UT Martin greeks learn some step moves at "Greekfest"

February 1, 2019 by Brittany Kyles (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/brittanykyles/)

MARTIN, Tenn.—2019 ‘GreekFest’ is a long time tradition for fraternities and sororities at UT Martin.

With Friday’s event falling on the first day in Black History Month, some Greeks got the chance to learn stepping from African American fraternities and sororities.

“It actually stems, its an African tradition, that African American fraternities and sororities adopted,” said Anthony Pruitt, Coordinator of GreekFest.

“Acknowledge the impact that our black fraternities and sororities are having on mainstream society,” Pruitt said.

One coach from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. said he coached a sorority and made sure to include every aspect of what they represent.

“Traditional stepping is more rigid, so we tried to mix the feminine with the masculine, and make it into one nice show where we could hit every nice aspect of the stepping,” said Logan Golden of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Keithon Currie of Phi Beta Sigma has been a coach for years and said he’s teaching skills have gotten better and better.

“I take at least a week if not a week and a half to really enforce, and teach the techniques behind everything,” said Keithon Currie of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

With all the practicing out of the way, attendees filled the seats for the show.

Steppers with the best moves received awards for First, Second and Best in Show.

Organizers say Friday night’s show was a sold out event.
MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin offers a variety of financial aid and academic assistance options for military service members transitioning into a college atmosphere.

The UT Martin Office of Veteran Services provides each enrolled service member with counseling regarding their federal veteran's affairs benefits, guidance regarding financial aid opportunities, academic counseling and connection to other available campus resources. The Skyhawk Veteran's Association also connects service members with other student veterans who can share their collegiate experience and understand their transition.

"UTM is very veteran friendly, and I have not met anyone yet that would not do what they could to help if you are ever in need," said Michael Johnson, a sophomore currently living in Greenfield. Johnson served as a sergeant in the 188th Steel Eagles Battalion at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, before returning to West Tennessee.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission awarded UT Martin a 2018 Veteran Reconnect Grant to improve prior learning assessments for service members. This assessment process examines a veteran's military training and grants equivalent college credit for skills obtained during service, potentially allowing student veterans to complete their degrees faster. As a result, all student veterans have the opportunity to submit military training credits for standardized review toward their current degree program.

In addition, UT Martin also offers assistance through the statewide Tennessee STRONG Act, made official by the Tennessee General Assembly in May 2017. The act provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees. This additional assistance is used to fill any gaps the service member may experience in the cost of his or her education and supports former Gov. Bill Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative.
For more information on financial aid opportunities, prior learning assessments or special programs for military service members or their dependents, visit utm.edu/veteranaffairs or contact Johnny Dyer, veteran services coordinator, at jdyer@utm.edu or 731-881-1689.

PHOTO: UT Martin ROTC cadets display an American flag on the field at Hardy Graham Stadium during the veterans' recognition football game in 2016. This event is held each year in November.
Henry County woman to work at Super Bowl

BY CASSIE WALSH
POST-INTELLIGENCER

A Henry County woman will be one of several students from the University of Tennessee at Martin who will work alongside hospitality management at the Super Bowl on Sunday in Atlanta.

Victoria Page from Henry is one of 12 students from UT Martin who will be working at the game between the Los Angeles Rams and New England Patriots.

"There are so many learning opportunities that you try not to blink, so you don't miss anything," said Page.

Page, a finance major and accounting minor, has been learning about all of the various ins and outs of working at one of the biggest sporting events of the year.

"We worked the media party and I was surprised at all of the various media outlets from all over the world who have come to town for the Super Bowl," said Page.

"This week, we're learning about marketing and how to be more personable and interact with professionals." On Sunday, students will have the opportunity to work with On Location Experiences, the National Football League's premium hospitality business, where they will serve as talent concierges. That role will include coordinating player appearances, escorting players between venues and helping with on-field activities. Throughout the week, students have been assisting with Super Bowl Live and been on call for the Local Organizing Committee.

"We are learning about event production and how to make events run smoothly," said Page. "Some nights we're outside, freezing while directing people to where they need to be and some nights we are working directly with NFL players and people in the Hall of Fame."

"For many of these kids it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Dexter Davis, UT Martin associate professor of sports management. "It's also a powerful brand to have on your resume. They can legitimately say that they have worked for one of the most valuable brands in the world at the largest single-day sporting event in the world."

Davis has taken students from the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs to the Super Bowl for the past five years. This is the sixth group of UTM students who will work the event.

"The group of students left on Monday and during the week they have been able to attend a symposium led by NFL executives on the Super Bowl planning team, meet with executives from the Atlanta Braves baseball team, tour the Atlanta Hawks' facilities and attend a Georgia Tech basketball game while in the Atlanta area."

Page said this was her first time in Atlanta and that it was pretty cool when they got to take a tour of the Braves' stadium, SunTrust Park. She also enjoyed hearing from a former Braves general manager about how he got started in the business through hard work and determination.

"It has been an exponential learning experience in Atlanta. There were a lot of students who applied for the opportunity to work at the Super Bowl and if it wasn't for my family and friends encouraging me, I might not have applied," said Page. "I'm really grateful for all of their support and that they talked me into applying."

Page said the group expects to work about 18 hours on game day helping host both the pre- and post-Super Bowl parties along with working during the game itself.

"This has been an unbelievable experience so far. It's great that in the future you will be able to put on your resume that you worked for the NFL during the Super Bowl," she said.

Page, the daughter of Jeff Page and Terri Clark of Henry, is a junior at UTM. She graduated from Henry County High School in 2016.
Victoria Page, a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin who is from Henry, is working alongside hospitality management during Super Bowl week in Atlanta.

Local teacher graduates from UTM WestTeach program

A local teacher graduated from the WestTeach Program on Tuesday. Christy Buckelew, a teacher at Paris Elementary School, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestTeach Program during a banquet that was held on Tuesday at the Madison Downs Venue in Jackson.

WestTeach is a teacher development program that was created as a class project by the WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2017. Members of WestTeach participated in four sessions on West Tennessee agriculture, the humanity of leadership, creating partnerships for economic development and building communities. Members of the 2017 WestStar class have also remained engaged with the new program.
CUPS FOR THE CURE — The 3rd Annual Cups for the Cure drew more than 200 supporters of the cancer research fundraiser and raised $4,500 to date. David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, and his students crafted 400 cups and members of First Methodist and The Wesley Foundation, where the event was held on Saturday afternoon, provided sweet treats. McBeth is firing another 50 cups this week to meet the requests from out-of-town supporters. The funds will benefit the local Anna Kate Wenz Fight Foundation and the Joliet Oncology and Hematology Association, both groups that treated McBeth's mother whose cancer journey inspired the event. "We never know when disease is going to strike us, our family or neighbors. It is wonderful to see the community come together to support this project! I am deeply touched to see caring and compassion so actively demonstrated," McBeth said.

Three generations who were part of the overflow crowd Saturday (from left) Lynsey McLaughlin of Nashville; her mother, Cindy Kennon of Jackson, formerly of Martin; and grandmother Lois Freeman of Martin said they have attended the UTM's Empty Bowl fundraisers in the past but this was their first Cups event.
Dr. Deal named new ED at UTM

Dr. Charley Deal has been named executive director of research, outreach and economic development at the University of Tennessee at Martin, effective Feb. 1, 2019. UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver made the announcement Jan. 30 after conducting a national search for qualified candidates.

"After spending 14 years as associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving and a year as interim director of research, grants and contracts, I feel Dr. Deal has a unique blend of knowledge and experience to keep UT Martin moving forward in this new position. He has a special touch with both the campus and external communities, including donors and legislators, and I am confident he will be able to help us make an even greater, positive impact on our city, our region and our state in the years to come," said Carver.

Deal, currently serving as special adviser to the chancellor and interim director of research, grants and contracts, will lead the newly created Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development. This new position reports directly to Carver and works closely with the UT System’s Office of Government Relations and Advocacy in support of state and regional relationships. Deal will also be responsible for oversight and compliance of university-sponsored programs, and the promotion and coordination of outreach activities including non-degree programs. He has worked at UT Martin since 1992 and served in the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving from 2004-2018, moving from assistant to associate vice chancellor. Deal serves as executive director of the university’s regional WestStar Leadership Program. He holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from UT Martin and a doctoral degree in learning and leadership from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He received one of four University of Tennessee President’s Awards in 2018 and was the only UT Martin nominee to be recognized that year.

“I am truly excited about the opportunity to build upon our university’s success in research and outreach and lead our efforts to expand economic development opportunities across West Tennessee,” said Deal.

“As part of the university’s strategic plan, we want to be West Tennessee’s university of choice for problem-solving programs and opportunities for personal growth. I am grateful to Chancellor Carver and the search committee for providing me this opportunity.”

Dr. Phillip Acree Cavalier, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, served as chair of the search committee, which included representation from UT Martin faculty and staff as well as an outside representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Committee members were Harriet Cannon, assistant to the state director and administrative programs director for the USDA (retired); Dr. John Oelrich, director of bands and associate professor of music; Dr. Kelli Deere, director of the UT Martin Parsons Center; Landy Fuqua, director of the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center; Dr. Mark McCloud, director of the Office of Career Planning and Development; and Dr. Rachna Tewari, associate professor of agricultural economics.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
BRIDGE DEDICATED FOR AMERICAN HERO — U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Brent Morel was killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom April 7, 2004. Morel was a native of Martin. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for putting his life on the line that day for his platoon that also saw four servicemen receive Silver Stars. Working with the help of State Rep. Andy Holt (left), Brent’s mother Molly and father Mike were able to dedicate a bridge located on University Street across from the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway in Morel’s memory. A gathering of friends, family and supporters were on hand Friday during the bridge dedication ceremony. Morel was described as one who led from the front.

PEABODY TEACHER GRADUATES WESTTEACH PROGRAM — Franky Hodges (left), a teacher at Peabody High School, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestTeach Program during a banquet Jan. 29 at the Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2017. WestTeach members participated in four sessions on West Tennessee agriculture, the humanity of leadership, creating partnerships for economic development and building communities. Members of the 2017 WestStar class have remained engaged with the new program. Hodges is pictured with Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. For more information about WestTeach or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Reece earns academic honors at UT Martin

Feb 6, 2019

MARTIN, Tenn. — Kathryn J. Reece of Louisburg has been named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll with Highest Honors at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The university recently released the fall 2018 Chancellor's Honor Rolls, and Reece earned the highest academic honors by having a grade point average between 3.8 and 4.0.

To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit, according to a news release.
LC students participate in honor bands

Feb 6, 2019

Lincoln County students participating in the annual Tri-Lakes Band Directors Association Clinic Honor Band held at Harris Middle School in Shelbyville are (front, from left) Isabella Henson, senior percussion; Daniel Pogue, sophomore trumpet; Baleigh Young, junior flute; (rear) Thomas Womack, junior trombone; James Winland, senior trombone; Cameron Niemi, junior trombone; and April Rigsby, junior trumpet.

Students from Lincoln County High School and Blanche Elementary applied to be accepted into the 40th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band in the fall with seven local students accepted.

Musicians accepted were Barbie Haley, senior trumpet; Kanin Corbin, junior French horn; Taylor Slayton, sophomore tuba; Michael Morales, sophomore percussion; Evelyn Warden, freshman saxophone; Wyatt Lozier, eighth grade trumpet; and Karson Smith, eighth grade baritone sax.

Students left early on Thursday morning to travel to Martin to audition for chair placements. All LCHS students placed in the first or second chair of their respective ensemble, and Wyatt Lozier of Blanche placed fifth out of 20 chairs in the junior high band. Unfortunately, Kanin Corbin and Karson Smith were unable to attend.
Students were able to study with university faculty and guest clinicians, such as Dr. Scott Jones (Ohio University), Joel Denton (former Ooltewah director of bands) and John Oelrich (UTM director of bands) and composers CJ Barrow, Josh Spaulding, Aaron Perrine and Derek Jenkins.

This honor band was a special occasion as it was the 40th anniversary of the event. To mark the special occasion, UT Martin commissioned four new pieces to premier by each band during the event. Students were also afforded the incredible opportunity to meet and speak with the composer of each of the new pieces. On Saturday, each band performed a concert and debuted these new works.

The live stream is available on the Facebook page, "LCHS Falcon Band", or at "UTM Music".

"I am a very proud director," said Johnathan Johnson, LCHS director of bands. "They worked very hard and definitely made a huge impression and represented Lincoln County incredibly well. A special thanks to the LCHS Band Boosters, Lincoln County Department of Education, Mrs. Renee Pryor and Dr. Bill Heath for helping these students get to this great event."

That same weekend, local students participated in the annual Tri-Lakes Band Directors Association Clinic Honor Band held at Harris Middle School in Shelbyville. Students participating were Thomas Womack, junior trombone; James Winland, senior trombone; Cameron Niemi, junior trombone; April Rigsby, junior trumpet; Isabella Henson, senior percussion; Daniel Pogue, sophomore trumpet; and Baleigh Young, junior flute.

"This event was hosted by Harris Middle director Greg Napper and brought in great clinicians, such as Jeff Beckman and Billy Bateman," Johnson explained. "Students rehearsed on Friday night and Saturday morning and gave a fantastic performance Saturday evening."

The next Tri-Lakes event will be held on March 1-2 at Lincoln County High School. Some 15 Bands from the southern Middle Tennessee region will perform for an adjudicator and will workshop with a clinician and receive a rating. These concerts are free and open to the public. A schedule and more info will be available soon.
CUPS FOR CURE — The third annual Cups for the Cure, a cancer research fundraiser, was held Saturday in Martin and drew more than 200 supporters, including (from left) University of Tennessee at Martin student Stella Preuett, who is from Obion County, and Union City residents Paige Waites, Sarah Middlebrook and Sara Mathis. Co-hosted by the UTM Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and The Wesley Foundation, the event raised $4,500 for cancer research. UTM professor of art David McBeth and his students crafted 400 cups and members of First Methodist and The Wesley Foundation provided sweet treats. McBeth is firing another 50 cups this week to meet the requests from out-of-town supporters. The funds will benefit the Anna Kate Wenz Fight Foundation and the Joliet Oncology and Hematology Association, both groups that treated McBeth's mother, whose cancer journey inspired the event. "We never know when disease is going to strike us, our family or neighbors. It is wonderful to see the community come together to support this project. I am deeply touched to see caring and compassion so actively demonstrated," McBeth said.
Science author to keynote UTM conference

Best-selling science author Sam Kean will speak at 7 p.m. Friday in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Watkins Auditorium as part of the 51st annual Southeastern Undergraduate Research Conference.

UT Martin will host the conference Friday and Saturday, and Kean will be the keynote speaker. His presentation is free and open to the public.

Kean is the author of four science-based books including “The Disappearing Spoon,” which will be the subject of his conference presentation.

Kean’s books discuss the ways science and the elements of nature have influenced noteworthy people and historic events throughout history. “The Disappearing Spoon” will be available for purchase through the UT Martin Barnes and Noble Bookstore, and Kean will sign copies in the Boling University Center Welcome Center following his presentation.

Kean’s work has appeared in The Best American Science and Nature Writing, The New Yorker, The Atlantic and The New York Times Magazine, among other publications. He has also been featured on National Public Radio’s “Radiolab,” “Science Friday” and “All Things Considered,” among other broadcasts.

Kean’s appearance is co-sponsored by the UT Martin Paul Meek Library and Honors Programs, and the conference is coordinated by the Department of Chemistry and Physics. For more information, contact Dr. Robbie Montgomery, interim department chair, at rmontgomery@utm.edu.

Italian speaker returning to UT Martin

Luca Bonomi, president of the Società Dante Alighieri in Siena, Italy, will return to the University of Tennessee at Martin after hosting UT Martin students at his school during a fall 2018 Italian study-abroad program.

Bonomi will discuss the importance of female characters in 19th century Italian opera and the history of Italian opera in Siena, a multinational school of language, culture and gastronomy. The school hosted 20 UT Martin students in an extended study-abroad program this past fall.

Bonomi will also meet with university officials and faculty during his visit to discuss the future of the study-abroad program in Siena and throughout Italy. UT Martin will send another group of students to participate in the program this fall.

For more information on Bonomi’s visit or travel opportunities to the Società Dante Alighieri, contact Dr. Joseph Ostenson, associate professor of psychology, at (731) 881-7542 or email jostenso@utm.edu.

TEACHER GRADUATES — Beth McManus, a teacher at Union City High School, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestTeach Program during a banquet recently held at the Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. She was joined by Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2017. WestTeach members participated in four sessions on West Tennessee agriculture, the humanity of leadership, creating partnerships for economic development and building communities.
**UT Martin’s Dr. Deal chosen as new director**

Dr. Charley Deal has been named executive director of research, outreach and economic development at the University of Tennessee at Martin, effective Feb. 1. UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver made the announcement Jan. 30 after conducting a national search for qualified candidates. "After spending 14 years as associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving and a year as interim director of research, grants and contracts, I feel Dr. Deal has a unique blend of knowledge and experience to keep UT Martin moving forward in this new position. He has a special touch with both the campus and external communities, including donors and legislators, and I am confident he will be able to help us make an even greater, positive impact on our city, our region and our state in the years to come," Carver said.

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**Student veterans offered options**

The University of Tennessee at Martin offers a variety of financial aid and academic assistance options for military service members transitioning into a college atmosphere.

The UT Martin Office of Veteran Services provides each enrolled service member with counseling regarding their federal veteran’s affairs benefits, guidance regarding financial aid opportunities, academic counseling and connection to other available campus resources.

The Skyhawk Veteran’s Association also connects service members with other student veterans who can share their collegiate experience and understand their transition.

"UTM is very veteran friendly, and I have not met anyone yet that would not do what they could to help if you are ever in need," said Michael Johnson, a sophomore currently living in Greenfield.

Johnson served as a sergeant in the 188th Steel Eagles Battalion at Ft. Bragg, N.C., before returning to West Tennessee.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission designated UT Martin a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus in 2017 in recognition of the university’s dedication to allocating resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

In addition, UT Martin also offers assistance through the statewide Tennessee STRONG Act, made official by the Tennessee General Assembly in May 2017. The act provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees. This additional assistance is used to fill any gaps the service member may experience in the cost of his or her education and supports former Gov. Bill Haslam’s Drive to 55 initiative.

For more information on financial aid opportunities, prior learning assessments or special programs for military service members or their dependents, visit utm.edu/veteranaffairs or contact Johnny Dyer, veterans services coordinator, at jdyer@utm.edu or (731) 881-1689.
Italian Speaker Returns To UTM Campus Feb. 12

Luca Bonomi, president of the Società Dante Alighieri in Siena, Italy, will return to the University of Tennessee at Martin after hosting UT Martin students at his school during a fall 2018 Italian study-abroad program. Bonomi will discuss the importance of female characters in 19th century Italian opera beginning at 6 p.m., Feb. 12, in room 117 of Gooch Hall.

The presentation will focus on both the importance of and the complexity behind women’s portraits in Giacomo Puccini’s 19th century Italian lyric operas. Bonomi will discuss the most significant aspects of female characters in narrative dynamics and stage presence, including emotions, affections and feelings. He will also explain how the topic helps understand 20th-century European society from cultural and social perspectives. The presentation is co-sponsored by the UT Martin University Honors Programs and the provost’s office.

Bonomi teaches courses in Italian language, culture, opera and the history of Italian cinema for the Società Dante Alighieri di Siena, a multinational school of language, culture and gastronomy. The school hosted 20 UT Martin students in an extended study-abroad program this past fall.

Bonomi will also meet with university officials and faculty during his visit to discuss the future of the study-abroad program in Siena and throughout Italy. UT Martin will send another group of students to participate in the program this fall.

Local Leaders Chosen For WestStar Leadership Program

MARTIN, Tenn. – Erica Moore, of Weakley County, and Jason Martin of Carroll County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019.

Moore, communications director for Weakley County government and executive assistant to the Weakley County mayor, serves as the public image chair for the Dresden Rotary Club and secretary for the Weakley County Commission. She also serves on the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Weakley County board and the Northwest Tennessee Development District Area Agency on Aging and Disability Council. Moore is a Weakley County Leadership graduate.

Martin, commercial print and promotional manager of Tri-County Publishing Inc., serves as a McKenzie city councilman, council liaison for the city of McKenzie Regional Planning Commission, and assistant district governor for Rotary District 6760. He has also served as president and information officer for the Gleason Rotary Club. Martin is the recipient of the 2015-16 Rotarian of the Year Award and the Paul Harris +1 recognition.

Moore joins 29 other participants from 15 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area. Dr. Charley Deal serves as WestStar executive director.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
19th Annual UTM Civil Rights Conference To Be Held Feb. 17-23

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's 19th-annual Civil Rights Conference will address the theme “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values: A New Poor People’s Campaign” with events Feb. 12 and the week of Feb. 17-23 on the UT Martin main campus.

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, will give the keynote address at 7 p.m., Feb. 21, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Barber is president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP and a political activist. He works to confront systemic racism, poverty, environmental devastation, war economy and the moral narrative of religious nationalism in America today. Barber founded “Morale Monday” rallies in Raleigh, North Carolina, to protest laws that suppress voting rights, health care, living wages, immigrants' rights, public education and LGBTQ rights. Barber is also a distinguished professor and published author.

