. They then rehearsed that evening, all day Friday, and early Saturday before presenting a concert on Saturday afternoon.

Four students represented McKenzie High School, all in the Concert Band. Mason Wallace was first chair percussion, Zach Roy was second chair Euphonium, Andrew Goodrum was second chair clarinet and Ciana Haney was second chair trumpet. Claire Cottrill represented McKenzie Middle School in the junior high band, earning fourth chair trumpet.

UTM Honor Band participants from McKenzie High School (L to R): Andrew Goodrum, Ciana Haney, Mason Wallace and Zach Roy. Photo by Brad Sam/The McKenzie Banner
UTM to open STEM Center for Teaching and Learning

The University of Tennessee at Martin will officially open a new STEM Center for Teaching and Learning with a public reception from 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 16 in classroom two of the Holland-McCombs Center.

The center will serve the general public with emphasis on providing regional K-12 educators with the knowledge and resources to teach hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts within Tennessee educational standards. The center’s primary goals are to design and conduct professional development workshops for West Tennessee educators and inform the public about the importance of STEM education.

The center is one component of the Teacher Quality Partnership program, funded at UT Martin by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Regional educators who participate in available workshops will be provided with a box of equipment and supplies to recreate experiments and activities in their own classrooms. Teachers who are not able to attend workshop sessions will be able to “check out” extra supplies from the center when needed.

The opening will feature refreshments and a display of classroom kits available for check-out, as well as the unveiling of a periodic table created by local schoolchildren. North-South STEM, a community partner, will also be on hand to display opportunities for students.

STSEM, FROM PAGE 1

West Tennessee students in grades two through 12 will be featured in panels, and winning entries will be chosen by UT Martin art and chemistry students. Dresden Elementary School teachers Sherry Hatchel and Kristy Jolley will unveil the permanent display at 4 p.m.

The Holland-McCombs Center is located on University Street between the Hall-Moody Administration Building and Gooch Hall. Parking is available across the street, adjacent to Hardy Graham Stadium.

For more information or to invite STEM Center personnel to present in your classroom, contact center co-directors Dr. Steve Elliott at 731-881-7452 or Dr. John Overcash at 731-881-7450.

Shell to speak at UTM tonight

Kevin Shell, UT Martin assistant professor of theatre and director of the Vanguard Theatre, will present a lecture titled “Improvisation: On and Off the Stage” at 7 p.m. tonight as the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2017 Phi Kappa Phi Muriel Tomlinson Memorial Lecture in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

His presentation focuses on techniques and applications of improvisation for theatre, entertainment and life. Shell completed undergraduate work in communications and theatre at UT Martin and earned his master of fine arts degree in acting and directing from the University of Florida.

He joined the UT Martin faculty in 2015.

SHELL, FROM PAGE 1

and teaches a variety of courses with the Department of Theatre and Visual Arts. Shell is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honors Society and Phi Kappa Phi, and is faculty advisor and founder of Theatre Improv Alliance, UT Martin’s improv troupe. He is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971 and honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Robbie Montgomery, rmontgomery@utm.edu.
Junior/Senior Day slated for Feb. 20

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 20. High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with professors and students in areas of interest and experience college life inside the classroom.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome following at 9. An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and dining services will be open during the registration period.

Students will be introduced to the various academic departments at 9:30 and will be able to attend a college course later in the morning.

From 10 a.m. to noon, participating students will visit classrooms, meet with faculty in their chosen departments or attend a question-and-answer discussion panel.

Lunch will be taken at noon with members of the chosen department, and students will return at 1 p.m. to tour the rest of the UT Martin campus.

Students interested in studying music will participate in a separate Junior/Senior Day event, which includes an introduction to the various campus ensembles and performance groups, as well as the opportunity for high school seniors to audition on-site. Students attending this event will also meet at 8:30 a.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required. Visit utm.edu/junior-senior-day to register online, or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 for more information.

SIEBER HONORED—Friends and family of the late Stan Sieber have established the Stan Sieber Student Travel Endowment at the University of Tennessee at Martin to honor his love of travel. Sieber taught history at UT Martin for 41 years and coordinated more than 340 travel-study and study abroad programs before his retirement in 2014. He passed away Feb. 5, 2015, at the age of 73. Funds from this endowment will be used to help UT Martin students participate in travel programs through the university. Pictured are Dr. David Coffey (left), chair, UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy; and Sara Sieber, wife of Stan Sieber.
UTM students travel to Trinidad, Tobago for master percussion classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio participated in a travel-study to Trinidad and Tobago in January as part of the Youth Music Exchange Program hosted by the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

“My favorite part of the trip was having the opportunity to go observe different steel pan bands rehearse at their respective pan yards,” said Jacob Hargrove, a sophomore music and performance major from Memphis.

UT Martin students and alumni visited steel band rehearsals for the upcoming Panorama competition, as well as a rehearsal of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra of Trinidad and Tobago. The group also participated in multiple master classes including topics on steelpan, tassa drumming, traditional bongo and limbo styles.

Stephen Weeks of the U.S. Embassy in Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad and Tobago, welcomed UT Martin students before their joint concert with students from University of Trinidad and Tobago.

"Having the chance to play with the UTT students was such an amazing experience. They were all incredible musicians, and I feel like we really blended well together," said Hargrove.

The travel-study provided UT Martin students with real-world experience and an opportunity to learn about another culture. "I have connections in Trinidad and Tobago now, and I’m more than grateful for that. Overall, it was just a wonderful learning experience, and I hope to visit Trinidad and Tobago again someday,” said Hargrove.

Other students to participate in the trip were Rachel Edwards of Medina; Patrick Hill of Trenton; Jenna Kirby of Nashville; Jacob Hargrove of Bartlett; Jennifer Hotz of Naperville, Ill.; Cameron Westbrook of Nashville; Trice Mayhall of Kenton; Hohner Porter of Trenton; Colby Snider of Memphis; Nathaniel O’Neal of Smyrna; Cameron Poythress of Antioch; Peyton Scott of Newbern and Stephen Downing of Martin.

UTT students plan to visit UT Martin in August to complete the first round of the exchange.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Music, at 731-881-7418 or email jhull@utm.edu.

TRIPPING TO TRINIDAD — The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio participated in a travel-study to Trinidad and Tobago Jan. 4-11, as part of the Youth Music Exchange Program hosted by the University of Trinidad and Tobago. Pictured are (back row, from left) Alexis Atwood, percussionist and personnel manager with the New Mexico Symphony; Trice Mayhall of Kenton; Chris Nelson, timpanist with the Paducah Symphony; Hohner Porter of Trenton; Colby Snider of Memphis; Nathaniel O’Neal of Smyrna; Cameron Poythress of Antioch; Peyton Scott of Newbern; Stephen Downing of Martin; and Dr. Julie Hill, UT Martin director of percussion studies; (front row) Dr. Josh Smith, UT Martin assistant director of percussion; Rachel Edwards of Medina; Patrick Hill of Trenton; Jenna Kirby of Nashville; Jacob Hargrove of Bartlett; Jennifer Hotz of Naperville, Ill.; and Cameron Westbrook of Nashville.
UTM partnering with local businesses to create and fill jobs

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Office of Career Planning and Development, which opened during the fall 2016 semester, allows local businesses opportunities to partner with the university to provide employment and internship opportunities for students and alumni.

Local businesses can post internship opportunities, as well as both part-time and full-time positions in a single location accessible to students. Professionals seeking to hire students can also search student resumes, schedule interviews and reach out to specific students as needed to fill open positions.

Developing a student internship program includes benefits for businesses such as early training, review of the upcoming workforce and the ability to hire immediately after graduation. The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will help students and alumni navigate the job-search process more effectively and provide training in resume preparation, interview strategies, personal branding and professional networking.

These additional training opportunities will produce potential employees who are more prepared for the demands of professional life, benefiting employers in the long run.

Students will begin engaging with potential employers through informational interviews during the freshman year, followed by job shadowing opportunities during the sophomore year. Office staff will help students prepare for and pursue these opportunities in order to gain a better understanding of possible career paths and professional expectations. Students should then be prepared to pursue internship opportunities during the junior year.

"By connecting students to employers through informational interviews, job shadowing and internships, we hope to develop a pipeline of full-time candidates for regional employers," said Katie Man tooth, assistant director of career planning and development.

The office hosts a variety of professional development sessions for students, including resume and cover-letter writing, interview strategies and salary negotiation.

These sessions help students develop key skills not always included in their course curriculum.

The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development is funded by the Soar in Four program, which encourages students to graduate in four years.

For more information, business representatives can contact the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development at 731-881-7712.

ON THE JOB — The University of Tennessee at Martin's Office of Career Planning and Development will provide students an additional opportunity to network with area businesses and secure internships in their respective fields. Kamryn Gitchell, a junior from Ripley, is shown working with animal vaccines during her internship work with NEOTECH, LLC in Dresden.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio participated in a travel study overseas in early January.

The group had the opportunity to merge cultures in Trinidad and Tobago, Jan. 4-11, as part of the Youth Music Exchange Program hosted by the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

"My favorite part of the trip was having the opportunity to observe different steel pan bands rehearse at their respective pan yards," said Jacob Hargrove, a sophomore music and performance major from Bartlett.

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UTT students plan to visit UT Martin in August to complete the first round of the exchange.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chairwoman, UT Martin Department of Music, at (731) 881-7418 or email jhill@utm.edu.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio participated in a travel study to Trinidad and Tobago as part of the New Music Education Program hosted by the University of Trinidad and Tobago. Front row, from left, Dr. Josh Smith, Of Medicine assistant director of percussion; Paul Edwards, director of percussion; Amy T. Groom, traveling with International Arts in Nashville, Il.; and Cameron Sheppard of Nashville. Back row, from left, Alain Arnaud, percussionist and performed tenor with The New Mexico Symphony; Blake McPhail of Boston; Chris Nelson, trombonist with the Tedesch Symphony; Taylor Brown of Tennessee College of Art; and Ethan Scott of Eastman. Stephen Downing of Clarion, and Dr. John Hilt, UT Martin director of percussion studies.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 20. High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with professors and students in areas of interest and experience college life outside the classroom.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome following at 9 a.m. An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and dining services will be open during the registration period.

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Students interested in studying music will participate in a separate Junior/Senior Day event, which includes an introduction to the various campus ensembles and performance groups, as well as the opportunity for high school seniors to audition on-site. Students attending this event will also meet at 8:30 a.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required. Visit utm.edu/juniorseniorday to register online, or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 for more information.
UT Martin students, faculty members return from Houston after working at Super Bowl 51

February 9, 2017
WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn.- Nine students and two faculty members from the University of Tennessee at Martin worked behind the scenes at the Super Bowl 51 in Houston, Texas. This is the fourth consecutive year UT-Martin has been represented at the event, and this year the university was one of only two permitted to send students...

The students worked a 15-hour day at the Super Bowl. Dr. Dexter Davis has a long-standing relationship with the NFL and is able to accompany a group of students to the game each year.

UT Martin students go behind the scenes at Super Bowl 51

Published: Thursday, February 9th 2017, 3:23 pm CST
Updated: Friday, February 10th 2017, 11:32 am CST
Written by Mike Wunderlich, News Operations Manager

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - For the fourth straight year, UT Martin was represented at the Super Bowl as students and faculty had the privilege of working behind the scenes at the event in Houston, Texas.

Nine students and two faculty members worked hospitality with the visiting players, helping them stay on schedule for autograph signings and other appearances, as well as working the New England Patriots' after-party celebration.

"This experience went above and beyond what I thought it was going to be," Jake Wylie, of Kenton, said. "I was able to work a couple of shifts at Volunteer Experience, and I had a blast being able to contribute to the excitement of all the fans. But the experience on game day, from escorting to working the Patriots' post-party was like no other experience I have ever had. I was also able to work with On Location Experience and the NFL to help make Super Bowl 51 a success, and being able to say that is pretty remarkable. I can only hope that other students who have the opportunity to go on this trip in the future take full advantage and enjoy the historic experience."

On Super Bowl Sunday the group worked a 15-hour day, ran into a few obstacles, but were successful in overcoming the challenges and making sure their visiting players got where they needed to go.

"The main thing I learned from this experience was that not everything is as it seems. Many different people are responsible for anything and everything that goes on during the biggest game of the year," Jake Rogers, of Dresden, said. "You have to work through adversity during a big event. I have learned many lessons from this experience, but the main thing is that I will always expect the unexpected."

Associate professor of sport business, Dr. Dexter Davis, has a long-standing relationship with the NFL and accompanies a group of UT Martin students to the game each year.

Students, mostly from the sport business program, undergo a rigorous application and interview process before being selected to participate.

Contact Dr. Davis at 731-881-7369 or email ddavis78@utm.edu for more information.
The UTM Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jerald Ogg, has stepped down from both positions to return to teaching Communications at the university.

Dr. Ogg became vice chancellor for academic affairs in 2007 and later added on the position of university provost in 2011.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver says the person selected to follow Dr. Ogg will have big shoes to fill, and the college is dedicated to finding the right person to advance UTM's academic goals.

The vice chancellor for academic affairs is the university's chief academic officer, and the provost directs the college when the chancellor's absent.

A search committee is currently seeking applications to fill these two positions.

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University of Tennessee at Martin is searching for candidates qualified to fill a dual role as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

A position also responsible for directing the institution in the chancellor's absence. Dr. Jerald Ogg has held the position for the last 10 years and will be returning to his initial role as a professor in the department of communications once the position is filled. Newly appointed Chancellor Keith Carver began his official duties last month after Tim Rakes stepped down last May. UT Spokesperson Erin Chestnut says with a permanent chancellor now in place, Dr. Ogg is confident the university has the leadership it needs--which is why he has chosen to step down and return to teaching full time.
Civil Rights Conference to begin Feb. 16 at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2017 Civil Rights Conference—set for Feb. 16-23 on UT Martin’s main campus—will focus on the theme “Social Justice in the Age of Black Lives Matter.”

Kwame Rose, a social activist, artist and writer, will serve as the conference’s keynote speaker and will discuss the Black Lives Matter movement at 7 p.m. Feb. 23.

Rose is known for his articles and appearances for such media outlets as the Huffington Post, NPR News, CBS Radio News and USA Today. The Baltimore native travels the country speaking about the unrest in his hometown and the issue of policing black communities.

All events during the conference are open to the public and will be held in Watkins Auditorium, inside UT Martin’s Boling University Center, unless otherwise noted. There is no admission charge unless otherwise noted.

The schedule includes:

Feb. 16
- UT Martin Black Student Association event: “Black Lives Matter: A Different Perspective,” 7 p.m.

Feb. 19
- Student Activities Council movie screening: “13th,” 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Feb. 20
- Florence Roach and the Ettaro Theater Company original play, “Black Lives Matter,” 7 p.m.

Feb. 21
- Haley Simmons: “Poverty and Black Lives Matter,” 1 p.m.
- Roots of Rhythm percussion performance, Harriet Fulton Theatre, Fine Arts Building, 7:30 p.m. (admission fee is $5 for adults and $1 for students)

Feb. 22
- Black Writers Workshop, Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, Room 209, noon
- Roots of Rhythm percussion performance, Harriet Fulton Theatre, Fine Arts Building, noon (admission fee is $5 for adults and $1 for students)
- Pearl Primas Dance, “Dances of the Decades,” 7 p.m.

Feb. 23
- Dr. Amrita Myers: “Black Lives Matter in Historical Perspective,” 9:30 a.m.
- Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown: “Shadows of Hope” dance performance, 11 a.m.
- Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson presentation, 1 p.m.
- Panel: “Why Black Lives Should Matter to White People,” Dr. Henry Parker and Dr. David Barber, 2:30 p.m.
- UT Martin Gospel Choir performance, 7 p.m.
- Kwame Rose keynote presentation: “Black Lives Matter,” 7 p.m.

Haley Simmons is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law. He currently serves as director of public policy for the greater Memphis chamber of commerce and as a special assistant for policy, strategy and accountability for the city of Memphis. He has held several appointments in the office of former U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and spent two years working with the Peace Corps in Moldova.

Dr. Amrita Myers earned her doctorate in U.S. history from Rutgers University, specializing in African American and women’s history. A historian of the black female experience, she is interested in race, gender, sexuality, power, freedom and citizenship and the ways in which these constructs intersect with one another in the lives of black women.

Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown is an assistant professor of contemporary dance at Indiana University. Her research focuses on social justice and uses original dance to explore modern-day social constructs. She is currently developing research on critical dance pedagogy, funded by a grant from the College Arts and Humanities Institute.

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson is co-executive director for the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market. She is also a longtime activist focusing on the issues of mountaintop removal mining and environmental racism in central and southern Appalachia. She has served on the national council for the Student Environmental Action Coalition and is an organizer with Concerned Citizens for Justice.

Drs. Henry Parker, professor, and David Barber, associate professor, teach in the UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy.

UT Martin is one of only two universities in the nation to host an annual Civil Rights Conference and the event has been held each year since 2000.
UTM to open STEM Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin will officially open a new STEM Center for Teaching and Learning with a public reception from 2-5 p.m. Feb. 16 in classroom 2 of the Holland-McCombs Center.

The center will serve the general public with emphasis on providing regional K-12 educators with the knowledge and resources to teach hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts within Tennessee educational standards.

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Dresden Elementary School teachers Sherry Hatchel and Kristy Jolley will unveil the permanent display at 4 p.m., a spokesman said.

The Holland-McCombs Center is located on University Street, between the Hall-Moody Administration Building and Gooch Hall. Parking is available across the street, adjacent to Hardy Graham Stadium.

For more information on the opening next week or to invite STEM Center personnel to present in a classroom, contact center co-directors Dr. Steve Elliott at (731) 881-7452 or Dr. John Overcash at (731) 881-7450.

UTM holds day for seniors and juniors to tour

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m., Feb. 20. High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with professors and students in areas of interest and experience college life inside the classroom.

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There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required. Visit utm.edu/juniorseniorday to register online.
New chancellor tours county

By Steve Beavers
Assistant Editor

Dr. Keith Carver has hit the ground running since being named chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Carver is spending his first two months making 10 stops across West Tennessee after being named to the position on Jan. 3.

The new chancellor spent Thursday in McNairy County.

"It has been great and a lot of fun," said Carver following a meeting with students at McNairy Central and Adamsville high schools. Carver, a native of Alamo, also had lunch with the UT-Martin Selmer/McNairy Board of Directors and met with members of the community during a campus reception.

"This area is important," he said. "I am a native West Tennessean and I know how important it is to be here and meet with people."

Carver said he wanted to make a connection.

"We wanted to get in there and talk with students about our programs," he said.

The chancellor also answered some questions from students when it comes to college.

"Their concern is how am I going to pay for college?" said Carver. "There are a lot of scholarships available here in McNairy County and I want students to see college is more affordable than they think."

Prior to joining the UT System Administration, Carver worked at UT's campuses across the state.

High schools. Carver, a native of Alamo, also had lunch with the UT-Martin Selmer/McNairy Board of Directors and met with members of the community during a campus reception.

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Prior to joining the UT System Administration, Carver worked at UT's campuses across the state.

He was interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis from April through December 2010.

Prior to being assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin from 2006 to 2010, he held several positions at flagship university in Knoxville. They include assistant director and director of development and alumni affairs for the College of Law, program director for the Office of Student Activities and co-director of TeamVOLS.

"Dr. Carver is a really down to earth person," said UT-Martin Selmer Director Alan Youngerman. "He grew up in a small community like this and is committed to reaching out to high school students in West Tennessee."

Carver earned his bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of Memphis, his master's in college student personnel and educational leadership at UT Knoxville and his doctorate in philosophy at UT Knoxville.
Dresser Winn (front, center) signed to play football at UT Martin on National Signing Day (Feb. 1). Those joining Winn at his signing were (front, from left) Shelley, his mother; and Albert, his father; along with (back row) younger sisters Tinley and Loral and grandparents Kathy Pritchett and Harris Pritchett.

**Winn, Yates now pieces of UTM puzzle**

KENNETH COKER
Sports Editor

Dresden High School's most prominent offensive football puzzle pieces are being added to UT Martin's big picture.

Quarterback Dresser Winn and running back Dylan Yates committed to UT Martin on Feb. 1 at the school's national signing day ceremony.

Winn's commitment came a week after a verbal was given to Western Michigan University and later rescinded (see the Feb. 1 edition of the Enterprise for that story). The Lion quarterback has a full scholarship to play both football and baseball at UT Martin. Winn will start this fall with the Skyhawk football team while mulling his diamond future.

Yates heads to UT as a preferred walk-on, meaning he did not receive an athletic scholarship, but has a secured spot on the football team.

That said, all of Yates' schooling is expected to be paid for via grants as well as academic and in-state scholarships.

“The dynamic of Dresser and Dylan playing together at UT Martin is going to be great,” said Dresden head football coach Derek Rang. “Hopefully, they can push each other to maximize their talents and abilities and be key players in the program.”

Winn and Yates served as a complimentary 1-2 punch during Dresden's 15-0 run to the Class A BlueCross Bowl and state football championship.

Winn, who had offers from numerous Ohio Valley Conference schools as well as Akron and Ohio University, completed 145-of-196 passes for 38 touchdowns and 2,928 yards during his senior season while also rushing for 893 yards with 13 scores.

“Dresser’s recruitment got kind of crazy down the stretch with many schools coming in and trying to sign one of the top quarterbacks in the state,” Rang said of the two-time All-State quarterback and 2015 Mr. Football Back of the Year award winner. “He made the decision to sign with UT Martin and I know their staff is thrilled to have him. I know Coach (Jason) Simpson has high expectations for him. They think he has unlimited potential and can lead their program to new heights. I know we are proud of Dresser and know many local people will be happy to drive up the road to watch him play on Saturdays.”

Yates was the Lions’ workhorse running back with 166 carries for 2,012 yards and 33 touchdowns. The Dresden back also caught a dozen passes for 278 yards and six scores.

Defensively, Yates totaled 48 tackles with 15 going for a loss. The Lion All-Stater recovered five fumbles and picked off two passes, totaling three return touchdowns on defense.

“After the state championship game, UT Martin really called a lot about Dylan and we’re thrilled to get him over on their campus,” Rang said. “Dylan was a very productive player for us, who ran the ball with power and authority. I think his running style fits what UT Martin wants to do in establishing a downhill attack with a big physical back. He’s played hard and at a high level for this opportunity and really wants to develop his skills at UT Martin. They are getting a great player.”

For Winn's part, the lone Mr. Football in school history is relieved to put his recruiting process to bed.

“It's a huge relief,” Winn said of being able to put calls...
Winn, Yates
From page 5

and visits from colleges in his rearview. "Don’t get me wrong, it’s a good problem to have. At the same time, it can be stressful. I feel like I made a great decision with Coach Simpson being there so long and invested in the program. Now, I can think about other people and not just my recruiting. I can think about getting a lot more wins in basketball and baseball and hopefully have fun with the rest of high school."

Winn also noted his father assisted in weeding out schools that were all talk due to his background as a car salesman.

"Their job is to sell their program to you just like dad wants to sell a car to you," Winn said. "It helped some because he could tell me when they were full of bull or if they were dead serious. That was a big part of it."

Yates is looking forward to his chance to prove his talents worthy of being at a Division I school, such as UT Martin.

"I’ve always wanted to play against Division I competition," Yates said. "That’s what I’ve been looking for and what I want to play against."

Yates did tell he will come in with a chip on his shoulder in the hopes of eventually becoming a scholarship player.

"I always want to play," Yates said. "I never want to sit out."

Looking forward, it appears Winn will be red-shirted this season with travel privileges and also will be allowed to participate in baseball if he so chooses...

Yates could be looked at as a running back, linebacker or a special teams contributor at UTM.
McMillan completes service as UTM AD

Kevin McMillan, the University of Tennessee at Martin's successful head women's basketball coach, announced this week that he has completed his service to the university as interim athletics director. Mike Swaim, who joined the staff in October 2016 to assist with day-to-day athletics program activities, will assume the interim position effective today. The position reports directly to Dr. Keith Carver, the university's chancellor.

McMillan accepted the interim position under then-interim UT Martin Chancellor Bob Smith. He continued to coach full time while holding the interim athletics director's position. "Kevin has done a tremendous job and truly rose to the occasion when UT Martin needed him most," Carver said in an email message to the university community. "He agreed to take on these additional responsibilities as interim athletics director in April 2016 to give UT Martin an opportunity to hire a permanent chancellor."

"I want to personally thank Kevin for his leadership over the past year. He has well-positioned the UT Martin athletics program as we begin the search process for a permanent athletics director."

Carver, who became UT Martin chancellor Jan. 3, added in his message that the search for the athletics director will begin "in the coming weeks, with the goal to have someone in place this summer."

McMillan is the winningest coach in UT Martin women's basketball history and earned his third Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year recognition following the Skyhawks' regular season conference championship in 2016. His UT Martin teams have earned four NCAA tournament appearances and two Women's National Invitational Tournament berths.

UTM 2017 CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE 'BLACK LIVES MATTER'

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's 2017 Civil Rights Conference, held Feb. 16-23 on UT Martin's main campus, will focus on the theme "Social Justice in the Age of Black Lives Matter."

Kwame Rose, a social activist, artist and writer, will serve as the conference's keynote speaker and will discuss the Black Lives Matter movement at 7 p.m., Feb. 23.

Rose is known for his articles and appearances for such media outlets as the Huffington Post, NPR News, CBS Radio News and USA Today. The Baltimore, Md., native travels the country speaking about the unrest in his hometown and the issue of policing black communities.

A schedule of conference activities is included below. All events are open to the public and held in Watkins Auditorium, inside UT Martin's Boling University Center, unless otherwise noted. There is no admission charge unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 16 • UT Martin Black Student Association event: "Black Lives Matter: A Different Perspective"; 7 p.m.
Feb. 19 • Student Activities Council movie screening: "13th"; 6 and 9 p.m.
Feb. 20 • Florence Roach and the Ettaro Theater Company perform an original play, "Black Lives Matter"; 7 p.m.
Feb. 21 • Haley Simmons: "Poverty and Black Lives Matter"; 1 p.m.

UT Martin is one of only two universities in the nation to host an annual Civil Rights Conference, and the event has been held each year since 2000.

For more information, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465.
Renovations are Underway at the UT Martin Somerville Center

Fayette County is well on its way to having a state of the art higher education center! The UT Martin Somerville Center has been conducting classes out of the career center for some time now, but they will be calling the north side of town home no later than August 2017.

Hard work and dedication is starting to pay off because the old walls are coming down and new ones are going up. Also, being put in is new plumbing, HVAC unit, wiring, beams, flooring, and a new roof.

The center will have 12 classrooms including a biology/chemistry lab, two distance learning rooms, computer lab, a large conference room glassed in at the front entrance, and the Chickasaw Electric Community Room that will hold over 200 people. Along with the 12 rooms available for classes, there will be a Learning Resource Center for students to work on projects together and a Student Lounge that will have a Café feeling that students will never want to leave.

If you would like to learn more about the progress of the UT Martin Somerville Center, please call the Somerville Center Director Kara Tapp at 901-465-7313 or email her at ktapp@utm.edu.

Left to right, Somerville Center Director Kara Tapp, Somerville city administrator Bob Turner, Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neill and Franklin Stanford, Town of Somerville employee, who is overseeing the construction.

This area is planned for a community room
LaRoche to speak at UTM for Lindsey scholarship

Former MLB first baseman has strong interest in outdoors

BRANDON SHIELDS
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Phillip Trey Lindsey played baseball and football at South Side before graduating in 2010. He went on to UT Martin to get his degree in wildlife biology with intentions of being in wildlife management.

It was during his internship in Nebraska last year he passed away suddenly from a blood clot in his leg.

Lindsey’s family and friends have banded together to begin a scholarship endowment in Trey’s honor, and one of his favorite pro baseball players is helping out.

Adam LaRoche, who played first base in Major League Baseball from 2004-15 for the Atlanta Braves, Pittsburgh Pirates, Boston Red Sox, Arizona Diamondbacks, Washington Nationals and Chicago White Sox, will speak at UT Martin’s Boling University Center in the Russell Duncan Ballroom on Feb. 18.

“Adam LaRoche is a pro baseball player who’s on Buck Commander, an outdoors show,” said spokesperson Caitlin Roach, who went to high school with Trey.

“And he’s a Christian, so he is one that really personifies all the things that were important to Trey — sports, outdoors and his faith.”

LaRoche made national news when he abruptly retired just before the 2016 season when White Sox management made a rule that forced him to no longer bring his 14-year-old son to the park with him every day.

Trey was in his sixth week of an eight-week internship when he went to the hospital in the town he was working in Nebraska for a swollen leg. It was a blood clot that moved to his chest while he was waiting to see a doctor. The clot caused him to go into cardiac arrest, and doctors were never able to revive him.

Trey was an integral part of the Hawks football and baseball teams when he was in high school, and they competed for region and district championships and playoff spots.

It was during his high school and college days he began to pursue a career working in outdoors.

“Trey was part of a group of boys that would come over to our house,” said family friend Pam Stanfield.
Local professor takes on complex modern themes in new art showing

A local professor has two shows of his work coming up soon.

Jason Stout, an associate professor of art at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will have two works exhibited at the “Equality Matters — Conversations on Gender and Race” exhibition in Fulton, Mo., opening Feb. 13 at the Mildred M. Cox Gallery at William Woods University.

An opening reception and awards are planned for Feb. 14.

Stout will have two paintings, “The Spice Trader” and “The Patriot and the Rogue,” hanging in the exhibit, which will run through Feb. 25. Artists were invited to submit art that explores their understanding of how issues of gender and race influence contemporary culture.

Stout will also have a solo show of his work containing around 20 paintings and drawings at the Circuitous Succession Gallery on Second Street in Memphis.

“Into a Birdless Sky: Paintings and Drawings by Jason Stout” will be on exhibit from March 3 to April 22, with an opening reception March 3 from 6 to 9 p.m.

“Cloud compositions deal with the idea of conflict and turbulence, both domestic and abroad,” Stout said of his work. “These clouds also double as nebulas, contracting and expanding energy around the idea of conflict. These works deal with notions of political strife coexisting with environmental concerns, and create compositions of smaller troubled environments coexisting in larger yet equally troubled ones. There are fragmented figurative elements existing in and outside of these clouds, as well as tools, weapons and vices.

These fragments serve as visual metaphors that address specific narratives from our modern time.”

Jason Stout was born in 1977. He received his BFA in studio art from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2001 and a MFA in painting from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2004.

Stout’s work visually deals with elements of formal and figurative abstraction, while exploring such themes as power, history, and identity, especially through the guise of southern culture. His work exists in several private and public collections, including the University of West Georgia, Jacksonville State University, and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

During his career he has participated in several solo exhibitions and has been a part of several group exhibitions as well. Stout has won several scholarships and individual awards for his work.

He is currently an associate professor of art at the University of Tennessee at Martin and is represented by REM gallery in San Antonio, Texas. and Circuitous Succession Gallery in Memphis.

Stout was recently named TAFA Higher Education Art Educator of the Year for 2015-16 and Best of Show (featured artist) for the Art of the South 2016 exhibition.

UTM Rodeo pageant set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant March 4 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the campus of UTM.

The pageant is open to all girls, ages birth to 20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only.

Doors will open at noon, with pageants as follows:

- birth-12 months at 1, 1-3 years at 1:30, 4-6 years at 2, 7-9 years at 2:30, 10-12 years at 3, 13-15 years at 3:30 and 16-20 years at 4.

Registration is at the door only. Cost is $25 for beauty only, with sides categories available for an additional fee.

The winner of the 16-20 age division will be required to participate in UTM Rodeo Week activities and is eligible to compete in Territorial Queens Review/Strawberry Festival.

Junior, Teen and Miss division queens will be recognized at UTM Rodeo performances April 6, 7 and 8.

For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.
Historic Vanguard Theatre presents
'The Realistic Joneses'

By Tanna Norman
Special to The Press

First things first, let’s clear something up. For all you readers out there that may not know (like me), the Vanguard Theatre is not a physical place. Instead, it is a group of highly talented people consisting of students, faculty and community members and the resident production company of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The group was actually created back in the 50s at the University of Tennessee at Martin branch when it was a two-year school. Since then, the Vanguard Theatre has continued to grow.

