Local leaders chosen for WestStar Leadership Program

L to R: Chris Donaldson, Dakota Simpson, and Mike Enoch were selected to participate in UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program as members of the 2020 class.

Chris Donaldson and Dakota Simpson, both of Dyer County, as well as Mike Enoch of Lauderdale County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Chris Donaldson, owner and operator of Tencom Services, serves on the boards of the Lifebeat Family Resource Center; Dyer County Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Newbern, as well as on the Dyersburg State Community College Tech Advisory Board and the Newbern Planning Commission. Donaldson is a Leadership Dyer County graduate and a recipient of the Distinguished Man of the Year Award for Dyer County.

Dakota Simpson, a governor's management fellow for the state of Tennessee, is a graduate of Leadership Dyer County and the state's Accelerated Leadership Institute. He is also a recipient of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center's Rising Star Award.

Enoch, plant manager of Marvin Windows and Door of Tennessee in Ripley, is a Leadership Murray graduate and served as treasurer of Leadership Murray Alumni. He also serves as a deacon for the Phillip Street Church of Christ and as a counselor for the Reelfoot Youth Camp. In 2019, the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce awarded Marvin Windows and Doors of Tennessee the Large Business of the Year Award.

They join 26 other participants from 18 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 731-881-7296.
UT Martin students getting hands-on experience at Super Bowl

Kaeley Price
Feb 2, 2020

MARTIN, TN — For the seventh year in a row, the University of Tennessee at Martin will be represented at the Super Bowl.

Dr. Dexter Davis, an associate professor of sports business at UT Martin, has taken 11 students to the game — but they're there to work. The students are there working hospitality at the game.

Davis describes it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The students working the game are serving as talent concierges, escorting players between venues and helping with on-field activities.

Super Bowl LIV is Davis' 15th Super Bowl.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 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).

Students are: Amber F. Barker, Honors and Brittany D. Edwards, Highest Honors, both of Cedar Hill; William T. Gregory, High Honors and Peyton R. Judkins, Highest Honors, both of Cross Plains; Madelyn M. Dycus, Highest Honors and Tamara L. Stewart, High Honors, both of Greenbrier; Brooklynne E. Barnhill, Honors, Shelby L. Batson, Highest Honors, Evan T. Brown, Honors, Jacob D. Peach, Honors, Aimee N. Phillips, Highest Honors and Jennifer B. Rice, High Honors, all of Springfield; Cassandra L. Winslow, High Honors and Dalton A. Worley, Highest Honors, both of White House; Hope C. Jarrett, Highest Honors of Goodlettsville; and Timothy C. Minton, Highest Honors of Pleasant View.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
WestStar Leadership selects three countians for 2020 class

Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew, Paris Special School District Director of Schools Norma Gerrell and Tosh Farms co-owner/partner Jamey Tosh, all of Henry County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Belew serves as chairman for the Henry County Prevention Coalition and the National Wild Turkey Federation Jakes Program for Henry County.

He is a Leadership Henry County graduate and previous recipient of the Trooper of the Year award for the 8th District, the Henry County 4-H Outstanding Service award and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year award.

Dr. Gerrell serves on the boards of Rhea Public Library, the Obion County River Regional Library System, Henry County 911 and the University of Tennessee at Martin Educational Leadership Advisory Council.

She is a Leadership Henry County graduate and a recipient of both the Northwest Supervisor of the Year award and the Union University Distinguished Alumni award in the field of education.

Tosh is a recipient of the University of Tennessee Horizon award.

He currently serves on the board for the Henry County Medical Center and the UT President's Council.

These three join 26 other participants from 18 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 WestStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Leadership program set

George Leake selected for WestStar

George Leake of Obion County was selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Leake, supervisor of secondary instruction for Obion County Schools, serves on the board of directors for the Obion County Chamber of Commerce and on the UT Martin Educational Leadership Advisory Board.

He is a graduate of both Leadership Obion County and the Complete Tennessee Leadership Institute. He is also a recipient of the Pioneer Award, which recognizes service in career and technical education.

Leake joins 28 other participants from 18 counties at a series of seminars being held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education 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 program coordinator Virginia Grimes at (731) 881-7298.
20TH-ANNUAL UT MARTIN CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD FEB. 17-21

Feb. 4, 2020

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 20th-annual Civil Rights Conference will address the theme “Ordinary Heroes: The Struggle for Human Rights” with events the week of Feb. 17-21 on the UT Martin main campus.

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a civil rights icon who had participated in more than 50 sit-ins and demonstrations by the time she was 23 years old, will give the keynote address at 7 p.m., Feb. 20, in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium. She was a Freedom Rider, a participant in the Jackson Woolworth’s sit-in, the March on Washington, the Meredith March and the Selma to Montgomery March. She is also a recipient of the 2015 National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award.

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

Feb. 17
- “Elbert Williams: First to Die – Investigating the cold case murder of NAACP member Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tennessee, in 1940”; Jim Emison, Tennesseans for Historical Justice; 1-1:50 p.m.
- “Civil Rights Issues in Tennessee”; Mr. Tom Castelli, legal director for the ACLU Foundation of Tennessee; 2-2:50 p.m.
- “Everyday Issues for Minority Students on Campus” panel; 3-3:50 p.m.
- “Human Rights are Civil Rights” roundtable; Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 209; 4-4:50 p.m.
- “Building Community: The Work Continues”;Weakley County Reconciliation Project; 6-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 18
- Lunch with the Pedrito Martinez Group; Fine Arts Building Band Room; noon-1 p.m.
- “The History of Segregation and Education in Weakley County”; 1:15-2:15 p.m.
- “The Ballot or the Bullet: The Next Generation”; LeLann Evans, community organizer; 4-5:15 p.m.
- Concert: The Pedrito Martinez Group; Harriet Fulton Theater; 7 p.m.

Feb. 19
- “LGBTQ+ couples’ experience post Obergefell v. Hodges”; 1-1:50 p.m.
- “How Not to be ‘That Person’: Destroying the Bystander Effect”; Amy McLean, associate professor of social work; 2-2:50 p.m.
- “Issues Faced by Immigrants in Tennessee”; 3-3:50 p.m.
- Screening: “After Selma” followed by a question and answer with Loki Mulholland, director and screenplay writer; 4 p.m.

Feb. 20
- Community Action Poverty Simulation; Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; 9 a.m.-noon.
- “The Sustaining Role of Religious Music in the Civil Rights Movement”; Rev. Courtney Pace; 1-2:15 p.m.
- Screening: “The Uncomfortable Truth” followed by a question and answer with Loki Mulholland, director and screenplay writer; 2:30-4 p.m.
- Workshop: “Minority Student Leadership Experiences on Tennessee Campuses”; Boling University Center, room 206; 4-5:15 p.m.
- “Envisioning a Healthy LGBTQ+ Community”; Del Ray Zimmerman, director of the Office for Diversity Affairs and LGBTQ+ Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; 4-5:15 p.m.
- Keynote: Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, civil rights icon; 7 p.m.

Feb. 21
- Free student health fair; Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. Lindsay Anderson, associate professor of sociology and conference organizer, at 731-881-7523.
20th Annual UT-Martin Civil Rights Conference

Posted on February 4, 2020 by Charles Choate

The University of Tennessee at Martin's 20th annual Civil Rights Conference will be held February 17th thru the 21st.