All events are free to the public and located in Watkins Auditorium unless otherwise noted. A schedule of events is as follows:

Feb. 12
Panel discussion: “The Black Experience in the Classroom”; 7:30 p.m.; sponsored by the Student Government Association’s Multicultural Affairs Committee, the Civil Rights Conference and the Black Student Association

Feb. 17
Movie screening: “Get Out”; 6 and 9 p.m.; sponsored by the Student Activities Council

Feb. 18
Roundtable: “Black Writers Reading Roundtable”; Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 209; 3-4 p.m.; co-sponsored by the English and Modern Foreign Languages Writing Center and the Civil Rights Conference Planning Committee

Feb. 19
Panel discussion: “Segregation in West Tennessee”; 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 20
Performance: “Night of Dance: Reflections of African American Culture”; 7 p.m.

Feb. 21
Speaker: “Black Women in the Struggle for Black Freedom”; Dr. Courtney Pace, associate professor of church history and director of admissions, Memphis Theological Seminary; 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: “Education and Race, Today”; Dr. William Carson Byrd, associate professor for the department of sociology, the University of Louisville; 11 a.m.

Performance: “Gospel Music and the African American Experience”; Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin associate professor of music, and Henrietta Giles, UT Martin communications lecturer; 1 p.m.


Keynote speaker: “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values”; the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP; 7 p.m.; accompanied by a performance from the UT Martin Voices of Harmony

Feb. 23
National Civil Rights Museum trip, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin; bus will leave the Boling University Center at 7:15 a.m.

The Feb. 12 panel discussion on “The Black Experience in the Classroom” will discuss how race affects African American students at a predominantly white institution. Four UT Martin students, one from each classification (freshman, sophomore, etc.), will serve as panelists.

The public is also invited to participate in the “Black Writers Reading Roundtable” from 3-4 p.m., Feb. 18, in the Hortense Parrish Writing Center. Volunteers may read a three to five-minute passage from a speech, essay, poem, creative non-fiction or fiction publication by an African American author that is related to the conference theme. Interested participants should contact Dr. Heidi Huse, assistant professor of English, no later than Feb. 13 with their name and reading selection.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465.
Paris, Tenn. – A six-week class about digital photography taught by Dr. Tom Gallien of the University of Tennessee at Martin is scheduled to begin at the Lee Academy for the Arts in Paris. In addition to being a photography instructor at UT Martin, Dr. Gallien is a dentist in Martin.

The class is scheduled from 6-9 p.m. on Mondays from March 4 through April 15.

Do you know how to use all the buttons and dials on your camera? Still just using the ‘auto’ setting? Then, this class is for you. He will teach composition skills and provide the techniques that can move you beyond just making pictures to making frame-worthy photographs.

The class will include individual and group critiques of your photography.

Registration is $185. No class will be held March 25.

To register, go to www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Kate Fagan, former ESPN sports journalist and author of the book "What Made Maddy Run," spoke this week to student-athletes and community members in the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Fieldhouse. She discussed the story of Madison Holleran, an all-star athlete at the University of Pennsylvania, and the mental health issues that can stem from the transition to collegiate life and athletics.

Holleran was a 19-year-old freshman and track-and-field runner at the University of Pennsylvania when she took her own life Jan. 17, 2014. She had struggled with the transition to collegiate life, both in the academic and athletic worlds, and sank into depression during her first semester on campus. That spring, she acted on suicidal thoughts and jumped from the top of a campus parking garage in Philadelphia.

Fagan featured Holleran's story in an article for ESPN The Magazine titled "Split Image," which discussed the disconnect between the life one shows on social media and the life one experiences behind closed doors. The response to this article and the accompanying 10-minute video on Holleran prompted Fagan to research and write "What Made Maddy Run."

"Most of the time, when you put an article out – specifically for ESPN, which is seen as more of a national organization – you don't get a lot of feedback. You don't get a lot of emails in your inbox. But after 'Split Image' and after this (video) came out, I was flooded with emails," said Fagan. "The interesting thing about those emails was that they were from high school and college students and student-athletes.... It's not a typical thing for high school and college-aged kids to do. Those emails had so many more questions about this story, or they wanted to relate how they saw themselves in Maddy to me, or they wanted us at ESPN to focus on more than just the technological piece and some of the cultural pieces (of the story).... So that was really the catalyst for writing the book in the first place."

"What Made Maddy Run" is not simply a look at the life and death of Madison Holleran. Rather, it examines the technological, cultural and mental health components that influence student-athletes like Holleran all over the world. It also shares Fagan's own story of dealing with anxiety associated with collegiate sports.
"I played hoops in college (at the University of Colorado) and, as I write about in the book, my first year at Colorado was a struggle for me. It started a couple months into practice where I started ruminating and anxiously obsessing over the next practice the minute the first one ended. Where, it was like 'Oh my God, I'm only 22 hours from the next time I have to go through this.' And panic would start to set in. This was going on for probably the better part of a month, just this anxiety building and building," said Fagan.

This anxiety culminated in a spontaneous decision to take an entire bottle of her roommate's iron pills in a desperate attempt to make herself sick enough to avoid basketball practice. While she did not become physically ill, she realized that her mental and emotional states needed to be addressed and approached her trainer for help. After several months of counseling, Fagan learned to cope with the stress of life as a student-athlete.

"What was right for me was to continue playing basketball, and I finished my career at Colorado. But I will say to this day that college was the hardest thing I ever did. There's a lot of things I would go back in my life and I would be desperate to do over again, but playing college basketball is actually not one of them," said Fagan. "I'm happy that I stuck with it, and I'm very happy that I learned the lessons that I did, but it was a very difficult thing. I think that's something we don't talk about enough is the transition to college, whether you're a student or a student-athlete. I think a lot of people offer up the messaging that it's going to be the best four years of your life, and for some of us who are lucky it is a great time in our lives. But for more people than we usually talk about, it actually is a time of difficult transition."
While Fagan says there is no definitive explanation for why Holleran — and so many students like her — took her own life, she says cultural expectations play a part in the final decision. When a student is never required to face failure; sets unreasonable expectations for his or her academic, athletic and social lives; and sees the highly polished photos that others post on social media as “real life,” it can provide an atmosphere for depression to begin. Those with genetic predispositions to mental health issues, like Holleran, are especially vulnerable.

Fagan urged audience members to begin talking about personal struggles and opening the doors to conversations about the challenges of real life and the coping mechanisms all students need to deal with adversity. She stayed after her public presentation for a closed question-and-answer session with UT Martin student-athletes. Dr. Lisa Piercey, former executive vice president at West Tennessee Healthcare and newly appointed commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health, moderated the discussion.

Fagan’s appearance was sponsored by the UT Martin Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

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**UTM offers options for student vets**

The University of Tennessee at Martin offers a variety of financial aid and academic assistance options for military service members transitioning into a college atmosphere.

The UT Martin Office of Veteran Services provides each enrolled service member with counseling regarding their federal veteran’s affairs benefits, guidance regarding financial aid opportunities, academic counseling and connection to other available campus resources. The Skyhawk Veteran’s Association also connects service members with other student veterans who can share their collegiate experience and understand their transition.

“UTM is very veteran friendly, and I have not met anyone yet that would not do what they could to help if you are ever in need,” said Michael Johnson, a sophomore currently living in Greenfield.

Johnson served as a sergeant in the 188th Steel Eagles Battalion at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, before returning to West Tennessee.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission awarded UT Martin a 2018 Veteran Reconnect Grant to improve prior learning assessments for service members. This assessment process examines a veteran’s military training and grants equivalent college credit for skills obtained during service, potentially allowing student veterans to complete their degrees faster. As a result, all student veterans have the opportunity to submit military training credits for standardized review toward their current degree program.

UT Martin also connects student veterans with the Office of Career Planning and Development, which provides career counseling, resume workshops, mock interviews and assistance with job and internship placements.

The university is included on the 2019-2020 list of Military Friendly schools, as designated by VIQTORY. This list evaluates institutions based on retention, graduation and job placement rates, as well as available federal assistance programs for veterans, among other criteria.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission designated UT Martin a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus in 2017 in recognition of the university’s dedication to allocating resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

In addition, UT Martin also offers assistance through the statewide Tennessee STRONG Act, made official by the Tennessee General Assembly in May 2017. The act provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees.

This additional assistance is used to fill any gaps the service member may experience in the cost of his or her education and supports former Gov. Bill Haslam’s Drive to 55 initiative.

For more information on financial aid opportunities, prior learning assessments or special programs for military service members or their dependents, visit utm.edu/veteranaffairs or contact Johnny Dyer, veteran services coordinator, at jdyer@utm.edu or 731-881-1689.
WHS teacher takes WestTeach experience back to the classroom

By BUD GRIMES
Special to the Press

Westview faculty member Kimberly Elliott believes that teachers are preparing future employees for the workforce, whether that classroom is filled with kindergartners or high school seniors.

Her belief was reinforced last fall as she participated in the inaugural WestTeach class, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program.

Elliott joined fellow WestTeach participants for a recognition and graduation event Jan. 29 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson.

WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the 2017 WestStar class.

Prospective WestTeach participants must be K-12 teachers who want to remain in the classroom but also aspire to be leaders in their respective schools and communities.

Program applicants must be recommended by their principal, director of schools or superintendent, and only one teacher per school district is chosen to participate.

"Any opportunities that increase my credibility in their (the students’) eyes with relative instruction that will benefit them in life is important,” Elliott said.

To that end, the veteran teacher pursues leadership and professional-development opportunities whenever possible. She is a Leadership Weakley County graduate and participated one summer in Education Edge that offered valuable manufacturing knowledge at Parker Hannifin in Greenfield.

“I have always wanted to participate in WestStar to better see where we fit in the bigger picture of West Tennessee,” she wrote.

“WestTeach provided me a more realistic opportunity as it focused more on my needs as an educator while taking into consideration my need to be in the classroom at the same time,”

WestTeach sessions offered Elliott and her classmates a real-world focus on the economy and employment opportunities in the region.

In addition to Elliott, members of the first graduating class are: Todd Alexander, Hardin County High School, Savannah; Jill Baker, Lakeland Elementary, Lakeland; Christy Buckelew, Paris Elementary School, Paris; Tracy Connell, Huntingdon High School, Huntingdon; Franky Hodges, Peabody High School, Trenton; Cindy Landry, Scotts Hill High School, Reagon; Beth Manus, Union City High School, Union City; Lauren Newell, Dyersburg Intermediate School, Dyersburg; Holly Owen, Fifth Consolidated Elementary, Dyersburg; Lindsey Parham, McKenzie High School, McKenzie; and Autumn Ratliff, Briarwood Elementary School, Camden.

Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer, at (731) 881-7465.

Four sessions held across West Tennessee from August through November covered topics in agriculture, leadership, education partnerships for economic development and building communities.

Several 2017 WestStar class members attended the program sessions along with the 12 teachers chosen for the inaugural class.

Elliott has taught business technology courses for 19 years at Westview while serving during that time as adviser for the Business Professionals of America and Future Business Leaders of America. She has also been yearbook adviser for 17 of those years, so successful outcomes are top-of-mind goals in her professional world.

"Being a career technical educator, my end focus is post-secondary for those that I teach,” she wrote in an email response to questions about her WestTeach experience.

"Any opportunities that increase my credibility in their (the students’) eyes with relative instruction that will benefit them in life is important,” Elliott said.

To that end, the veteran teacher pursues leadership and professional-development opportunities whenever possible. She is a Leadership Weakley County graduate and participated one summer in Education Edge that offered valuable manufacturing knowledge at Parker Hannifin in Greenfield.

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"Being a career technical educator, my end focus is post-secondary for those that I teach,” she wrote in an email response to questions about her WestTeach experience.

"And I think if we just keep talking and keep working together across city and county lines, and keep investing and being an example for the youth, that's going to be the key for our future," Carver said.

He closed by saying, "Thank you so much for what you’ve done this year. Thank you for the investments that you make into your communities. We are so proud to have you as members of the WestStar family.”
Civil Rights Conference set at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 19th-annual Civil Rights Conference will address the theme “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values: A New Poor People’s Campaign” with events Tuesday and the week of Feb. 17-23 on the UT Martin main campus.

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, will give the keynote address at 7 p.m., Feb. 21, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

Barber is president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP and a political activist. He works to confront systemic racism, poverty, environmental devastation, war economy and the moral narrative of religious nationalism in America today.

Barber founded “Moral Monday” rallies in Raleigh, North Carolina, to protest laws that suppress voting rights, health care, living wages, immigrants’ rights, public education and LGBTQ rights. Barber is also a distinguished professor and published author.

All events are free to the public and located in Watkins Auditorium unless otherwise noted. A schedule of events is as follows:

SEE RIGHTS PAGE 5
follows:

**Tuesday**
- Panel discussion: “The Black Experience in the Classroom”; 7:30 p.m.; sponsored by the Student Government Association’s Multicultural Affairs Committee, the Civil Rights Conference and the Black Student Association. High school students and teachers are invited to attend this open discussion.
- Movie screening: “Get Out”; 6 and 9 p.m.; sponsored by the Student Activities Council
- Roundtable: “Black Writers Reading Roundtable”; Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 209; 3-4 p.m.; co-sponsored by the English and Modern Foreign Languages Writing Center and the Civil Rights Conference Planning Committee
  - Performance: “Poor People Matter,” a Florence Roach original play; 7 p.m.
- Panel discussion: “Segregation in West Tennessee”; 1:30 p.m.
- Performance: “Night of Dance: Reflections of African American Culture”; 7 p.m.
- Speaker: “Black Women in the Struggle for Black Freedom”; Dr. Courtney Pace, associate professor of church history and director of admissions, Memphis Theological Seminary; 9:30 a.m.
- Speaker: “Education and Race, Today”; Dr. William Carson Byrd, associate professor for the department of sociology, the University of Louisville; 11 a.m.
- Performance: “Gospel Music and the African American Experience”; Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin associate professor of music, and Henrietta Giles, UT Martin communications lecturer; 1 p.m.
- Keynote speaker: “Towards a Radical Revolution of Values”; the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP, 7 p.m.; accompanied by a performance from the UT Martin Voices of Harmony
- National Civil Rights Museum trip, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin; bus will leave the Boling University Center at 7:15 a.m.

The Tuesday panel discussion on “The Black Experience in the Classroom” will discuss how race affects African American students at a predominantly white institution.

Four UT Martin students, one from each classification (freshman, sophomore, etc.), will serve as panelists.

The public is also invited to participate in the “Black Writers Reading Roundtable” from 3-4 p.m., Feb. 18, in the Hortense Parrish Writing Center.

Volunteers may read a three to five-minute passage from a speech, essay, poem, creative non-fiction or fiction publication by an African American author that is related to the conference theme.

Interested participants should contact Dr. Heidi Huse, assistant professor of English, no later than Wednesday with their name and reading selection.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. David

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**Westview Teacher Among the First WestTeach Graduates** – Westview faculty member Kimberly Elliott participated in the inaugural WestTeach class that was honored with a reception, dinner and graduation ceremony Jan. 29 at Madison Downs venue in Jackson. Pictured with Elliott are (l to r) Jake Bynum, Weakley County mayor; Steve Vantrease, Weakley County School Board chair and manager, UT Martin Ned Ray McWherter Institute; Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director; and Marvin Platt, director, Weakley County Schools – Career Technical Education.
The University of Tennessee at Martin offers a variety of financial aid and academic assistance options for veterans or active military service members transitioning into a college atmosphere.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) awarded UTM a 2018 Veteran Reconnect Grant to improve prior learning assessments for veterans. This assessment process examines a veteran's military training and grants equivalent college credit for skills obtained during service. As a result, veterans have the opportunity to submit military training credits for standardized review toward their degree.

The UTM Office of Veteran Services provides veterans with counseling regarding their federal veteran's affairs benefits, guidance regarding financial aid opportunities, academic counseling, and connections to other available resources. UTM also connects veterans with the Office of Career Planning and Development, which provides career counseling, resume workshops, mock interviews, and assistance with job and internship placements. The Skyhawk Veteran's Association connects service members with other veterans to share their collegiate experiences and understand their transitions.

In addition, UTM also offers assistance through the statewide Tennessee STRONG Act. The act provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees. This assistance is used to fill any gaps the service member may experience in the cost of his or her education.

UTM is named on the 2019-20 list of Military Friendly schools, as designated by VIQTORY. This list evaluates institutions based on retention, graduation, and job placement rates, as well as available federal assistance programs for veterans. In 2017, THEC designated UTM a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus in recognition of the school's dedication to assisting veterans with the transition from military to college.

For more information on financial aid opportunities, prior learning assessments, or special programs for veterans or active military service members or their dependents, visit utm.edu/veteranaffairs or contact Veteran Services Coordinator Johnny Dyer at jdyer@utm.edu or 731-881-1689.
Local leaders chosen for WestStar class of 2019

Jenna Cole-Wilson and Justin Hargrove, both of Benton County, have been selected to participate in the UTM WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019. Cole-Wilson, Hargrove, and 28 other participants from 15 counties in West Tennessee to participate in a program that addresses topics such as regional economic development, public policy, education, and technology.

Cole-Wilson, executive director of the Benton County/Camden Chamber of Commerce, serves as president of the Lakes Region Coalition and on the Keep Benton County Beautiful board, among others. She received the U.S. Congressional Certificate of Recognition in March 2018, and was featured as one of seven "Real Tennessee Stories" by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development in 2018. Cole-Wilson is a Leadership Benton County graduate, and serves as an adviser to the Benton County Adult and Youth Leadership programs. She is a past member of the TRRD board.

Hargrove, an agriculture/natural resources agent with the UT/TSU Extension office in Benton County, serves on the Benton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the West Tennessee Leadership and Development Corp. board, and as chairman of District 1 Young Farmers and Ranchers. He was recognized with the 2018 Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agriculture Agents and the Excellence in Environmental Education Programming Award from the West Tennessee Association of Extension 4-H Workers. Hargrove is an AgStar Leadership Development Program graduate.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UTM in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips community leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic, and social development of the region. The program provides members with a growing network of civic-minded people committed to serving the area.

Dr. Charley Deal serves as WestStar executive director. For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Program Coordinator Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298.
UTM Parsons to offer phlebotomy class

The UTM Parsons Center will offer a phlebotomy technician training course, beginning Feb. 16. The program includes 90 hours of classroom training and prepares students for the National Health Career Association Certification Exam that will be given at the end of the course. Classes will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays, from Feb. 16 through June 22. The class will not meet March 2 and 9, April 20, or May 25. The registration fee is $1,799, which includes books and supplies. The class will focus on terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, specimen hands-on practice, and clinical training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. The class offers lab exercises and live blood draws to prepare participants for work as an entry-level phlebotomy tech.

For more information or to register for this course, visit utm.edu/nondegree and choose “General Classes.” Select the Parsons campus for a list of courses. Interested persons do not have to be UTM students to enroll in the phlebotomy technician class. For assistance, call 731-881-7984.

Working Women’s Conference to be held Feb. 15

The UTM WestStar Leadership Program will host the 21st annual Working Women’s Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the UTM campus.

The theme of this year’s conference is “A League of Our Own” and features session topics such as “Team Roster: Who’s on Your Team?” and “Conquering the Fear of Striking Out.” Dee Henderson, executive director for Institutional Advancement at Jackson State Community College, will serve as conference emcee.

Joan Cronan, women’s athletic director emeritus for UT Knoxville, and author of Sport is Life with the Volume Turned Up: Lessons Learned that Apply to Business and Life, will give the keynote address.

Additional speakers include Jamie Worrell, with Center Point Business Solutions; James Dusenberry, with Regions Bank; Lin Dunn, assistant to the head coach for the UK women’s basketball team; Jodie Parrish, with RE/MAX Realty; Kristen Doyle White, with Atlas Fitness and CrossFit 731; Gladys Warren, CHOICES Program coordinator for SWTNDD; Dr. Teresa Collard, UTM communications professor; and Dr. Lisa L. Bleu, UTM professor of family and consumer sciences.

The deadline to register is Feb. 11, and the $40 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register, visit utm.edu/weststar. Select the “Conferences” tab under “Conference & Events” and go to “Register Now.” For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Program Coordinator Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298.
NEW GRAD – From left, Autumn Ratliff accepts congratulations from WestStar Executive Director Dr. Charley Deal for being one of the first teachers to complete the new WestTeach program at UTM.

FIRST CLASS GRADS – Members of the inaugural WestTeach class graduated from the new program on Jan. 29. Present for the celebration were (seated, from left) Holly Owen (Dyersburg), Cindy Landry (Scotts Hill), Franky Hodges (Trenton), Beth McManus (Union City), Autumn Ratliff (Big Sandy), (standing, from left) WestStar Executive Director Dr. Charley Deal, Tracy Connell (Huntingdon), Lindsey Parham (McKenzie), Kimberly Elliott (Martin), Lauren Newell (Dyersburg), Jill Baker (Lakeland), Christy Buckelew (Paris), and WestStar Program Coordinator Virginia Grimes. Not shown: Todd Alexander (Savannah).
Big Sandy mayor completes WestTeach Program

By Angela Jones

Big Sandy Mayor Autumn Ratliff, who is also a fourth grade teacher at Briarwood Elementary School in Camden, recently graduated from UTM’s new WestTeach Program during a banquet held Jan. 29 at Madison Downs in Jackson. Ratliff was among the inaugural class of this new program.