In the fall of 2013 and with a price tag of $13.8 million, Phase 1 of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Fine Arts Building was completed. With it came renovations to all the teaching facilities, which brought the arts together, and the addition of another theater called the Little Theatre. Although the Vanguard Theatre had the Harriet Fulton Theatre after the university completed the original Fine Arts Building in 1971, the addition of the Little Theatre, though a little smaller, allowed for more productions and of a bigger variety.

Not only are plays held in the theaters, but dance recitals, musical performances and the Miss UT Martin Pageant are as well.

Since the completion of Phase 1, Doug Cook, the chair of Visual and Theatre Arts, said he has seen togetherness, unity and growth within the Vanguard Theatre and within the department. The people of the community have always supported the theatre as well as the campus faculty. In return, the Vanguard Theatre tries to keep its ticket prices down as best as it can. Tickets are typically $15 for adults and $5 for students.

So, what can the community look forward to next out of the Vanguard Theatre? “The Realistic Joneses” is next on their schedule to perform. A play written by Will Eno, directed by Assistant Professor and the Director of Vanguard Theatre, Kevin Shell with Riley Dae of Dyer serving as the stage manager. The story is about two men and two women stuck in an absurd reality: John Jones (played by Eli McCaig of Trenton), Pony Jones (played by Macy Earley of Union City), Bob Jones (played by Lymonte Thomas of Memphis) and Jennifer Jones (played by Shelby Johnson of Ashland City).

The two men both face a harsh disease called HLS (not a real disease) and deal with it differently. Jennifer is stuck living in reality to deal with Bob’s condition, while Pony is ignorant to John’s condition because he never told her about it.

The best doctor in the world to treat this disease lives in the town, and both couples just happen to live on the same street and end up getting entangled in each other’s lives. All in all, they all are just trying to seek a better reality.

What can you expect as the audience member? You will simply witness a show about normal people and how they try and deal with their problems. More specifically, it is a non-sequitur, heightened, absurd observation to how we as humans deal with crisis in our lives among our community members, while exploring all elements of humanity. Director Kevin Shell says, “You will laugh, but it isn’t a comedy,” and cast member Eli McCaig described it as a “sitcom in a more melancholy world.”

The performance will be held Feb. 23-28 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 26, at 3 p.m. Tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for students. Tickets will go on sale beginning Monday, Feb. 20.

The Vanguard Box office will open two hours before each performance, and the play will be held in the Vanguard Little Theatre in Fine Arts Building located on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Call the Vanguard Box Office at 881-7400 or 881-7090 for more information.

REHEARSALS ON — (at left) Macy Earley of Union City takes on the role of Pony Jones. (at right) Eli McCaig of Trenton as John Jones rehearses with Lymonte Thomas of Memphis as Bob Jones for the Vanguard production of The Realistic Joneses.
FUTURE LEADER — Kameron Echols, a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently addressed the Martin Luther King Day breakfast in Martin.
Young people providing leadership roles in the community

By MICHAEL MINOR
Special to the Press

Kameron Echols, while a soft-spoken young man, has a determined sort of intensity to him.

A student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he is the president of the Panhellenic council, which is a coordinating council for nine of the traditional black Greek organizations; assistant vice president for Alpha Phi Alpha and a member of the community service-oriented Alpha Phi Omega.

He is very involved with the city life of Martin as he is a member of the Weakley County Adventure Coalition and Extended Learning board, while he works at the Martin Housing Authority running after-school programs.

Kameron is currently a student on campus and majoring in criminal justice with a minor in family and consumer science. He was recently involved at the Martin Luther King Breakfast as the keynote speaker, where he spoke on the topics of passion, change, and the importance of living with a purpose.

Kameron looks forward to seeing the future of America unfold and strongly believes that things are looking up. He spoke on the importance of developing self-worth in a community that has long been silenced.

Kameron believes that with the advent of social media comes a form of empowerment.

Now more than ever, it is easier to be heard and work together to improve the community and bring to light issues that would otherwise be swept under the rug.

He sees this as the natural evolution of social rights movements, such as “Black Lives Matter,” which has benefited greatly from social media.

As far as the largest obstacles that Kameron observes, he states that getting people to actively listen is difficult. However difficult, though, he states that the biggest enemy to the self is getting comfortable. “Always achieve more and push yourself to see you goals done,” he says.

And Kameron is the kind of man that walks his talk.

UT Martin begins search for new provost, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

http://wbbjtv.com

February 9, 2017 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff (http://wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

MARTIN, Tenn.-The University of Tennessee at Martin has begun a national search for a new provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Gerald Ogg has held the dual position since 2011, and will return to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communications once a suitable candidate is found.

The search committee said it hopes to begin conducting interviews for this key leadership position in April.
Dr. Keith Carver, newly appointed chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, began his official duties January 3rd. Among his first order of business was to embark on a tour of the five UT Martin Centers throughout West Tennessee, including the Selmer/McNairy Campus. During the tour Carver met with donors, alumni, students and potential students. While at the local campus, Dr. Carver visited with Selmer/McNairy Campus Director Alan Youngerman and his staff. Dr. Carver also visited with many of the students that are enrolled at the local center. Dr. Carver visited with local community leaders and discussed how the campus can better meet the needs of the community.

"Having UT Martin at the table when there are issues to be discussed, whether it's an education issue, health-care issue, cultural issue, economic development issue, UT Martin wants to be a part of the solution," Dr. Carver said. "We want UT Martin to be out and we want to be visible, and we want to be a part of the solution for some of the issues that are not just facing UT Martin but also West Tennessee. Whether it's looking at the unemployment rate or declining population, how can we be a part of connecting with the community?"

The visit concluded with a reception that allowed local campus supporters to meet the new chancellor.
UTM students work Super Bowl 51

Nine students and two faculty members from the University of Tennessee at Martin worked behind the scenes at Super Bowl 51 last weekend in Houston. This is the fourth consecutive year UT Martin has been represented at the event, and this year the university was one of only two permitted to send students.

Participants worked hospitality with visiting players and helped them stay on schedule for autograph signings and other appearances. The group was also able to work with the New England Patriots’ after-party, celebrating their stunning 34-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

“This experience went above and beyond what I thought it was going to be,” said Jakeb Wylie, of Kenton. “I was able to work a couple of shifts at Volunteer Experience, and I had a blast being able to contribute to the excitement of all the fans. But the experience on game day, from escorting to working the Patriots’ post-party, was like no other experience I have ever had. I was also able to work with ‘On Location Experience’ and the NFL to help make Super Bowl 51 a success, and being able to say that is pretty remarkable. I can only hope that other students who have the opportunity to go on this trip in the future take full advantage and enjoy the historic experience.”

The students worked a 15-hour day on Super Bowl Sunday and ran into a few obstacles, but were able to overcome the challenges and make sure visiting players got where they needed to go.

“The main thing I learned from this experience was that not everything is as it seems. Many different people are responsible for anything and everything that goes on during the biggest game of the year,” said Jake Rogers, of Dresden. “You have to work through adversity during a big event. I have learned many lessons from this experience, but the main thing is that I will always expect the unexpected.”

Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, has a longstanding relationship with the National Football League and is able to accompany a group of UT Martin students to the game each year.

Students are chosen largely from the sport business program and undergo a rigorous application and interview process before being selected to participate.

Continued from Page 1B

The Jackson Sun

Sunday, February 12, 2017

‘Phun with Physics’

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics will host its annual demonstration event, “Phun with Physics,” beginning at 6:30 p.m. Monday in Campbell Auditorium, located inside the Andy Holt Humanities Building.

This event involves electricity, magnetism, lasers and the laws of thermodynamics. UT Martin students, faculty and staff will perform experiments using everyday items to illustrate the laws of physics and chemistry that hold the world together. Returning demonstrations include hair-raising electrostatics, the banana hammer and the vacuum of space.

This year’s show will also include new additions not previously used in the show.

This event is free and open to the public. Children and families are welcome and encouraged to ask questions and interact with presenters.

For more information, contact Dr. Jason Alexander, assistant professor of physics, at jaleca39@utm.edu or call (731) 881-7431.
H.S. FOOTBALL

Stidham married his coach’s daughter

Scott leads South Gibson with Stacy’s invaluable help

BRANDON SHIELDS
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

MEDINA — South Gibson head football coach Scott Stidham and his wife Stacy sat in the coaches’ office of the Hornets’ field house this week for an interview.

As they were talking, the occasional Hornet football player would come in for a question for the coach or to get a key to another room in the facility.

“How’s your knee?” Stacy asked one player who was still rehabbing an injury from late last season.

Another one came in looking for some bread for a peanut butter sandwich, something the coaches push the players to do to build muscle mass to complement the work they do in the weight room. Somebody mentioned the field house is low on peanut butter.

“You want me to go get some when I go to the store later?” Stacy asks Scott.

Such is the life for the Stidhams and most coaching couples. Some spouses aren’t that involved in the coach’s work with the team. Stacy isn’t that kind of coach’s wife.

“It’s a ministry for our family, and it’s something our whole family has been involved in as much as we could,” Stacy said. “And I like it because I know Scott loves his work, and I grew up in a coaching family and know the effect coaches have on their players positively and negatively.

“This work is something that I think is worth what we put into it.”

Scott has been the head coach at South Gibson since he was one of the school’s first employees hired in February of 2009.

Before then, Stacy had been with him through his entire coaching career that began as a graduate assistant at UT Martin soon after they were married before moving to Kansas for 12 years until Stidham needed to return home to West Tennessee. Scott had stints as an assistant coach at Liberty and Crockett County before starting the South Gibson program, and Stacy has been involved.

Stacy teaches at Medina Middle School, which is next door to South Gibson High. Their daughter was a cheerleader for the football team. Their sons are coming up through the football program at the middle and high schools.

Their relationship started when they were children growing up in Kansas.

Scott grew up an athlete at Lawrence (Kan.) High School. Stacy lived in Lawrence for a few years as her father was an assistant coach at Kansas University. Her father is Don McCleary, who would later become the head coach at UT Martin.

“We first got to know each other when we were kids going to the same church,” Scott said. “My dad was the band director at the high school and worked in the church.”

See Stidham, Page 2B

Stidham

Continued from Page 1B

“Both of our moms worked with the choir too. So all of us kids kind of babysat ourselves at church during choir practice and stuff like that.”

After a few years, the McCleary family moved back to Tennessee. McLeary became the head coach at UT Martin and was there while Stacy was in high school. A friend of McLeary told him about a receiver in Kansas he should take a look at about recruiting. It was a young man he remembered from his time in Kansas, Scott Stidham.

“Coach remembered me and knew what kind of a family I came from, and it was a pretty easy recruitment process,” Stidham said. “When I came for my visit, he knew how to recruit me.

“He knew I’d be interested in the ministries on campus, so he got me connected with a player on the team that would take me to the church services at one of the ministries on campus.”

Stacy heard her dad was going to recruit Scott, and she was happy.

“He was a year older than me, and I was cute with his blond hair,” Stacy said. “So I was glad when I heard he might come to UT Martin.”

The pair began dating after Stidham’s freshman season at UT Martin. Everybody in both families knew there was an attraction between the two, but that didn’t mean Scott wasn’t nervous about calling Stacy for their first date.

“It was right after we’d gotten done with a workout, and I knew Coach McLeary would still be in his office,” Stidham said. “This was before cell phones, so I went to the trainer’s room and called their house from there.

“I had a little help too. I talked to her sister, and let’s just say it was set up on a tee for me.”

Scott asked, and Stacy said yes to a date without hesitation. They’ve been together ever since. Stacy was a senior at Westview High School at the time, and Scott escorted her to her senior prom.

Scott was the one living away from home without a vehicle, so Stacy picked him up to go to the dance.

“I didn’t want to get dressed at our dorms, so I went to the field house and got dressed there,” Stidham said with a laugh. “That way none of the other players would see.”

The two continued to date. When Stidham would come over and hang out until it was time for football players’ curfew.

“He’d leave about the same time dad would leave to get back there for bed checks, and I don’t think he ever missed bed checks,” Stacy said.

McLeary apparently never had a problem with his daughter dating one of his players. And that showed the summer before Scott’s senior season at UT Martin when he ran over to the McLeary’s house for a quick conversation before he proposed to Stacy.

“I went into their house, and I was very nervous,” Scott said. “I asked them for their blessing to marry Stacy and if they’d be OK with me proposing.

“Coach said he couldn’t ask for a better son-in-law, and Stacy’s mom was ecstatic. They knew it was coming at some point, and they just said I was expected to take care of her.”

With the in-laws’ blessing, Stidham began to execute his plan for his proposal.

Scott got a call that evening from his friend and equipment manager Joey Tiley. A stop watch had been left on the 50-yard line of the field at UT Martin.

“It was summer, and everyone wasn’t sticking around campus all year back —
asked if she wanted to go with me," Stidham said.

But when they arrived at the stadium, a stop watch isn't what they found at the 50-yard line. Instead, there was a spotlight shining down on the field from somewhere in the home-side stands illuminating a big balloon and a large stuffed bear holding a ring. One of Scott's other friends had a romantic song playing loudly. Scott estimated there were about 10 people in different places in the stadium watching because they knew what was happening. One person even recorded it on video.

"We have the video somewhere," Scott said. "Not sure if we have a VCR to watch it on, but the video does exist."

Again without hesitation, Stacy said yes.

"I'm really glad Stacy said yes because she's the perfect wife for me," Scott said. "She loves the players on this team as much as I do. We have 70 or 80 sons in our family in addition to our three children.

"And coaching would be a lot harder without that kind of support at home. I learned from Coach McLeary to keep football separate from home, and we do that. But I'm very grateful she wants to be a part of it too. I'm glad she's my wife."

Stacy and Scott Stidham pictured before South Gibson's football game at Westview last October. Westview plays its home games at UT Martin's Hardy Graham Stadium, which is where Scott proposed to Stacy in 1993 at the 50-yard line.

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**UT Martin seeking provost**

Ogg will return to faculty once candidate is found

The University of Tennessee at Martin has begun a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Jerald Ogg, who has held the dual position since 2011, will return to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communications once a suitable candidate is found.

"Dr. Jerald Ogg has served as vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2007 and took on the added role of university provost in 2011," Chancellor Keith Carver said. "UT Martin could not be more grateful for his service and dedication to this post, and I wish him well as he returns to the faculty in the Department of Communications. The person selected to follow him will have big shoes to fill, and we are dedicated to finding the right person to advance UT Martin's academic goals."

The vice chancellor for academic affairs is UT Martin's chief academic officer. This position articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university's core academic mission. The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor's absence.

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management in the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, met for the first time last week to discuss the search process, timeline, position requirements and expectations for qualified candidates.

The committee includes UT Martin faculty, staff and student representation. Serving on the search committee with Smartt are Bob Bradley, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Chris Brown, professor of philosophy; Heidi Busch, assistant professor; Paul Meek Library; Josh Diltz, Student Government Association president; Dr. Neil Gullett, professor of finance; Dr. Louis Kolitsch, professor of mathematics; Dr. Jamie Mantooh, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement; Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology; and Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, is serving as executive recruiter for this position.

The committee hopes to begin conducting interviews for this key leadership position in April.

For more information or to nominate a candidate or express interest, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.
The UT Martin Civil Rights Conference begins tomorrow night with an event sponsored by the Black Student Association titled ‘Black Lives Matter: A Different Perspective’ at 7 in the University Center.

UTM Associate Vice Chancellor of Alumni Relations Charley Deal told Thunderbolt Radio how important this conference is to the university, and the area.

Mr. Deal says the opinions of some speakers at the event may be different from ours, but it’s still an important opportunity to learn and interact.

The UT Martin Civil Rights Conference will continue Sunday night with a screening of the prison documentary 13th, which is presented by the Student Activities Council in Watkins Auditorium.

UT Martin to Launch ‘Call Me MiSTER’ Program
By WestKyStar & UT Martin Staff

MARTIN, TN - The University of Tennessee at Martin will be home to an official branch of the “Call me MiSTER” program beginning with the fall 2017 semester. Applications are being accepted for the first cohort and will be considered until the program is full. 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 is geared toward future teachers from under-served, socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities. Program participants are provided with UT Martin tuition assistance and room and board.

Applicants must be Tennessee residents and be accepted to UT Martin and enrolled to study early childhood education, special education or middle grades education. Students must also have a composite ACT score of at least 21, be eligible for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship Program and complete an application process.