This year's theme will be "Ordinary Heroes: The Struggle for Human Rights" with events held on the UT-Martin main campus.

Joan Mulholland, a civil rights icon who has participated in more than 50 sit-ins and demonstrations by the time she was 23 years old, will give the keynote address on February 20th in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium.

Ms. Mulholland was a Freedom Rider, a participant in the Jackson Woolworth's sit-in, the March on Washington, and the Selma to Montgomery march.

She is also a recipient of the 2015 National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award.

Daily events will include presentations and panel discussions on a variety of topics.

UT-Martin is one of only two universities nationwide to host a Civil Rights conference.

All events are free to the public and located in Watkins Auditorium.
University of Tennessee at Martin names local students to Chancellor’s Honor Roll

By Kevin Morris - February 3, 2020

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 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.

Among those named were the following local residents: Elijah E. Davidson, High Honors, of Enville and Andrew M. Bullion, Highest Honors; Madelyn A. Collins, High Honors; Brayden L. Faulkner, High Honors; Caitlin E. Jones, High Honors; Garrett W. Morrison, High Honors; Tony L. Rhodes, Honors; Ashton B. Webb, High Honors; and Angela E. Wilson, Highest Honors, all of Henderson.

In addition, Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Chester County include Britney L. Ballard, High Honors, and Caitlin J. Sanchez, High Honors, both of Luray, and Cullen R. Williams, Honors, of Pinson.

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).
As trained scientists, educators, and experts in our respected fields (a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, President of the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and a Ph.D. Animal Scientist specializing in Ruminant Nutrition, respectively) we were disappointed to read the misinformation shared in the recent “Well + Good” series regarding the nutritional value of milk. The group referred to in the article, The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), is an agenda-driven, pro-vegan organization that positions itself as a medical group. Milk and dairy products’ health benefits are supported by decades of peer-reviewed nutritional and medical research, and as appropriately trained professionals, we trust this research and the scientific methods used to conduct it.

Cow’s milk is a nutrient-dense powerhouse containing 9 essential nutrients, including calcium, potassium, and vitamin D, which are 3 of the 4 key nutrients lacking in the diets of most Americans according to the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Years of research shows dairy food consumption is associated with many health benefits, including lower risk for Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, as well as improved bone health thus, dairy foods are recommended as part of a healthy eating pattern.

While leafy greens like broccoli and brussel sprouts are great sources of fiber – the fourth nutrient many Americans are lacking in their diets – an adult must consume 17 cups of raw kale per day to match the amount of calcium in the recommended 3 servings of milk. Milk’s nutrients can be difficult and expensive to replace with other foods and supplements. Drinking the recommended 3 servings of milk costs less than a dollar per day! For those who are lactose intolerant, lactose-free milk is real milk (just without the lactose) and provides the same essential nutrients needed to meet daily recommendations.

Concerning certain animal production practices and milk composition, the Well+Good article contains some outright lies. Read the Nutrition Facts Label on any carton of real cow’s milk and you will notice there are no “added antibiotics” in the ingredient list. In fact, it is illegal for milk containing any antibiotics to be sold. Yes, antibiotics are judiciously used by farmers and veterinarians as needed to treat illness or disease. However, the milk produced and collected during antibiotic administration and for a period of time after (called the withdrawal period) is discarded. All milk is strictly and frequently tested for antibiotic residues, both on the farm and at the processing plant. Milk cannot and will not be sold if it tests positive for antibiotic residues. Lastly, all foods (both plant and animal) contain small amounts of naturally-occurring hormones which are broken down during digestion. Furthermore, the estrogenic activity of many plants and plant-based foods is greater than in animal products (meat and dairy).

Inaccurate nutrition advice poses unwarranted health concerns. People should work with a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist for correct nutrition information and recommendations. We also encourage consumers that have questions or concerns about how animals are raised and the products they produce to reach out to an animal science professor, extension agent, veterinarian, farmer or rancher. Do not let myths about nutrition and animal products from the PCRM and other agenda-driven groups cause you and your family to miss out on milk’s nutrient-dense package.

Brian D. Carroll, MS, RDN, LDN, FAND, Lecturer and Dietetic Internship Director and Emalee K. Buttrey, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Animal Science at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
High school students invited for a Skyhawk test flight

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its Test Flight Academic Preview Day beginning at 8 a.m., Feb. 17. 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 a.m. in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome following at 8:45. An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing, dining services and others will be open during the registration period.

Students will be introduced to the various academic departments at 9:45 and can attend a college course in their area of interest. Students will visit classrooms, meet with faculty and attend a question-and-answer discussion panel until lunch at noon. Parents and families can join the "Prepare for Takeoff" program from 9:45-11.

Guests can have lunch with members of their chosen department, and students will return at 1 p.m. to tour the rest of 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.

Parkins, Pruett chosen for WestStar leadership class

Victor Parkins and Jessi Pruett, both from Gibson County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Parkins, co-owner and Editor of The Mirror-Exchange, serves as president of the Tennessee Press Association Foundation and is a past president of the Milan Chamber of Commerce. Parkins is a previous recipient of the Milan Man of the Year Award as well as the Tennessee Press Association President's Award.

Pruett, an attorney with Byrd & Byrd Attorneys at Law, PLLS, is a Leadership Gibson County graduate and co-founder and executive director of Rack Pack Inc., a non-profit breast cancer support group with members throughout West Tennessee. She also serves as the vice president of finance for the Jackson Area Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi.

Parkins and Pruett joined 27 other participants from 18 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

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

MARTIN — Leaders from the tri-county area of Carroll, Henry and Weakley counties are among 28 from throughout West Tennessee participating in the 2020 Weststar Leadership Program. Weststar continues through June and focuses on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

Monica Heath, of Carroll County, was selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program.

Monica Heath, interim director of the McKenzie Industrial Board, serves on the planning commission for the city of McKenzie. She is also the economic development coordinator and assistant main street director.

Monte Belew, Dr. Norma Gerrell and Jamey Tosh, all of Henry County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program.

Belew, sheriff of the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, serves as the chairperson for the Henry County Prevention Coalition and the National Wild Turkey Federation Jakes Program for Henry County. Belew is a Leadership Henry County graduate and previous recipient of the Trooper of the Year Award for the 8th district, the Henry County 4-H Outstanding Service Award and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year Award.

Gerrell, director of schools for the Paris Special School District, serves on the boards of the W.G. Rhea Public Library, the Obion County River Regional Library System, Henry County 911 and the University of Tennessee at Martin Educational Leadership Advisory Council. Gerrell is a Leadership Henry County graduate and a recipient of both the Northwest Supervisor of the Year Award and the Union University Distinguished Alumni Award in the field of education.

Tosh, owner and partner of Tosh Farms, is a recipient of the University of Tennessee Horizon Award. He currently serves on the board for the Henry County Medical Center and the UT President’s Council.
Jennifer Bane, Dr. Jamie Mantooth and Ty Smithson, all of Weakley County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Bane, executive director of the Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board, is a Leadership Weakley County graduate and serves as a volunteer for the SPROUTS mentoring program in Weakley County. She is also a member of Weakley County Young Professionals and the Society of Human Resource Management.