Ratliff believes that her selection to participate in the first WestTeach class for K-12 teachers was the perfect professional development opportunity for her. According to Ratliff, the information she learned, the communities she visited, and the contacts she made will make her both a better teacher and a better elected official.

Last November, the 28-year-old Big Sandy native became the first female and youngest mayor in the city’s history. Ratliff’s election fulfilled her dream to serve the community she never plans to leave. Her WestTeach experience provided practical information that she can use in her school, as well as important connections across the region that will benefit her as Big Sandy mayor.

“I can’t believe this is over! I wish everyone could be a part of this program. I encourage anyone who is an educator in West Tennessee to apply,” Ratliff said. “Through WestTeach, I’ve made some great memories and life-long friends. We’ve shared many concerns, positives, negatives, and laughs. The biggest takeaway is that no matter where you are in West Tennessee, the same issues are occurring in each school. We learned so many great tips and helpful things that we could use to take back to our classrooms and fix some of these issues.”

Speaking before the event, Ratliff said that the decision to apply for WestTeach wasn’t difficult to make. She stressed, “I think about my classroom and community all the time, and I decided to give this new program a shot. I didn’t know how great this was going to be, and I’m so glad that I took that shot!”

WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2017. Prospective participants must want to remain in the classroom but also aspire to be leaders in their schools and communities. Over the course of four months, WestTeach members participated in sessions on West Tennessee agriculture, leadership, creating educational partnerships for economic development, and building communities.

Following a reception and dinner, keynote speaker UTM Chancellor Keith Carver recalled a 2018 list released by the financial website WalletHub that ranked Tennessee as the “angriest state in the nation” and said that graduates of WestTeach can play a role in moving the state down on that list through their work with young people.

“I think if we just keep talking and working together across county lines, and keep investing and being positive examples for our youth, that’s going to be the key for our future,” Carver said. “Teachers, thank you so much for what you’ve done this year. Thank you for the investments that you make into your communities. We are so proud to have you graduates as members of the WestStar family.”
UTM to offer digital photography class in Paris

Aspiring photographers will have a chance to learn all about digital photography through a six-week class to be offered at the Lee Academy for the Arts.

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Dr. Tom Gallien will be the instructor for the class, which is scheduled from 6-9 p.m. Mondays beginning March 4 and continuing through April 15.

Do you know how to use all the buttons and dials on your camera? Still using the “auto” setting? This class is for you.

Move beyond making pictures and make frame-worthy photographs.

Learn artistic composition that will set your work above the average photographer.

Gain the skills to continue improving it as a creative medium.

The class will include group and individual critiques of your photography.

The registration fee is $185 for the six-week course. There will be no class on March 25.

For registration and payment information, go to www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php.

https://www.citizentribune.com/

UT Martin releases fall honor roll

From Contributed Reports  Feb 9, 2019

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

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

• Morristown — Chantal M. Wilson, Highest Honors; Cherie R. Wilson, Highest Honors.

• Talbott — Hunter R. Hall, Honors.

• Whitesburg — Kinsley R. Graves, High Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Upcoming education events

UT Martin music events and photography exhibit

Music events:
- Junior/Senior Day, hosted by the music department, will include a campus tour, meeting with music faculty and a chance to audition for Fall 2019 admittance into the program at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 18 on UTM's main campus. To register, visit utm.edu/jsd.
- The music department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series with a presentation by Dian Eddleman, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, room 136 or the #MusicEdLove podcast.
- By attending the lecture, practicing music educators can get up to two hours of professional development.
- RoseWind Duo performance at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at UT Martin Blankenship Recital Hall

Photography exhibit

Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David P. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.

Weststar sets Working Women’s Conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host the 21st annual Working Women’s Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the UT Martin campus.

The deadline to register is today. The $40 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The theme of this year’s conference is “A League of Our Own” and features session topics such as “Team Roster: Who’s on Your Team?” and “Conquering the Fear of Striking Out.”

Joan Cronan, women’s athletic director emeritus for the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and author of “Sport is Life with the Volume Turned Up: Lessons Learned That Apply to Business and Life,” will give the keynote address. Dee Henderson, executive director for Institutional Advancement at Jackson State Community College, will serve as conference emcee.

Additional conference speakers include Jamie Worrell, client manager for Center Point Business Solutions LLC; James Dusenberry, commercial banking leader of Tennessee-Kentucky markets for Regions Bank; Lin Dunn, special assistant to the head coach for the University of Kentucky women’s basketball team; Jodie Parrish, broker and owner of RE/MAX Realty Source; Kristen Doyle White, owner of Atlas Fitness Jackson and CrossFit 731; Gladys Warren, CHOICES Program coordinator for the Southwest Tennessee Development District; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin associate professor of communications; and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UT Martin professor of family and consumer sciences.

To register for the conference, visit utm.edu/weststar. Select the “Conferences” tab under “Conference & Events” and go to “Register Now.”

For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298.
Local leaders chosen for WestStar Leadership Program

MARTIN — Skipper Bondurant, Jim Cheatham and Jamie Worrell, all of Obion County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019.

Bondurant, administrator and chief executive officer of Baptist Memorial Hospital Union City, serves on the boards of the Northwest Tennessee Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Union City Industrial Development and the Tennessee Hospital Association Small and Rural Healthcare Constituency. He was also recognized in the Memphis Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40." Bondurant is a Leadership Obion County graduate.

Cheatham, president of Universal Contractors, LLC, serves on the executive board of the West Tennessee Area 6 Council and the Southern Region board of the Boy Scouts of America. He is also a recipient of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leader Award, the President's Volunteer Service Award and the National Distinguished Service Award by the Order of the Arrow, among other recognitions. Cheatham is a graduate of both the Leadership Obion County and Dyer County programs.

Worrell, human resource client manager at Center Point Business Solutions, LLC, serves as vice president and production producer for the Masquerade Theatre. He has also previously served on the design committee for the Main Street board, as a coordinator for the community tree lighting and as vocal director for the Obion County Youth Musical at the Obion County Fair. Worrell is an Obion County Adult Leadership graduate.

Bondurant, Cheatham and Worrell join 27 other participants from 15 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area. Dr. Charley Deal serves as WestStar executive director.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298.
UTM Announces Passing Of Student-Athlete Wyatt Cole

FEBRUARY 11, 2019 AT 10:34 AM ▪ POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin athletics department is saddened to announce that Wyatt Cole, a rodeo student-athlete, passed away on Sunday evening. He was 20 years old.

Cole was killed in a car crash outside of Martin.

Cole was majoring in agricultural business during his sophomore season as a UT Martin cowboy. Before attending UT Martin, he graduated from Owen County High School in his hometown of Owenton, Ky.

"Wyatt was a super good kid with a great attitude," UT Martin head rodeo coach John Luthi said. "He had a hard work ethic and came from a great family. Our prayers go out to his family – he will be missed."

Cole advanced to the finals of three collegiate rodeos during the 2018-19 season, representing UT Martin in team roping at Missouri Valley College (Sept. 20-22) and in steer wrestling at both Three Rivers College (Oct. 11-13) and at Murray State (Nov. 15-17). He accumulated team points in each of his steer wrestling performances, including a career-best third-place finish in average (13.6 seconds) at Murray State.
UT Martin mourns sudden loss of rodeo student-athlete

February 11, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is mourning the loss of a rodeo student-athlete.

Wyatt Cole, 20, an agriculture business major from Owenton, Kentucky, passed away Sunday evening, according to the university.

"Wyatt was a super good kid with a great attitude," UT Martin head rodeo coach John Luthi said in a post on the UTM Sports website. "He had a hard work ethic and came from a great family. Our prayers go out to his family — he will be missed."

According to a report from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Cole was killed in a one-vehicle crash that occurred around 9 p.m. Sunday on Three Point Road in Martin.

The report says Cole was traveling southbound in a 1998 Toyota Avalon when the vehicle drove off the left side of the roadway and struck a tree.

Cole was not wearing a seat belt, according to the report.

UTM rodeo student-athlete killed in Sunday night crash

Posted on February 11, 2019 by Steve James in Local News

A UT Martin rodeo student-athlete was killed Sunday night in a one-vehicle accident in Martin.

THP Lieutenant Brad Wilbanks says 20-year-old Wyatt Cole of Owenton, Kentucky was traveling southbound on Three Point Road just after 9:00 Sunday night, when his 1998 Toyota Avalon drove off the left side of the road and struck a tree.

Lieutenant Wilbanks says Cole was not wearing a seat belt.

UTM Sports Information Director Ryne Rickman says Cole was majoring in agricultural business during his sophomore season as a UTM cowboy.

Cole advanced to the finals of three collegiate rodeos during the 2018-19 season, representing UT Martin in team roping at Missouri Valley College and in steer wrestling at both Three Rivers College and at Murray State.

He accumulated team points in each of his steer wrestling performances, including a career-best third-place finish in average at Murray State.
UT-Martin honor roll includes Monroe students

Feb 12, 2019

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

Monroe students Mary R. Gean and received High Honors, and Katlyn V. Smith, also of Monroe, received Highest Honors.

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

Gibson County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2019-2020 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement. Kendall Howe, daughter of Kevin and Michele Howe of Humboldt, Tenn. will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship. Brent Werner, son of Mark and Cindy Werner of Medina, Tenn. will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
UT Martin names local students to fall semester chancellor's honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2018 chancellor's honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Local students are:

- Humboldt - Karen N. Allen, high honors; Jonathan M. Andrews, highest honors; Xavier D. Billings, honors; Krystal D. Boggs, high honors; Cody S. Brown, highest honors; Anna G. Brown, highest honors; Carlton Childs, honors; Morgan N. Conder, highest honors; Gerrard E. Cox, highest honors; Kendyll S. Gateley, honors; Meleah Gateley, highest honors; Mahala B. Perry, highest honors; Jamie L. Potts, highest honors; Mary K. Thompson, highest honors; Shelby G. Vasquez, highest honors; Chandler B. Whitaker, high honors; Keaton B. Wilson, high honors; Austin L. Workman, high honors; Logan H. Youmans, highest honors.

- Medina - Grace N. Abbott, honors; Trevor L. Boals, high honors; Blake R. Bryant, honors; Chandler H. Carey, high honors; Chloe G. Cates, highest honors; Charles B. Coleraine, honors; Bentley A. Davis, high honors; Bradley K. Duncan, honors; Anna C. Lax Gatti, highest honors; James E. Holland, highest honors; Rachel N. Jones, highest honors; Gabriel J. Martin, honors; Kaitlyn M. Martin, high honors; Magdalena I. Martinez, honors; Michael D. McFarland, high honors; Cameron D. Pemberton, high honors; Amy A. Polk, honors; Gage M. Schneeberger, highest honors; Rachel K. Smith, high honors; Kyle M. Trompower, highest honors.

- Gibson - Hope E. Newell, high honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
FATALITY
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struck a tree. The report further cites a seatbelt not in use. Agencies responding to the accident included the THP, Weakley County Sheriff’s Department, Weakley County Ambulance Service, Martin Fire and Police departments, and the Weakley County Rescue Squad.

Cole advanced to the finals of three collegiate rodeos during the 2018-19 season, representing UT Martin in team roping at Missouri Valley College (Sept. 20-22) and in steer wrestling at both Three Rivers College (Oct. 11-13) and at Murray State (Nov. 15-17). He accumulated team points in each of his steer wrestling performances, including a career-best third-place finish in average (13.6 seconds) at Murray State.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

‘Black History Month is still necessary in U.S.’

“Is it time to end black history month?” was the provocative focal question raised by Dr. Frank S. Black, Professor Emeritus, University of Tennessee at Martin, when he addressed a luncheon audience gathered at Gateway Center in Martin last week. After sharing from various sources that addressed both sides of the issue, the former educational studies faculty member concluded that the U.S. is not yet at a place where black history is fully integrated into the telling and teaching of American history, so the month-long emphasis should continue.

Black began his remarks with a brief history of the national observance. He reported that in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the “Father of Black History,” pushed for a time period in which to concentrate on rebutting many of the false stereotypes regarding African Americans. Woodson was the second African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University (W.E.B. DuBois being the first). He chose February for Black History Month, Black said, because it is the birth month of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Black said Woodson’s purposes were:

- To build self-worth in an oppressed people,
- To keep alive a marginalized subject (race) and
- To prove to a nation, mired in racism, that the children of African descent played an integral role in modern civilization.

According to the black historian John Hope Franklin, a former student of Woodson’s, Woodson wanted the history of African Americans to become an integral part of American history observed throughout the year.

Woodson asked black newspapers to preserve their files. He turned to members of an association he formed, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), to “write the life histories of the ‘near great’ but useful Negroes of whom editors and authors take no
HISTORY
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account.”

However, Black said supporters often turn the spotlight on more famous blacks such as Jesse Owens, Lena Horne, Paul Robeson, Aretha Franklin, and President Barak Obama.

“Thats ok, but one shouldn’t stop there,” Black underscored and gave examples of those in Woodson’s “near great and useful blacks” category such as Garrett Morgan who invented the three-wy traffic signal, Elmo Brady who crafted the artificial heart pacemaker, and Marie Brown, the source of the home security system.

Initially called Negro History Week, the emphasis was expanded by Woodson’s association, ASALH in 1976 to allow more time for events related to education and celebration.

The question of whether or not the month-long focus on a specific cultural heritage should continue is one that has been raised more often in recent years.

Quoting from Jesse Washington, an Associated Press writer, Black shared, “Many have long argued that African American history should be incorporated into year-round education.

Now, claims that Black History Month is outdated are gaining a new potency as schools diversify their curricula and [then] President Barak Obama’s election opens a new chapter in our nation’s racial journey.”

“Incorporating black history into U.S. history in our schools is now the prevailing view among blacks,” Black said. Many feel that highlighting black history through various Black History Month presentations and programs should be discontinued.

Black offered a brief overview of their rationale including that ending the emphasis would lead to a reduction in racism and encourage whites and other ethnic groups to embrace differences; that the month fails to educate the masses of non-blacks because it feels like it’s only for blacks; that having a month set aside has too often become a ready-made excuse to ignore African American history and contributions during the remaining 11 months of the year, and, finally, some say that the observance is too superficial and fails to explore the complex racial issues in favor of over emphasis on well-known individuals such as Frederick Douglass, Marian Anderson, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Black then turned to advocates who are in favor of continuing the observance and gave an overview of their arguments including that it inspires blacks to continue to fight for “a positive future in this country despite a history of inequity, disparity, and denial,” it helps to solidify and build upon America’s racial gains by helping different ethnic groups to better know and understand each other; and it helps retool the inaccurate hateful and insulting stereotyping of blacks.

Black shared the thoughts of Rochelle Riley, a columnist for the Detroit Free Press, “It’s not that black history month is wrong. It is that it is misused. Having a special time to celebrate the contributions of African Americans to American history is wonderful, but when it is used as a substitute for teaching black history to all students year-round, we are stunting the educational growth of students of all colors and backgrounds.”

Black placed himself in the group supportive of continuing the month of examining history. He offered three reasons. First, he said, to be ethnically different in this country remains a major problem for blacks.

“America too often continues to perceive ethnic groups that are different from the prevailing white culture as culturally handicapped,” he explained. “That is, their skin color, language expression, or cultural background are seen as characteristics that need to be overcome in some way to be fully accepted or, if you will, before they can be ‘judged by the content of their character.’”

He offered as an example, the reaction of television commentator Chris Mathews, after former President Obama’s first State of the Union speech, when he said, “I forgot he was black tonight for an hour.” This statement caused a firestorm among blacks because his words, however well-meaning, were perceived as troubling sign that blackness is viewed — perhaps unconsciously — as a handicap that needs to be overcome, Black shared.

Black said his next reason for supporting the observance is that many black Americans think the country does not adequately acknowledge that African American history is American history.

His final reason ties back to his many years in education. He said implementation in the U.S. education system is poorly done and quoted LaGarrett J. King, Assistant Professor of Social Studies Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia, “In many ways we teach about African American history and not through it. The voices and experiences of black people have often been silenced in favor of the dominant Eurocentric history curriculum.”

Black ended his remarks with his own observation and a final quote.

“I believe we need to retain celebrating Black History Month, Kwanza, Juneteenth Independence Day and any other traditions that help all Americans understand that cultural differences are assets not deficits,” he said, then added lines from the poet Maya Angelou: “Won’t it be wonderful when black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book — just U.S. history.”
BLACK HISTORY MONTH DISCUSSION — Dr. Frank Black responds to questions from (from left) Joan Bradberry and Hilda Elliott after a presentation made by Dr. Black at the Gateway Center in Martin last week as part of Black History Month observance.

UTM BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERS — Members of the Black Student Association on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin (from left) Brandon Anderson, Porter Streator, Tyra Hawkins, Maya Brown and David Dubose at the "A Mile In My Shoes" panel.
BSA offers comfort, activities for UT Martin students

By ALEXIS MILLSAPS Special to the Press

My name is Alexis Millsaps and I'm a transfer junior at the University of Tennes-see at Martin and a member of the campus Black Student Association (BSA). I joined the BSA my first semester in Martin because, while the nation is very divided on many topics, it was comforting to be surrounded by people who are as open-minded as myself and who can relate to the everyday struggles that being black in America can bring.

The BSA’s history began in 1971, an important one for people of color at UTM. Fresh out of the Civil Rights Movement and only a few years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, Burnell Simmons joined the faculty as the second African American professor on campus. The first African American fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi was founded. And the Black Student Association was born. This organization was created for African American students by African American students to help them create for themselves a sense of community in environments where they are outnumbered. The BSA’s main goal is to foster cultivating relationships between students of color in order to then go and create better relationships with the entirety of UTM’s administration, faculty, staff and student population. Our vision is to project the voices that are often overshadowed and offer them opportunities to be heard.

So far this school year, we have come up with many ways for all of us to build friendships and fundraise at the same time. To start the school year off, we put together a “Fall Break Survival Basket,” and we filled it with items such as candy, BSA merchandise, a Sonic gift card, and even a movie to keep students relaxed and occupied during break. We opened it up for students to buy tickets and our winner ended up being Chelsea Thweatt.

Another highlight of the BSA’s year was that UTM had its first black homecoming king – first homecoming king, ever, actually – Ashton Savoyes. The BSA also had its own spirit week during homecoming. Days such as Black Out Day and Twin Tuesday were big hits. Having our own tent for Quad City was a highlight for all of us, as well. Our theme this year was “Black Wall Street.”

The BSA has also participated in fundraiser events like “Darts for Dollars” where students were able to have a little affordable fun throwing darts at balloons. “Tran N Paint” was another exciting event with students painting based on the theme of the show “Martin.” We have bake sales often, and hot chocolate sales on those especially cold West Tennessee winter days.

This year, the BSA’s presence on campus has been cleaner than ever, thanks to its president, Courtney Price. We have partnered with the Student Government Association, as well as the Civil Rights Conference Council on events such as “A Mile In my Shoes,” where several of our African American student athletes provided their perspectives to the sports environment for them, and “The Black Experience in the Classroom,” which is Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m., and it will be a panel of students offering insight into their classroom’s shortcomings and successes.

The BSA has been very involved with the 19th Annual Civil Rights Conference planning, which takes place beginning today through Feb. 22. Some other events that the BSA is planning for Black History Month is a discussion of the evolution of Black Hair over the years tonight, at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium. On Valentine’s Day at 6 p.m., the BSA is also hosting an educational program on “Black Love.” On Feb. 23, a Hip-Hop Expo, is being held at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center, will showcase black student musician’s talents. To wrap up the month, the BSA is holding a fun Black History Game Show at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium – $200 worth of prizes will be gifted to the winners.

The most exciting event of this year, for the BSA and the Civil Rights Conference, is the keynote event, “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values” with Rev. Dr. William J. Barber III and the UTM Voices of Harmony.

This event will be held on Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. All of us at UTM are so excited to hear from Rev. Barber—especially after his phenomenal speech in Nashville a couple of weeks ago.
WestStar Class of 2019 includes two from Gibson County

Joyce Brown and Bryce West both of Gibson County were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019.

Brown, county clerk of Gibson County, serves on the boards of the Tennessee State Association for County Clerks, the Milan and Trenton Healthcare foundations and the Northwest Gibson County YMCA, among other positions. She is also a recipient of the Gibson County Adult Leadership Award, the Certified Public Administrator Award and the Ten nessee County Clerks Organ Donor Awareness Foundation Award. Brown is a Leadership Gibson County graduate.

West, vice president of BancorpSouth in Trenton, serves on the Gibson County Habitat for Humanity and the West Tennessee Area Boy Scout Council boards. He also serves as commandant of the Capt. Jack Holland Marine Corps League Detachment and president of the Trenton Exchange Club. He is a recipient of the Marine Corps League’s Distinguished Citizen Silver Medal and the Marine of the Year Award for the Marine Corps League Department of Tennessee. West is a graduate of both Leadership Gibson County and Leadership Jackson.