MiSTER Scholars are required to live on campus with fellow program participants as part of the “Call Me MiSTER” living-learning community and maintain a minimum 2.75 overall GPA and a full-time course load. Program graduates are also required to teach one year in a Tennessee public school for each year of assistance provided by the “Call Me MiSTER” program.

“Education is perhaps the most powerful and transformative tool that we have at our disposal,” said Dr. Louis Glover, program director and professor of curriculum and instruction. “My belief is that teachers can truly change the world through their daily interactions with the next generation of leaders within their classrooms. Years later, I can still remember the impact that certain teachers had not only upon my retention of the subject matter being taught, but also upon my worldview.”

UT Martin is the first and only chartered provider of the “Call me MiSTER” program in Tennessee. A complete list of required application materials can be found at utm.edu/departments/mister.

For more information, contact the UT Martin College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences at 731-881-7125 or by email at cwest@utm.edu.
Nine students and two faculty members from the University of Tennessee at Martin worked behind-the-scenes at Super Bowl 51 in Houston, Texas. This is the fourth consecutive year UT Martin has been represented at the event, and this year the university was one of only two permitted to send students.

Participants worked hospitality with visiting players and helped them stay on schedule for autograph signings and other appearances. The group was also able to work the New England Patriots' after-party celebrating their 34-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

"This experience went above and beyond what I thought it was going to be," said Jakeb Wylie, of Kenton. "I was able to work a couple of shifts at Volunteer Experience, and I had a blast being able to contribute to the excitement of all the fans. But the experience on game day, from escorting to working the Patriots' post-party was like no other experience I have ever had. I was also able to work with On Location Experience and the NFL to help make Super Bowl 51 a success, and being able to say that is pretty remarkable. I can only hope that other students who have the opportunity to go on this trip in the future take full advantage and enjoy the historic experience."

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"The main thing I learned from this experience was that not everything is as it seems. Many different people are responsible for anything and everything that goes on during the biggest game of the year," said Jake Rogers, of Dresden. "You have to work through adversity during a big event. I have learned many lessons from this experience, but the main thing is that I will always expect the unexpected."

Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, has a longstanding relationship with the National Football League and is able to accompany a group of UT Martin students to the game each year. Students are chosen largely from the sport business program and undergo a rigorous application and interview process before being selected to participate.

For more information, contact Davis at 731-881-7369 or by email at ddavis78@utm.edu.
Junior/Senior Day set February 20

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m., February 20. High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with professors and students in areas of interest and experience college life inside the classroom.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome following at 9. An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and dining services will be open during the registration period.

Students will be introduced to the various academic departments at 9:30 and will be able to attend a college course later in the morning. From 10 a.m.-noon, participating students will visit classrooms, meet with faculty in their chosen departments or attend a question-and-answer discussion panel.

Lunch will be taken at noon with members of the chosen department, and students will return at 1 p.m. to tour the rest of the UT Martin campus. Students interested in studying music will participate in a separate Junior/Senior Day event, which includes an introduction to the various campus ensembles and performance groups, as well as the opportunity for high school seniors to audition on-site. Students attending this event will also meet at 8:30 a.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required. Visit utm.edu/junior-senior-day to register online, or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 for more information.

Dr. Deere awarded Governor’s Certificate of Appreciation

Dr. Kelli Deere, Director of the UTM Parsons Center, was recently presented the Governor’s Certificate of Appreciation for the advancement of our region. The award was presented by Parsons Mayor Tim David Boaz on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Regional High School Academic Contest. The award is a result of her coordination of higher education, local government, and business. The economic spinoffs of the UTM Parsons Center are continuing to grow every year.
Junior/Senior Day set at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with professors and students in areas of interest and experience college life inside the classroom.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium, with an official welcome following at 9. An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and dining services will be open during the registration period.

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There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required. Visit utm.edu/juniorseniorday to register online or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 for more information.

ACT prep focus of class

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course to be offered from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 4-25, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.

Students will use “The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition” and should bring the book to the first class meeting.

The registration fee for this course is $95 per person, plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

Students unable to attend this prep course will have an opportunity for a one-day workshop on May 20.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

Students must also have a composite ACT score of at least 21, be eligible for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship Program and complete an application process.

MiSTER Scholars are required to live on campus with fellow program participants as part of the “Call Me MiSTER” living-learning community and maintain a minimum 2.75 overall grade point average and a full-time course load.

Program graduates are also required to teach one year in a Tennessee public school for each year of assistance provided by the “Call Me MiSTER” program.

“Education is perhaps the most powerful and transformative tool that we have at our disposal,” said Dr. Louis Glover, program director and professor of curriculum and instruction.

“My belief is that teachers can truly change the world through their daily interactions with the next generation of leaders within their classrooms. Years later, I can still remember the impact that certain teachers had not only on my retention of the subject matter being taught, but also upon my worldview.”

UT Martin is the first and only chartered provider of the “Call Me MiSTER” program in Tennessee.

A complete list of required application materials can be found at utm.edu/departments/mister.

For more information about the MiSTER program, contact the UT Martin College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences at (731) 881-7125 or by email at cwest@utm.edu.
UT Martin to launch ‘MiSTER’ program in the fall

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m., February 20. High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with professors and students in areas of interest and experience college life inside the classroom.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome welcoming participants at 9 a.m. There will be an administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and dining services will be open during the registration period.

Program participants include a diverse group of socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities. Program participants are provided with UT Martin tuition assistance and room and board.

Applicants must be Tennessee residents and admitted to UT Martin and enrolled to study early childhood education, special education or middle grades education.

UTM Junior/Senior Day set

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m., February 20. High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with professors and students in areas of interest and experience college life inside the classroom.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome welcoming participants at 9 a.m. There will be an administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and dining services will be open during the registration period.

Students will be introduced to the various academic departments at 9:30 and will be able to attend a college course later in the morning.

From 10 a.m.-noon, participating students will visit classrooms, meet with faculty in their chosen departments or attend a question-and-answer discussion panel.

Lunch will be taken at noon with members of the chosen department, and students will return at 1 p.m. to tour the rest of the UT Martin campus.

Students interested in studying music will participate in a separate Junior/Senior Day event, which includes an introduction to the various campus ensembles and performance groups, as well as the opportunity high school seniors to audition on-site. Students attending this event will also meet at 8:30 a.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required. Visit utm.edu/juniorseniorday to register online, or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 for more information.

UTM students have frank discussion about race in America

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com

Posted: Feb 16, 2017 9:51 PM CST
Updated: Feb 16, 2017 10:11 PM CST

By Blake Stevens
By Mason Watkins

MARTIN, TN - To kick off a week dedicated to the Civil Rights Movement, students at the University of Tennessee at Martin had a tough talk about race.

Thursday night, eight panelists made up of white and black students discussed a range of topics, including President Donald Trump’s campaign and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Prior to the discussion, I ran into a diverse group of friends at UTM’s cafeteria. The group of white and black students became friends by being in the school band. Race isn’t a problem for them, but Woodland thinks it is outside their circle. “We’re talking about it more, but nobody’s trying to fix it,” she said. “Everybody’s just going down each other’s throats, and that’s what I like about this group of people. It’s not like ‘Oh, well you’re wrong.’” Woodland said. She said, instead, they listen to what each other think.

She said she thinks the key to connecting people from different backgrounds is focusing like the one held Thursday night. But, she said, those forums can’t involve participants attacking one another.

Tyra Hawkins said she knows race is still an issue today. She said her hope is that panelists won’t hold their views back, so everyone’s ideas are out in the open. She said there is some confusion about Black Lives Matter. "I do believe that the people that participate in the movements are angry with the way they’ve been treated, but not angry in a sense that they want to impose violence on others."

Hawkins said she thinks listening helps people to understand one another. "People that are against the Black Lives Matter movement maybe won’t feel that it’s such an aggressive movement, and maybe people who feel attacked by people against it will understand more why those people feel that way," she said.

UT Martin’s Civil Rights Conference runs from Sunday, Feb 19, through Friday, Feb 24.
UT Martin’s Agriculture and Counseling Programs Ranked Nationally

UT Martin’s agriculture and counseling programs have been honored as two of the best in the nation.

UTM’s general agriculture undergraduate program ranked fourth in the country for veterans wanting to pursue degrees in agriculture by College Factual dot com.

Meanwhile, Best Colleges dot com rated UT Martin’s master’s in school counseling program at number 19 on its list of “Best Online Master’s in School Counseling Programs in 2017”.

The counseling program at UTM was based on courses offered, available specializations, and student outcomes.

UT Martin offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs.

UT Martin Civil Rights Conference Begins Tonight

The UT Martin Civil Rights Conference begins tonight with “Black Lives Matter: A Different Perspective”, an event presented by the Black Student Association at 7 in the University Center. The UT Martin Civil Rights Conference will continue Sunday night with a screening of the prison documentary 13th, which is presented by the Student Activities Council in Watkins Auditorium.

The conference goes in an artistic direction Monday evening when actress Florence Roach and the Ettaro Theater Company perform the play “Black Lives Matter” in the University Center.

All of these events are free and open to the public.
Civil Rights Conference will feature ‘The Roots of Rhythm’

By MICHAEL MINOR
Special to the Press

Close your eyes and imagine yourself in the Port of Spain, an oceanside city of Trinidad and Tobago. The smell of ocean salt is in the breeze and the aroma of exotic foods are heavy in the air. Above it all, there is a chorus of rhythmic chiming being played in an exuberant and joyful manner. This is the sound of steel drums, which are iconic to the country of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as any beach scene worth its salt. Instantly recognizable by the unique timbre, the sound of steel drums is just one of many contributions that historically black countries have given to music through cultural exchange and others through the slave trade.

Several styles of music have a significant cultural relevance to west African cultures and to many of the slaves imported into the New World from these countries. Zimbabwean Shona is a unique style of music that is played on an instrument called a mbira. In Shona culture, the mbira is considered a spiritual instrument that can communicate with ancestor spirits and is played at multiple spiritual ceremonies.

It is a small instrument that has metal tines that are played by the thumbs of both hands. Maracatu music hails from Brazil, which has several yearly festivals that stretch back into the days of colonial Brazil. There the slave population was allowed to elected kings for themselves. When slavery was abolished in 1888 this music continued to be played in performances and has survived to this day.

In Trinidad and Tobago, before the surplus of steel oil drums that were supplied by the navies of multiple countries, Taboo Bamboo was a dominant instrument. The instrument was cut from local bamboo to the length of a note and played by striking a stick against it.

These are only a few of the styles you'll be able to hear next week during the Civil Rights Conference during a performance called “The Roots of Rhythm.” The UTM percussion group will be playing arrangements from several African countries such as Guinea, Zimbabwe, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Brazil. The performances will be held in the Fulton Theatre at the Fine Arts Building on the UTM campus. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

Next week on Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 22 at noon you can sample this music for your very own hearing pleasure and education.
KEEPING PACE - Katherine Felthauser performs with the percussion group during the Tennessee Soybean Festival in Historic Downtown Martin in September.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH - Members of the UTM percussion group are (back row, from left) Darron Morris, Emmaline Adams, Brett Evans, Emily Sanford, John Beal, Drew Hendren, Cameron Poythress, Nathaniel O'Neal, Jerry Emmons, Logan Hayes; (front row) Cameron Westbrook, Jacob Hargrove, Jenna Kirby, Jonathan Tyree, Paul Zacarias, Hohner Porter, Jalen Ware, Stephen Downing and Peyton Scott. They will perform at the Civil Rights Conference next week at the Fulton Theater on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.
The big game becomes a learning experience

Nine students and two faculty members from the University of Tennessee at Martin worked behind-the-scenes at Super Bowl 51 in Houston, Texas. This is the fourth consecutive year UT Martin has been represented at the event, and this year the university was one of only two permitted to send students.

Participants worked hospitality with visiting players and helped them stay on schedule for autograph signings and other appearances. The group was also able to work the New England Patriots’ after-party celebrating their 34-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

“This experience went above and beyond what I thought it was going to be,” said Jakeb Wylie, of Kenton. “I was able to work a couple of shifts at Volunteer Experience, and I had a blast being able to contribute to the excitement of all the fans. But the experience on game day, from escorting to working the Patriots’ post-party was like no other experience I have ever had. I was also able to work with On Location Experience and the NFL to help make Super Bowl 51 a success, and being able to say that is pretty remarkable. I can only hope that other students who have the opportunity to go on this trip in the future take full advantage and enjoy the historic experience.”

The students worked a 15-hour day on Super Bowl Sunday and ran into a few obstacles, but were able to overcome the challenges and make sure their visiting players got where they needed to go.

“The main thing I learned from this experience was that not everything is as it seems. Many different people are responsible for anything and everything that goes on during the biggest game of the year,” said Jake Rogers, of Dresden. “You have to work through adversity during a big event. I have learned many lessons from this experience, but the main thing is that I will always expect the unexpected.”

Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, has a longstanding relationship with the National Football League and is able to accompany a group of UT Martin students to the game each year. Students are chosen largely from the sport business program and undergo a rigorous application and interview process before being selected to participate.

For more information, contact Davis at 731-881-7369 or by email at davis78@utm.edu.
The secret lives of raccoons

Dalton Smith, a senior from Spring Hill, is using his last year at the University of Tennessee at Martin to gain hands-on experience in wildlife research through the tracking of 12 raccoons on and around the UT Martin campus.

The raccoons, who wear radio collars, are located each week using a method called telemetry. To locate each animal, Smith uses a one-way radio antennae and a receiver to listen for the unique radio frequency from its collar. He takes readings from at least three locations, and wherever his data lines cross is the likely location of the animal at that moment.

“I try to get at least one location for each raccoon every week,” said Smith. “I can look at where they’re going and where they’re staying during the day — their den sites. I will use the data I’ve been collecting to figure out why raccoons sometimes den in the barns on the farm as opposed to in trees or ground dens and see if there’s a temperature correlation or a time of year correlation.”

This project, which began in the late summer of 2016, not only gives Smith an experience he needs to stand out in graduate school, but will also provide information useful to farmers and wildlife managers in the area.

“It could be (that) there’s not enough tree dens or ground dens in the area to support the raccoons, so they have to turn to the barns for den sites. Or it could be something completely different,” said Smith. “Whatever we find out could be used in agriculture or even by urban wildlife managers to fix the problem of raccoons using the buildings.”

Smith hopes to attend graduate school after graduating from UT Martin this spring and plans to become a wildlife biologist. He is particularly interested in working with ducks and geese, and has applied to research assistantships through South Dakota State University and Auburn University.

“I think doing undergraduate research really (puts) you ahead when you’re going to grad school or starting your career,” said Smith. He encourages his fellow students to find a project they are passionate about and make it a learning experience as well.

Vanguard Theatre presents ‘The Realistic Joneses’

Vanguard Theatre, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, will present “The Realistic Joneses” at 8 p.m. nightly, Feb. 23-28, with an additional matinee performance at 3 p.m., Feb. 26. All performances will take place in the Little Theatre, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

This dark comedy by playwright Will Eno introduces Bob and Jennifer and their new neighbors, John and Pony, two suburban couples who have more in common than a shared last name. As their relationships get tangled up, all of the Joneses must decide between idyllic fantasy and imperfect reality. “The Realistic Joneses” was nominated for both an Outer Critics Circle Award and a Drama League Award in 2014.

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400 or the Little Theatre Box Office, located in the Fine Arts Building lobby, at 731-881-7090 during normal business hours. The box office opens two hours prior to each performance.
STRIVING ARTISTS SHOW — From a barrage of information on social media platforms to more personal experiences, Millennials face a storm of conflicting ideas, beliefs and events. The 2017 LSA Student Art Exhibition, "Not Your Mama's Art Show: Millennial Conflicts & Interpretations" is an acknowledgement of differences of opinions and an excursion into defining personal beliefs and discovering both individual identity and the collective identity of a community of people, separated from others by a generational gap, yet still closely tied together through various traditions and experiences. The show will run until Feb. 25 in the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building Gallery.