Mantooth, executive director of enrollment services and student engagement for the University of Tennessee at Martin, serves on the deacon board of First Baptist Church on Martin and the board of directors for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer. Mantooth is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County.

Smithson, a loan officer at Greenfield Banking Company, is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County and currently serves on the program’s board of directors. He also serves as president of Rotary International, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the Greenfield Alumni Association.

Lowell Beller, Jason Compton and Debbie Dunaway, all of Madison County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program. All three have ties to Carroll County.

Beller, service manager of Central Distributors, serves on the board of directors for the Leadership Jackson Alumni Association and the Camp Mack Morris C.O.P.E Course Committee. Beller is a Leadership Jackson graduate, where he received the Jewel Award upon graduation, and is a recipient of the program’s Emerging Leader Award.

Compton, director of operations of the West Tennessee Healthcare Sportsplex, is a member of the Madison County Commission, serves on the board for the Southwest Tennessee Tourism Association and is a member of the Old Hickory Rotary Club. Compton is a Leadership Jackson graduate and a recipient of the Town of Huntington Pinnacle of Excellence Award.

Dunaway, public information officer and executive assistant for Southwest Tennessee Development District, serves on the board of Jackson Downtown Development and has previously served on the parent council at the University of Memphis and as a board member for the American Red Cross in Madison County. Dunaway is a recipient of the SWTDD Employee of the Year Award.

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For more information about the WestStar Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Local students named to UT Martin honor roll
Submitted report
Feb 5, 2020

MARTIN, Tenn. -- The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 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 include: Drew H. Boyd, Honorsof Mayfield, and Donna D. Carter, Highest Honors, of Sedalia. UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and 5 master's degree programs.

The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
Spring 2020 enrollment announced

UT Martin chancellor looks to future

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver expects 2020 to be a year of growth for the university, mentioning increased enrollment, new academic programs and new buildings on his radar for the coming months.

"Spring enrollment for 2020 is trending upward and says good things for this fall," he said.

"Our graduate student enrollment has reached a record high, with 580 grad-uate students currently taking classes. That’s a 60.2 percent increase, so 218 students total, compared to last spring. I am also proud to announce that our full-time equivalency totals are up by 143 students, which will be a factor in state funding for the 2020-21 academic year."

Full-time equivalency, or FTE, is calculated by dividing the total number of enrolled course hours by 15 for undergraduate students and 12 for graduate students and is used to allocate higher education funding statewide. UT Martin has also seen an enrollment increase for dual and concurrent students this spring, with 1,260 students taking classes — an increase of 78 students (6.6 percent) compared to spring 2019. Total student headcount stands at 6,728 students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

"We’re working hard to secure new freshmen and transfer students and optimize retention efforts for our current students," he said.

The chancellor also spoke of five new academic programs in the coming year, with four of those announced at the master’s level. He says the university’s strategic enrollment plan, in production with the help of national research firm Ruffalo Noel Levitz, will be finished this year and help to guide student recruitment and retention efforts for the next five years.

"I am most excited about the Latimer Engineering and Science Building. This will be the first new academic building developed at UT Martin in more than 40 years," he said. "We’ll open construction bids later this month and there will be lots of associated activity as a result of the design and building process. ... We’re also working to make sure we have the most secure campus that we can possibly have, and we’ll be installing approximately 200 new security cameras over the next year."

Carver is also excited to see renovations completed in Clement Hall, which will house a variety of student success units once finalized. The upgrades will make the building a "one-stop shop" for students taking care of university business.

As for what the next decade holds, Carver is hopeful the university will continue to thrive and expand to offer even more opportunities for West Tennessee residents.

"I’d like to see us keeping true to our mission to be the finest regional, undergraduate teaching institution that we can possibly be. I’d like to see our five off-campus centers thriving and offering master’s degree programs from those locations," he said. "I’d hope that our enrollment in 10 years would reflect the diversity of our region and state."

Carver also mentioned the second Skyhawk Retention Summit, scheduled for May 13, which will continue the discussion about student success and per-sistence among colleges and universities across the southeast. The 2019 summit welcomed 250 representatives from 28 institutions across six states.

ETHICALLY SPEAKING — Two teams of Union City High School students made a big splash at the inaugural West Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl Regional Competition on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. A group of UCHS juniors placed second among seven teams, while a team of Union City seniors was third in the event that represented UC’s first such venture into the competition in which students analyzed and discussed real-life ethical issues in front of a panel of judges. The teams included (from left, front row) junior Leah Wisener, junior Emily James, senior Jahya Robinson, junior Tammy Huynh, senior Maria Vazquez, junior Carol Ullrich, (back row) senior Trey Smith, junior Matthew Parr, senior Quail Brown, senior AJ Morris, junior Elijah Cavalier, junior Imani Peat and senior Reice Gray. An ethics bowl differs from a debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views, but instead defend whichever position they believe is correct while providing constructive criticism to other participants. UCHS honors English teacher Joanna Wisener served as coach of the two teams, while Carol Acree Cavalier was a volunteer assistant. The event was hosted by the UT Martin Honors Program and the Department of History and Philosophy.
American Shakespeare Center brings national tour to UTM

The American Shakespeare Center’s national tour of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will perform at both 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the Fine Arts Building.

The early performance is limited to reserved high school student groups and UT Martin students, and admission is free. The evening performance is open to the local community, and general admission tickets are $10 each.

The student show will end with a question-and-answer session between the audience and cast members. The house opens at 9:30 a.m., with the performance running from 10 a.m. to noon. The house opens for the evening show at 7:30 and the performance runs from about 8-10 p.m. There will be no question-and-answer session following the evening performance.

Tickets for the public show will be available from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday in the UT Martin Honors Programs office in the Holland McCombs Center. Those interested can call (731) 881-7436 for assistance. Tickets will also be available in the Fine Arts Building Lobby beginning at 6 p.m. Feb. 11.

When asked about the value of William Shakespeare’s work for modern audiences, Sophia Beratta, who plays Quince in the production, said Shakespearean plays give audiences a chance to see the value potential of the English language.

“I think Shakespeare has a reverence and irreverence of language that today’s audiences have lost. He takes the colloquial and makes it meaningful. He takes the long, complicated, hard-to-pronounce words and makes them comical. Modern audiences should really take this as permission to have fun with language again,” she said.

Michael Moret, who plays Demetrius, one of the production’s Athenian lovers, says this particular production reminds him to have fun with his craft.

“One of my favorite parts of the show is the play within the play, where a group of mechanicals put on a production for us badly. The actors in our troupe go all in and pull out all the stops when performing. So, it is so rewarding to be able to watch them work and play. It taught me to make sure to try and have fun in life,” he said.

While some may view Shakespeare’s works as relics from a time past, Andrew Tung, who plays Snug in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” disagrees.

“The characters in Shakespeare’s works are generally well-rounded, complex portrayals of humanity. The relationships between those characters at their cores are identical to the relationships we make and break in contemporary society,” he said. “Most people know what it’s like to argue with a sibling, or play hard-to-get with a lover, or work to convince a superior or subordinate to agree with them, and these are the same types of happenings the characters in Shakespeare’s works live through.