Brown and West join 28 other participants from 15 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact West Tennessee.

TRENTON BAND STUDENTS - Three Trenton Rosenwald Middle School band students, (from left) Timothy Odle, saxophone; Rosa Dorado, clarinet; and Cameron King, trombone, were recently selected to participate in the 35th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band Festival.
Local leaders chosen for WestStar Leadership program class of 2019

MARTIN, Tenn. — Joyce Brown and Bryce West, both of Gibson County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019.

Brown, county clerk of Gibson County, serves on the boards of the Tennessee State Association for County Clerks, the Milan and Trenton Healthcare foundations and the Northwest Gibson County YMCA, among other positions. She is also a recipient of the Gibson County Adult Leadership Award, the Certified Public Administrator Award and the Tennessee County Clerks Organ Donor Awareness Foundation Award. Brown is a Leadership Gibson County graduate.

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Brown and West join 28 other participants from 15 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area.

Dr. Charley Deal serves as WestStar executive director.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
MARTIN — Nichole Lawrence, Andrew Maddox and Jason Martin, all of Carroll County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019.

Lawrence, community relations officer for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, serves 21 West Tennessee counties by providing transportation information to the media, public and local officials. She has been a volunteer for the Miss Tennessee Organization for 15 years and serves on the board of directors. She has also served as an officer and committee member for several community organizations.

Maddox, president of Maddox Insurance, LLC, serves on the Huntingdon City Council, the Huntingdon Zoning Board of Appeals and the convention committee for the Insurers of Tennessee. He is also a Leadership Carroll County graduate.

Martin, commercial print and promotional manager of Tri-County Publishing Inc., serves as a McKenzie city councilman, council liaison for the city of McKenzie Regional Planning Commission and assistant district governor for Rotary District 6700. He has also served as president and information officer for the Gleason Rotary Club. Martin is the recipient of the 2015-16 Rotarian of the Year Award and the Paul Harris +1 recognition.

Lawrence, Maddox and Martin join 27 other participants from 15 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area. Dr. Charley Deal serves as WestStar executive director.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Funeral arrangements made for UTM rodeo student-athlete Parker "Wyatt" Cole

February 13, 2019 by Krystle Callais

OWENTOWN, KY — Funeral arrangements have been made for a University of Tennessee at Martin student athlete who died over the weekend.


Wyatt was a cowboy on the University of Tennessee Martin's rodeo team. He was a sophomore at the school majoring in agricultural business.

A visitation will be held at the Owen County High School on Friday, February 15 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 16 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A Life Celebration Service will follow at 4:00 p.m.

His family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Wyatt Cole Memorial Scholarship Fund at Citizens Union Bank, PO Box 188, Owenton, KY 40359.

For more information on funeral arrangements, click here.

(https://www.mcdonaldandnew.com/obituary/wyatt-cole)
MAKING MUSIC — Ten Union City High School students were recently chosen to participate in the 40th annual Honors Band Concert at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The talented group included (from left, front row) Daniel Edwards, Claire Thomason, Hope Kennedy, Madison Butner, Caleb Parker, (back row) Nijel Smith, Wade Clendenin, Cedrion Cook, Matthew Parr and Reed Hughey. UC Middle School student CJ Lamb (not pictured) was also chosen.

UTM’s Music Department to host guests all next week

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host high school students and guest artists next week. The department will host high school juniors and seniors during Junior/Senior Day beginning at 8:30 a.m. Monday on the UT Martin main campus. The event will include a campus tour, interactions with music faculty and students, and a chance to audition for admittance to the fall 2019 program. To register, visit utm.edu/jsd.

This is a separate section of Test Flight Academic Preview Day, scheduled for the same time. (See related story, below.) The department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series and podcast with a presentation by Dian Eddleman, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education, at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 in room 136 of the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. Those who are interested can listen to the lecture on the #MusicEdLove podcast. Practicing music educators can receive up to two hours of professional development for attending the lecture.

Ms. Eddleman is director of choral activities at the University School of Jackson. She is a recipient of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers, the Outstanding American Teachers National Honor Roll and the Governor’s School for the Arts Outstanding Teacher awards, among others. For more information about the #MusicEdLove lecture series and podcast, contact Dr. Angela Ammerman, coordinator of music education, at aammerman@utm.edu.

The RoseWind Duo will give a performance at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The duo includes University of South Carolina professors Scott Herring, on percussion, and Clifford Leaman, on saxophone.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402 or email music@utm.edu.
Vanguard Theatre to present sci-fi drama ‘Marjorie Prime’

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present “Marjorie Prime” from Feb. 21-26 in UT Martin’s Vanguard Little Theatre.

The cast will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 21-23, 25 and 26, and at 3 p.m. Feb. 24.

“Marjorie Prime,” written by Jordan Harrison, is a science-fiction drama about an 85-year-old woman’s fading memories and the new companion who relays her life’s account back to her.

The play comments on the limits of technology and the mysteries of human identity. “Marjorie Prime” was a 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama finalist.

Tickets go on sale Monday and are $15 for adults and $10 for students.

Patrons can reserve tickets by calling (731) 881-7400 or by visiting the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts located in room 201 of the Fine Arts Building between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tickets will also be available for cash payments only in the theater lobby beginning one hour before the show. Support the ARTS Program contributors can reserve tickets beginning Friday.

UT Martin students can also purchase tickets online at utm.edu/departments/finarts or “Ticket Sales For Events” under “Related Links.”

The Vanguard Theatre is UT Martin’s resident theater production company, consisting of both students and community members.

The Vanguard Little Theatre is located in room 167 of the Fine Arts Building, which is located at 16 Mount Pelia Road in Martin.

UT’s economic impact tops $9B, including $198.2M at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee announced an estimated economic impact of almost $9.1 billion across the state for fiscal year 2017.

The study includes UT and its campuses located in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin, as well as the Health Science Center in Memphis, the Space Institute in Tullahoma and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and Institute for Public Service.

UT Martin’s economic impact was estimated at $198.2 million, with 8,338 jobs created.

The systemwide impact was calculated in part through research by UT’s Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and used payroll spending and fringe benefits, non-payroll spending, jobs created through system-related spending and tax revenues.

According to the Boyd Center, UT campuses directly contributed $3.5 billion in economic impact in fiscal year 2017. Coupled with previous studies of the direct and indirect economic contributions of the UT Health Science Center, Ag Extension, client-reported impact of the UT Institute for Public Service and UT Knoxville athletics, UT’s annual impact comes to more than $9 billion.

Moreover, this figure does not include the significant role UT has in co-managing Oak Ridge National Laboratory with its more than 4,000 employees and $2.2 billion budget.

“Everywhere you look, UT is making a sizeable impact in the communities it serves,” UT interim president Randy Boyd said. (See Page 6, Col. 5)

UT’s...

(Continued from Page 1)

While these figures are impressive, our main mission of educating students, helping to establishing a quality labor force and conducting key research is critical to keeping Tennessee’s talent engine fueled for the future.”

Currently, system-wide enrollment is nearly 50,000 students, including both graduate and undergraduate students, and the system employs about 25,000 faculty, staff and student workers.

Key findings for each campus:

- UT Knoxville
  - Economic impact: $1.697 billion
  - Jobs created: 35,232

- UTK athletics
  - Economic impact: $150.9 million
  - Jobs created: 2,929

- UT Chattanooga
  - Economic impact: $353 million
  - Jobs created: 8,369

- UT Health Science Center
  - Economic impact: $824.5 million
  - Jobs created: 13,188

- UT Space Institute
  - Economic impact: $15.5 million

- Jobs created: 292

- UT Institute of Agriculture
  - Economic impact: $278 million
  - Jobs created: 7,449

- UT System and UT Institute for Public Service
  - Economic impact: $104.7 million
  - Jobs created: 1,352

- UT Institute for Agriculture Client Reported Impact
  - Income generated: $637.1 million

- Jobs created: 5,095

- UT Institute for Public Service Client Reported Impact
  - Income generated: $1.671 billion
  - Jobs created: 494

- UT Health Science Center Affiliates
  - Economic Impact: $3.162 billion
  - Jobs Created: 19,145

To access the full report, please visit tennessee.edu/transparency.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 19th annual Civil Rights Conference will address the theme “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values: A New Poor People’s Campaign.”

Events kicked off Tuesday with a panel discussion and will continue Sunday through Feb. 23 on UT Martin’s main campus.

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C., will give the keynote address at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

Barber is president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP and a political activist. He works to confront systemic racism, poverty, environmental devastation, war economy and the moral narrative of religious nationalism in America.

Barber founded “Moral Monday” rallies in Raleigh, N.C., to protest laws that suppress voting rights, health care, living wages, immigrants’ rights, public education and LGBTQ rights. He is also a distinguished professor and published author.

All events are free to the public and located in Watkins Auditorium unless otherwise noted. A schedule of events includes:

**Sunday**
- Movie screening: “Get Out”; 6 and 9 p.m.; sponsored by the Student Activities Council

**Monday**
- Roundtable: “Black Writers Reading Roundtable”; Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 209; 3-4 p.m.; co-sponsored by the English and Modern Foreign Languages Writing Center and the Civil Rights Conference Planning Committee
- Performance: “Poor People Matter,” a Florence Roach original play; 7 p.m.

**Tuesday**
- Panel discussion: “Segregation in West Tennessee”; 1:30 p.m.
- Performance: “Night of Dance: Reflections of African American Culture”; 7 p.m.
- Speaker: “Black Women in the Struggle for Black Freedom”; Dr. Courtney Pace, associate professor of church history and director of admissions, Memphis Theological Seminary; 9:30 a.m.
- Performance: “Gospel Music and the African American Experience”; Dr. Mark Simmons, UT Martin associate professor of music, and Henrietta Giles, UT Martin communications lecturer; 1 p.m.
- Speaker: “What I Gave and What I Got: Here I Am, LGBT in Tennessee”; Morgan Robertson, a UT Martin alumna and representative of the Tennessee Equality Project, and Chris Sanders, executive director of the Tennessee Equality Project; 2:30 p.m.
- Keynote speaker: “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values”; the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP; 7 p.m.; accompanied by a performance from the UT Martin Voices of Harmony

**Feb. 23**
- National Civil Rights Museum trip, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin; bus will leave the Boling University Center at 7:15 a.m.

The public is also invited to participate in the “Black Writers Reading Roundtable” from 3-4 p.m. Monday in the Hortense Parrish Writing Center. Volunteers may read a three- to five-minute passage from a speech, essay, poem, creative non-fiction or fiction publication by an African American author that is related to the conference theme. Interested participants should contact Dr. Heidi Huse, assistant professor of English, at (731) 881-7465.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history and conference organizer.
High school students invited for ‘Test Flight’

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Test Flight Academic Preview Day beginning at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

High school juniors and seniors are invited to tour the campus, meet with faculty members 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 can 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.

Guests can have lunch 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.

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

Reading improvement course offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering an intensive reading improvement course to students in grades 2-12.

One course just got underway Tuesday, but an additional course will be offered March 19 to April 22.

Registration is $100 for two meetings a week or $200 for four meetings a week. There will be an additional $25 charge for a workbook when needed.

Experienced professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center will instruct students who need additional practice in reading. Students will be individually tested on their phonics and comprehension levels and placed in a course built to improve their areas of weakness.

To register, visit utm.edu/nondegree. Go to “General Classes” and select the Martin campus for a list of courses. Under “Children and Youth,” select “Reading Clinic.”

A staff member will contact registrants to schedule their child’s tutoring sessions.

For more information about the class or the nondegree program, contact director Debbie Mount at (731) 881-7082.

UT Martin music events and photography exhibit

Music events:

Junior/Senior Day, hosted by the music department, will include a campus tour, meeting with music faculty and a chance to audition for Fall 2019 admittance into the program at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 18 on UTM’s main campus. To register, visit utm.edu/jsd.

The music department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series with a presentation by Dian Edleman, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, room 136 or the #MusicEdLove podcast.

By attending the lecture, practicing music educators can get up to two hours of professional development.

RoseWind Duo performance at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at UT Martin Blankenship Recital Hall

Photography exhibit

Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David F. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.
Area residents part of UTM WestStar class

Skipper Bondurant, Jim Cheatham and Jamie Worrell, all of Obion County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019.

Bondurant, administrator and chief executive officer of Baptist Memorial Hospital Union City, serves on the boards of the Northwest Tennessee Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Union City Industrial Development and the Tennessee Hospital Association Small and Rural Healthcare Constituency. He was also recognized in the Memphis Business Journal’s “Top 40 Under 40.” Bondurant is a Leadership Obion County graduate.

Cheatham, president of Universal Contractors, LLC, serves on the executive board of the West Tennessee Area 6 Council and the Southern Region board of the Boy Scouts of America.

He is also a recipient of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leader Award, the President’s Volunteer Service Award and the National Distinguished Service Award by the Order of the Arrow, among other recognitions. Cheatham is a graduate of both the Leadership Obion County and Dyer County programs.

Worrell, human resource client manager at Center Point Business Solutions, LLC, serves as vice president and production producer for the Masquerade Theatre. He has also previously served on the design committee for the Main Street board, as a coordinator for the community tree lighting and as vocal director for the Obion County Youth Musical at the Obion County Fair. Worrell is an Obion County Adult Leadership graduate.

Bondurant, Cheatham and Worrell join 27 other participants from 15 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee.

The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area. Dr. Charley Deal serves as WestStar executive director.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Fayette Academy Students Selected for UTM and University of Memphis Honor Band

Fayette Academy students were selected from a pool of students all over West TN and different states to participate in the UTM & University of Memphis Honor Band. The selection was based on an application and recommendation for each applicant. Students selected from Fayette Academy were Andrew Boozer, Dylan Bardwell, Casey Melton, Neenee Lyons, Justin Martin, Cutler Cannon, and Jacob Cronogue. After selection, the students then prepared audition music and scales along with other elements for chair placement auditions. The students auditioned for their chair and band placement on Thursday and then rehearsed from Thursday night until their performance Saturday morning.

The students' placements were as follows:

**UTM**

- Andrew Boozer: Euphonium
- Dylan Bardwell: Percussion
- Casey Melton: Flute
- Neenee Lyons: Horn/Flute
- Justin Martin: Percussion
- Cutler Cannon: Trombone
- Jacob Cronogue: Clarinet
- Sara Davis: Flute

**CONCERT BAND**

- Concert Band (3rd Chair)
- Concert Band (3rd Chair)
- Symphonic Band (1st Chair)
- Symphonic Band (3rd Chair)
- Symphonic Band (3rd Chair)
- Concert Band (2nd Chair)
- Wind Ensemble (1st Chair)
- N/A

**UNIV. OF MEMPHIS**

- Gray Band (3rd Chair)
- Gray Band (7th Chair)
- Gray Band (1st Chair)
- Gray Band (3rd Chair)
- Gray Band (1st Chair)
- Gray Band (8th Chair)
- N/A
- Gray Band (6th Chair)

These students all performed in their designated ensembles and performed a concert within two days. At the UTM honor band, each ensemble got to do a world premiere of a piece; they were the very first ensemble to perform the piece. At U of M, the students had the opportunity to work with one of the most prolific Band composers of our time, Mr. John Mackey. He sat in on their rehearsals giving them insight and wisdom in not only his music but in all music. It was a great learning experience for all of the students!

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Katie Ashley at 901-466-5453 or email kashley@fayettacademy.com
UTM Launches Captain's Pantry To Combat Food Insecurity

The University of Tennessee at Martin is working to combat food insecurity for its students by opening Captain's Pantry, a food pantry operation open to all enrolled students regardless of housing situation. Students in need can pick up food items between 8 a.m.-11 p.m. daily in the lobbies of either Ellington or Cooper halls.

The university previously operated a food pantry out of Ellington Hall for students living in on-campus housing; however, the expanded Captain's Pantry is open to all students. The new pantry officially opens Feb. 15, and those wishing to donate items can do so at any time in the Ellington Hall lobby.

The Alliance of Women Philanthropists recently awarded UT Martin a Giving Circle Grant in excess of $4,600 to begin the pantry program. Community members and students wishing to donate food items to the pantry are asked to bring any of the following items: applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish (tuna and salmon), canned meat, canned vegetables, cooking oils (olive and canola), crackers, dried herbs and spices, fruit (canned or dried), granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, boxed meals, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, rice, shelf-stable and powdered milk, whole grain cereal, soup, stew and chili.

This initiative is an expansion of the Skyhawks Share Meal Program, which provides discounted meals in the Skyhawk Dining Hall to students who are in need. On designated in-person donation days, students with surplus meal plan swipes can donate them to the meal program, and community members can add meals to the bank for $5 each. Online contributions are accepted any time at utm.edu/skyhawkshare.

Vanguard Theatre Production of ‘Marjorie Prime’ Set For Feb. 21-26

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present “Marjorie Prime” from Feb. 21-26 in UT Martin’s Vanguard Little Theatre. The cast will perform at 8 p.m., Feb. 21-23, 25 and 26, and at 3 p.m., Feb. 24.

“Marjorie Prime,” written by Jordan Harrison, is a science-fiction drama about an 85-year-old woman’s fading memories and the new companion who relays her life’s account back to her. The play comments on the limits of technology and the mysteries of human identity. “Marjorie Prime” was a 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama finalist.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 18 and are $15 for adults and $10 for students. Patrons can reserve tickets by calling 731-881-7400 or by visiting the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts located in room 201 of the Fine Arts Building between 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets will also be available for cash payments only in the theatre lobby beginning one hour before the show. Support the ARTS Program contributors can reserve tickets beginning Feb. 15. UT Martin students can also purchase tickets online at utm.edu/departments/atheatre.

The Vanguard Theatre is UT Martin’s resident theatre production company, consisting of both students and community members.

The Vanguard Little Theatre is located in room 167 of the Fine Arts Building, which is located at 16 Mt. Pelia Road in Martin. For more information, contact Dr. Kevin Shell, Vanguard Theatre director, at 731-881-7487.
A University of Tennessee at Martin student lost his life in an automobile accident Sunday night.

Parker Wyatt Cole, a 20-year-old rodeo student-athlete, was killed in a single-vehicle accident just outside Martin city limits.

According to a THP report issued by Trooper Matthew Moeller, at approximately 9:10 p.m. Cole was traveling south on Three Point Road in a 1998 Toyota Avalon, when his vehicle drove off the left side of the roadway and struck a tree.

Although it is not known how fast the vehicle was going at the time the accident took place, it occurred in a 55 mph speed zone.

Weakley County EMS, Martin Fire Department, Weakley County Sheriff’s Department and Martin Police Department personnel were dispatched to the scene of the accident.

Upon arrival, emergency providers informed 911 dispatchers that the victim was trapped inside the vehicle and was unresponsive.

The victim, who was not wearing a seatbelt at the time, died as a result of injuries sustained in the accident.

Emergency personnel cleared the scene at 11:46 p.m.

According to UTM officials, Cole was majoring in agricultural business during his sophomore season as a UT Martin cowboy. Before attending UT Martin, he graduated from Owen County High School in his hometown of Owenton, Ky.

"Wyatt was a super good kid with a great attitude," said UT Martin head rodeo coach John Luthi. "He had a hard work ethic and came from a great family. Our prayers go out to his family – he will be missed."

Cole advanced to the finals of three collegiate rodeos during the 2018-19 season, representing UT Martin in team roping at Missouri Valley College (Sept. 20-22) and in steer wrestling at both Three Rivers College (Oct. 11-13) and at Murray State (Nov. 15-17). He accumulated team points in each of his steer wrestling performances, including a career-best third-place finish in average (13.6 seconds) at Murray State.
The University of Tennessee at Martin offers a variety of financial aid and academic assistance options for military service members transitioning into a college atmosphere.

The UT Martin Office of Veteran Services provides each enrolled service member with counseling regarding their federal veteran’s affairs benefits, guidance regarding financial aid opportunities, academic counseling and connection to other available campus resources. The Skyhawk Veteran’s Association also connects service members with other student veterans who can share their collegiate experience and understand their transition.

“UTM is very veteran friendly, and I have not met anyone yet that would not do what they could to help if you are ever in need,” said Michael Johnson, a sophomore currently living in Greenfield. Johnson served as a sergeant in the 188th Steel Eagles Battalion at Ft. Bragg, N.C., before returning to West Tennessee. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission awarded UT Martin a 2018 Veteran Recruit Grant to improve prior learning assessments for service members. This assessment process examines a veteran’s military training and grants equivalent college credit for skills obtained during service, potentially allowing student veterans to complete their degrees faster. As a result, all student veterans have the opportunity to submit military training credits for standardized review toward their current degree program.

UT Martin also connects student veterans with the Office of Career Planning and Development, which provides career counseling, resume workshops, mock interviews and assistance with job and internship placements.

The university is included on the 2019-2020 list of Military Friendly schools, as designated by VIQTORY.

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Upcoming education events

UT Martin music events and photography exhibit

Music events:
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The music department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series with a presentation by Dian Eddleman, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, room I36 or the #MusicEdLove podcast.

By attending the lecture, practicing music educators can get up to two hours of professional development.