IMPROMPTU VALENTINE'S DANCE — While the UTM Greek community awaited results of Thursday night's line dance competition, members of all the fraternities and sororities came together to dance to the Cupid Shuffle. Photo by Tanna Norman
SIDE BY SIDE CONCERT — The Department of Music would like to invite you to join the UT-Martin Wind Ensemble as they present their annual Side-by-Side concert on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Martin Westview High School gymnasium. We are excited to be joined this year by the Martin Westview High School Band under the direction of Mr. Mike Tucker and UTM alumnus Mr. Chris Butner. Martin Westview will perform the first half of the concert which will contain selections from their program for Concert Festival in March. The second half of the performance features the UT Martin Wind Ensemble, conducted by Dr. John Oelrich, UTM Director of Bands. Their portion of the program includes two selections by contemporary composer, John Mackey.

The first work will be Asphalt Cocktail, which is intended to be a musical representation of "the scariest NYC taxi ride you can imagine, with the cab skidding around turns as trucks bear down from all sides." The second work, The Frozen Cathedral, is a very colorful, lush and emotionally meaningful work that pays homage to the scenery of Denali National Park.

UTM ranks fifth in nation for veterans

The University of Tennessee at Martin's undergraduate program in general agriculture and master's degree program in school counseling and have been recognized on a national scale, according to two recently released rankings.

CollegeFactual.com recognized UT Martin as a top-five school nationally for veterans wishing to pursue degrees in general agriculture. UT Martin is ranked fourth on this national list and first in the state of Tennessee. This is the second consecutive year that UT Martin has topped the statewide ranking.

According to the ranking website, "These rankings were developed to highlight schools that offer quality outcomes in a specific major while also offering support and resources to help veterans and active-duty military students thrive."

BestColleges.com also ranked UT Martin 19th on its list of the "Best Online Master's in School Counseling Programs for 2017." UT Martin is the only school included in this top-25 national list. According to the ranking profile, the list is based on a variety of academic criteria, including courses offered, available specializations, student outcomes and career-support services.

Several UT Martin graduate and undergraduate programs, both online and on campus, are ranked for quality at the regional and national levels. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Isbell to attend Governor’s School for Agriculture

The Tennessee Governor’s School for Agriculture is one of the most prestigious opportunities a student in agriculture can earn. The school is held each year at the University of Tennessee at Martin during June. This year 267 students from across Tennessee applied for admittance to this prestigious educational opportunity. Clint Isbell of McNairy Central was one of the 34 outstanding students selected to attend the 2017 Governor’s School for Agriculture. Clint is a junior at McNairy Central and the Vice President of the McNairy Central FFA Chapter. His current plans include earning a college degree in agriculture. The McNairy Central FFA Chapter congratulates Clint on this great honor.

Benton Co. Schools compete in UTM Parsons Quiz Bowl

The Academic Teams from Big Sandy and Camden Central High School participated in the Academic Quiz Bowl on Friday, Feb. 10, in Parsons. This is the fifth year the Quiz Bowl has been held at the UTM Parsons Center.

In individual subject matter contests, CHS earned first place in math. The Quiz Bowl is the largest high school academic contest in West Tennessee outside of Memphis.

CHS team members included Alana Flowers, Seth Blackburn, Brittany Douglas, Allie Robinson, Callie Brasher, Allison Latimer, and teacher Adam Blackburn.

Big Sandy team members were teacher Megan Fuqua, Ty Benson, Jocelyn Galindo, Zoe Miner, Adam Johnson, and teacher Kevin Brewer.

Congratulations to both teams for their quick thinking, great answers, and hard work!
SUPER ASSISTANTS - Ready to enter the Houston Toyota Center to assist with NFL Super Bowl 51 are UTM students (from left) Houston Downy, of Pegram; Shuler Cornett, of Winchester; Amia McNeil, of Collierville; Courtney Caton, of Huntingdon; Colton Daugherty, of Nunnelly; Elizabeth Francisco, of Gleason; Jakeb Wylie, of Kenton; Rebecca Lund, of Martin; Jake Rogers, of Dresden; and UTM professors Dr. Dexter Davis, Sport Business Program; and Josh Greer, Dept. of Health and Human Performance.

UTM assists at NFL Super Bowl 51

Nine students and two faculty from the University of Tennessee at Martin worked behind-the-scenes at Super Bowl 51 in Houston, TX. This is the fourth consecutive year UTM has been represented at the event, and this year the university was one of only two schools permitted to send students.

Participants worked hospitality with visiting players, helping them stay on schedule for autograph signings and other appearances. The group was also able to work the New England Patriots’ after-party, celebrating their 34-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

“This experience went above and beyond what I thought it was going to be,” said Jakeb Wylie, of Kenton. “The experience on game day, from escorting to working the Patriots’ post-party was like no other experience I have ever had. I was also able to work with On Location Experience and the NFL to help make Super Bowl 51 a success, and being able to say that is pretty remarkable. I can only hope that other students who have the opportunity to go on this trip in the future take full advantage and enjoy the historic experience.”

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“The main thing I learned from this experience was that not everything is as it seems. Many different people are responsible everything that goes on during the biggest game of the year,” said Jake Rogers, of Dresden. “You have to work through adversity during a big event. I have learned many lessons from this experience, but the main thing is that I will always expect the unexpected.”

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There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required. Visit utm.edu/juniorseniorday to register online, or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 for more information.

UTM Chancellor Plans Ripley Visit

Dr. Keith Carver, newly-appointed chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, is planning a visit to Ripley February 23rd as part of the “Cruisin’ with Carver” tour. He began his official duties January 3rd and among his priorities are to meet with faculty, staff and students at the five UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville, as well as donors, alumni, potential students, and others. A variety of events are planned including visits to local high schools and a public reception.
In February 2016, five years into my service as president of the statewide University of Tennessee system, I gave my first "State of the University" address. On Tuesday, I will give the second.

In the last 12 months, we've faced plenty of challenges — the same as any other statewide system of higher education in the country. We've succeeded in overcoming many of these challenges, but more important, in my view, is the fact that in fulfilling our mission for the benefit of all Tennesseans, we're steadily and increasingly performing at the highest levels in recent memory. Even while overcoming challenges, The UT system mission calls for us to provide education, conduct research and offer outreach — or to educate, discover and connect — and as a land-grant institution, also to find solutions that improve lives.

Some mission performance examples: Four-year graduation is up 5 percent, and 24 percent more degrees have been awarded since 2007. Research and sponsored projects reached an all-time high in the most recent year ended, totaling $435 million. In the same period, a record high of more than 5.2 million contacts with Tennesseans occurred through our outreach.

And we've done all of that while facing challenges and working to make UT a better place.

In 2016, my State of the University message included an update on a Title IX lawsuit filed just a couple of weeks earlier. When the university's July 2016 agreement to a settlement of that lawsuit was announced, I also announced the formation of an independent commission to review our policies, practices and resources. That group began with a stellar, four-person team of experts in November. Later this year, I anticipate their report of recommendations on how we can make our approaches even better. I'm committed to making ours the gold standard.

In 2016, the university faced a lot of scrutiny and even criticism of our efforts toward achieving greater diversity and inclusion on our campuses.

Why are diverse campus environments important? Because they mean improved retention and graduation rates and more work-ready graduates.

And because change has been involved in trying to fully create those kinds of environments at UT, there has been some tension.

I understand that. Navigating change can be challenging.

Could our approach, in some cases, have been handled differently? Yes, and perhaps better — toward our goal of achieving greater understanding of the value of diversity by all concerned. I'm committed to continuing the conversation and to getting it right.

Another of our challenges that we're working hard to overcome is long-term, sustainable funding. I fully realize that's our problem to solve, and in 2014, I organized a task force with voices inside and outside the university to address it.

It's important to note that in the intervening years, we've benefited from unanticipated increases in state funding. Our efforts to look hard at how we use every dollar — including re-allocating almost $68 million — have made the increased state funding go even further. We've already cut a funding shortfall projected over the next 10 years by about one-third.

I'm proud that, at the same time, UT has become a national leader in proactive efforts to hold down tuition increases.

We self-limited tuition increases starting in 2015. In 2016, for the second straight year, tuition increases were 3 percent or less. That's the lowest in more than three decades. And I can assure you we'll make it three years in a row in 2017.
Inese and more successes and challenges make up the state of the University as I will report on it this week. But what I'm especially proud of is that the University of Tennessee system is a collection of high-performing institutions that both improve life and make a $4.8 billion annual economic impact all across the state.

Wherever you go, UT has front doors people can walk through to get help: County extension offices, experiment station facilities, 4-H centers and Institute for Public Service offices.

We're the only institution in Tennessee connected to help all Tennesseans. In every county in the state.

We are the University of Tennessee, Knoxville ... UT Chattanooga ... UT Martin ... the UT Health Science Center ... the Institute of Agriculture ... and the Institute for Public Service. We are more than 49,000 students, 12,000 employees and hundreds of thousands of alumni.

And yet, we are one.

Joe DiPietro has been president of the University of Tennessee system since Jan. 1, 2011.

Read or Share this story: http://knoxne.ws/2lrkHHC

CHANCELLOR'S CHAT — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver visited with a half-dozen seniors early this morning at South Fulton High School, the first stop on his full day of visiting Obion County. The seniors are among several at their school who plan to attend UT Martin. Carver, who began his official duties as chancellor Jan. 3, was in Obion County today as part of his "Cruisin' With Carver" tour. He has been canvassing the region during January and February. Today, his stops included South Fulton, Obion County Central and Union City high schools, as well as a noon speaking engagement at the Union City Rotary Club, ahead of an evening reception with alumni.
Fallen Skyhawk remembered at UT Martin through scholarship endowment

February 18, 2017

Amber Hughes

MARTIN, Tenn. — Saturday evening friends, family and donors gathered to pay homage and cement the legacy of Phillip Trey Lindsey on UT Martin’s campus.

"He was too special to be forgotten," Trey’s father John Lindsey said.

Phillip Trey Lindsey graduated from Southside High School in 2010, before going to University of Tennessee at Martin to study wildlife biology. Unfortunately just two months after earning his degree from UTM, the 24-year-old passed away July 12, 2016 after a blood clot sent him into cardiac arrest.

“You don’t know what this is like until you go through it," Lindsey said. "So if it wasn’t for people praying for us and just having faith in God.”

Saturday night there was a benefit dinner to fund a $25,000 scholarship endowment in his name. That scholarship will help UTM juniors and seniors studying wildlife biology continue their education.

“Education was very important to Trey,” Lindsey said. “So one way we though we could keep his memory alive is through this scholarship endowment at Martin.”

There was also a silent auction featuring sports memorabilia and outdoor sports items, things that were important to Trey. Retired Major League Baseball player Adam Laroche donated his time Saturday evening. He even signed jerseys to be auctioned off.

“He asked and that was the least I could do,” Laroche said.

During the benefit the wildlife society professor announced that Will Lindsey, Trey’s brother, had earned a scholarship of his own. From the same organization his brother once served as Vice President.

“In this situation you just don’t want your son forgotten and I think that goes for anyone who’s lost their child," Lindsey said.

All benefit ticket sales and the silent auction proceeds will be used to fund the Lindsey scholarship. Southside High School graduates will be given preference during the Lindsey scholarship selection process.
MLB player speaks for Martin grad's legacy

Banquet benefits endowment fund

CALEB LAY
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Adam LaRoche, a major league baseball player and 2012 National League Golden Glove and Silver Slugger Awards winner, stood in front of over 300 people of Martin wearing his hunting boots and a hoodie, and at a loss for words.

He didn't know how he could give John Lindsey the speech he and his son deserved at a banquet to benefit the Phillip Trey Lindsey Endowment Fund. Lindsey got LaRoche to Martin because of his indomitable will to honor Phillip "Trey" Lindsey's memory.

Trey Lindsey was in Nebraska working on an internship after graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin when a blood clot from a leg injury sent him into cardiac arrest. He was 24 when he died last July.

John Lindsey, touched after his son's death by how the UT-Martin Wildlife Society and the Wildlife Biology, Trey's major, affected his son's life. Lindsey knew he had to give back in his son's name.

He had the idea of starting a scholarship for students in the third or fourth years studying Wildlife Biology at UT-Martin. So his told his son Will he wanted to start a scholarship to see what it would take.

"My son said, 'like 1,000 [dollars]'" Lindsey said. "I was like, 'No more like 2,000 [dollars].""
Carver takes special interest in UT Martin’s incoming class

By CHRIS MENEES
Staff Reporter

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver has a special interest in the Class of 2017.

As the new chancellor at UT Martin, he will have the opportunity to welcome his first freshman class when this year’s high school seniors start college in the fall.

But he also has a personal interest: His daughter is a high school senior and will soon graduate to begin her own college journey.

Carver spent time with local high school seniors Friday during a day-long visit to Obion County as part of his “Cruisin’ With Carver” tour.

He began his official duties as UT Martin’s new chancellor on Jan. 3 and, shortly thereafter, launched a tour that has allowed him to canvass the region during January and February.

His visit to Obion County included morning stops at South Fulton, Obion County Central and Union City high schools to speak in an informal setting with graduating seniors who have been accepted to UT Martin.

During his 8 a.m. stop at SF, he opened by explaining why the current senior class is so special to him.

“Why this reason this class, 2017, is so important to me is this will sort of be my first freshman class,” Carver said. “So you’ll be freshmen and I’ll be a freshman with you. I just look a lot different than you all do in terms of age. I’m really excited about recruiting this first class to campus.”

On a personal note, he shared that his daughter, 18-year-old Carson, is a high school senior who is finishing out classes in Knoxvillle, the family’s home prior to Carver’s appointment at UT Martin.

He and his wife, Hollianne, decided it was best to let their daughter finish out
UT Martin...

(Continued from Page 1) her senior year there, rather than moving her across state, near to the end of the school year.

Carver has been with the University of Tennessee system for 20 years and returns home to West Tennessee from East Tennessee in his new role as chancellor. He is from Alamo in Crockett County, while his wife is from Lexington.

Mrs. Carver and the couple’s three children—Carson and her brothers, 15-year-old Jack Thomas and 11-year-old Britton—will join Carver in Martin at the end of the current school year.

He said with having a senior in the house this year, his family is having college discussions that are likely very similar to what the Obion County students are having in their homes.

“The conversations that we’re having around our dinner table right now are the same conversations you’re having with your parents and aunts and uncles and families,” he said.

He said some of those discussions focus on things like what to expect from their college experience, majors, academic advisors and housing and dining options.

“The things that I’m thinking about with my family, I’m also applying to my job,” he said. “We really want to make the student experience great at UT Martin, and I’m committed to that.”

Carver thanked local high school students for choosing UT Martin and assured them they will have a wonderful personal experience at a campus community that boasts a family atmosphere.

“You’re not going to be a number there. It’s a big place — 6,700 students — but yet the majority of our classes — 80 percent of our classes — have fewer than 30 students in them,” he said. “When you’re walking around campus, you’re going to bump into your faculty, you’re going to bump into your classmates, you’re going to meet people from other states and from outside this region, so it’s going to be a great experience.”

Carver brought the students a special gift: a UT Martin alumni cup filled with small goodies.

He said giving the incoming college freshmen an alumni cup has special significance. He wants to see them come to UT Martin, have a great college experience and graduate with knowledge that will give them an opportunity to find a great job. Therefore, it’s important that they focus on being alumni themselves as soon as they register and hit campus.

Their treats also included UT Martin or Skyhawk stickers, showing they are now considered part of the college’s family.

“You’re now part of the Skyhawk family and we celebrate that,” the chancellor said.

On another personal note, Carver introduced the high school students to admissions counselor Emily Anne Sparks, a UT Martin alumna from Obion County who now works for the university.

“That speaks to how she feels about the university,” he said.

After visiting the three high schools, Carver rounded out his visit to Obion County on Friday with a noon speaking engagement at the Union City Rotary Club meeting and a tour of Williams Sausage Co., ahead of an evening reception with alumni at Discovery Park of America.

*Staff Reporter Chris Menees may be contact- ed by email at cmenees@ucmessenger.com.*
UTM's Inaugural “Call Me MiSTER” program

UT Martin will participate in the “Call me MiSTER” program benefitting future elementary and middle school teachers this fall.

“Call me MiSTER” seeks to help future teachers from under-served, socioeconomically disadvantaged communities where education is not a given.

Applicants for this program have to be Tennessee residents with an ACT score of at least 21, and must be accepted into UT Martin.