“(A Midsummer Night’s Dream) offers, and delivers on, the promise that somehow, despite all appearances to the contrary, everything wrong will be set right and even the biggest fumblings of your life will be well-received by those around you. It’s a nice break from the heaviness of reality and the modern world,” Tung continued.

Both performances are sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.
Marvin leader selected for leadership program

Mike Enoch of Lauderdale County was selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020. Enoch, Plant Manager of Marvin Windows and Door of Tennessee in Ripley, is a Leadership Murray graduate and served as treasurer of Leadership Murray Alumni. He also serves as a Deacon for the Phillip Street Church of Christ and as a counselor for the Reelfoot Youth Camp. In 2019, the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce awarded Marvin Windows and Doors of Tennessee the Large Business of the Year Award. Enoch joins 28 other participants from 18 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

Local Leaders Chosen for WestStar Leadership Program Class of 2020

Dr. Cheryl Browne and Wendell Wainwright, both of Fayette County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020. Browne, a retired physician in Fayette County, serves on the boards of the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Leadership Fayette County. Browne is a Leadership Fayette County graduate and a recipient of the Physician's Exceptional Contribution Award, Professional Achievement Award, Guardian of Health Award, Everyday Hero Award, Robert J. Erickson Diversity Award and Service Excellence Award.

Wainwright, chairperson pro temp of the Fayette County Public Schools District, serves on the boards for Fayette County Citizens for Progress, Leadership Fayette and the Fayette County Chapter of AARP. Wainwright is a Leadership Fayette County graduate and a recipient of the TSBA Broadmanship award. He was also recognized as Social Worker of the Year in 2002.

Browne and Wainwright join 27 other participants from 18 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.
BY DAVID FISHER

david@dresdenenterprise.com

DRESDEN (January 30) — An art exhibit reception was held Thursday evening at Dresden City Hall to highlight the artwork of University of Tennessee at Martin student Rachel Roberts, which was on display December 1 to January 31.

Rachel, 25, is a visual artist based in Sharon, Tennessee. She graduated from UTM in December of 2019, earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art. She also has a Bachelor of Arts from Freed-Hardeman, and is working on a Masters in Education at UTM.

When asked, “What prompted you to become an artist?” Roberts replied, “I always liked art as a child, but our class only had an art teacher for a few months when I was in the fourth grade. When I got to college, I really wanted to study it.” She noted there are many ways to create different types of art, and she kept learning.

Rachel stated Freed-Hardeman art teacher, Laquita Thompson, had a positive influence on her. She said her art teacher was “really an example of what an artist and educator should be.”

“I’m really passionate about art education,” Roberts said. “I think it’s important and kids should have access to it. A lot of the kids have an interest in art, but their schools just don’t have the resources to have it.”

“I’ve started working on my Masters in Education because whatever else I do, I’m going to want to teach,” Roberts said.

As a result of her undergraduate study of art, Rachel has a working knowledge in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography, and graphic design.

Her prints, artist books, and mixed media work have been exhibited in local, national, and international juried shows.

In August of 2019, two of her accordion fold book series were selected for the Arts as Advocacy: Promoting Social Equity and Justice for Women exhibition in Springfield, Illinois. Her works received an Honorable Mention at the exhibition. Recently, her work “Things Men Aren’t Told III” was selected for the Bellwethers 2019 Juried Exhibition of Regional Collegiate Art. She is also a member of the League of Striving Artists.

Local citizens who stopped by to visit with Rachel enjoyed refreshments, while learning more about the process used to create the relief prints that were on display.

Roberts stated the prints at Dresden City Hall were all made in the relief method of print-making. She explained, with this technique, an image is carved in reverse into a raised block. The block is then inked and pressed to paper to create the final product. The prints which are identified as color reductions require additional carving for each color that is visible in the final print. A similar method is used for the prints labeled two block or double-reduction, except two blocks, are carved to create the different color sections of the print.

Roberts stated her favorite type of art is printmaking, which is “kind of like making a giant stamp.”

“As a working artist, I enjoy printmaking because it builds upon many of the visual skills honed by drawing and painting,” Roberts said. “It also enables the creation of bold, graphic images in multiples on paper. It is exciting to create an edition of prints, even though the process is often challenging and exacting by nature. The inspiration for the imagery in these prints is nature and the world around me. I freely explored the use of flat and dramatic color in these prints.”

The most recent work in the exhibition, “La Monarch,” which is a butterfly print, took a long time to create and is her favorite in this type of medium. It shows an attempt to achieve realism through relief printmaking. “It took a long time because I had to carve out each color and print it by hand,” Rachel said. She used two blocks to make the print—one for the cool colors and another for the warm colors.

As the exhibition came to a close, Roberts said she was proud to share her art with the community of Dresden and “hope it brought some light and color in the midst of winter.”

Rachel is the daughter of Gary and Karen Roberts of Sharon.

She attended Dresden Elementary School grades K-2, third grade at Sharon School, and grades 4-12 at Greenfield. She stated her father taught history and coached basketball at these schools, and when he changed schools, so did she. Rachel was also an athlete, who played basketball while a student at Greenfield School.

Rachel Roberts’ art display is one of many planned for exhibition at Dresden City Hall, where the works of local artists may be viewed free of charge.

For more information, please contact Dresden Economic Development Director DeDe Morris or Dresden City Recorder Jennifer Branscum at (731) 364-2270.
Local artist Rachel Roberts pictured with her artwork on display at Dresden City Hall.

WestTeach to Host West Tennessee Education Summit

MARTIN — The WestTeach Program, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program, is hosting the West Tennessee Education Summit on February 28, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson. All conference activities are in the hospital's Walter Barnes Conference Center.

The summit focuses on facilitating change and curriculum to enhance workforce development across the region and improve opportunities for all educators. A panel comprised of teachers, superintendents, legislators, school board members and private business owners will discuss challenges facing education across West Tennessee.

Those involved in education and workforce development are invited to attend. There is no cost to register, but pre-registration is required by Feb. 25.

School superintendents are also invited to a luncheon following the summit, and those able to attend the luncheon must register with Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, by email at vgrimes@utm.edu or by phone at 731-881-7296.

Online registration for the summit is available at utm.edu/weststar. Contact Grimes for more information or registration assistance.
Jennifer Bane, Dr. Jamie Mantooth and Ty Smithson, all of Weakley County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Bane, executive director of the Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board, is a Leadership Weakley County graduate and serves as a volunteer for the SPROUTS mentoring program in Weakley County. She is also a member of Weakley County Young Professionals and the Society of Human Resource Management.

Mantooth, executive director of enrollment services and student engagement for the University of Tennessee at Martin, serves on the deacon board of First Baptist Church on Martin and the board of directors for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer. Mantooth is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County.

Smithson, a loan officer at Greenfield Banking Company, is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County and currently serves on the program’s board of directors. He also serves as president of Rotary International, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the Greenfield Alumni Association.

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 731-981-7298.
The 4th Annual Cups for a Cure event was Saturday, February 1 at The Wesley Foundation. This year over 500 handmade cups were sold to help Erdhim-Chester Disease Foundation, the Anna Kate Wenz Fight Foundation, and the Joliet Oncology-Hematology Center. UT-Martin professor David McBeth hosts this event every year and over $5,500 was raised to go directly to these foundations. McBeth said he felt there was a need in the community and that is why he started this event to help those affected by cancer.
Stunson named to UT Martin Chancellor's Honor Roll

Staff Report
Feb 6, 2020

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 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).