RoseWind Duo performance at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at UT Martin Blankenship Recital Hall

Photography exhibit
Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David F. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.
LOUD AND PROUD FOR EQUAL RIGHTS — University of Tennessee at Martin graduate Amber Sherman organized what would have been a small Memphis Women’s Rally into a full-blown march, beginning at City Hall on Main Street, all the way up to the courthouse where speeches were held in Memphis last month. Sherman has had an activist approach to politics as a former president of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Student Democrats and a volunteer for 2014 State Representative candidate Joyce Washington.

Photo courtesy of Joe Rondone, The Commercial Appeal

UTM grad rallies Memphis community

By BRANDY COCHRAN
Special to The Press

Marching down the historic streets of Memphis that so many have marched before, you can hear the familiar chanting of a crowd ranging in gender, age and social classes. Up front, University of Tennessee at Martin graduate Amber Sherman leads the hundreds gathered in her favorite protest cheer. As she shouts, “What does Democracy look like?” the crowd echoes, “This is what Democracy looks like!” and make their way toward the famous Judge D’army Bailey Courthouse on Adams Avenue in downtown Memphis.

This moment from the Memphis Women’s March in January placed Sherman in the forefront. Although this was the largest protest she had organized, it was not her first, nor her first experience in Tennessee politics. Sherman, an African-American Memphis native, shared in a recent interview with The Press, that politics piqued her interest in high school when she was first introduced to advocacy groups. This interest followed her all the way to Weakley County where she was shaped by the Political
GRAD
From Page 1

Science department at UT Martin while working towards her bachelor’s under Dr. David Barber.

While helping to mobilize Joyce Washington’s 2014 campaign for Democratic candidate for District 76 Representative, she was introduced to the Organization for Action (OFA). Other local influences on Sherman’s political career included the Weakley County Democratic Party, whose members helped fund her trip to meet President Barak Obama in 2015 while she served as president of the UT Martin chapter of the College Democrats.

Through her time and experience in Weakley County, many doors were opened for her in Memphis, where she now holds multiple political positions, including being the chair for the Young Democrats Women’s Caucus and the Young Democrats of America Women’s Caucus Secretary—all at the age of 24.

Through her hard work with the UTM Democrats and the OFA, Sherman encountered her first issue which prompted her first protest activities.

In 2016, UTM was planning on privatizing its entire maintenance staff, essentially eliminating one more employment opportunity for Weakley County citizens during a time of economic recovery.

Sherman called upon her peers and those employees who were in fear of losing their jobs to take action and let their voices be heard.

Once she formed an alliance with a message, she reached out to local news organizations, asking them to come cover the protest on the front lawn of the university’s administration building.

The event gained regional newspaper, TV and radio coverage and had a great impact on the final decision by the administration which ended in a win for the maintenance staff.

This experience boosted Sherman’s confidence that she could not only pull off a protest rally, but also that she could make a real change in her community.

This new-found belief in herself pushed her to transform what would have been a small Memphis Women’s Rally into a full-blown march, beginning at City Hall on Main Street, all the way up to the courthouse where speeches were held.

Sherman recounts her morning the day of the march, “I didn’t sleep the night before because I had too much adrenaline ... and when I was leading the march, it felt like an out-of-body experience ... I didn’t even know my picture was being taken (by local news outlets) until I saw them (photographs) online the next day!” she explained.

Some of the signs carried in the march that she enjoyed the most read, “Protect Black Women,” “She Said What She Said, Period,” and “Women Need More Sleep Because Fighting the Patriarchy is Exhausting.”

In discussing the dynamics of the march, she pointed out how impressed she was by the variety of people who showed up in alliance with the issues facing women today, especially attendees of color and vast socio-economic differences. This was an important part of the march for her, personally.

She even made sure all those whom she scheduled to speak in front of the courthouse steps reflected the diversity of cultures the ralliers encompassed.

Sherman’s focus in creating change is centered around what she calls “issue advocacy,” which does away with party politics, and, instead, treats issues that are affecting all types of people, no matter their political affiliations.

This cooperative attitude proves to be a portion of why she has been such a success since graduating UTM and leaving Weakley County to return home to Memphis.

Since January, Sherman has been hard at work, as usual. She is writing for a new blog, The Law According to Amber, analyzing current events from her educated, experienced point-of-view.

Her work takes on adversary issues and discusses bills that are being brought to the Tennessee Legislature, such as Healthcare Bill SB-0318, which lowers the quality of care for medical patients.

She also has just launched her similarly-titled podcast where she, sometimes in studio but also in her bedroom closet, discusses hot topics affecting millennials — especially those of color — tackling such issues as the lack of attention brought to depression and anxiety among their demographic and the bullying experienced by young people of color who do not speak in slang and want to pursue academia.

Sherman can be found on Facebook and Twitter. Her podcast, The Law According to Amber, is released every other Monday on SoundCloud, Apple Podcast, and Spotify.

Sherman made it clear that she would not have been able to accomplish the 2019 Memphis Women’s March if it had not been for her experience as a UTM student and an active member of the Weakley County community.

Looking back, she explained, “I miss everyone there and still keep in close contact with many of you!”

This is what Democracy looks like.
Vanguard Theatre to present sci-fi drama ‘Marjorie Prime’

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present “Marjorie Prime” from Feb. 21-26 in UT Martin’s Vanguard Little Theatre.

The cast will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 21-23, 25 and 26, and at 3 p.m. Feb. 24. “Marjorie Prime,” written by Jordan Harrison, is a science-fiction drama about an 85-year-old woman’s fading memories and the new companion who relays her life’s account back to her.

The play comments on the limits of technology and the mysteries of human identity. “Marjorie Prime” was a 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama finalist.

Tickets go on sale Monday and are $15 for adults and $10 for students.

Patrons can reserve tickets by calling (731) 881-7400 or by visiting the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts located in room 201 of the Fine Arts Building between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tickets will also be available for cash payments only in the theater lobby beginning one hour before the show.

Support the ARTS Program contributors can reserve tickets beginning Friday.

UT Martin students can also purchase tickets online at utm.edu/departments/ finearts at “Ticket Sales For Events” under “Related Links.”

The Vanguard Theatre is UT Martin’s resident theater production company, consisting of both students and community members.

The Vanguard Little Theatre is located in room 167 of the Fine Arts Building, which is located at 16 Mount Pelia Road in Martin.

Young talent performs to benefit local arts ed

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

Billed as the Emerging Youth Benefit Concert, a first-time partnership with Martin’s Town and Gown and the University of Tennessee at Martin music program on Monday night, saw young but seasoned performers taking the stage to support the arts in Weakley County.

Harrison Finks and Evie Grace Fowler belied the event’s title as they quickly proved to be established performers, comfortable in the intimate setting of UTM’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

Finks, at 16, brought an extensive resume to his piano bench, including backing up for American Idol finalist Jessica Meuse, sitting in with BB King’s All Stars and Memphis Soul Remedy, a regular gig with a Beale Street band and playing organ and piano at his ethnically diverse church in his hometown of Memphis.

Fowler, a 13-year-old singer/songwriter proved equally adept at expressing her own lyrics and the familiar phrases of several pop tunes. Her original song “Last Days,” included in Monday night’s set, was released in April of 2018 and can be found on iTunes and other outlets.

The two share some GRAMMY opportunities. He attended a 2017 camp in Nashville and a 2018 experience in Los Angeles and became the featured artist on the Nashville album on SoundCloud. She was selected to attend the GRAMMY Camp for music journalism last year and writes a music column for her Memphis school paper.

As frequent contributors of talent to various fundraisers, the couple was drawn to this most recent endeavor partly because of ties to the area. Finks’ grandparents Joe and Shirley Willhite are Martin residents and his grandmother was a professor at UT Martin for more than 30 years. Both sets of Fowler’s grandparents (Linda and Travis Shumate and Paula and Randy Chapman) are Union City residents.

The concert benefitted the UTM Community Music Academy and the fledgling Weakley Arts Can advocacy effort which Dr. Julie Hill, the chair of UTM’s Department of Music and one of the hosts Monday evening, is helping to launch.

In a meet and greet reception for the artists and supporters prior to the concert, Hill reflected on the course-setting encouragement she received as a young music student at Martin Elementary. She then expressed regret that overall the arts have “declined in the area, in our schools and communities.”

“Students need the opportunity to draw, to act, to dance, to play,” she said. “That’s what tonight is about.”

The Community Music Academy provides affordable music lessons for young people in western Tennessee and Kentucky. The Weakley Arts Can organizers are looking to increase interaction with the arts for students across the county beginning with a request for yearlong elementary music and art.

The concert was streamed live on the UTM music Facebook page.
County schools to compete in academic contest

The UTM Parsons Center will host 11 high schools for an academic contest beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 22. This is the sixth year for the center to host the event, and both Big Sandy School and Camden Central High School will be sending academic teams to compete. Students will compete in science, math, language arts, and history. Trophies will be awarded to the high school with the highest score in each of the four subjects, as well as to the top three high schools overall.

“It is always a fun event to watch,” said Dr. Kelli Deere, center director. “Students are very competitive at sporting events, but to see them just as competitive in academics is exciting. I am reminded each year of how smart our area students are.”

In addition to BSHS and CHS, other participating schools will include Chester County, Riverside, Dickson County, Frank Hughes, Hollow-Rock Bruce-ton, Huntingdon, Lexington, Perry County, and Scotts Hill.

The Camden Chronicle Thursday, February 14, 2019

Annual UTM Civil Rights Conference to begin Feb. 17

UTM’s 19th-annual Civil Rights Conference will address the theme “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values: A New Poor People’s Campaign” with events to be held the week of Feb. 17-23 on the UTM main campus. All events are free to the public and located in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

The Dr. William Barber II, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C., will give the keynote address at 7 p.m., Feb. 21. He is president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP, a political activist, a distinguished professor, a published author, and a former keynote speaker at the UTM conference.

Barber works to confront systemic racism, poverty, environmental devastation, war economy, and the moral narrative of religious nationalism in America today. He founded the “Moral Monday” rallies in Raleigh, N.C., to protest laws that suppress voting rights, health care, living wages, immigrants’ rights, public education, and LGBTQ rights.

For more information about the conference, contact Dr. David Barber, UTM associate professor of history and conference organizer, at 731-881-7465. The UTM Civil Rights Conference schedule of events is as follows:

Feb. 17: Free screening of the award-winning film “Get Out” at 6 and 9 p.m.

Feb. 18: Black Writers Reading Roundtable, at the Hortense Parrish Writing Center in the Andy Holt Humanities Bldg., room 209, at 3 p.m.

Feb. 18: Florence Roach’s original play “Poor People Matter” at 7 p.m.

Feb. 19: Panel discussion “Segregation in West Tennessee” at 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 20: “Night of Dance: Reflections of African American Culture” at 7 p.m.

Feb. 21: Dr. Courtney Pace, of the Memphis Theological Seminary, “Black Women in the Struggle for Black Freedom” at 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 21: Dr. William Carson Byrd, of the University of Louisvile, “Education and Race Today” at 11 a.m.

Feb. 21: Dr. Mark Simmons and Henrietta Giles, both of UTM, “Gospel Music and the African American Experience” at 1 p.m.


Feb. 21: The UTM Voices of Harmony and keynote speaker Dr. William Barber II, “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values” at 7 p.m.

Feb. 23: A bus to the National Civil Rights Museum will leave the Boling University Center at 7:15 a.m.
MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin is working for its students by expanding the Captain's Pantry, a food pantry operation open to all enrolled students regardless of housing situation. Students in need can pick up food items between 8 a.m.-11 p.m. daily in the lobbies of either Ellington or Cooper halls.

The university previously operated a food pantry out of Ellington Hall for students living in on-campus housing; however, the expanded Captain's Pantry is open to all students. The new pantry officially opens Feb. 15, and those wishing to donate items can do so at any time in the Ellington Hall lobby.

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Feb. 15 is a designated donation day for the Skyhawks Share Meal Program, and donated meals will be accepted in the Skyhawk Dining Hall during the lunch and dinner meal periods. This program was launched in fall 2017 as a joint initiative by the UT Martin Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs to combat food insecurity. Since that time, more than 60 students have received more than 900 meals from the bank.

Students in need of assistance can request meals at utm.edu/skyhawksshare.
Dennis Burns named County Agent of the Year

MARKSVILLE, La. — LSU AgCenter agent Dennis Burns was honored by the Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association as County Agent of the Year at the organization’s annual conference on Feb. 11-13.

Burns serves Catahoula, Concordia and Tensas parishes, and he specializes in agricultural technology, including drones, irrigation and yield maps.

"That's just a small list of things he is well known for," said Hank Jones, LACA executive board secretary, who nominated Burns for the award.

Burns earned his bachelor's degree in ag business from LSU and his master's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was on a group that won the AgCenter Tipton Team Research Award in 2006 for his work on precision agriculture, and he was named the Precision Ag Researcher of the Year at the 2015 National Conservation Systems Cotton and Rice Conference.

Also at the LACA conference, six students received $2,000 scholarships. They were:

- Doctoral students Megan Mulcahy, with a scholarship from Louisiana Land Bank, and Jose Mite Caceres, with a scholarship provided by Koch Agronomic Services.
- Master's degree students Ateet Maharjan, with a scholarship from Ray and Dorothy Young, and Anna Coker with a scholarship from Grady and Barbara Coburn of Pest Management Enterprises.
- Undergraduate students James Noah Harper (story/news/education/2019/02/08/franklin-parish-man-gets-national-ag-scholarship/2814294002), with a scholarship from UPL, Arysta LifeScience and Valent USA, and Bryan Ashley, with a scholarship from Beichim Crop Protection.

Harper also received the $3,000 Richard L. Jensen Memorial Scholarship funded by the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants Foundation of Environmental and Agriculture Education. He was mentioned by LSU Vice President for Agriculture Bill Richardson in his talk at the conference as an example of the excellent students being recruited for the LSU College of Agriculture.


Upcoming education events

UT Martin music events and photography exhibit

Music events:

Junior/Senior Day, hosted by the music department, will include a campus tour, meeting with music faculty and a chance to audition for Fall 2019 admittance into the program at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 18 on UTM's main campus. To register, visit utm.edu/jsd.

The music department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series with a presentation by Dian Eddelean, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, room 136 or the #MusicEdLove podcast.

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RoseWind Duo performance at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at UT Martin Blankenship Recital Hall

Photography exhibit

Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David P. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.
MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is helping their hungry students stay fed, even outside of their cafeteria.

"It actually is one of those issues that people don't think is an issue, but really is,” Assistant Director of Housing Ryan Martin said.
“You know, with my residents, I kind of some days give them money if they can’t afford to get a meal or cook for them, just to help them out,” resident assistant Gill Whitaker said.

It started as students helping one another, and it led it a food bank at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“Kind of just self-sustaining,” Martin said, “The students would bring some in, and some would take out as they need it.”

Then, the university adopted the food bank, naming it “Captain’s Pantry.” Students can go to locations in Ellington Hall and Cooper Hall.

“It’s open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Anybody can come by, any UTM student, and pick up food that they need,” Martin said.

The food pantry isn’t just for students who live on campus. Students who live off campus can also come get food, and people from the community can donate.

“Anybody from the community can bring food by Ellington Hall any time,” Martin said. “There is somebody at that desk 24/7, so if you have time after work or before work, or you just want to come donate, we would really appreciate the donations to help out.”

To donate, just drop off any non-perishable food, like canned meats, vegetables, or pasta. Students are sure to be thankful for the help.

“A lot of people come in and out and are like, ‘Can we grab this?’ or ‘Can we grab that?’ and are excited, almost, like, ‘Geez, this is free food we can have,’” Whitaker said.

Students can also share meals at the UT Martin cafeteria through the university’s Skyhawks Share Meal Program. Anyone with extra meals on their meal plan can donate that money to other students.
Dixie to host UTM musicians

The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center in Huntingdon will host students and faculty talent from the University of Tennessee at Martin Music Department Feb. 25. There will be 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. performances as well as one at 7 p.m. The UTM Department of Music Showcase will feature performances from the UTM Wind Ensemble, New Pacer Singers, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Faculty Brass Quintet and more. The event is free.

UTM Vanguard Theatre to present 'Marjorie Prime'

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will present "Marjorie Prime" in five performances from Thursday through Feb. 26. The play will be at 8 p.m. Thursday through Feb. 23 and Feb. 25-26, as well as 3 p.m. Feb. 24.

"Marjorie Prime," written by Jordan Harrison, is a science fiction drama about an 85-year-old woman's fading memories and the new companion who relays her life's account back to her. The play comments on the limits of technology and the mysteries of human identity. "Marjorie Prime" was a 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama finalist.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students and will go on sale Monday. Tickets can be reserved by calling 731-881-7400 or by visiting the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts located in room 201 of the Fine Arts Building between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Tickets will also be available for cash payments only in the theatre lobby beginning one hour before each show.

"Support the ARTS Program" contributors can reserve tickets beginning today. UT Martin students can also purchase tickets online at utm.edu/departments/finearts at "Ticket Sales For Events" under "Related Links."

The Vanguard Theatre is UT Martin's resident theatre production company and consists of both students and community members. It is located in room 167 of the Fine Arts Building, 16 Mount Peia Road, in Martin. For more information, contact Kevin Shell, Vanguard Theatre director, at 731-881-7487.
Agriculture students learn what UT Martin has to offer

By ANNIE KATE HENSLEY
Special to The Messenger

On Feb. 12, a group of Obion County Central High School seniors, juniors and sophomores who are in the agriculture program went on a field trip to tour the University of Tennessee at Martin agriculture department.

Students began the trip by learning the basics about UTM and its campus. The tour included all the areas of the campus along with the athletic and fitness facilities.

During the tour, the guide discussed tuition rates, campus housing and the SOAR program for incoming students. The guide also took the students to see each type of housing the campus offers so they could get an idea of what living on campus would be like.

Next, the university provided the students with a free lunch in the student center’s food court.

After lunch, the OCCHS students met with Dr. Wesley Totten, who is chair of the department of agriculture.

Dr. Totten gave the students a full tour of Brehm Hall, the building that houses the agriculture department classrooms and faculty offices.

On the tour, they met professors who teach the different subject areas of agriculture, were allowed to view the classrooms and were shown the newest additions to the building.

Finally, the students were given a presentation about the university’s farm and specific courses offered in the agriculture program. Farm manager Mike Pierce described some of the hands-on activities offered to the students.

This includes working with bees, stock cows, training goats and taking care of horses.

The students learned a lot about UTM and what it has to offer students who are interested in studying agriculture after high school.

OCCHS sophomore Kate Pilcher said, “This trip has helped me in deciding the road I want to take in order to become a veterinarian.”

Overall, the field trip was a great experience that allowed students to learn about the college and help them make decisions about their future.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Students hoping to attend the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville now have two new pathways through the University of Tennessee at Martin's 3+3 legal studies concentrations. These programs, designed for majors in either English or political science, allow qualified UT Martin students to begin law school during their senior year of undergraduate school and complete both undergraduate and juris doctor degrees in six years.

"We're proud to offer these new options to our students and hope they will make use of the opportunity to finish two degrees in a shorter amount of time," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Beginning with the fall 2019 semester, UT Martin students choosing to major in English or political science (on the Bachelor of Arts degree path) can add a concentration in legal studies through their respective departments. This path will include three years of general education and upper-division courses before students take the law school admissions test in their junior year.

Those who meet admissions criteria for the UT College of Law will transfer to complete their fourth year of undergraduate school and begin their juris doctor degrees. They would then complete two additional years of law school study. Any student who does not qualify for early admission to the UT College of Law can complete a different concentration and reapply to law school after finishing their traditional four-year degree.

“We look forward to this expansion of our 3+3 program helping us attract really talented students from Martin and paving the way for enhanced educational opportunities for students who live in West Tennessee,” said Melanie Wilson, dean of the UT College of Law. "Our 3+3 partnership with Martin is the first with another UT campus and reflects our great relationship with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver."

Students who participate in the 3+3 program will still earn a UT Martin undergraduate degree and be considered UT Martin alumni even though undergraduate degree hours will be completed at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

While law school hopefuls are often political science or history majors, this new path will also benefit English majors who can apply their writing and communications education to the legal profession.
"Law school has always been an attractive option for English majors at UT Martin, but the new legal studies option places them on a more direct path from here to a top law school in the state," said Dr. David Carithers, associate professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. "(UT) Knoxville has a program like this on their campus, but it is only for Bachelor of Science degrees. Ours is unique in its basis in the humanities."

For more information on legal studies within the English major, contact Dr. David Carithers, chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, at 731-881-7300 or dcarithers@utm.edu. For more information on legal studies within the political science major, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science, at 731-881-7367 or cbaxter@utm.edu.

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**Upcoming education events**

**UT Martin music events and photography exhibit**

**Music events:**

Junior/Senior Day, hosted by the music department, will include a campus tour, meeting with music faculty and a chance to audition for Fall 2019 admission into the program at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 18 on UTM's main campus. To register, visit utm.edu/jsd.

The music department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series with a presentation by Dian Eddleman, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, room 136 or the #MusicEdLove podcast.

By attending the lecture, practicing music educators can get up to two hours of professional development.