“Call me MiSTER” participants must maintain a 2.75 GPA throughout their college career, and have to teach a year in a Tennessee public school for every year of assistance received by this program.

This program is currently taking applications and MiSTER stands for Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models.

UTM Photography Course

Community members who enjoy taking pictures might be interested in an introductory course on digital photography at UT Martin Mondays March 13th, 20th, and 27th from 6:30 until 9.

Course instructor Tom Gallien will give clear explanations for students to better understand how to use digital cameras while improving their photograph-taking skills.

This course is $99 and participants must bring their own cameras to class.

The UTM Office of Educational Outreach can be contacted for more information on the class.
The UT Martin Civil Rights conference begins with a poverty program this afternoon and concludes with a drum concert tonight in the Fine Arts Building.

Haley Simmons hosts an event titled "Poverty and Black Lives Matter" at 1 this afternoon in the University Center.

Later tonight, a diverse crowd is expected to watch the musical program Roots of Rhythm in the Fine Arts Building.

Roots of Rhythm features the UTM percussion group playing arrangements from many African countries, Brazil, and the Caribbean.

Tickets are $5 for adults and one dollar for students to see the conference's musical program this evening, and an encore performance will be held tomorrow at noon in the Harriet Fulton Theater.

In other news, the Pearl Primus Dance organization will hold the "Dances of the Decades" event at 7 tomorrow evening in Watkins Auditorium.

ACT Prep courses offered

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, March 4-25, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science. Students will use "The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition" and should bring the book to the first class meeting.

The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

Students unable to attend this prep course will have another opportunity for a one-day workshop on May 20.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Three locals named to Leadership Program

Dr. Brian Donavant, Rob Goad and Dr. Todd Winters, all of Weakley County, are members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2017 class.

Donavant is interim executive director of the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach. He currently serves on the advisory board of the UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center and is a member of both the Fraternal Order of Police and the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education. Donavant is a graduate of the UT Leadership Institute. He is a past recipient of the UT Institute for Public Service Faculty Excellence Award, UT Martin faculty research and distinguished researcher awards, and the University of Southern Mississippi Outstanding Research Award.

Goad is the grant writer and project administrator for the Northwest Tennessee Development District. He currently serves on the board of the Weakley County Young Professionals Network. He is also a Leadership Weakley County graduate.

Winters is dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Locally, he serves on the board of directors for the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center and the Northwest Tennessee Local Foods Network, among others. Nationally, he is past president of the Non-land-grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities and is national program chair for LEAD21, a leadership institute for higher education food, agriculture and natural resources. Winters is a graduate of the University of Tennessee Leadership Institute and a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Gamma Rho, and has received numerous recognitions for his research, service and teaching.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 768 graduates to date, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. The 2017 class is the 28th in program history.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
Local residents accepted into 2017 Weststar Leadership class

MARTIN, Tenn. — Bradley Arnold, Dr. Heather Martin, Vanessa Patrick and Libby Wickersham, all of Gibson County, are members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2017 class.

Arnold is the principal broker and owner of United Country Southern Lifestyle Properties in Milan. His community service efforts include serving on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity in Gibson County, coaching his child’s soccer and baseball youth leagues and being a supporter of local charitable programs. He is a 2012 graduate of the Gibson County Leadership Program and was selected by the Jackson Sun for the second annual “Forty Under 40” class in 2015. Arnold has received the Pinnacle Gold Award from United County Real Estate multiple times, which recognizes agents whose total sales production exceed $5 million in the calendar year. In 2015, he ranked in the top one percent among United’s fleet of more than 4,000 agents.

Martin is co-owner of Medina Family Chiropractic and Acupuncture in Medina. She currently serves on the boards of the Greater Gibson County Chamber of Commerce and Medina Relay for Life. Martin is a Leadership Gibson County graduate, and she was recently nominated for Gibson County Young Professional of the Year.

Patrick is director of strategic development for West Tennessee Healthcare. She also serves as a member of the board of directors for Spire Rehabilitation Hospital and chair of the Youth Leadership Council of Medina First United Methodist Church. Patrick is a Leadership Jackson graduate.

Wickersham is executive director of the Greater Gibson County Area Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the boards of the Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center, Gibson County Interagency Council, Northwest Gibson County YMCA, North Gibson County Relay for Life and the Peabody High School Alumni Association, as well as on the Gibson County Tourism Committee and the Gibson County Workforce Development Committee. Wickersham is a Leadership Gibson County and Leadership Crockett County graduate.

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Clifford Jones, right, assists a student during one of the University of Tennessee at Martin's summer STEM camps. Jones is an educational studies major from Memphis.

‘MiSTER’ equips our future teachers

Leadership program seeks to provide them with tools, support

The “Call me MiSTER” program, founded at Clemson University in 2000, is a leadership program that seeks to provide future teachers with the tools and support needed to pursue successful careers in elementary and middle schools.

“The MiSTER” stands for “Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models,” and the program is geared toward future teachers from under-served, socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk backgrounds.

See Program, Page 4A
Program

Continued from Page 3A

communities. Program participants are provided with tuition assistance, room and board.

Applicants must be Tennessee residents and be accepted to UT Martin and enrolled to study early childhood education, special education or middle grades education. Students must also have a composite ACT score of at least 21, be eligible for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship Program and complete an application process.

MISTER Scholars are required to live on campus with fellow program participants as part of the “Call Me MISTER” living-learning community and maintain a minimum 2.75 overall GPA and a full-time course load. Program graduates are also required to teach one year in a Tennessee public school for each year of assistance provided by the “Call Me MISTER” program.

“Education is perhaps the most powerful and transformative tool that we have at our disposal,” said Dr. Louis Glover, program director and professor of curriculum and instruction. “My belief is that teachers can truly change the world through their daily interactions with the next generation of leaders within their classrooms. Years later, I can still remember the impact that certain teachers had not only upon my retention of the subject matter being taught, but also upon my worldview.”

UT Martin is the only chartered provider of the “Call Me MISTER” program in Tennessee. A complete list of required application materials can be found at utm.edu/departments/mister. Applications are being accepted now and will be considered until the program is full.

For more information, contact the UT Martin College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences at (731) 881-7125 or cwest@utm.edu.
UT president gives State of the University address

NASHVILLE - University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro will present his second State of the University address in Nashville on Tuesday.

DiPietro acknowledged the great leadership at each of the system's schools, welcoming new UT Knoxville Chancellor Beverly Davenport. He highlighted recent achievement for all the campuses, but emphasized they are all united.

"We are the University of Tennessee. Knoxville ... UT Chattanooga ... UT Martin ... the UT Health Science Center ... the Institute of Agriculture ... and the Institute for Public Service. We are almost 50,000 students, 12,000 employees, and 370,000 alumni," he said. "And yet—We are one. We're stronger as one than we could be separately. There isn't a county in the state we don't touch, not an elected district we don't serve."

DiPietro acknowledged diversity issues, in light of recent issues on the Knoxville campus, and emphasized that is will remain a priority for the system.

"Some may debate the degree to which the world is changing in terms of diversity, but the reality of that change is a fact. And diversity in the world is much more than black and white," he said. "Diversity encompasses many aspects—gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, geography, physical ability, socioeconomic status, military veteran status, and family educational attainment, among others."

He went on to say. "Respect for differing viewpoints, recognition of other perspectives, and understanding the diversity of people enables our students to grow in ways that better prepare them for the workforce."

He touted efforts to bridge the funding gap at UT, working to cut costs and increase revenues, and not relying on tuition increases to cover the costs.

"In 2016, for the second straight year, tuition increases were 3 percent or less. That's the lowest in more than three decades," he said. "And I can assure you we'll make it three years in a row in 2017."
Local residents accepted into 2017 WestStar Leadership Class

MARTIN, – Jim Coy Houston, Kimberly Martin and Sandy Tarkington, all of Dyer County, are members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2017 class.

Houston is an agent with Farm Bureau Insurance. He is currently a member of the Rotary Breakfast Club of Dyersburg and First Baptist Church of Dyersburg. He coaches Upward Basketball and YMCA Soccer, serves as a mentor for Dyersburg Primary School’s HOSTS Program and is a 2016 Leadership Dyer County graduate.

Martin is vice president of institutional advancement and continuing education at Dyersburg State Community College. She also serves as president of the Tennessee Association for Institutional Research and is on the guiding team of the Northwest Tennessee Reconnect Community, the board of directors of the Dyersburg State Community College Foundation and the Excellence in Philanthropy Donor Recognition Committee for the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Tarkington is vice president of sales and marketing at First Citizens National Bank. She is also president-elect for the Dyersburg Kiwanis Club, chair of the Dyersburg State Community College Annual Fund Campaign and membership chair for the American Business Women’s Association Southern Accent Chapter. She is a two-time recipient of the ABWA Woman of the Year Award and has also received the Dyer County Chamber Woman of the Year, Chamber Diplomat of the Year and DSCC Outstanding Alumni awards.

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For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.
Officers and charter members of the Martin Kiwanis Club joined University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver on Feb. 15 to celebrate the establishment of an endowment for the annual Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service.

This award will honor students whose leadership and volunteer activities reflect the Kiwanis motto of "improving the world, one child and one community at a time." The $1,000 award will be administered by the UT Martin Office of Student Affairs with input from the Martin Kiwanis Club and the adviser of the UT Martin Circle K Club. Eligible students must have at least sophomore standing; a minimum GPA of 3.00; have been either an Eagle Scout, Gold Girl Scout or an active member of the Key Club or Circle K Club; and have completed a major service project.

The first award is anticipated to be given during the 2018 academic year, which will mark the golden anniversary of the Martin Kiwanis Club. Dr. S. K. Airee, long-time professor of chemistry at UT Martin, and his wife, Shashi, made the initial contribution to the endowment. Additional contributions can be made by contacting the UT Martin Office of University Development.
Vanguard Theatre Presents Comedy; 'The Realistic Joneses'

Vanguard Theatre, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, will present “The Realistic Joneses” at 8 p.m. nightly, Feb. 23-28, with an additional matinee performance at 3 p.m., Feb. 26. All performances will take place in the Little Theatre, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

This dark comedy by playwright Will Eno introduces Bob and Jennifer and their new neighbors, John and Pony, two suburban couples who have more in common than a shared last name. As their relationships get tangled up, all of the Joneses must decide between idyllic fantasy and imperfect reality. “The Realistic Joneses” was nominated for both an Outer Critics Circle Award and a Drama League Award in 2014.

Tickets are $5 for children and students and $15 for adults. Support The Arts contributors may reserve seats beginning Feb. 17. All other tickets will go on sale beginning Feb. 20 and continuing through the end of the performances.

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400 or the Little Theatre Box Office, located in the Fine Arts Building lobby, at 731-881-7090 during normal business hours. The box office opens two hours prior to each performance.

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

Local Accept to WestStar Leadership Class

Dr. Brian Donavant, Rob Goad and Dr. Todd Winters, all of Weakley County, are members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2017 class.

Donavant is interim executive director of the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach. He currently serves on the advisory board of the UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center and is a member of both the Fraternal Order of Police and the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education. Donavant is a graduate of the UT Leadership Institute. He is a past recipient of the UT Institute for Public Service Faculty Excellence Award, UT Martin faculty research and distinguished researcher awards, and the University of Southern Mississippi Outstanding Research Award.

Goad is the grant writer and project administrator for the Northwest Tennessee Development District. He currently serves on the board of the Weakley County Young Professionals Network. He is also a Leadership Weakley County graduate.

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Alpha Gamma Rho, and has received numerous recognitions for his research, service and teaching.

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For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or by email at vgrimes@utm.edu.

UT Martin To Open Stem Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin will officially open a new STEM Center for Teaching and Learning with a public reception from 2-5 p.m., Feb. 28, in classroom two of the Holland-McCombs Center.

The center will serve the general public with emphasis on providing regional K-12 educators with the knowledge and resources to teach hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts within Tennessee educational standards. The center's primary goals are to design and conduct professional development workshops for West Tennessee educators and inform the public about the importance of STEM education.

The center is one component of the Teacher Quality Partnership program, funded at UT Martin by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Regional educators who participate in available workshops will be provided with a box of equipment and supplies to recreate experiments and activities in their own classrooms. Teachers who are not able to attend workshop sessions will be able to "check out" extra supplies from the center when needed.

The opening reception will feature refreshments and a display of classroom kits available for check-out, as well as the unveiling of a periodic table created by local schoolchildren. Northwest Tennessee students in grades two through 12 submitted artwork for the panels, and winning entries were chosen by UT Martin art and chemistry students.

Dresden Elementary School teachers Sherry Hatchel and Kristy Jolley will unveil the permanent display at 4 p.m.

The Holland-McCombs Center is located on University Street between the Hall-Moody Administration Building and Gooch Hall. Parking is available across the street, adjacent to Hardy Graham Stadium.

For more information or to invite STEM Center personnel to present in your classroom, contact center co-directors Dr. Steve Elliott at 731-881-7452 or Dr. John Overcash at 731-881-7450.

UT Martin Department Of Music To Host Performances February 26-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by the UT Martin Concert Band and Wind Ensemble in the coming weeks.

The UT Martin Concert Band will give a performance titled "Varietas musicae" at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 26, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's band room. The concert includes full band pieces: a collaborative performance with Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music; and chamber music prepared by members of the concert band.

The UT Martin Wind Ensemble and Martin Westview High School band will perform together in their annual side-by-side concert at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 28, in the Westview High School gymnasium. The first half of the concert features the Westview High School band and contains selections from their concert festival program this coming March. The UT Martin Wind Ensemble will perform two selections by contemporary composer John Mackey for the second half of the concert.

Both events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
The Tennessee Governor's School for Agriculture is one of the most prestigious opportunities a student in agriculture can earn. The school is held each year at the University of Tennessee at Martin during June. This year, 267 students from across Tennessee applied for admittance to this prestigious educational opportunity. Clint Isbell of McNairy Central was one of the 34 outstanding students selected to attend the 2017 Governor's School for Agriculture. Clint is a junior at McNairy Central and the Vice President of the McNairy Central FFA Chapter. His current plans include earning a college degree in agriculture. The McNairy Central FFA Chapter congratulates Clint on this great honor.
Fayette Academy Students Participate in UT-Martin Honor Band on January 28th

Last December, several Fayette Academy band students applied for the University of Tennessee at Martin's 38th Annual Honor Band Festival. On December 9, six of these students were selected by the UT-Martin Music Department to participate in the festival.

These six Fayette Academy students travelled to Martin, Tennessee on January 26 where they auditioned for chair/band placement, and then spent the next 2 days rehearsing music alongside several other talented students from across the state of Tennessee and beyond.

On the afternoon of Saturday, January 28, the four honor bands performed a splendid concert at the UTM Fine Arts Building. Conductors at the festival were Dr. John Oelrich from The University of Tennessee at Martin, Mr. Christopher Woodruff from California Polytechnic University, Mr. John Easley from Union City High School, and Ms. Marti Fults from Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

Fayette Academy students selected to participate (pictured from top, left to right): Jonathan Glover (Junior), Jacob Cronogue (Sophomore). Front row, Casey Melton (Sophomore), Isabelle Johnson (8th Grade), Emma Park (Sophomore), and Linnea Lyons (Sophomore). Additionally, both Jonathan Glover and Jacob Cronogue placed in Wind Ensemble, which is the top band out of the four UTM Honor Bands.

Fayette Academy's Band Director is Daniel Hinson.
Rachel Grear is a part of WestStar class

Rachel Grear of Lauderdale County is a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2017 class. Grear is the Marketing Officer of the Bank of Ripley. She currently serves on the Relay for Life of Lauderdale County Committee, Community Pre-K Advisory Council, and various committees within the Bank of Ripley. Grear is a Leadership Lauderdale graduate and a past recipient of the Ripley Rotary Club’s Citizen of the Year Award and Relay for Life of Lauderdale County MVP Award.

UTM sets pair of classes

Those wishing to prepare for a career in healthcare can register for either the pharmacy technician program or phlebotomy technician program offered at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center.

The pharmacy technician program, held from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, March 18-July 8, is a comprehensive 50-hour course designed to prepare students to enter the pharmacy field. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement. The course will prepare students to take the Pharmacy Technician Board’s exam.

The registration fee for this course is $1,199 and includes textbooks and supplies. An optional 80-hour clinical is available.