Jessi A. Stunson, of Metropolis, was named to the list with High Honors.

UT Martin is a public four-year university in northwest Tennessee offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and 5 master's degree programs.
Local cartoonist leaving his mark

By CHRISTIAN ASHLAR
Press Reporter

Those familiar with comic strips may recognize the name, Charles Brubaker. A cartoonist and illustrator, Brubaker was born in Isahaya, Nagasaki, but calls Martin his home. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2012 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design, but his love of drawing and talent for illustration began in his teens.

Prior to UTM, Brubaker assisted writer, blogger, editor and historian, Jerry Beck, with a series of columns for Beck’s Cartoon Research website. In addition, Brubaker did some writing about animation for Hogan’s Alley magazine. While attending UTM, Brubaker contributed editorial cartoons for both The Pacer and the Weakley County Press. This led to his being a finalist for the John Locher Memorial Award in 2009. According to its website, the award is for “aspiring cartoonists, ages 18-25, whose work demonstrates both clear opinions and strong artistry on political and social topics.”

In 2014, while in California, Brubaker had a chance meeting with Sherm Cohen, a writer for the television series, “SpongeBob Squarepants.” This meeting prompted Brubaker to seek out the editor for the SpongeBob comic book. After a successful pitch, the editor agreed to bring the aspiring cartoonist onto the comic. Alongside this work, Brubaker began submitting strips to MAD Magazine, an American humor publication.

What he did next would broaden Brubaker’s notoriety. Like so many creators seeking an audience, he decided to add something extra to his blog. This something extra was a cat, one who answered questions from the blog’s readership.

SEE CARTOONIST
Page 15

CARTOONIST
From Page 1

What began as a one-time addition to a blog turned into “Ask a Cat,” an ongoing feature.

“It was something I thought I would do maybe a dozen of strips, at most,” Brubaker stated. “It ended up lasting five years. After I had enough strips, I submitted them to a website called GoComics, which was run by a company called Andrews McMeel.”

For those unfamiliar with Andrews McMeel Publishing, they are, according to their website, “a global, independent, integrated media partner known for its ability to discover and nurture world-class creators, artists, and brands specializing in comics, illustrated humor and inspirational content.” Andrews McMeel published “Calvin and Hobbes,” “The Far Side” reruns and, after a successful pitch by Brubaker, “Ask a Cat.”

“That changed my life,” Brubaker said. “It was the first original comic that had an audience, several thousand readers, which, at the time was unthinkable for me.”

Another life-changing event in Brubaker’s cartooning journey was a meeting with Frank Cammuso. This artist and writer is noted for his graphic novel series, “Knights of the Lunch Table” and the “Salem Hyde” series. Brubaker’s meeting with Cammuso led to another series, this one designed as a graphic novel, also revolving around a feline central character. “The Fuzzy Princess” details the adventures of Katrina, princess of St. Paws, who becomes stranded in our world.

Brubaker has managed what many artists aspire to, turning their passion into a sustainable career. “Ask a Cat” boasts two volumes while “The Fuzzy Princess” has one full volume and another in the latter stages of printing.


All of Brubaker’s published works can be found at the C. E. Weldon Public Library in Martin.

To purchase copies and support a local artist, they can also be found at, http://smallbug.storenvy.com and to find out more about Brubaker and his work, visit www. bakerloons.com.
PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR — UT System Interim President Randy Boyd is pictured with Bill and Rosann Nunnelly, who received the UT President's Council's Philanthropist of the Year award Jan. 31. Bill and Rosann Nunnelly of Nashville received the Philanthropist of the Year Award from the University of Tennessee President's Council during a dinner Jan. 31 at Discovery Park of America. Their $22 million bequest to fund scholarships at UT Martin is the largest in UT Martin history and could provide as many as 90 scholarships each year when the gift is realized.

2019 celebration of generosity and gratitude

Drew Hendren, a senior percussion music major (also studying composition), was one of the grateful students attending the 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude, a reception to honor scholarship supporters and connect them with the students who benefit from their gifts.

The November event saw UTM Music benefactors Dee Pritchett of Fuller Partners Real Estate in Martin and Andrew Hart, Director of Alumni Career Services, UT Foundation, mingling with Drew. Drew is the proud recipient of both the Andrew Hart Music Leadership Scholarship and the Dee Pritchett Music Scholarship.

UTM music students have more than thirty opportunities to receive music scholarships to help with their tuition expenses. The Department of Music is proud to announce a new series of Legacy Scholarships for incoming freshmen interested in a particular instrument.

Thanks to the generosity of these individuals, their family and friends, incoming students have the opportunity to audition for up to $2,000 in a one-time award. The named Legacy scholarships include:

- Flute; Dee Pritchett Scholarship
- Clarinet; Gilbert Carp Scholarship
- Saxophone; Buddy Leach Scholarship
- Oboe; Lateef Scholarship
- Bassoon; Jacquet Scholarship
- Horn; Hernon Scholarship
- Trumpet; Maynard Ferguson Scholarship
- Euphonium; Russ McConnell Scholarship
- Tuba; Earl Norwood Scholarship
- Percussion; Emmons PASIC Scholarship
- Voice; Cline Scholarship
- Piano; Elaine Harriss Scholarship
American Shakespeare Center to present ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ Tuesday

The American Shakespeare Center’s national tour of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will perform at both 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., Tuesday, in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the Fine Arts Building. The early performance is limited to reserved high school student groups and UT Martin students, and admission is free. The evening performance is open to the local community, and general admission tickets are $10 each.

The student show will end with a question-and-answer session between the audience and cast members. The house opens at 9:30 a.m. with the performance running from 10 a.m.-noon. The house opens for the evening show at 7:30 p.m., and the performance runs from approximately 8-10 p.m. There will be no question-and-answer session following the evening performance.

Tickets for the public show will be available from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, in the UT Martin Honors Programs office in the Holland McCombs Center. Those interested can call 731-881-7436 for assistance. Tickets will also be available in the Fine Arts Building Lobby beginning at 6 p.m., Tuesday.

When asked about the value of William Shakespeare’s work for modern audiences, Sophia Berratta, who plays Quince in the production, said Shakespearean plays give audiences a chance to see the value potential of the English language.

“I think Shakespeare has a reverence and irreverence of language that today’s audiences have lost. He takes the colloquial and makes it meaningful. He takes the long, complicated, hard-to-pronounce words and makes them comical. Modern audiences should really take this as permission to have fun with language again,” she said.

Michael Moret, who plays Demetrius, one of the production’s Athenian lovers, says this particular production reminds him to have fun with his craft.

“One of my favorite parts of the show is the play within the play, where a group of mechanicals put on a production for us—badly. The actors in our troupe go all in and pull out all the stops when performing. So, it is so rewarding to be able to watch them work and play. It taught me to make sure to try and have fun in life.”

While some may view Shakespeare’s works as relics from a time past, Andrew Tung, who plays Snug in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” disagrees. “The characters in Shakespeare’s works are generally well-rounded, complex portrayals of humanity. The relationships between those characters at their cores are identical to the relationships we make and break in contemporary society,” he says. “Most people know what it’s like to argue with a sibling, or play hard-to-get with a lover, or work to convince a superior or subordinate to agree with them, and these are the same types of happenings the characters in Shakespeare’s works live through.”