RoseWind Duo performance at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at UT Martin Blankenship Recital Hall

**Photography exhibit**

Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David F. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.
WORKING WOMEN – Several women from Gibson County attended the WestStar 21st Annual Working Women's Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Feb. 15. Conference highlights included the keynote address from Joan Cronan, University of Tennessee women's athletic director emeritus and author of "Sport is Life with the Volume Turned up: Lessons Learned That Apply to Business and Life." Other speakers covered the multi-generational workplace, leadership, overcoming fear and preparing for the future. Pictured are (from left) Libby Wickersham, executive director of the Greater Gibson County Area Chamber of Commerce; Crystal Burns, editor of the Trenton Gazette; Vanessa Presson, HR manager for Tyson Foods Humboldt Complex; and Megan Reece, administrative assistant for Tyson Foods Humboldt Complex.

UT Martin music events and photography exhibit

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The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.
Ride of a lifetime culminates at International Finals Rodeo

Summer Weldon's reign as Miss Rodeo USA 2018 may have come to a close last month, but the 21-year-old Martin native will be back in the saddle this summer when she returns to the sport that first captured her sixth-grade heart.

The International Finals Rodeo, held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Jan. 18 through 20 marked the end of Weldon's days as Miss Rodeo USA, a title held only once before by a Tennessean. For the past year, the UT Martin student traveled over 100,000 miles across the United States and Canada, serving as the official spokesperson for the International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA). Weldon not only made appearances at approximately 75 rodeo performances throughout the year, but also promoted the sport through multiple television and radio interviews, as well as participating in community events at hospitals, schools and nursing homes.

When asked about highlights from the year, Summer is quick to mention the opportunity of riding horseback on the beach on both the east and west coasts. The annual Brunswick, Georgia, Rodeo at the Beach offered the first opportunity in the spring, followed by a horseback photo shoot on Border Beach in California, near Tijuana, Mexico.

One of Weldon's favorite rodeos was Festival-de-Western in St-Tite, Quebec. This rodeo has won the honor of IPRA Outdoor Rodeo of the Year for the last several years, and it did not disappoint. Carrying the American Flag in front of a crowd of over 8,000 rodeo fans at a rodeo that is announced only in French, will be a memory that will never be forgotten, according to Weldon.

Weldon's draw to the arena began with showing horses as part of 4-H shows and then with the American Quarter Horse Association. "I thought that was what I wanted to do the rest of my life," she explained in an interview between classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she is pursuing a degree in Health and Human Performance. But a visit from a barrel racing aunt caused a turn in her pursuits.

"She threw me up on her barrel horse and I fell in love with it," she said, adding that the adrenaline rush didn't hurt. Rodeo competing through the Tennessee Junior Rodeo Association began when Weldon was in the sixth grade. While the rodeo queen only lost 5 competitions in a career that saw her collect 15 titles, her first barrel race experience did not end in victory.

"My first rodeo I was so terrified that I fell off my horse," she said with a laugh. "But you have to get back on the horse and keep riding."

She has been competing in Queens contests for over a decade. The daughter of Beth and Cameron Weldon, she told her mother she wanted to focus on becoming a rodeo queen after seeing the speeches, interviews and modeling in western wear at her first visit to a rodeo competition. She won her first Miss Tennessee Junior Rodeo Association title between her sixth and seventh grade years. She ultimately was so devoted to the sport that she was home schooled in her final year of high school in order to focus on the rodeo.

She won again the following year and then began competing in the high school level events. Her...
first foray into that arena she won. When she lost her second pursuit of the title, she said it offered the career-defining wake-up call.

"I think that's what made me ultimately win Rodeo USA so young," she explained. "Because I thought I was the best and then someone kicked me down a few notches and that's when I realized I may think I'm the best, but it doesn't mean I don't need to give 100 percent."

With the loss, she concentrated even greater on speech development, practicing for interviews, riding, and increasing her knowledge of the various associations.

"I studied harder for rodeo queen titles than for school," she confessed.

Now at home in Martin, returning to her studies as a sophomore after a year off for rodeo duties, Weldon says she is ready to focus on school as she would like to pursue a career as an occupational therapist, following somewhat in the paths of mom and dad who both have careers in physical therapy.

At 5 feet, 11 inches with brown hair and usually attired in red to further underscore the patriotism reflected in her typical arena assignment of carrying the flag at the launch of the rodeo, Weldon has advice for the girls who watched her the same way she once studied queens receiving their titles.

"You miss 100 percent of the opportunities you don't take," she said. "Go for it. It's not whether you win or lose, it's the friends and the memories you make as well."

Crowning Heather Morrison, a 26-year-old from Letts, Iowa, the new Miss Rodeo USA was bittersweet for Weldon who likened the relationships she's built to family.

"It has been an absolute honor and privilege to represent the International Professional Rodeo Association this year, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunities that I have had this past year, as well as for all of the friends that I have made along the way," she concluded.

After such a successful run as rodeo queen, Weldon says she is now satisfied that she's done with that pursuit. However, she has no intention of hanging up her hat. She and her horse are already getting back into shape for barrel racing and Weldon has her eyes set on open rodeos of the IPRA this summer.

While someone else will be carrying the flag, the torch for rodeo will always burn bright in Weldon's heart.
Carrying the American Flag at Miss Rodeo USA before national and international audiences has been one of the highlights of Summer Weldon’s reign.

Summer rides on Border Beach in California during a photo shoot.
MONSTER CONCERT AT UTM — The Martin Area Music Teachers Association held its 23rd annual Monster Concert on the campus of UT Martin Saturday. Jake Underwood and Gracie Worrell performed "Yankee Doodle" on the piano. See Page 12 for more photos and visit The Press’s Facebook page for additional event photos.

'MINUET' — Marianne Moore performed during the 23rd annual Monster Concert held at UT Martin Saturday. The event was presented by the Martin Area Music Teachers Association.

A MONSTER DUET — Jake Underwood and Emily Brown performed "Monster Play" on the piano during the 23rd annual Monster Concert presented by the Martin Area Music Teachers Association at UT Martin.

'TIP TOE' — Samantha Bates (left) and her violin teacher Bethany Ostenson performed during the 23rd annual Monster Concert held Saturday on the UT Martin campus. The event is presented by the Martin Area Music Teachers Association.
Henry County Leaders Chosen for WestStar Leadership Program Class of 2019

MARTIN — Travis McLeese and John Penn Ridgeway, both of Henry County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2019.

McLeese, executive director of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, serves on the Downtown Paris Association Executive Board, the Paris-Henry County Healthcare Foundation and the R.E.A.L. Hope Youth board, among other positions. He is also the recipient of the Governor’s Star Award for Community Service and Henry County’s Loyal Patriot Award for his work with the Youth for the Arts Program.

Ridgeway, vice president of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-McKenzie, serves on the Northwest Tennessee Workforce board, the Tennessee Board of Regents Council on Buyers and the SkillsUSA Tennessee Postsecondary Advisory board, among other positions.

He is also a recipient of the Oscar Owen Rotarian of the Year Award, was listed in the Jackson Sun 40 Under 40 Class of 2016, and received the SkillsUSA Tennessee Postsecondary Adviser Award, among other recognitions. Ridgeway is a graduate of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Leadership Academy.

McLeese and Ridgeway join 28 other participants from 15 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1988 and is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program.

The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee.

The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area. Dr. Charley Deal serves as WestStar executive director.

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

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UT Martin music events and photography exhibit

Music events: The music department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series with a presentation by Dian Eddleman, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, room 136 or the #MusicEdLove podcast.

By attending the lecture, practicing music educators can get up to two hours of professional development.

RoseWind Duo performance at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at UT Martin Blankenship Recital Hall

Photography exhibit: Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David F. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.
**UTM Music Ensembles To Play at Dixie PAC**

MARTIN, Tenn. — The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center in Huntingdon will present the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music Showcase at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Feb. 25. The showcase will feature both student and faculty ensembles such as the wind ensemble, New Pacer Singers, percussion ensemble, jazz band and Faculty Brass Quintet, among others. Admission is free to the public.

The Dixie PAC is located at 191 Court Square in Huntingdon. For more information or to reserve tickets, visit dixiepac.net or contact the Dixie box office between 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 731-986-2100. The box office will also be open two hours prior to the performances.

Also this week, the department will host the fifth-annual “Death by Voice” vocal competition at 3 p.m., Feb. 24, in the Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall. The event offers students who are interested in pursuing careers as music educators or vocal artists the opportunity to perform before judges, enhance their resumes and compete for scholarships. Competitors may enter one of three categories: high school, college art song or college aria.

For more information, visit utm.edu/music. Under “Related Links,” select “Concerts and Events” and view the “Special Events” tab.

Later this week, Michael Spiro, international percussionist, will give performances at 1 p.m., Feb. 26 and 27, in room 118 of the Fine Arts Building. Spiro is an Afro-Cuban/Brazilian professor and recording artist known for his work in Latin music. He is also a 10-time Grammy nominee and the conga drum chair in the world-renowned Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet.

The wind ensemble will perform in a side-by-side concert at 6 p.m., also on Feb. 26, in room 133 of the Fine Arts Building.

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

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**Sofa ‘selfie’ tour currently at UTM**

The University of Tennessee at Martin is stop two on the 2019 Red Sofa Selfie Tour, sponsored by Leaders Credit Union on behalf of the American Heart Association.

The campaign — intended to raise awareness of heart disease and stroke — encourages community members to snap a selfie on the red sofa as it is placed around West Tennessee.

The sofa is located on the second floor of the Boling University Center, outside the Duncan Ballroom, through Thursday.

Red Sofa Selfie Tour photos can be shared on social media using the hashtags #westtngored and #redsofa-selfie to promote the campaign. Stories from those directly affected by heart disease and stroke at each featured site will be shared March 21 during the West Tennessee Go Red event in order to raise awareness of the prevalence and impact of these conditions.

The red sofa was at Leaders Credit Union in Milan during Valentine’s Day.

After the stop at UT Martin, it will be at West Tennessee Healthcare’s Dyersburg campus from Thursday through March 7 and then at Jackson State Community College from March 7-20.

For more information on the Red Sofa Selfie Tour, contact Karen Freeman, business development manager for Leaders Credit Union, at (731) 664-1784, Ext. 1128.

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**Ensembles to perform**

The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center in Huntingdon will present the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music Showcase at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Monday.

The showcase will feature student and faculty ensembles, such as the wind ensemble, New Pacer Singers, percussion ensemble, jazz band and Faculty Brass Quintet.

Admission is free. The Dixie PAC is located at 191 Court Square in Huntingdon.

To reserve tickets, visit dixiepac.net or contact the Dixie box office 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at (731) 986-2100. The box office will also be open two hours prior to the performances.
Beginning sign language to be offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer beginning sign language classes March 2 through April 6 on the UT Martin main campus.

A beginning course will be offered from 3-5 p.m. March 2, 9 and 16. The registration cost is $45. The class will introduce students to deaf culture and focus on the alphabet, numbers 1-19 and more than 200 signs.

An advanced course will be offered from 2-4 p.m. March 23 and 30 and April 6. The registration cost is also $45.

The advanced class will review content from the first course and introduce 200 additional signs. It will focus on the use of signs and facial expressions to describe and identify people, ask and answer yes/no questions, increase speed and accuracy when finger-spelling words up to five letters, and sign and recognize numbers 21-100.

Participants do not have to be UT Martin students to enroll in non-degree programs.

To register, visit utm.edu/nondegree and select “General Classes.”

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at (731) 881-7104.

Captain’s Pantry launched at UTM to help meet need

The University of Tennessee at Martin is working to combat food insecurity for its students by opening Captain’s Pantry — a food pantry operation open to all enrolled students regardless of housing situation.

Students in need can pick up food items between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily in the lobbies of either Ellington or Cooper halls.

The university previously operated a food pantry out of Ellington Hall for students living in on-campus housing; however, the expanded Captain’s Pantry is open to all students. The new pantry officially opened Friday, and those wishing to donate items can do so at any time in the Ellington Hall lobby.

The Alliance of Women Philanthropists recently awarded UT Martin a Giving Circle Grant in excess of $4,600 to begin the pantry program.

Community members and students wishing to donate food items to the pantry are asked to bring any of the following items: applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish (tuna and salmon), canned meat, canned vegetables, cooking oils (olive and canola), crackers, dried herbs and spices, fruit (canned or dried), granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, boxed meals, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, rice, shelf-stable and powdered milk, whole grain cereal, soup, stew or chili.

This initiative is an expansion of the Skyhawks Share Meal Program, which provides discounted meals in the Skyhawk Dining Hall to students who are in need. On designated in-person donation days, students with surplus meal plan swipes can donate them to the meal program, and community members can add meals to the bank for $5 each.

Online contributions are accepted any time at utm.edu/skyhawksshare.

This program was launched in fall 2017 as a joint initiative by the UT Martin Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs to combat food insecurity. Since that time, more than 60 students have received more than 900 meals from the bank.

UT Martin students in need of assistance can request meals at utm.edu/skyhawksshare.
2 chosen for Governor’s Schools

Leah Beth Faulkner and Libby Wisener are getting a jump on their college educations.

The two Union City High School students have been accepted to the 2019 Tennessee Governor’s Schools, where they’ll take month-long courses this summer in their chosen higher education fields while receiving college credit.

The program attracts students across the state and provides next-level experiences and high-level learning for those chosen candidates who rank near the top academically of their respective classes.

Those selected for the program are placed in a demanding set of courses for students who are normally high achievers.

Miss Faulkner, a junior, will study in the Governor’s School for Agriculture at the University of Tennessee at Martin, while Miss Wisener, a sophomore, will be involved in the GS For the Arts, specializing in visual arts and film making at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Miss Wisener currently sports a 4.0 grade point average at UCHS, while Miss Faulkner has a 3.33 GPA.

Each will spend four weeks studying on campus at UT Martin and MTSU, respectively, this coming summer.

Miss Faulkner, the daughter of Dan and Laura Faulkner, plans to study veterinary science in college. She has regularly shown lambs and chickens in fair competitions, both locally and in Ohio, Missouri and Kentucky.

“I just thought it was a great opportunity for me to get three hours of college credit and get me off to a good start,” Miss Faulkner said, after detailing the application process that included writing an essay and getting a nomination from a member of the Union City faculty.

She said she was undecided on her college choice, but both UTM and Murray (Ky.) State University are possibilities.

Miss Wisener, the daughter of Brad and Shauna Wisener, claimed she’s had a keen interest in film making and television for some time and will expand on that knowledge with her time at MTSU.

“I love watching television and I want to make it in television — behind the camera,” she stated.

More than 900 applied for her particular program and she was among a class of 30 selected.

Miss Wisener is currently undecided on her college choice, but has specific interest in SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) in Georgia.

UT Martin MBA program ranks high

U.S. News & World Report has ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online master of business administration program tied for 34th in the country in the most recent ranking of more than 300 online MBA programs.

UT Martin is the top-ranked online MBA program in Tennessee, with the next state institution coming in 70th place.

This ranking is based on a variety of factors, including student and professor engagement in courses; selective admissions processes; faculty credentials and training; available student services, technologies and resources; and the opinion of experts in the academic world. Institutional data was self-reported through statistical questionnaires distributed in the fall of 2018.

UT Martin’s program is also first in the state and 11th overall among the top 30 accelerated online MBA programs for 2019 by CollegeValuesOnline.com. UT Martin is the only Tennessee program to be included on this particular list.

The UT Martin MBA program is delivered in both online and hybrid formats with an additional concentration option in agricultural business. The program typically takes only 20 months to complete and is regularly included in national and regional rankings and is accredited by AACSB International.

For more details, visit utm.edu/mba or contact Dr. Christic Chen, associate professor of management and MBA coordinator, at (731) 881-7208.
Flood-related school closures for Friday, Feb. 22

February 21, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
(https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

The following schools are closed for flooding.

University Of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center and McNairy County Center/Selmer will be closed Friday, February 22.

Kustoff Holds Roundtable Meeting At UT Martin

FEBRUARY 21, 2019 AT 4:08 PM POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Martin, Tenn.--The University of Tennessee at Martin and the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking hosted U.S. Congressman David Kustoff (R-8th District) on campus Feb. 19 for a roundtable meeting with local community bankers and insurance representatives. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Sam Lewallen, Simmons Bank; Greg Gunter, First Community Bank; Kustoff; Ben Beard, a sophomore finance major from Union City; Ty Smith, a senior finance major from Selmer; Terri Brundige, BancorpSouth; Ryan Ellegood, The Citizens Bank; (back row) Randy Huffstetler, Greenfield Banking Company; Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin executive director of research, outreach and economic development; Portis Tanner, Westan Insurance; Josh Gibson, Carroll Bank and Trust; Bryant Rhodes, Weakley County Farm Bureau; Andy Page, Security Bank and Trust Company; Tom Seratt, First Citizens National Bank; and Alan Cary, Cary Insurance.
New Courses Set For UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center is scheduled to offer a pharmacy technician course from 6 p.m. through 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 12th through April 30th. The center is also scheduled to offer a phlebotomy technician course at the same time from March 12th through June 11th.

The pharmacy technician course prepares students for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam with 50 hours in a classroom and 80 clinical hours in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health-care facilities working with a registered pharmacist. The course focuses on pharmacy terminology, reading and interpreting prescriptions, and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will also learn dosage calculations, IV flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement. The registration fee includes a textbook and supplies.

The phlebotomy technician course will focus on terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, specimen hands-on practice, and clinical training in skills and techniques to perform puncture methods. The class offers lab exercises and live blood draws to prepare participants for work as an entry-level phlebotomy technician. The program includes 90 hours of classroom training and prepares students for the National Healthcareer Association Certification Exam that will be given at the end of the course. The registration fee includes a textbook and supplies. The cost of the exam is not included in the registration fee.

Participants do not have to be a UT Martin student to enroll in nondegree programs. To register for either class, visit utm.edu/nondegree and select “General Classes.”

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

The UT Martin Ripley Center is located at 315 S. Washington St. in Ripley. For further information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at 731-881-7104.

The Messenger, Union City Tennessee, Thursday, February 21, 2019

Piano students perform at ‘Monster Concert’

Piano students from the class of Linda Williams recently joined with other students from the area in a “Monster Concert” at the University of Tennessee in Martin.

The annual event is labeled a monster concert because many performers are playing duets and trios at multiple pianos; many fingers busy at the same time.

Featured in this year’s program were Owen Shannon, Hayden Kennedy, Gavin Wheelis, Tyler Lownsdale, Jacob Melton, Noah Melton, Kaleb Bruner, Chloe Cook, Katie Lownsdale, Olivia Julian, Ainsley Chandler, Reece Chandler and Shirley Towner.
WESTVIEW FFA CELEBRATES FFA WEEK — The Westview FFA is celebrating National FFA week with a variety of activities. On Tuesday at Martin Primary School, FFA Advisor Bill Fuqua along with three Westview FFA students, Rachel Powers, Rebecca Powers and Isabella Dawson (shown here) went to the Primary School and read to Allison Stockton’s class about farm animals and how farming feeds the world. Tuesday afternoon Westview FFA students along with FFA students from around West Tennessee converged on the UTM campus and were treated to classroom insight on subjects taught by UTM Agriculture, Geo-science and Natural Resource professors. Tuesday night at UTM the Tennessee FFA State Officer team had a presentation to the FFA students in breakout sessions after their meal in the University ballroom. Friday is “Drive Your Tractor to School Day;” Westview FFA students will be driving their tractors to school and a “Tractor Show” (similar to a car show) will be held for trophies awarded to different classes of tractors. Also Friday is FFA Shirt Day at Westview High School. FFA apparel may be worn to school on Friday.

FFA WEEK AT UTM — Future Farmers of America (FFA) members (from left) Emma Winstead of Dresden; Nathan Redding of Decaturville; Tyler Roberts of Martin; Will Rea of Martin; and Hunter Hall of Martin; participated in a climate and meteorology activity led by Dr. Mark Simpson, professor of geography, and Dr. Rachna Tewari, associate professor of agricultural economics, during FFA Night at UTM, Tuesday on the campus of UT Martin. Nearly 130 local students, plus teachers, participated in celebrating National FFA Week.
DONATIONS WELCOME – Captain's Pantry, a food pantry operation open to all enrolled students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, officially opened Feb. 15. Students in need can pick up food items between 8 a.m.-11 p.m. daily in the lobbies of either Ellington or Cooper halls. Individuals, churches or organizations wishing to donate items can do so at any time in the Ellington Hall lobby.

UTM opens Captain's Pantry to combat food insecurity

The University of Tennessee at Martin is working to combat food insecurity for students by opening Captain's Pantry, a food pantry operation open to all enrolled students regardless of housing situation. Students in need can pick up food items between 8 a.m.-11 p.m. daily in the lobbies of either Ellington or Cooper halls.

The university previously operated a food pantry out of Ellington Hall for students living in on-campus housing; however, the expanded Captain's Pantry opened Feb. 15 to all students.

The Alliance of Women Philanthropists recently awarded UT Martin a Giving Circle Grant in excess of $4,600 to begin the pantry program. Community members and students wishing to donate food items to the pantry are asked to bring any of the following items: applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish (tuna and salmon), canned meat, canned vegetables, cooking oils (olive and canola), crackers, dried herbs and spices, fruit (canned or dried), granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, boxed meals, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, rice, shelf-stable and powdered milk, whole grain cereal, soup, stew and chili.