The 90-hour phlebotomy technician program, held from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, March 18-Sept. 9, prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work include terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice, and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely.

Fields joins Humboldt Utilities

Kelly Fields was hired recently as the accounting manager for Humboldt Utilities. Kelly has nearly eleven years of utility accounting and audit experience. She holds a bachelor’s degree with a double major in Economics and Accounting from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master’s degree in Accounting from UT Martin. Most recently, she was a Distributor Assurance Analyst in TVA’s West Tennessee District. Before starting at TVA, Kelly was a Senior Accountant with Alexander Thompson Arnold, PLLC. She and her husband, John, and son John Calvin, reside in Medina, TN.
Hollianne Carver enters role as first lady of UT Martin

The role of university chancellor is a stressful one, but Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has a strong family supporting him every step of the way.

Helping to lead that family is his wife, Hollianne Carver, who looks forward to her time as UT Martin’s first lady.

“I’m really excited to see what opportunities present themselves. I love being in a support role for Keith, and I love being involved in the community, in aspects from education to volunteering and being involved with whatever’s going on,” she said.

Mrs. Carver, a Lexington native, has followed her husband through several states but is glad to be returning to West Tennessee soon.

“It’s wonderful. We’re so excited; it just feels like home,” she said of their move to Martin.

Mrs. Carver and the couple’s three children — daughter Carson, 18; and sons Jack Thomas, 15, and Britton, 11 — will join Carver in Martin at the end of the school year.

Even from afar, UT Martin’s new first lady doesn’t take her role lightly. She is dedicated to her family and to supporting her husband throughout his tenure at the university and beyond.

“It’s a team effort. I believe in him. I believe in what he does, and when you love somebody you want to support them,” she said. “We almost feel like it’s a calling to be in the roles we’re in. To be a chancellor, for Keith, has not necessarily been a goal of his. It hasn’t been a résumé-jumping process of taking one role to get to my niche was,” she said. “I think of myself as a kindergarten teacher. ... It’s a fun age. I love them. They’re fun, and it’s all brand-new, and they love you.”

Mrs. Carver also taught as an adjunct instructor in the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies for a short time before the couple made the move to East Tennessee in 2010.

She has also done grant work for UT Knoxville.

In her free time, Mrs. Carver enjoys reading, hiking and spending time with extended family. All three Carver children are active in sports and school organizations and Mrs. Carver spends much of her time attending athletic events and cheering on their teams.

She also enjoys running and completed the New York Marathon in 2014 after being chosen from her first race lottery. Running the New York Marathon is something of a family tradition and Carver also completed the race in 2013.

The Carvers’ love of UT Martin and the West Tennessee region is evident through their dedication to the university and surrounding communities.

“For me and Hollianne, returning to our heritage at UT Martin and our family connections in West Tennessee is our homecoming 2017,” Carver said.

“We look forward to the opportunity to build strong alliances with the students, faculty, staff and the region, and we are glad to be home with old friends and are ready to make new ones. ... Hollianne and I look forward to the beginning of our journey, together, with the extended family at the University of Tennessee at Martin.”
TROPICAL TRAVEL — The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio participated in a recent travel-study to Trinidad and Tobago as part of the Youth Music Exchange Program hosted by the University of Trinidad and Tobago. Among those involved were (from left, front row) Dr. Josh Smith, UT Martin assistant director of percussion; Rachel Edwards of Medina; Patrick Hill of Trenton; Jenna Kirby of Nashville; Jacob Hargrove of Bartlett; Jennifer Hotz of Naperville, Ill.; Cameron Westbrook of Nashville; (back row) Alexis Atwood, percussionist and personnel manager with the New Mexico Symphony; Trice Mayhall of Kenton; Chris Nelson, timpanist with the Paducah (Ky.) Symphony; Hohner Porter of Trenton; Colby Snider of Memphis; Nathaniel O'Neal of Smyrna; Cameron Poythress of Antioch; Peyton Scott of Newbern; Stephen Downing of Martin; and Dr. Julie Hill, UT Martin director of percussion studies.

University’s Percussion Studio participates in travel-study

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio participated in a travel-study to Trinidad and Tobago recently as part of the Youth Music Exchange Program hosted by the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

“My favorite part of the trip was having the opportunity to go observe different steel pan bands rehearse at their respective pan yards,” said Jacob Hargrove, a sophomore music and performance major from Memphis.

UT Martin students and alumni visited steel band rehearsals for the upcoming Panorama competition, as well as a rehearsal of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra of Trinidad and Tobago.

The group also participated in multiple master classes including topics on steelpan, tassa drumming, traditional bongo and limbo styles.

Stephen Weeks of the U.S. Embassy in Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad and Tobago, welcomed UT Martin students before their joint concert with students from University of Trinidad and Tobago.

“Having the chance to play with the UTT students was such an amazing experience. They were all incredible musicians, and I feel like we really blended well together,” Hargrove said.

The travel-study provided UT Martin students with real-world experience and an opportunity to learn about another culture.

“I have connections in Trinidad and Tobago now, and I’m more than grateful for that. Overall, it was just a wonderful learning experience, and I hope to visit Trinidad and Tobago again someday,” Hargrove said.

Other students who participated in the trip were Rachel Edwards of Medina, Patrick Hill of Trenton, Jenna Kirby of Nashville, Jacob Hargrove of Bartlett, Jennifer Hotz of Naperville, Ill., Cameron Westbrook of Nashville, Trice Mayhall of Kenton, Hohner Porter of Trenton, Colby Snider of Memphis, Nathaniel O’Neal of Smyrna, Cameron Poythress of Antioch, Peyton Scott of Newbern and Stephen Downing of Martin.

UTT students plan to visit UT Martin in August to complete the first round of the exchange.

For more information about the Percussion Studio or the exchange, contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair in the UT Martin Department of Music, at (731) 881-7418 or email jhill@utm.edu.
Nationwide search under way for UTM provost, vice chancellor

The University of Tennessee at Martin has begun a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, who has held the dual position since 2011, will return to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communications once a suitable candidate is found.

"Dr. Jerald Ogg has served as vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2007 and took on the added role of university provost in 2011," Chancellor Keith Carver said.

"UT Martin could not be more grateful for his service and dedication to this post, and I wish him well as he returns to the faculty in the Department of Communications. The person selected to follow him will have big shoes to fill, and we are dedicated to finding the right person to advance UT Martin's academic goals."

The vice chancellor for academic affairs is UT Martin's chief academic officer. This position articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university's core academic mission. The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor's absence.

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of parks management in the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, met for the first time recently to discuss the search process, timeline, position requirements and expectations for qualified candidates.

The committee includes UT Martin faculty, staff and student representation. Serving on the search committee with Smartt are Bob Bradley, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Chris Brown, professor of philosophy; Heidi Wisch, assistant professor; Paul Meek Library; Josh Diltz, Student Government Association president; Dr. Neill Gullett, professor of finance; Dr. Louis Kolitsch, professor of mathematics; Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement; Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Dr. Michele Merwin, professor of psychology; and Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, is serving as executive recruiter for this position.

The committee hopes to begin conducting interviews for this key leadership position in April.

For more information or to nominate a candidate or express interest, contact Czyz by email at aczyz@tennessee.edu.

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Clinical Medical Assistant program available at UTM-P

Community members seeking careers in the health-care field are encouraged to register for a 140-hour clinical medical assistant program offered from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturdays, March 18-Sept. 23 at the University of Tennessee Martin Parsons Center.

This program will train students to assist physicians by performing functions related to the clinical responsibilities of a medical office. Instruction includes preparing patients for examination and treatment, routine laboratory procedures, diagnostic testing, technical aspects of phlebotomy and the cardiac life cycle. Students will be eligible to sit for the National Healthcareer Association certified clinical medical assistant national examination upon successful completion of this program.

The registration fee for this course is $2,599 and includes textbooks and supplies.

A clinical externship opportunity at a local healthcare provider is also available to eligible students who complete the 140-hour program, submit to a thorough background check and drug screening, and meet other requirements.

For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Keeton awarded TCC scholarship

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) recently awarded a $1,000 scholarship to John Lawson Keeton of Bath Springs. John Lawson is a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) and is the son of Tim and Janet Keeton. John Lawson is a senior working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science and Veterinary Technology.

After graduation, John Lawson is planning to seek employment with a veterinary pharmaceutical sales company. He is currently employed at Keeton Sawmill in Bath Springs and is a member of Kappa Alpha Order, Collegiate FFA and Student Cattleman's Association at UTM. John Lawson's farm background includes backgrounding feeder calves, cow-calf operation and commercial lumber/crosstie production.

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 four 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 website at http://tennesseecouncilofcoops.org/

from left: Dr. Todd Winters (Dean of Agriculture at UTM), John Lawson Keeton, Rob Holland (Tennessee Council of Cooperatives Representative) and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn (Professor at UTM).
We’re living in a ‘transformational time,’ DiPietro says in state speech

UT President Joe DiPietro emphasized the University of Tennessee’s commitment to helping transform the state and its future during his second State of the University address Feb. 21 in Nashville.

“In fact, I believe that we are living in a transformational time,” DiPietro said before a crowd of legislators, alumni and friends at the Nashville Public Library. “One day, future generations of Tennesseans will look back at where we stand now as the moment when our state took a tremendous leap forward. And I’m very proud of the University of Tennessee’s role in that leap.”

Under Gov. Bill Haslam’s leadership, Tennessee has been nationally recognized for its emphasis on developing its workforce through education.

The university’s success in that role comes from the unity and strength of the entire system, DiPietro said. It stems from the diversity of thoughts and expression of its faculty and students and the creativity used to keep tuition affordable. And it affects all Tennesseans.

DiPietro noted that the university is woven into the fabric of the state, from the quality of UT students and the excellence of UT graduates to world-renowned research and UT outreach that impacts each of Tennessee’s 95 counties.

“We have a powerful brand, and an unmatched reputation for quality, flagship research and delivering outreach like nobody else. Period,” he said. “The state of your university is strong and united. We are one.”

Since the approval of the Complete College Tennessee Act in 2010, the university’s graduation rate has risen seven percent and the degrees awarded by 14 percent.

The university also has $435 million in research and sponsored projects, which is up eight percent from the 2015-16 fiscal year. Also, 46 percent of UT’s students graduate without debt.

DiPietro also acknowledged challenges, especially during this time of polarization in American life. In times of change, conversations can become strained and charged, DiPietro said as he called for the university community to remember the words of UT alumnus and late Sen. Howard Baker.

“If we cannot be civil to one another, and if we stop dealing with those with whom we disagree or that we don’t like, we would soon stop functioning altogether.”

Listening with an open mind and respect for different viewpoints within the university’s diverse body creates campus environments that make students feel welcome and valued, which leads to higher retention and graduation rates, he said.

“Because change has been involved in trying to fully create those kinds of environments at UT, there has been some tension,” he said, “I understand that. Navigating change can be challenging.”

By helping its almost 50,000 students achieve their full potential while fulfilling its mission benefiting all Tennesseans, UT creates a $4.6 billion impact on the state annually.

“The University of Tennessee is one of this state’s most powerful vehicles for advancing both its economic agenda and quality of life,” DiPietro said.

And the university plans to continue doing so from an even stronger financial footing in the future while keeping costs low for students.

The university has addressed its own economic challenges. DiPietro said, through the Budget Advisory Group he formed two years ago to look at ways to cut costs and increase revenues after he realized a projected annual funding shortfall of $377 million by 2025.

“I wasn’t going to kick the can down the road for the next president in this job. I wasn’t going to look outside the university for a solution. And I wasn’t going to allow tuition increases to be used to close the funding gap,” he said.

By the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year, the funding gap will have been reduced by almost $118 million. The savings came through increased efficiencies, cutting costs and unforeseen increases in state funding.

For the past two years, the university has kept tuition increases to three percent or less, which were the lowest in three decades. DiPietro said it will be three years in a row in 2017.

DiPietro also highlighted university achievements of the past 12 months:

- UT Knoxville is in the middle of a $1 billion campus makeover and had a record-breaking fundraising year.

- UT Chattanooga received top rankings among Southern master’s level universities and among Best Colleges for Veterans from U.S. News & World Report.

- UT Martin received its single-largest gift in school history to make it possible for the campus to build a much-needed science, technology, engineering and math building.

- UT Health Science Center launched the world’s most comprehensive Mobile Stroke Unit in Memphis, where stroke incidence is 37 percent higher than the national average.

- UT Institute of Agriculture assisted after wildfire ravaged Gatlinburg with everything from caring for 22 injured animals to coordinating donated food, supplies and $60,000 worth of gift cards.

- UT Institute for Public Service helped create or retain 14,278 jobs and generated $1.28 billion in economic impact.

Following the annual address, DiPietro presented the 2017 University of Tennessee President’s Awards, which recognize employees whose exceptional contributions have helped fulfill one of the university’s three mission focus areas: education, research and outreach, as well as one whose work supported those efforts.

The 2017 winners are:

- Educate – Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science and director of the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program and West Tennessee Animal Health Diagnostic Center.

- Discover – Dr. Guy Reed, the Lemuel Diggs Professor of Medicine and chair of the UT Health Science Center Department of Medicine.

- Connect – Dr. Christine Smith, director of the UT Chattanooga School of Nursing and Student Health Services Clinic.

- Support – Steve Butler, director of instructional technology services at UT Health Science Center.

DiPietro’s address, the awards presentation and the entire webcast are archived at tennessee.edu/state-of-ut/.
AWARD ENDOWED — Officers and charter members of the Martin Kiwanis Club joined University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver on Feb. 15 to celebrate the establishment of an endowment for the annual Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service. This award will honor students whose leadership and volunteer activities reflect the Kiwanis motto of "improving the world, one child and one community at a time." The $1,000 award will be administered by the UT Martin Office of Student Affairs with input from the Martin Kiwanis Club and the adviser of the UT Martin Circle K Club. Eligible students must have at least sophomore standing; a minimum GPA of 3.00; have been either an Eagle Scout, Gold Girl Scout or an active member of the Key Club or Circle K Club; and have completed a major service project. The first award is anticipated to be given during the 2018 academic year, which will mark the golden anniversary of the Martin Kiwanis Club. Dr. S. K. Airee, longtime professor of chemistry at UT Martin, and his wife, Shashi, made the initial contribution to the endowment. Additional contributions can be made by contacting the UT Martin Office of University Development. Pictured are (seated, from left) Shashi Airee; Dr. S. K. Airee, Kiwanis charter member; Dr. Jim Clark, chapter president; (standing) Dr. Clinton Smith, chapter secretary and Circle K adviser; Dr. Otha Briton, governor-elect for the Louisiana-Mississippi-Tennessee Kiwanis district; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Harry Henderson, charter member; and Steve Lemond, chapter treasurer.
SPRING IS COMING — The Trinity Patch is Martin is offering garden plots for fruits, vegetables and flowers.

Garden plots available for spring at Trinity Patch

Practicing the art of gardening leads to learning how to grow fresh vegetables, cultivates better health for families, and improves quality of life. In Martin, the Trinity Patch Community Garden has rich, fertile soil, where chemical-free produce grows, such as sweet peppers, juicy tomatoes, garlic, leeks, savory herbs, bright red strawberries, and blueberries, all in abundance. Butterflies entertain children. Glorious sunflowers attract finches; it's a veritable paradise for those who love nature and enjoy fresh produce. For a few hours a week, garden members tend their plots and reap the rewards of fresh, delicious, locally grown food throughout the growing season.

The Trinity Patch, located near UTM's campus on 145 Hannings Lane by the Trinity Presbyterian Church, has plots available this garden season on a first come basis. Learn more this Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church and bring your seeds for a community seed swap. Contact rclast@yahoo.com or visit the UT-Martin Growing Gardens facebook page for more information. Please reserve your place in the garden today and grow with your neighbors.
Photography course to be offered

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an introductory course offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Mondays, March 13-27, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dr. Tom Gallien, course instructor, will provide clear concise explanations to help students take control of their digital cameras.

Participants will learn about the various camera functions and how to use them to take better pictures.