“(A Midsummer Night’s Dream) offers, and delivers on, the promise that somehow, despite all appearances to the contrary, everything wrong will be set right and even the biggest fumbling of your life will be well-received by those around you. It’s a nice break from the heaviness of reality and the modern world,” Tung continued.

Both performances are sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact UT Martin Honors Programs at 731-881-7436.
Leaders chosen for WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020

Jennifer Bane, Dr. Jamie Mantooth and Ty Smithson, all of Weakley County, were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Bane, executive director of the Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board, is a Leadership Weakley County graduate and serves as a volunteer for the SPROUTS mentoring program in Weakley County. She is also a member of Weakley County Young Professionals and the Society of Human Resource Management.

Mantooth, executive director of enrollment services and student engagement for the University of Tennessee at Martin, serves on the deacon board of First Baptist Church on Martin and the board of directors for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer. Mantooth is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County.

Smithson, a loan officer at Greenfield Banking Company, is a graduate of Leadership Weakley County and currently serves on the program's board of directors. He also serves as president of Rotary International, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and the Greenfield Alumni Association.

Bane, Mantooth and Smithson join 26 other participants from 18 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

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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 Merit Badge Day is Saturday

Hosted by UT Martin School of Engineering and Boy Scout Troop 11 Scouts from all over West Tennessee and Kentucky, will be attending the UTM Merit Badge Day Saturday. More than 125 Scouts have signed up from various troops.

Scouts must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. They do have to take 13 required merit badges we are offering two of them at this merit badge day – Citizenship in the World and Emergency Preparedness.

Instructors are volunteering their time to help these scouts.

Opening ceremony is at 8:45a.m. in the University Center in Watkins Auditorium. UTM Chancellor Keith Carver will be swinging by and chatting with the Scouts at 8:30a.m. The boys are able to take one merit badge from the following:

- Emergency Preparedness - Nobody is better qualified than Weakley County Emergency Management Agency Director Ray Wigginton, to teach this Eagle-required badge. Learn from the folks who oversee emergencies on a daily basis.
- Engineering - Everything is more fun when you put it to use, even Math and Physics. Join Dr. Greg Nail, UTM Professor of Engineering, in a hands-on exploration of the world of Engineering.
- Medicine - Join Dr. Christy Stubblefield and other acclaimed members of the UTM Nursing faculty to explore the ins and outs of the medical profession.
- Fish and Wildlife Management - Join the award-winning UTM Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society as they teach this exciting merit badge.
- Chemistry - Have an interest in chemical reactions? Come and interact with the UTM SMACS Club and Dr. Abigail Shelton.
- Orienteering - Interested in learning how to read a map and have strong compass skills? Come and learn with the UTM ROTC Skyhawk Battalion.
- Surveying - Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn and her students will have you out in the field learning how to survey.
- Veterinary Medicine - Dr. Clint Ary and fellow UTM Veterinary staff will teach this exciting merit badge on the farm at UT Martin.
- Citizenship in the World - Join Dr. Dan McDonough on the exciting world of Citizenship in the World. He is a History Professor on campus and Scouts and adults have highly enjoyed this merit badge class.
- Landscape Architecture - Dr. Wesley Totten will be teaching this rarely offered merit badge. Come learn how comfort, shelter and security play a role in landscape.
- Geology - Amanda Mayo president of the UTM GeoClub will be teaching this merit badge. Come and learn about the history of the Earth.

Alumna Rita Winter donated, anyone can donate too

Rita Winter gifted UTM Music with a donation covering prizes for first place winners in College Art Song and College Aria categories for the Sixth Annual Death by Voice Vocal Competition set for Feb. 16.

Winter received a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance in 1998 and was a student of Marilyn Jewett and Christina Powers. In 1993, she taught out of her home studio and is the church choir director and Music Director for the Masquerade 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.

Mrs. Winter has appeared as a guest artist at UTM, University of Memphis, Rhodes College of Memphis, and Christian Brothers of Memphis. She is currently the owner of The Music Place, a private music studio where she now teaches voice and piano.

Other recent single donor gifts include $20,000 for a new Yamaha drumline for the UTM Aviators Marching Band from Martha Edinger and $20,000 from Bill Blankenship for the Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series.

You can be among our music-focused philanthropists. We are currently in need of new Yamaha brass instruments for the marching band. Other opportunities to give include making a contribution to our UTM Music Alumni Fund and the UTM Music Alumni Scholarship Fund.

For information on how to give, please contact Tammy Owensby at 731-881-7410.
String Quartet — From left are musicians Stephen Miahky, Connie Heard, Felix Wang and John Kochanowski are the current members of the Blair String Quartet, currently the quartet-in-residence at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music.

Blair String Quartet to perform at UTM Sunday

The Blair String Quartet, currently the string quartet-in-residence at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music, will perform at 3 p.m., Sunday, in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the Fine Arts Building.

General admission tickets are $10 per person and $5 for non-UT Martin students and children 12 years old and under. UT Martin students are admitted free with valid ID. Tickets can be purchased online at utm.edu/music/events or at the door on concert night.

In addition to their work at Vanderbilt University, the Blair String Quartet has performed at the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, New York’s 92nd Street Y and at Merkin Concert Hall.

They have also served in residence at the Aspen Music Festival, the Meadowmount School of Music and the Sewanee Music Festival in the United States, as well as the first International Music Festival in Portillo and Santiago, Chile.

The quartet, currently comprised of violinsts Stephen Miahky and Connie Heard with violinist John Kochanowski and cellist Felix Wang, performed widely on National Public Radio for several years and was a featured quartet on a public television series called “Recital Hall.” Their recordings are available internationally.

Their UT Martin appearance is sponsored by Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, and is a featured performance in the UT Martin Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series.

For more information on the quartet, visit my.vanderbilt.edu/blair-stringquartet. For information and assistance obtaining performance tickets, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

WestTeach to host education summit

The WestTeach Program, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program, will host the West Tennessee Education Summit from 8:30-11:30 a.m., Feb. 28, at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson. All conference activities will take place in the hospital’s Walter Barnes Conference Center.

The summit will focus on facilitating change and curriculum to enhance workforce development across the region and improve opportunities for all educators. A panel comprised of teachers, superintendents, legislators, school board members and private business owners will discuss challenges facing education across West Tennessee.

Those involved in education and workforce development are invited to attend. There is no cost to register, but pre-registration is required by Feb. 25. School superintendents are also invited to a luncheon following the summit, and those able to attend the luncheon must register with Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, by email at vgrimes@utm.edu or by phone at 731-881-7298.

Online registration for the summit is available at utm.edu/weststar. Contact Grimes for more information or registration assistance.
Music offers free Cuban experience concert

The Pedrito Martinez Group, led by Grammy-nominated percussionist Pedrito Martinez, will perform at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Harriet Fulton Theatre.

This performance is free and open to the public, but tickets should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/music/events.

Martinez was born in Havana, Cuba, and by the age of 27 had won the Thelonious Monk Award for Afro-Latin Hand Percussion and appeared in the documentary “Calle 54.”

He is widely regarded as the leading percussionist in Latin jazz music and has recorded or performed with Eric Clapton, Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, Sting and others as both percussionist and vocalist.