This initiative is an expansion of the Skyhawks Share Meal Program, which provides discounted meals in the Skyhawk Dining Hall to students who are in need. On designated in-person donation days, students with surplus meal plan swipes can donate them to the meal program, and community members can add meals to the bank for $5 each. Online contributions are accepted any time at utm.edu/skyhawksshare. Feb. 15 was the designated donation day for the Skyhawks Share Meal Program, and donated meals will be accepted in the Skyhawk Dining Hall during the lunch and dinner meal periods.

This program was launched in fall 2017 as a joint initiative by the UT Martin Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs to combat food insecurity. Since that time, more than 60 students have received more than 900 meals from the bank.

Students in need of assistance can request meals at utm.edu/skyhawksshare.
UT Martin music events and photography exhibit

Music events: The music department will continue its #MusicEdLove lecture series with a presentation by Dian Eddleman, president of the southern division of the National Association for Music Education at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, room 136 or the #MusicEdLove podcast.

By attending the lecture, practicing music educators can get up to two hours of professional development.

RoseWind Duo performance at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at UT Martin Blankenship Recital Hall

Photography exhibit: Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David F. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.
FLYING HIGH — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver (standing left) and UT Martin athletic staff member and longtime local pilot Tony Lester unfurled a Skyhawks mascot flag as they presented it to Everett-Stewart Regional Airport board members, including Mike Holman (seated left), at their meeting Thursday morning. Many airports across the nation proudly display their local university’s flag, according to the chancellor. UT Martin is a major supporter and frequent user of the local airport, which serves Obion and Weakley counties as a regional field. (See related photo, Page 9.)

**Chancellor praises relationship with airport**

By CHRIS MENEES  
Senior Staff Reporter

The University of Tennessee at Martin is flying high at Everett-Stewart Regional Airport — in more ways than one.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said the university is “blessed” to have an outstanding partnership with the local airport.

“We’re just grateful to be a part of this region, and whatever I can do to promote the airport or the services — I’m so glad our students are tied here,” Carver told airport board members at their meeting early Thursday morning.

“I’ll do whatever I can — we will do whatever we can — to promote this region and promote this partnership. We’re blessed.”

Carver was joined by UT Martin athletic staff member Tony Lester, also a longtime local pilot, in making a special presentation to the airport.

The university representatives took center stage as they unfurled a white Skyhawks mascot flag, which will now be flown alongside other flags at Everett-Stewart.

They explained that many local airports throughout the nation proudly display their local university’s flag, and Everett-Stewart can now do the same in its role as a regional airport for Obion and Weakley counties.

Lester, who is heavily involved at the local airport, said coaches frequently fly in and out of Everett-Stewart, including those from UT Martin. He said when they land at other airports, they are greeted by flags of local university teams — for example, a Bulldogs flag in Georgia or a Salukis flag in southern Illinois.

“It would be nice ... when people get off that plane, they see UT Martin Skyhawks. This is our territory,” Lester said.

Carver elaborated on the importance of having the UT Martin flag at the airport.

“We are always going to be a West Tennessee university. That’s who we are as a good public regional,” the chancellor said.

He said 74 percent of UT Martin graduates still live in Tennessee after they graduate and “that’s impressive.”

“Having a flag here says something else to me,” Carver said. “Besides being a great public regional, we have students this year from 40 of 50 states, we have students here from 83 of the

(See Page 9, Col. 3)
Chancellor...

(Continued from Page 1)

95 counties in Tennessee, and we have students at UTM from 21 international countries. This flag is going to be symbolic of northwest Tennessee, but when you think of the different people in and around the university, it really impacts more than just West Tennessee with the region, the state, our country and the world.”

Interim airport manager Tim Smith noted that local pilot Mike Rinker recently took the Skyhawk mascot up in a plane for a unique photo opportunity to kick off a special campaign at UTM.

“They loved it and we loved it, too,” Smith said.

Carver expressed his appreciation to the airport staff and board members for their ongoing efforts in partnering with the university and its students.

“You did a good job,” board member Mike Holman told Bondurant, an airport board member who is also an Obion County commissioner.

• Learned the search is still actively under way to hire a new airport manager. The board has received 179 applications from nearly 30 states.

Smith, who has been serving in an interim capacity since the termination of former manager Bob Snuck at the end of October 2018, said he would like to leave the position at the end of March.

• Was informed design of an agricultural hangar is about 90 percent complete. The airport is utilizing a USDA Rural Development grant for the design of the hangar, which the airport board hopes can be funded and built in the future.

Along that same line, Smith emphasized how much the local airport is used on a daily basis for many different needs in the community. For example, he said a Vanderbilt medical helicopter flew in Wednesday to pick up a patient because Everett-Stewart is the only local airport which offers an ILS — instrument landing system — approach.

ILS is a precision runway approach aid which enables pilots to conduct an instrument approach to landing if they are unable to establish visual contact with the runway. The system at Everett-Stewart is maintained and paid for by the FAA, at no expense to taxpayers.

Smith said the Vanderbilt chopper pilot “really bragged” on Everett-Stewart and its facility.

“Had this airport not been equipped to do ILS, they would have been out of luck trying to get (the patient) to Memphis,” Smith added.

That sort of stuff is never talked about in the public and they don’t think this airport is used for anything. It’s one of those subsidiary things that happens here that people don’t see.”

Airport board chairman Dr. Chris Gooch also praised board member Stoney Orton for his ongoing efforts in revamping the airport’s website. It may be found online at www.estewartregionalairport.com.

In other action during Thursday’s near hour-long meeting, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, the airport board:

• Briefly discussed presentation of the board’s response to 11 recommendations for the airport from an airport study committee appointed by the Obion County Commission last November.

An airport board subcommittee, chaired by Jim Bondurant, thoroughly examined and discussed every recommendation in a response which will be presented to the county commission at its March 18 meeting. McCrueght said Bondurant worked very hard in compiling the response.

In a monthly project report, John Greer of the Memphis consulting firm Barge Design Solutions also shared that the Tennessee Department of Transportation wants to include the airport’s pavement rehabilitation project in a West Tennessee-wide project.

• Learned new furniture is in place in the airport terminal lobby, with the final cost being under budget.

• Had a brief moment of silence for former Weakley County mayor Houston Patrick, who recently passed away.

McCreight said Patrick was involved in the airport interlocal agreement which was signed in 2006 and was “a fantastic supporter of this airport.”

Senior Staff Reporter Chris Menees may be contacted at email at cmenees@ucmessenger.com.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Rev. Dr. Williams Barber II, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and president of the North Carolina conference of the NAACP, served as keynote speaker Feb. 21 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 19th-annual Civil Rights Conference. Barber spoke on the conference theme “Toward a Radical Revolution of Values: A New Poor People’s Campaign,” and his presentation was followed by a performance by the UT Martin Voices of Harmony gospel choir. (UTM photo).
UT Martin photography exhibit
Photography exhibit: Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David F. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday until March II at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.

http://www.wenkwtp.com/

UT Martin Receives $25,000 Scholarship From Country Radio Broadcasters

Posted: February 25, 2019 at 3:25 PM by Shannon McFarlin

Photo: Pictured accepting the scholarship check during the Country Radio Broadcasters Inc. Country Radio Seminar in Nashville are from left: Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communication and WUTM faculty adviser; Brian Affolter, a senior from Brentwood; Jessica Davis, a junior from Sharon; Emma Bruner, a junior from South Fulton; and John Thornton, a junior from Atoka; and Rodney Freed, instructor of communication and UTM Television faculty adviser.
MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin's broadcasting was granted a $25,000 scholarship by the Country Radio Broadcasters Inc. Faculty members Dr. Richard Robinson and Rodney Freed, along with four students, accepted the award during the organization's Country Radio Seminar held Feb. 13 at the Omni Hotel in Nashville.

"All of us at the Country Radio Broadcasters were very impressed at the curriculum and the type of students the school brings us. After having a chance to meet some of the them at our recent Country Radio Seminar, our feeling was definitely reinforced," said John Shomby, chairperson of the scholarship committee. "It's very encouraging to see so many young people eager to get into this business and UTM being one of the main catalysts behind that."

This is the first time UT Martin has received this award, which will be used to help fund the education of a student pursuing the broadcasting sequence each year. Interested colleges and universities had to apply for the scholarship and submit letters of support to qualify for consideration.

"The Communications Department was honored to be chosen for the Country Radio Broadcasters scholarship endowment," said Rodney Freed, instructor of communications and director of the department's broadcasting sequence. "Our program is focused on giving students a wide range of professional experiences to prepare them for their professional careers. With this generous endowment, we'll be able to offer an ongoing scholarship to assist students financially in pursuing careers in the broadcast field."

Students in attendance were Brian Affolter, a senior from Brentwood; Jessica Davis, a junior from Sharon; Emma Bruner, a junior from South Fulton; and John Thornton, a junior from Atoka.

For more information on the award or the UT Martin broadcasting sequence, contact Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser, at 731-881-7555 or rrobins@utm.edu.
UT board to meet

The University of Tennessee board of trustees will meet Friday in Martin.

The meeting of the full board will begin at 1 p.m. in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. The meeting will be webcast live and archived for later viewing; a link to the webcast will be available at tennessee.edu.

Two board committees are scheduled to meet prior to the meeting of the full board — Education, Research and Service Committee at 8 and Finance and Administration Committee at 10:15. All meetings will be in the Duncan Ballroom.

All meeting times are approximate. If a meeting ends earlier or later than expected, the next meeting will begin following a short break.

The full agenda for each meeting and materials are available at https://trustees.tennessee.edu/ or by contacting Melissa Tindell at (865) 974-4721, mtindell@tennessee.edu or 823 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park, Knoxville, TN 37996 or Jennifer Sicking at (865) 974-5179, jsicking@tennessee.edu or P-265 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park, Knoxville, TN 37996.

Requests to address the board may be submitted using the online form or the pdf at: trustees.tennessee.edu/requests-to-address-the-board/ no later than 4 p.m. today.

Anyone with a disability who wishes to attend this meeting may contact the individuals listed above to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance. Contact may be made in person, by writing, by email, by telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 4 p.m. Wednesday.

KUSTOFF ATTENDS MEETING — The University of Tennessee at Martin and the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking hosted 8th District Congressman David Kustoff on campus recently for a roundtable meeting with local community bankers and insurance representatives. Among those taking part in the meeting were (front row, from left) Sam Lewallen, Simmons Bank; Greg Gunter, First Community Bank; Kustoff; Ben Beard, a sophomore finance major from Union City; Ty Smith, a senior finance major from Selmer; Terri Brundige, BancorpSouth; Ryan Ellegood, The Citizens Bank; (back row) Randy Huffstetler, Greenfield Banking Company; Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin executive director of research, outreach and economic development; Portis Tanner, Westan Insurance; Josh Gibson, Carroll Bank and Trust; Bryant Rhodes, Weakley County Farm Bureau; Andy Page, Security Bank and Trust Company; Tom Seratt, First Citizens National Bank; and Alan Cary, Cary Insurance.
UT Martin Sees Spring Enrollment Increase

By SYDNIE ANDERSON (PEOPLE/SYDNIE ANDERSON) 2/26/2019

Spring undergraduate enrollment at the University of Tennessee at Martin is up by roughly 6 percent from last year.

The university said it's seen an enrollment increase of 355 undergraduate students for the spring 2019 semester. Director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Destin Tucker said the increase comes from retention efforts.

The number of high school students earning credit through the university also increased. An additional 580 dual-enrollment students took courses this spring compared to last spring. That's almost double the number from last year.

Total headcount, including both undergraduate and graduate-level students, increased by 5 percent.

The Mirror Exchange, Tuesday, February 26, 2019

LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS UT MARTIN SPRING PREVIEW DAY– Madelyn McMillan (left), a student at South Gibson County High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Test Flight Academic Preview Day on Feb. 18. This event offers prospective students the chance to learn about academic programs in their chosen major and experience college life inside the classroom. It also includes a walking tour of campus and opportunities for interactions with UT Martin students and faculty. McMillan is pictured with her father, Ross McMillan. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.

LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS UT MARTIN SPRING PREVIEW DAY– Keri Parrish (left), a junior at South Gibson County High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Test Flight Academic Preview Day on Feb. 18. This event offers prospective students the chance to learn about academic programs in their chosen major and experience college life inside the classroom. It also includes a walking tour of campus and opportunities for interactions with UT Martin students and faculty. Parrish is pictured with Brenda Parrish. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant March 16 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center. The pageant is open to all girls from birth to ages 20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only.

Doors 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 — $25 for beauty only with side categories available for additional cost. The winner of the 16-20 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 11, 12 and 13.

All proceeds go toward scholarships for the UTM Rodeo Team.

For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.

UT Martin photography exhibit

Photography exhibit: Little Shadow Catchers: The Life and Works of David F. Barry, a nineteenth-century photographer of the American West at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until March 11 at UT Martin J. Houston Gordon Museum located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit has 45 archival photos, including historical figures such as Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer.

Extended hours at Health Dept.

Today The Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department will offer extended clinic hours on Tuesday, Feb. 26. Appointments are available until 6:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month.

Staff will be available to assist with family planning, sexually transmitted disease (STD) safety checks and treatment, along with well-child exams and vaccinations.

Patients must make an appointment in advance and arrive on time to be seen. For more information on the extended hours clinic or to schedule an appointment call 731-423-3020.

UT Martin to offer ACT prep session March 2

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an ACT success tactics training session Saturday, March 2, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on the UT Martin main campus. The registration fee is $45 per student.

The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. The session will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits, as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper.

Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course.

UT Martin will hold an additional session April 8 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
Music alumni reunite in celebration

"Reunited and it feels so good" probably never appeared on one of the music department quizzes but the pop song’s lyrics certainly captured the mood of a long overdue gathering of former University of Tennessee at Martin music students this weekend. More than 150 alumni gathered on campus for strolls around the campus and down memory lane and the opportunity to honor several of their own for outstanding professional achievements.

Citing the newly renovated Fine Arts Building, upcoming projects like the Phase 2 Concert Hall, and other changes on campus as well as new businesses in the community, Dr. Julie Hill, now in her fourth year as chair of the Music department, wrote in a welcome publication to the musicians gathered, “We have a vibrant faculty, healthy and

SEE MUSIC

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At the banquet at Discovery Park of America in Union City on Saturday, the following alumni were recognized:

Harley Patterson, Class of 1975, received the highest honor, UTM Music’s Lifetime Achievement in Education award. Patterson is one of the most highly regarded professionals in the field of music education.

Rita Winter, Class of 1998, was the recipient of UTM Music’s Lifetime Legacy Award for having demonstrated long-term exemplary service, support, and commitment to the UTM Department of Music and the art form of music.

The Professional Service Award went to James Henning, Class of 1987, and Karen Henning, Class of 1983, for serving their own communities and making “the world a better place through music.”

JJ Norman, Class of 2015, claimed the Young Alumni Award for achieving great success in the field of music within his first ten years after graduation.

Patterson was born into a musical family and at an early age, sang gospel music with his family every Sunday morning on Camden’s WFWL Radio. Patterson attended Bethel College, the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, VA, and UT Martin, as a student of John Matheisen. During his time in the military, he was stationed in Korea and was a member and conductor of the Eighth Army Chorus. He held band and choral teaching positions at Dyersburg High School, Brighton High School, and Ripley Middle and High Schools. Under his direction, his bands and choirs were frequently recognized. He has also served as the Tennessee All-State Men’s Chairmen, a guest conductor and adjudicator throughout the area and has been selected three times as Teacher of the Year in Lauderdale County. After 36 years of service, Mr. Patterson recently retired as Music Director from First United Methodist Church in Ripley.
Winter received a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance at UT Martin and was a student of Marilyn Jewett and Christina Powers. In 1993, she received Level 3 Orff Schulwerk Certification at the University of Memphis and taught Orff in her home studio for 16 years. 

Winter has also served as a church choir director and Music Director for the Musquarde Children's Summer Theatre in Union City. She was a charter member of both the UTM Opera Theatre group and has performed with both the UTM Vanguard Theatre and as a soloist with the UTM Choral Society. Her bands have received numerous awards in both marching and concert. He has served as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the region and has hosted both Solo & Ensemble and WTSBOA All-West auditions at his school. A trombonist with the Jackson Swing Orchestra, he is a member of WTSBOA, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the National Association for Music Education, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from UT Martin and a Master of Education from Union University.

James D. Henning is a 31-year veteran in the field of music education and is currently the Assistant Director of Bands at North Side High School in Jackson, where he teaches 9th Grade Band, General Music, and the Jazz Ensemble. He is also an adjunct professor at Lane College teaching applied music. Prior to this, he held positions at Halls Junior/Senior High School, North Parkway Middle School, and Jackson Central Merry High School.

His bands have received numerous awards in both marching and concert. He has served as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the region and has hosted both Solo & Ensemble and WTSBOA All-West auditions at his school. A trombonist with the Jackson Swing Orchestra, he is a member of WTSBOA, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the National Association for Music Education, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from UT Martin and a Master of Education from Union University.

Karen Henning is currently an Associate Professor of Music at Lane College where she teaches Woodwind Ensemble, Music Appreciation, applied music, and instrumental music education classes.

Prior to her current role, she served as a public school instrumental music teacher for 30 years. She has been a clinician and adjudicator throughout the mid-south, as well as held band director positions in Haywood County, Jackson Central Merry High School, and Liberty Technology Magnet High School. Her bands consistently earned superior ratings and numerous awards at festivals and competitions around the country. They also performed in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC, and the National Association of Music Educators Conference in Nashville. She is a recipient of the WTSBOA Lifetime Achievement Award and Amro's "Music Educators Walk of Fame." She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Lambuth College and a Master of Music in Music Education from Austin Peay State University. Karen is a member of American School Band Director Association, Phi Beta Mu Music Fraternity, NFAME, TMEA, and WTSBOA.

JJ Norman has served as Professional Development and Collegiate Program Manager for the National Association for Music Education since 2015. Through his work he has offered sessions at various state and national music education conferences across the country as well as returning to his Alma Mater to speak as a contributor to the MusicEdLove Lecture Series and Podcast.

Prior to joining the association, he completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee at Martin where he majored in K-12 Vocal-General Music Education and was awarded the 2015 Carl Seale Student Teaching Award for outstanding performance and promise as a leader in the teaching profession.

Norman is scheduled to graduate from The George Washington University with a master's degree in human development and education in May of 2019. A middle Tennessee native, JJ now lives in Alexandria, Virginia, where he sits on the board of the Alexandria Choral Society.
FACILITATING CHANGE — Allicia “Kicker” Austin is in her third week of facilitating a Center for Disease Control program focused on giving Healthy Stepps to those dealing with health issues. The first time offering had to turn participants away. The free workshop is planned again for fall. The Sideline and the UTM Department of Nursing partnered in the endeavor.

Palmersville native returns to offer Healthy Stepps

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

Allica “Kicker” Austin was making a name for herself before she even exited the womb. The Palmersville native who returned to the area after several years with one of the premiere medical facilities in Houston, Texas, is once again making things happen as she kicks off the Healthy Steps Program in conjunction with the UTM nursing department and The Sideline in Martin.

Nicknamed as a result of her activity pre-birth, the graduate of Dresden High and the University of Tennessee at Martin’s health and human performance program, has launched Healthy Steps, a healthy living clinic designed by the Center for Disease Control as a Type 2 Diabetes preventive program. However, others with chronic diseases will find the material beneficial as well, Austin, a CDC-licensed coach, explains.

“The teachings will help reduce the risk for diabetes, cancer, and heart disease,” she said. “Whenever you improve your health with diet and exercise you reduce your risk of chronic diseases.”

The structured program of 16 weeks includes a different focus that a small group — currently 30 — unpack together in a one-hour meeting. Topics include ways to get active, breaking physical activity into chunks, how to cope with challenges, how to build a healthy plate, how to track food, and how to eat out.

Practical tips such as using a push rather than riding mower, walking during break at work, being active during time with kids as well as ensuring that ¼ of a plate of food is plant-based are the fodder for more in-depth discussions that Austin navigates but the participants actually provide much of the “meat” of the discussions.

Always active, Austin did have what she calls her “200-pound year” in her 20s when she was post-basketball, but she got it under control with diet and exercise.

“I’m not going to ask you to do something I haven’t done or would not do. That’s the Austin way — you can’t ask for what you won’t do,” she said of her approach to coaching for lifestyle changes.

“Participation is so successful because it’s a classroom program,” Austin underscored. “You have homework, and you complete handouts and bring it back each time.”

As the program director, she facilitates “change talk” encouraging dialogue between the participants who reflect a variety of ages and stages in life.

“I make it possible for the group to help each other,” she says of her facilitation role.

The program is offered free to the public and Austin plans another round in the fall. She is grateful for the partnership she has with the nursing program as students receive credit for assisting with the initial weigh-ins and blood pressure checks each week. A licensed nurse is always present as well.

While the inaugural classes were offered at no cost, Austin is pursuing grants to help cover the costs of the program and keep it at no to low cost.

“I want it to be a sustainable program,” she explained. “A lifestyle change is big, and I want the highest success rate possible. Everyone healthy in Weakley County. That’s my goal.”