The registration fee for this course is $99 per person. Students are required to bring their cameras and their associated instruction manuals to class.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

Swoape attends Junior/Senior Day at UT Martin

by KIM SWINDELL WOOD | February 23, 2017 6:17 AM

Logan Swoape (center, right), of Sparta, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Junior/Senior Day on Feb. 20. This event allows prospective students to meet with professors and students in their chosen major, experience college life inside the classroom and tour the UT Martin campus. Swoape, a senior at White County High School, is pictured with family members (l-r) Ethan, Tonya and Scott Swoape. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will be home to an official branch of the “Call me MiSTER” program beginning with the fall 2017 semester. Applications are being accepted for the first cohort and will be considered until the program is full.

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.

“MiSTER” stands for “Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models,” and the program is geared toward future teachers from under-served, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and educationally at-risk communities. Program participants are provided with UTM tuition assistance and room and board.

Applicants must be Tennessee residents and be accepted to UTM and enrolled to study early childhood education, special education, or middle grades education. Students must also have a composite ACT score of at least 21, be eligible for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship Program, and complete an application process.

MiSTER Scholars are required to live on campus with fellow program participants as part of the “Call Me MiSTER” living-learning community and maintain a minimum 2.75 overall GPA and a full-time course load. Program graduates are also required to teach one year in a Tennessee public school for each year of assistance provided by the “Call Me MiSTER” program.

“Education is perhaps the most powerful and transformative tool that we have at our disposal,” said Dr. Louis Glover, program director and professor of curriculum and instruction. “My belief is that teachers can truly change the world through their daily interactions with the next generation of leaders within their classrooms. Years later, I can still remember the impact that certain teachers had not only upon my retention of the subject matter being taught, but also upon my worldview.”

UTM is the first and only chartered provider of the “Call me MiSTER” program in Tennessee. A complete list of required application materials can be found at utm.edu/departments/mister.

For more information, contact the UTM College of Education at 731-881-7125 or cwes@utm.edu.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s undergraduate program in general agriculture has been recognized on a national scale, according to a recently released ranking.

CollegeFactual.com recognized UTM as a top-five school nationally for veterans wishing to pursue a degree in general agriculture. UTM is ranked fourth on this national list and first in the state of Tennessee. This is the second consecutive year that UTM has topped the statewide ranking in agriculture.

According to the ranking website, “These rankings were developed to highlight schools that offer quality outcomes in a specific major while also offering support and resources to help veterans and active-duty military students thrive.”

Due to veteran-friendly programs like the undergraduate general agriculture program, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected UTM as one of six institutions to receive funding through the 2016 Veteran Reconnect program in the fall of 2016. A dedicated veterans’ services coordinator is the first of many new resources available to student veterans.

The new veterans’ service coordinator is part of the UTM Student Success Center and will provide student veterans with a one-stop-shop to address financial aid questions, academic credits, and other concerns. UTM currently accepts military credits in place of related academic credits, and applies GI Bill funds toward the cost of education.

“We have been looking at ways to serve our veterans better, and this grant has opened up many doors for us to provide more services,” said Director Janet Wilbert of the UTM Student Success Center. “This person pulls existing resources together and makes it much easier for our veterans to be successful, and also makes connections statewide to ensure that UTM has access to all the newest and finest resources for our veterans, including resources in student health and mental health counseling.”

In addition to the general agriculture program, several UTM graduate and undergraduate programs, both online and on campus, are ranked for quality at the regional and national levels. For more information about well-ranked programs, contact UTM at 731-881-7615. For more information on the Veterans Reconnect Grant and related services, call 731-881-1688.

Donna Vick, of Benton County, has been accepted as a member of the 2017 class of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program. The 2017 class is the 28th in program history.

Vick is development manager for the West of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, and currently serves on the Benton County School Health Advisory Council. She is the mission chair for Camden First United Methodist Church, and was the recipient of the 2005 Benton County Business and Professional Woman of the Year Award.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 768 graduates to date, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. For more information about WestStar, contact Program Coordinator Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu.
RACHEL GREAR, of Ripley, is a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2017 class. She is the marketing officer of the Bank of Ripley and currently serves on the Relay for Life of Lauderdale County Committee, Community Pre-K Advisory Council and various committees within the Bank of Ripley. Grear is a Leadership Lauderdale graduate and a past recipient of the Ripley Rotary Club’s Citizen of the Year Award and Relay for Life of Lauderdale County MVP Award.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

UT Martin names local students to honor roll

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at the University of Tennessee at Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2, or B, grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can make the honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

FROM BUCHANAN
William A. Boyd, honors.

FROM COTTAGE GROVE
Katelin D. Brown, high honors; Lillie K. Akers and Coltin D. Wyrick, honors.

FROM HENRY
Kayla R. Hargrove, highest honors; Abigail N. Conger, high honors; Olivia J. Mayoza, honors.

FROM PARIS

FROM PURYEAR
James D. Wilson, highest honors; Allison M. Evans and Jacob R. McElroy, high honors; Justin L. McElroy, honors.

FROM SPRINGVILLE
Morgan D. Swor, highest honors; Margaret E. Fuson, Kara D. Hoskins and Shelby L. Susewitt, high honors.
From left, Cole Joyner, Cole Edrington and Bryar Naumann, all juniors at Munford High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Junior/Senior Day on Feb. 20. This event allows prospective students to meet with professors and students in their chosen major, experience college life inside the classroom and tour the UT Martin campus. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
University of Tennessee keeping America safe

Yearly event boosts legislative awareness

THE JACKSON SUN

When it comes to keeping America safe, the University of Tennessee is doing its part.

From working on nuclear security to operating a regional biocontainment laboratory to active-shooter response training and more, the university plays a significant role in public safety with projects that span across campuses.

On Wednesday, students and faculty shared that sentiment at the 11th annual UT Day on the Hill in Nashville. The yearly event is intended to boost legislative awareness of the work students and entities across the UT System do in relation to its mission to educate, discover and connect.

Rebecca Beebe, a junior nursing major at UT Chattanooga, said her participation in the ROTC program has helped her with the nursing program’s competitive entry and her future career serving in the nation’s military.

“The Army gives me so many opportunities to get training in the medical field,” she said. “You can pair up with an officer who is already an Army nurse, so you get more field training than simply in the nursing program.”

Carey Whitworth, UT director of advocacy, said she believes such students’ stories demonstrate a return on investment of state dollars.

* At UT Knoxville, the Institute of Nuclear Security with Howard Hall, Governor’s Chair for Global Nuclear Security, developed mobile radiation technology, which helps guard against radioactive threats. The SimCenter at UT Chattanooga has worked on multiple projects in aerospace and weapons design for federal agencies and industrial companies.

* UT scientists research biodefense and emerging infectious diseases at UT Health Science Center’s Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, one of only 12 such facilities nationwide.

* UT Martin is one of just three partners of the American Security Project, which immerses select students in national security policy analysis and research.

* The UT Institute of Agriculture’s Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness works to protect the nation’s food supply from terrorist threats and promotes safe food production.

* The Institute for Public Service’s Law Enforcement Innovation Center is responding to increased requests for active shooter response training, which is offered for both law enforcement personnel and businesses.

* A $1 million investment by the state of Tennessee is helping the UT Space Institute build a new Mach 4 wind tunnel, which will be among the largest high-speed tunnels in universities and is critical to researching hypersonic systems — those that travel more than five times the speed of sound. Hypersonic systems play a vital role in national defense and future space access.

“Aerospace defense is increasingly important in the state of Tennessee. It’s the fourth largest driver in Tennessee’s economy. UTSpace is gearing up to support the state with new discoveries and innovative technologies that will ensure that aerospace defense will flourish in Tennessee,” said John Schmisser, H. H. Arnold Chair in Computational Fluid Dynamics and B. H. Goethert Professor with the UT Space Institute.

The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis.
Jerry Reese looked out over a crowd of about 125 athletes from North Side High School on Friday, after speaking to them on the aspects of being great, and opened the forum up for questions.

The general manager of the New York Giants was asked a variety of questions from, “Can I have one of your Super Bowl rings?” to “Why did you let Victor Cruz go?” to “What’s the hardest decision you’ve ever made?”

“We’ve got some Giants fans in the room,” Reese said when asked about specific personnel issues on a couple occasions.

Reese answered each question with thoughtfulness and tact usually used by someone in a high profile position, like the general manager of one of the more successful franchises in the NFL.

Reese had just told the students his story of ascending from an athlete born and raised in Tiptonville, to leading the Lake County football team, to a state championship and being recruited for college football. He told about playing at UT Martin and becoming a graduate assistant coach for the program before eventually becoming the assistant head coach.

His career path made a sharp turn when he was approached by a former coworker who was with the Giants about becoming a scout for the organization in the southeastern part of the country.

See Reese, Page 4A
"I didn't want to take it because I was set to become the next head coach at UTM, and that was my plan," Reese said. "But my wife and I prayed about it and discussed it, and took the leap just to see what would happen."

Reese would move up through the organization over the next 13 years and become the general manager in 2007. The Giants knocked off the previously undefeated New England Patriots in the Super Bowl in his first season in charge. The Giants have won another Super Bowl since.

After telling his story, Reese shared four aspects that lead to greatness in his opinion: attitude, respect, effort and gratitude.

"Each of those traits are needed because you won't be great without the right attitude, right amount of respect for others, giving effort and being grateful for what you've been given," Reese said.

He comes home to West Tennessee two or three times a year, Reese said. He enjoys fishing and hunting, and that tends to happen when he visits his family in Lake County.

"I always love to come here for a few days and decompress a little," Reese said. "I plan to do that this weekend, too, while I'm in the area."

"But I'm glad to be here because I'm glad to share my story with the next generation. What I shared with them today isn't what I've heard. It's what I know because of my own experience. If my experience can help someone succeed later in life, I'm glad to have a small part in that."

Brandon Shields can be reached at (731) 425-9751 or at bjshields@jacksonsun.com. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon.

Connecting with millennials
UT Martin REED Center to host workshop

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a public workshop on connecting with millennials in the workplace from 6-8 p.m. March 7 at the center.

This workshop, taught by Dr. Sean Walker, associate professor of management at UT Martin, will address generational attrition in the workplace and new situations that may arise when working with millennials. Walker will provide practical solutions for bridging the generation gap and managing situations in a way that will foster a positive work environment.

Walker holds both master's and doctoral degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and his primary teaching areas assess the impact of psychological phenomena on human resources and organizational behavior.

There is no fee to attend this workshop, but pre-registration is required to reserve a seat. Contact the UT Martin REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or visit tsbdc.org/utm to register. The UT Martin REED Center is located at 406 South Lindell St. in Martin, next to the police station.
Two UTM Performances Tonight

Posted on February 28, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News.

Whether you're a theatre or a music fan, UT Martin has it covered with two shows in each performing arts field tonight.

The UT Martin Wind Ensemble begins the evening with a collaborative concert in cooperation with the Westview High School band at 7:30 in the Westview gym.

The Westview band will open the show during the first half of the concert, while the UTM Wind Ensemble will perform two selections from contemporary composer John Mackey to close out the show.

This music concert in Martin is free.

Meanwhile, the UTM Vanguard Theatre presents the final performance of “The Realistic Joneses” at 8 in the Fine Arts Building.

This dark comedy by playwright Will Eno introduces two suburban couples who share the same last name, but have much more in common.

Tickets for the theatre performance are $5 for students and children, while it costs $15 for adults to see the show.
Tennessee Soybean Festival garners six regional awards

The Tennessee Soybean Festival, held each year in Martin since 1992, walked away with a plateful of awards at the Southeast Festival and Events Association banquet held recently in Lexington, Ky.

The festival won gold medals for Magical Martin Day, best children’s programming; Tyson Foods, best vendor/supplier; and Bare Necessities of Making Music, best creative idea.

A silver award went to Suzanne Harper for best volunteer.

Bringing in the bronze were the festival t-shirt as well as the TN Soybean Promotion Board for best sponsor.

Brad Thompson, director of economic and community development for the City of Martin, and David Belote, 2016 festival executive director, were on hand to accept the awards.

“There was stiff competition this year, and we are honored to be recognized in the Southeast Region as an award-winning festival,” Thompson said. “We do it for the smiles, laughter, children, sparkle, and overall celebration of community. We are thankful for the volunteers, sponsors, and community support for 24 great years. These awards are yours!”

The Tennessee Soybean Festival is a week of activities based primarily in Historic Downtown Martin, with events as wide-ranging as rodeos, tractor pulls, music concerts, a midway and many events specifically geared toward children. It is co-sponsored by the City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin, along with dozens of smaller sponsors.

The soybean plays an important role in the local farming economy, and its versatility is virtually unmatched for a row crop.

The best and brightest were spotlighted this week at the Southeast Festivals and Events Association’s Kaleidoscope Awards, in Lexington, Ky., on Feb. 21.

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The ceremony was held in conjunction with the 14th Annual SFEA Conference. Top festivals and events throughout the southeast were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the events industry.

"The quality of submissions continues to increase each year making it more difficult for the judges to select the winners," noted Brenda Pierce, executive director for SFEA. "Of course, to 'win gold' becomes all the sweeter when there is additional competition and the recognition a festival receives for winning is priceless."

The name "kaleidoscope" was selected due to the colors in the logo image that represent the many different elements and facets within festivals and events. A call for entries was posted last fall and all southeast festivals and events were encouraged to participate. A panel of experts in event planning, marketing and tourism spent an entire day reviewing the entries from five states. The judges looked for originality, creativity, media impact, volunteer programs, and the overall impact to the community. The categories, in which one can win recognition, are also diverse, ranging from Best Marketing Campaign to Best T-Shirt to Best Festival or Event.

The Kaleidoscope Awards were sponsored by Classic Tents & Events, Norcross, GA and Pit Stop Sanitation Services, Marietta, GA. Classic Tents' representative Karen Alcock and Pit Stop representative Terri Wigley presented the awards to the winners.

The Southeast Festivals & Events Association is a 501(c)6 membership based organization comprised of festival and event planners, venues, and industry service providers. SFEA was founded in 2009 to strengthen the festival and event industry throughout the southeast United States by hosting educational sessions, networking opportunities, award recognition, and additional events throughout the year; thus allowing for continued professional growth within the festivals and events industry.

AWARD WINNER — The Tennessee Soybean Festival features activities for people of all ages.  
Photo by Christel Laney
Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant planned for Saturday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant on Saturday at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the campus of the UT-Martin.

The pageant is open to all girls, ages birth-20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only. Doors open at noon with pageants as follows: birth-12 months at 1 p.m., 1-3 years old at 1:30, 4-6 years old at 2 p.m., 7-9 years old at 2:30, 10-12 years old at 3 p.m., 13-15 years old at 3:30, and 16-20 years old at 4 p.m.

Registration is at the door only, $25 for beauty only, with side categories available for additional cost. Winner of the 16-20 age division is required to participate in UTM Rodeo Week activities and is eligible to compete in Territorial Queens Review/Strawberry Festival. Junior, Teen and Miss Division Queens will be recognized at UTM Rodeo Performances April 6, 7 and 8.

For more information, call [phone number].

SANTA'S HELPERS — Every Christmas is a special time for the Omicron Chapter of the International Honoray Teacher Organization Alpha Delta Kappa. Each year, the Omicron Chapter provides Christmas for several children of Weakley County. Participating were (front row, from left) Lauren Baker, scholarship recipient; Lisa LeBleu, UT-Martin professor and entertainer for the group; Glenda Graves and Pam Graves; (back) Teresa Collard, UTM professor; Mary Baker, guest; Betty Nan Carroll, Omicron co-president; Katana Hawks, past Omicron president; Janice Oliver, West Tennessee vice president; Barbara Barber; and Peggy Morgan, co-president.
Local Residents Accepted Into Weststar Leadership

MARTIN — Charley Brown and Elizabeth Russell Owen, both of Carroll County, are members of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s 2017 class.

Brown is the information technology specialist for the Southwest Tennessee Development District in Jackson. He also owns and operates a small business, Brown’s Brawny Beard Co., with the support of his wife, Janna. He is a UT Martin graduate with a Bachelor of Science in management information systems. Brown is an active volunteer for the Carroll County Humane Society, Selmer Senior Center, Tennessee Special Olympics and the Chester County Senior Center. He received the Selmer Senior Center Partner of the Year Award in 2012 and Volunteer Service Award in 2014.

Owen is a certified public accountant with Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC. She is a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. Boasting 788 graduates to date, WestStar continues to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. The 2017 class is the 28th in program history.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7396 or by e-mail at vgrimes@utm.edu.