The group’s appearance is the second spring 2020 installment in UT Martin’s Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series and is specifically sponsored by the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference, Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs, Department of Music, and Department of History and Philosophy, as well as the Coleman Foundation, Dr. Lynn Alexander, Ed Sargent and Joan Jett.

A percussion masterclass is open to the campus community at 2 p.m. Feb. 18 following a noon question-and-answer session about Cuban culture in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building.

A free Afro-Cuban buffet will be provided for attendees. More information about the group’s performance experience, including video and sound clips, is available at pedritomartinezmusic.com.

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

MIKE ENOCH, of Lauderdale County, was selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Enoch, plant manager of Marvin Windows and Door of Tennessee in Ripley, is a Leadership Murray graduate and served as treasurer of Leadership Murray Alumni. He also serves as a deacon for the Phillip Street Church of Christ and as a counselor for the Reelfoot Youth Camp. In 2019, the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce awarded Marvin Windows and Doors of Tennessee the Large Business of the Year Award.

Enoch joins 28 other participants from 18 counties at a series of seminars held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

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UTM invites students for a “test flight”

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a Test Flight Academic Preview Day beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 17. 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 a.m. in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome following at 8:45 a.m. An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing, dining services, and others will be open during the registration period.

Students will be introduced to the various academic departments at 9:45 a.m. and can attend a college course in their area of interest. Students will visit classrooms, meet with faculty, and attend a question-and-answer discussion panel until lunch at noon.

Parents and families can join the “Prepare for Takeoff” program from 9:45-11 a.m. Guests can have lunch at noon with members of their chosen department, and students will return at 1 p.m. to tour the rest of the UTM campus.

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

Blair String Quartet to perform Feb. 9

The Blair String Quartet, currently the string quartet-in-residence at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music, will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9, in the UTM Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the Fine Arts Building on the Martin campus.

The quartet, currently comprised of violinists Stephen Miakky and Connie Heard, violist John Kochanowski, and cellist Felix Wang, performed widely on National Public Radio for several years and was a featured quartet on a public television series called “Recital Hall.” Their recordings are available internationally.

General admission tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for non-UTM students or children age 12 or younger. UTM students will be admitted free with a valid ID. Tickets can be purchased online at utm.edu/musicevents or at the door on concert night.

Their Feb. 9 concert is sponsored by UTM music professor Dr. Elaine Harriss, and is a featured performance in the UTM Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series. For more information on the quartet, visit my.vanderbilt.edu/blairstringquartet. For information and assistance obtaining performance tickets, contact the UTM Dept. of Music at 731-881-7402.
Cuban music comes to UTM

The Pedrito Martinez Group, led by Grammy-nominated percussionist Pedrito Martinez, will perform at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, in UTM's Harriet Fulton Theatre. This performance is free and open to the public, but tickets should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/music/events.

Martinez was born in Havana, Cuba, and by the age of 27 had won the Thelonious Monk Award for Afro-Latin hand percussion and appeared in the documentary "Calle 54." He is widely regarded as the leading percussionist in Latin jazz music and has recorded or performed with Eric Clapton, Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, Sting, and others as both percussionist and vocalist.

The group's appearance is part of UTM's Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series and is specifically sponsored by the UTM Civil Rights Conference; Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs; the UTM departments of music, history, and philosophy; as well as the Coleman Foundation, Dr. Lynn Alexander, Ed Sargent, and Joan Jett.

A percussion masterclass is open to the campus community at 2 p.m., following a noon question-and-answer session about Cuban culture in the Fine Arts Building. A free Afro-Cuban buffet will be provided for attendees.


Catch A Midsummer Night's Dream at UTM

The American Shakespeare Center's national tour of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will perform at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the UTM Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the Fine Arts Building. The early performance is limited to students, but the evening performance is open to the public.

While some may view Shakespeare's works as relics from a time past, Andrew Tung, who plays Snug, disagrees. "The characters in Shakespeare's works are generally well-rounded, complex portrayals of humanity. The relationships between those characters at their cores are identical to the contemporary relationships we have today," Tung said. "Most people know what it's like to argue with a sibling, to play hard-to-get with a lover, or to work to convince a superior or subordinate to agree with them, and these are the same types of happenings the characters in Shakespeare's works live through."

The theater will open for the evening show at 7:30 p.m., and the performance will run from approximately 8-10 p.m. General admission tickets are $10 each, and will be available from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Feb. 11 in the UTM Honors Programs office in the Holland McCombs Center. Tickets also will be available in the Fine Arts Building lobby at 6 p.m.

The play is sponsored by the UTM Honors Programs, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the UTM Honors Programs at 731-881-7436.
Despite Geographic Barriers And Skepticism, This Rural Tennessee College Is Helping Revive Its County

Jake Bynum is the 33-year-old independent mayor of Weakley County in Tennessee. A graduate of the University of Tennessee Martin, he says the county would look "a whole lot different without [the University of Tennessee] Martin."

Kirk Carapezza/WGBH News

By Kirk Carapezza

February 7, 2020   On Campus
The University of Tennessee Martin is tucked in the buckle of the Bible Belt, in a little nowhere city of 10,543 — about one third the population of Natick, Mass. On Main Street, freight trains clatter and screech. Bound for someplace else, they cut through the economically weak city, which was once much stronger as a maker of things.

Still, Amy Newman, who’s from just outside Nashville, said UT Martin was the first and only stop on her college tours. “I fell in love with the campus because it’s so quaint and small,” she said.

Seventy percent of the students on campus come from the surrounding area. Two-thirds of all applicants get in. There are no country club sports on campus. Instead, the university touts its rodeo team as the only one east of the Mississippi.

Newman studied computer science, assuming, after she graduated, that she’d have to move back to Nashville.

“I was like, ‘Oh, software technology? Gotta go to the big city,’” she said, laughing. “That’s where you think of all the big companies that first come to mind are.”

While a majority of Republicans nationwide say colleges have a negative effect on the country’s future, students, administrators and local leaders here in the heart of Trump country are finding salvation in higher education — and technology. Full-time freshman enrollment at UT Martin is up — nearly 25 percent — over the past three years.

“When you think about recruiting a student to come here ... you’ve got to get their attention,” said Chancellor Keith Carver. He drives around campus in his Jeep, taking selfies with students while wearing cowboy boots and a bow tie. He describes himself as a perfect mix of country and academics.

With 900 faculty and staff, UT Martin is by far the top employer in Weakley County, Tenn., which overwhelmingly supported Donald Trump four years ago. Over the past 10 years, the county in northwestern Tennessee has shed dozens of companies and thousands of jobs, including more than 2,200 overnight in 2011 when the Goodyear tire plant in Union City shut down abruptly.

Amid the factory closings, home foreclosures and opioid addictions, Carver said, UT Martin serves as a shock absorber.

“But also, there's soft ends on that absorber and there's a push back,” Carver said. “We're nimble enough and small enough to where we've got to pivot and really address what's going to help bring in the new Goodyear.”

One way UT Martin is trying to pivot is by partnering with companies committed to bringing jobs back to rural Tennessee.

“Most people just assume that you have to do [software] development work in those large metro areas and on the coast, and it’s just really not true,” said Lee Farabaugh, co-founder of Core 10, a Nashville-based software development company that Carver convinced to open an office downtown last spring.