Austin spent seven years working in Houston, Texas and returned to Tennessee on the last plane out of the city as Hurricane Harvey descended in 2017. She continues the work she started there, working on a consultation basis for individuals, businesses, and organizations providing this prevention program. She teaches HITT, Cycle, Silver Sneakers and other sports performance programs. She has a BS from UTM and a masters degree in business from Liberty University.

For more information email allicac.austin@gmail.com.
Spring enrollment increases at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin has seen an enrollment increase of 355 undergraduate students for the spring 2019 semester. The total undergraduate enrollment stands at 6,165 students as compared to 5,810 undergraduate students for the spring 2018 semester, representing a 6.1 percent increase.

Total headcount, including both undergraduate and graduate-level students, is up 316 students (5.1 percent) compared to last spring.

“The increase is due in part to our retention efforts to keep students from the past two years’ increased freshman classes enrolled and working toward graduation requirements,” said Destin Tucker, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

The university also experienced a significant increase in the number of high school students earning college credit through UT Martin, with 580 more dual-enrollment students enrolled in courses this spring as compared to last spring. This represents a 96.3 percent increase in this particular category.

However, UT Martin’s full-time equivalency is down from spring 2018. This number is not based on headcount but rather on the total number of credit hours administered during a semester divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students, which represents one full-time student in each category.

This number plays a factor in determining state funding for the coming academic year.

“Two consecutive years of increased fall headcount enrollment contributed to the positive spring enrollment numbers that we’re now seeing,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

“Our full-time equivalency is still not where it needs to be, but the trend toward more freshman students choosing to attend UT Martin as full-time students, combined with our retention efforts, will help improve this important number.” For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Educator Preparation Report Card released

2/27/2019

Tennessee State Board of Education released Friday, Feb. 15 the annual Educator Preparation Report Card, a tool for Tennesseans to learn more about the progress of educator preparation providers toward the Board's key priority areas.

The report card uses multiple metrics, including a profile of recent graduates, their placement and retention in Tennessee public school classrooms, and their observation and growth scores, which provide information about teacher and leader preparation in the state.

"Every year, we work closely with partners across the state, including districts and members of the educator preparation community, to improve the utility and scope of the report card," said Sara Morrison, executive director of the State Board of Education. "We have seen an improvement in overall scores year after year.

"In particular, we have seen an increase in program completers seeking endorsements in high-demand areas, higher retention of first-year teachers, and improvements in student growth."

This year, Christian Brothers University, Lipscomb University, Memphis Teacher Residency, New Teacher Project-Nashville Teaching Fellows, Teach for America-Memphis, Teach for America-Nashville, Union University, and University of Tennessee at Knoxville received the highest score of a four overall.

Many programs improved their ranking - Belmont University, King University, Maryville College, Milligan College, Tennessee Technological University, Trevecca Nazarene University, and Western Governors University all moved from an overall score of two to three.

According to data from Tennessee Department of Education, high demand endorsement areas for educators, including English as a Second Language, Spanish, special education, high school math, and high school science, are critical shortage areas in many school districts across the state. Data from this year's Educator Preparation Report Card indicates that more recent graduates earned these high-demand endorsements. Specifically, there has been a 4% increase in high-demand endorsements statewide in the last year.

In 2018, nine education preparation providers improved their scores by one performance category based on overall performance. Twenty-six education preparation providers scored either a three or four, the highest scores for overall performance.

Amy Owen, director of policy and research at the State Board of Education, said, "It is also encouraging that providers demonstrated measurable progress within performance categories. For example, the University of Tennessee at Martin increased its score on the provider impact
domain by almost 18 percentage points and on the employment domain by 11 percentage points. These incremental improvements in each domain contribute to the ever-increasing quality of educator preparation."

On the Educator Preparation Report Card this year, the State Board added a new leader preparation module to provide basic information about providers that prepare school leaders.

In addition, this year's Report Card includes a spotlight on each provider's literacy practices to support the state's goals around the Read to be Ready campaign.

Katherine McEldoon, project manager for the Educator Preparation Report Card, said, "We are excited to announce the collective improvement as a state on the latest report card. Data from the last three report cards show a clear trend of momentum. Eighty-four percent of our educator preparation providers increased their total score since the last report card. The progress in student growth is especially heartening."

For over 10 years, T.C.A. § 49-5-108 has required the state to report on the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs each year. When the State Board launched the redesigned Educator Preparation Report Card in 2016, it was with the goals of providing user-friendly information for local school districts, prospective teachers and educator preparation providers in mind.

Since overseeing the production and release of the report card, the State Board has adapted the report card into a user-friendly online tool with specific metrics and additional resources to provide more context about each program provider. These changes were based on feedback from education stakeholders that encouraged increased transparency and improved awareness for education preparation providers, local school districts, prospective teachers and the general public.

Local districts can utilize the Report Card to inform student teaching and hiring decisions by learning more about an applicant's education preparation provider. Prospective teachers can determine which educator preparation program best suits their career goals from the information provided about recent graduates' success in the classroom. Education preparation providers themselves can use this information to identify areas of strength and challenge, particularly in comparison to other programs across the state.

In addition, Tennessee Department of Education shares annual reports with each individual education preparation provider to provide in-depth details that can drive program improvement.

FOR SCHOLARSHIP — Accepting a scholarship check during the Country Radio Broadcasters Inc. Country Radio Seminar in Nashville recently were University of Tennessee at Martin representatives (from left) Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communication and WUTM faculty adviser; Brian Affolter, a senior from Brentwood; Jessica Davis, a junior from Sharon; Emma Bruner, a junior from South Fulton; John Thornton, a junior from Atoka; and Rodney Freed, instructor of communication and UTM Television faculty adviser.

UT Martin receives $25,000 for broadcasting scholarship

Country Radio Broadcasters Inc. selected the University of Tennessee at Martin’s broadcasting program, housed within the Department of Communications, as one of two recipients of this year’s $25,000 scholarship award.

Faculty members Dr. Richard Robinson and Rodney Freed, along with four students, accepted the award during the group’s Country Radio Seminar in Nashville.

“All of us at the CRB were very impressed at the curriculum and the type of students the school brings us. After having a chance to meet some of the them at our recent Country Radio Seminar, our feeling was definitely reinforced,” said John Shomby, chairperson of the CRB scholarship committee. “It’s very encouraging to see so many young people eager to get into this business and UTM being one of the main catalysts behind that.”

This is the first time UT Martin has received the award, which will be used to help fund the education of a student pursuing the broadcasting sequence each year. Interested colleges and universities had to apply for the scholarship and submit letters of support to qualify for consideration.

“The Communications Department was honored to be chosen for the Country Radio Broadcasters scholarship endowment,” said Freed, instructor of communications and director of the department’s broadcasting sequence. “Our program is focused on giving students a wide range of professional experiences to prepare them for their professional careers. With this generous endowment, we’ll be able to offer an ongoing scholarship to assist students financially in pursuing careers in the broadcast field.”

Students on hand were Emma Bruner, a junior from South Fulton; Brian Affolter, a senior from Brentwood; Jessica Davis, a junior from Sharon; and John Thornton, a junior from Atoka.
High school artists to be honored Friday at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will recognize high school artists Friday during the 15th annual College Art Day on the UT Martin main campus. This event brings approximately 120 high school juniors and seniors to the UT Martin campus to experience college visual art classes for a day.

During the event, faculty from the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present awards to winning students featured in an art exhibition Feb. 25-March 1.

The exhibit will showcase artwork submitted by area high school students and selected by faculty from the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and is open to the public from 1-5 p.m. weekdays in the Fine Arts Building’s art gallery.

Awards include “Best in Show” and first-through third-place in several categories and are sponsored by Blick Art Materials.

For more information, contact Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design, at shaigl@utm.edu.

ACT prep session slated for Saturday

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an ACT success tactics training session from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday on the UT Martin main campus.

The registration fee is $45 per student.

The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. The session will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits, as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper.

Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course.

In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid.

“Taking Alex’s class will help you understand how to manage your time throughout each part of the test,” said a former student. “After a session with him, you will feel more at ease about the ACT.”

UT Martin will hold an additional session from 8 a.m. to noon April 8.

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

Spring semester enrollment rises

The University of Tennessee at Martin has seen an enrollment increase of 355 undergraduate students for the spring 2019 semester.

The total undergraduate enrollment stands at 6,165 students as compared to 5,810 undergraduate students for the spring 2018 semester, representing a 6.1 percent increase.

Total headcount, including both undergraduate and graduate-level students, is up 316 students (5.1 percent) compared to last spring.

“The increase is due in part to our retention efforts to keep students from the past two years’ increased freshman classes enrolled and working toward graduation requirements,” said Destin Tucker, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

The university also experienced a significant increase in the number of high school students earning college credit through UT Martin, with 580 more dual-enrollment students enrolled in courses this spring as compared to last spring. This represents a 96.3 percent increase in this particular category.

However, UT Martin’s full-time equivalency is down from spring 2018. This number is not based on headcount but rather on the total number of credit hours administered during a semester divided by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students, which represents one full-time student in each category. This number plays a factor in determining state funding for the coming academic year.

“Two consecutive years of increased fall headcount enrollment contributed to the positive spring enrollment numbers that we’re now seeing,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “Our full-time equivalency is still not where it needs to be, but the trend toward more freshman students choosing to attend UT Martin as full-time students, combined with our retention efforts, will help improve this important number.”
Dresden FFA Member Attends UTM Meeting

Emma Winstead, a student at Dresden High School, attended FFA Night at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Feb. 19. Winstead, along with a delegation from Dresden's FFA chapter, were among nearly 130 local students, plus teachers, who participated in hands-on teaching demonstrations on the UT Martin farm and ended the evening with a banquet in the Boling University Center. Winstead is pictured with Nathan Redding, of Decaturville, during a climate and meteorology activity led by Dr. Mark Simpson, professor of geography, and Dr. Rachna Tewari, associate professor of agricultural economics.

March 19

UTM-Ripley Center to hold Spring Fling

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center and the Lauderdale County Health Department will co-host their annual Spring Fling on Tuesday, March 19. Three new Ripley Center scholarships will be announced at the event. A Career Fair will be held from 3-5 p.m., with vendors and games from 4-6 p.m. Refreshments will be served at this free event. Call 221-8778 for questions or vendor requests. The UTM-Ripley Center is located at 325 S. Washington St.
**UT Martin Sees Spring Semester Enrollment Growth**

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

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**UT Board of Trustees To Meet At UTM March 1**

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will meet March 1 in Martin.

The meeting of the full board will begin at 1 p.m. CST/2 p.m. EST in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus. The meeting will be webcast live and archived for later viewing; a link to the webcast will be available at tennessee.edu.

Two board committees are scheduled to meet prior to the meeting of the full board. All meetings will be in in the Duncan Ballroom on the UT Martin campus. Committee meetings, which will be webcast, are scheduled as follows: 8 a.m. — Education, Research and Service Committee; 10:15 a.m. — Finance and Administration Committee. All meeting times are approximate. If a meeting ends earlier or later than expected, the next meeting will begin following a short break.

The full agenda for each meeting and materials are available at https://trustees.tennessee.edu/ or by contacting the individuals below.

Requests to address the board may be submitted using the online form or the pdf at: trustees.tennessee.edu/requests-to-address-the-board/. Requests will be accepted until 5 p.m. EST on Monday, Feb. 25. In accordance with the Standing Rule Governing Requests to Address the Board (also at the above link), persons who have preregistered to speak will be scheduled to speak in a committee meeting or the full board meeting on a first come, first served basis.

Speakers will be limited to five minutes each, and the total time available for speakers will be 30 minutes.

Anyone with a disability who wishes to attend this meeting may contact the individuals listed below to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance. Contact may be made in person, by writing, by email, by telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 5 p.m. EST, Wednesday, Feb. 27.
Staff and students on the campus of UT-Martin are saddened at the sudden passing of WUTM Senior Broadcast Engineer, Harold Cochran.

The 52 year old Cochran, who was from Troy, passed away Tuesday night at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Union City.

A release from WUTM said Cochran was the "Wind Beneath Our Wings" at WUTM, the UTM television station and the entire Department of Communications.

Bud Grimes, with the Office of University Relations, said Cochran was a long served, well respected employee on campus.

Cochran had served his country in the United States Air Force, and was also a long time member of several gospel quartets in the area, most recently singing with the Frog Jump Gospel Quartet.

Funeral services will take place Saturday at 11:00 at Calvary Baptist Church in Union City, with burial to follow in the Terrace Hill Cemetery.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson will offer ACT prep session March 4

knorris  Feb 28, 2019

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host an ACT success tactics training session from 4:30-8:30 p.m., March 4, in Jackson State Community College's McWherter Building. The registration fee is $45 per student.

The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. The session will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits, as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper.

Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course. In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid.

"Taking Alex’s class will help you understand how to manage your time throughout each part of the test," said a former student. "After a session with him, you will feel more at ease about the ACT."

The UT Martin Jackson Center will hold additional sessions from 4:30-8:30 p.m., April 4 and June 4.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is located on the campus of Jackson State Community College at 2046 N. Parkway in Jackson. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 881-7082.
TN Soybean Festival claims nine Kaleidoscope awards

The best and brightest were spotlighted this week at the Southeast Festivals and Events Association’s Kaleidoscope Awards, in Pigeon Forge Monday. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the SFEA Annual Conference. Top festivals and events throughout the southeast were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the events industry.

The Tennessee Soybean Festival brought home nine Kaleidoscope awards at the Southeast Festivals and Events Association Conference including:

- Gold in the following categories: Best Children’s Programming, Best TV Ad or PSA, Best Print Ad, Best Marketing Campaign, and Best Social Media Marketing
- Silver in the following categories: Best Festival Overall, Best Festival or Event Website, and Best Promotional Poster
- Bronze in the following categories: Best Volunteer - Alicia Pinto

"These awards represent a year of hard work and dedication by the Tennessee Soybean Festival committee and volunteers. They help us showcase the past 25 years of growth, innovation, and true community spirit. We strive to make each year unique and one of a kind while enhancing the community events we have celebrated for so many years. People from all across the county now travel to Martin to experience the Magic of the Tennessee Soybean Festival. It truly is the magic bean," said David Belote, executive director of the Tennessee Soybean Festival. The 2019 festival will be held Sept. 1-7.

"The quality of submissions continues to increase each year making it more difficult for the judges to select the winners," noted Lisa McCray, 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 Southeast Festivals & Events Association (SFEA) is a 501(c)6 membership-based organization comprised of festival and event planners, venues, and industry service providers. SFEA was founded in 2009. Membership is open to those in the festivals and events industry as well as those wanting to get their start and learn more about the profession.

BRINGING HOME THE GOLD AND SILVER — The annual Tennessee Soybean Festival claimed nine awards this week at the annual Southeast Festivals and Events Association Kaleidoscope Awards held in Pigeon Forge. Accepting the awards at the conference were (from left) City of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige; Camille Noe, City of Martin and the Tennessee Soybean Festival Committee member; Suzanne Harper of Twin Oaks Technology and TSF Committee member and Brad Thompson, City of Martin Director of Economic and Community Development and TSF Committee member.
By CHRIS MENNEES
Special to the Press

The University of Tennessee at Martin is flying high at Everett-Stewart Regional Airport — in more ways than one.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said the university is "blessed" to have an outstanding partnership with the local airport.

"We're just grateful to be a part of this region, and whatever I can do to promote the airport or the services — I'm so glad our students are tied here," Carver told airport board members at their meeting held Thursday, Feb. 21.

"I'll do whatever I can — we will do whatever we can — to promote this region and promote this partnership. We're blessed."

Carver was joined by UT Martin athletic staff member Tony Lester, also a longtime local pilot, in making a special presentation to the airport.

The university representatives took center stage as they unfurled a white Skyhawks mascot flag, which will now be flown alongside other flags at Everett-Stewart.

They explained that many local airports throughout the nation proudly display their local university's flag, and Everett-Stewart can now do the same in its role as a regional airport for Obion and Weakley counties.

Lester, who is heavily involved at the local airport, said coaches frequently fly in and out of Everett-Stewart, including those from UT Martin. He said when they land at other airports, they are greeted by flags of local university teams — for example, a Bulldogs flag in Georgia or a Salukis flag in southern Illinois.

"It would be nice when people get off that plane, they see UT Martin Skyhawks. This is our terri-

tory," Lester said.

Carver elaborated on the importance of having the UT Martin flag at the airport.

"We are always going to be a West Tennessee university. That's who we are as a good public regional," the chancellor said.

He said 74 percent of UT Martin graduates still live in Tennessee after they graduate and "that's impressive."

"Having a flag here says something else to me," Carver said. "Besides being a great public regional, we have students this year from 40 of 50 states, we have students here from 83 of the 95 counties in Tennessee, and we have students at UT Martin from 21 international countries. This flag is going to be symbolic of northwest Tennessee, but when you think of the different people in and around the university, it really impacts more than just West Tennessee with the region, the state, our country and the world."

Interim airport manager Tim Smith noted that local pilot Mike Rinker recently took the Skyhawk mascot up in a plane for a unique photo opportunity to kick off a special campaign at UTM.

"They loved it and we loved it, too," Smith said.

Carver expressed his appreciation to the airport staff and board members for their ongoing efforts in partnering with the university and its students.

"Thank you all for engaging our students," Carver said. "I'll put them up against any students at any university I've been at. I'm so proud of them."

During Thursday's 7 a.m. meeting, airport board members welcomed three UT Martin students who comprise one of four teams working on a competitive project for a senior capstone public strategies course.

"They have been sharper
SKYHAWKS ON BOARD — Everett-Stewart Regional Airport board members accepted a special gift from the University of Tennessee at Martin during their board meeting held last week. The UT Martin Skyhawks flag was presented by UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, who said all major airports proudly display their local university’s flag and Everett-Stewart can now do the same as the regional field for Obion and Weakley counties. UT Martin is a major supporter and frequent user of the local airport. On hand for the early-morning presentation were (from left) airport board member Mike Holman, Obion County Mayor Benny McGuire, airport board member Stoney Orton, Dr. Carver, interim airport manager Tim Smith, airport board member Roger Donaldson, UT Martin athletic staff member and longtime local pilot Tony Lester, airport board vice chairman Wayne McCreight and airport board members Kay Stegall and Jim Bondurant. Not pictured is airport board chairman Dr. Chris Gooch, who was delayed by an emergency and joined the meeting after the presentation.

than sharp. I've been most impressed," Smith said.

Airport board vice chairman Wayne McCreight said the students are "some of the most outstanding students in that particular curriculum."

McCreight said the teams will be making presentations regarding "a public strategy going forward to let the public know how great this airport is, how valuable it is to both counties and what it means to the economic development of this area, but also to the futures of our children, grandchildren and yet-to-be-born great-grandchildren."

Along that same line, Smith emphasized how much the local airport is used on a daily basis for many different needs in the community. For example, he said a Vanderbilt medical helicopter flew in Wednesday to pick up a patient because Everett-Stewart is the only local airport which offers an ILS — instrument landing system — approach.

ILS is a precision runway approach aid which enables pilots to conduct an instrument approach to landing if they are unable to establish visual contact with the runway. The system at Everett-Stewart is maintained and paid for by the FAA, at no expense to taxpayers. Smith said the Vanderbilt helicopter pilot "really bragged" on Everett-Stewart and its facility.

"Had this airport not been equipped to do ILS, they would have been out of luck trying to get the patient to Memphis," Smith added. "That sort of stuff is never talked about in the public and they don't think this airport is used for anything. It's one of those subsidiary things that happens here that people don't see."

Airport board chairman Dr. Chris Gooch also praised board member Stoney Orton for his ongoing efforts in revamping the airport's website. It may be found online at www.everettregionalairport.com.

In other action during Thursday's near-hour-long meeting, the airport board:
• Learned the search is still actively under way to hire a new airport manager.
• The board has received 179 applications from nearly 30 states. Smith, who has been serving in an interim capacity since the termination of former manager Bob Snuck at the end of October 2018, said he would like to leave the position at the end of March.
• Was informed design of an agricultural hangar is about 90 percent complete. The airport is utilizing a USDA Rural Development grant for the design of the hangar, which the airport hopes can be funded and built in the future.
• Had a brief moment of silence for former Weakley County mayor Houston Patrick, who recently passed away. McCreight said Patrick was involved in the airport interlocal agreement which was signed in 2006 and was "a fantastic supporter of this airport."

Editor's note: Chris Meenees is senior staff reporter at The Messenger in Union City. She may be contacted by email at cmenees@ucmessenger.com.
Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant March 16 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center.

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

Doors 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 — $25 for beauty only with side categories available for additional cost.

The winner of the 16-20 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 11, 12 and 13.

All proceeds go toward scholarships for the UTM Rodeo Team.

For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.

FLYING HIGH — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver (standing left) and UT Martin athletic staff member and longtime local pilot Tony Lester unfurled a Skyhawks mascot flag as they presented it to Everett-Stewart Regional Airport board members at their meeting last week. Many airports across the nation proudly display their local university’s flag, according to the chancellor. UT Martin is a major supporter and frequent user of the local airport, which serves Obion and Weakley counties as a regional field.