“There's tons of smart, talented, hardworking people in towns just like Martin all across the U.S.,” Farabaugh said.
Her company's commitment to reinvesting in local communities like Martin is bucking a national trend. A study by the Brookings Institution and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation published in December found just five cities — Boston, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle and San Diego — accounted for more than 90 percent of new jobs in the innovation sector between 2005 and 2017.

"These are some of the best jobs in the economy," said economist Roy Atkinson, who led the study. "They're some of the fastest-growing jobs in the economy and they're concentrating in a few very successful, thriving places."

Atkinson said America's geographic divide is getting worse. "If you're born in a particular place that is disadvantaged economically, it's going to be harder for you — on average — to thrive than if you're born in Kendall Square [in Cambridge, Mass.] or Palo Alto in Silicon Valley," he said.

With greater state and federal investment, Atkinson believes regional universities like UT Martin can jump-start local economies as knowledge generators.

"Helping local businesses be able to better use and understand technology," Atkinson explained. "Helping to train really good workers that might stay locally and help contribute to creating new kinds of jobs and new kinds of companies."

Local state and political leaders are banking on that idea.

"When we look right now at the number of Tennesseans with a college degree, if you were to map that, it turns into a rural and urban map," said Mike Krause, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

He said UT Martin administrators are managing to bridge a skepticism gap about college.

"Everybody knows somebody that went to college, accrued debt and didn't graduate," Krause said. "They've really managed to convey a message that, first off, this institution is incredibly affordable, and if you're a low-income Tennessean, you're going to get $6,200 worth [from] a Pell grant and the university's [tuition is] $9,000, so you are two-thirds there on day one."

Jake Bynum, 33, the county's independent mayor, graduated from UT Martin. "Everybody, nearly, that I know with a college degree is a product of the university," he said.

While unemployment in the county is low, the neighborhood surrounding Bynum's office inside an old courthouse is riddled with foreclosed and abandoned properties. There's a struggling middle-class — mostly white and African-American — worried about increasing poverty. A third of the city of Martin's residents live in poverty.

"Certainly, we have our challenges making sure that people are getting the right credentials in order to do the jobs that are demanded and do jobs that have a living wage," Bynum said. "Underemployment is a huge issue."

On tough days and nights he can't sleep, Bynum finds hope in the university.
"It creates this product of an educated workforce that allows us to have an opportunity to employ people that not every community in rural Tennessee has," Bynum said.

Downtown, at the software company, UT Martin graduate Amy Newman is now earning more than the average family in the county. Her senior year, the company hired her and four other computer science majors.

"Being able to use my degree and develop software and do what I get to do and actually stay in a small town where I've lived for so long, I love that opportunity," she said.

The 25-year-old and her fiancé have bought a home in town and are planning to raise their kids here. She said, sure, they occasionally feel tempted to pick up and move to the big city, but that feeling is fleeting.

"Every once and a while, we get to visit the main office [in Nashville] for meetings," Newman said. "And that traffic and just the expenses — everything just reminds me how lucky we are to be here in a small town."

Newman said she wishes rural students were more of a priority for American colleges — and policymakers.

"Out here, we don't make headlines as quickly," she said. "We're not as flashy. But I think we matter just as much."
MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin Black Student Association held a forum Tuesday night on threats of white supremacist violence.

A panel with UTM faculty and staff met at the University Center in order to explore solutions after an incident last November just before Thanksgiving.

University Chancellor Keith Carver says a white supremacist group attempted to circulate flyers on the UTM campus advocating violence against black people.

Carver called the flyers “racist” and “disgusting.” They met to hear both sides including how students and Carver felt.

“A lot of our black students were scared and fearful for our lives when the stuff happened because we were like, say someone else came on campus and God forbid more drastic than the flyer, so we just want to know, how does UT Martin want the black students on campus to, you know, further the safety net on campus,” said President of Black Student Association Kaylyn Bailey.

Both university leaders and students say good conversations can happen with discussions like this and create a close-knit community.
63rd Telethon of Stars raises more than $100,000

Kayla Dixon, Mike Spissinger
Feb 11, 2020

PADUCAH — The 63rd annual Telethon of Stars benefits kids and adults in our area with special needs.

Tuesday, we learned how much money you helped raise to benefit the three centers in our area that provide care.

The Lion’s Club hosted this special luncheon at Walker Hall to announce the totals. Lion’s Club members, volunteers, and others gathered to celebrate the telethon’s success from September of last year.

After expenses, the telethon brought in $107,000.

Last year’s telethon chairman, Clay Duncan, said the number gives him hope for future success.

Of the money raised, about $1,300 goes to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Infant Stimulation Program, $91,000 goes to Easterseals West Kentucky, and roughly $15,000 goes to the Therapy Center or TLC in southern Illinois.

However, we learned Tuesday that TLC’s board of directors voted to close the center in September. That’s left families who rely on the service forced to look elsewhere. Duncan calls the closure surprising and unfortunate.

Duncan says the $15,000 donated for clients in Illinois is in a trust fund right now. He says they’re working with TLC’s former director and others on how best to distribute the money.

Leanne Fuller
Web and social media editor
UTM's BSA hosting evening forum

The University of Tennessee at Martin Black Student Association (BSA) will be sponsoring a forum, “How Should UTM Respond to Threats of White Supremacist Violence on Campus,” at 7 p.m. today (Tuesday) in the University Center, room 111.

Last November, just before Thanksgiving, a white supremacist group attempted to circulate flyers on the UTM campus, flyers advocating violence against black people. University Chancellor Keith Carver promptly sent out a campus-wide email denouncing the flyers as “racist” and “disgusting” and ordered university personnel to remove the flyers immediately.

While the chancellor’s actions dealt with the immediate problem, the BSA will be hosting its Tuesday forum in order to explore both short-term and long-term solutions to the problems raised by white supremacy for both black and white students on campus.

BSA has invited representatives of the University Administration, faculty and students to sit on the panel and the panel will take questions from the audience.

For more information, contact Kaylyn Bailey, president, Black Student Association at 901-315-2734.
Civil Rights Conference set at UTM

For more than two decades, UT Martin has brought together the community in an effort to remember the past and pay tribute to those who have paved the way for civil rights across the country. Now in its 20th year, the annual Civil Rights Conference is one of only two university-hosted events of its kind in the nation.

The 20th-annual Civil Rights Conference on the UT Martin campus will address the theme “Ordinary Heroes: The Struggle for Human Rights” with events throughout next week on the main campus.

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a civil rights icon who had participated in more than 50 sit-ins and demonstrations by the time she was 23 years old, will give the keynote address at 7 p.m. Feb. 20, in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium. She was a Freedom Rider, a participant in the Jackson Woolworth’s sit-in, the March on Washington, the Meredith March and the Selma to Montgomery March.

Mulholland is a recipient of the 2019 International Civil Rights Museum Trailblazer Award; the 2018 “I Am a Man” Award; the 2015 National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award; the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Annual Award of Honor; and the Anti-Defamation League Annual Heroes Against Hate Award.

Her path has crossed with some of the biggest names in the Civil Rights Movement.

SEE CONFERENCE PAGE 13

CONFERENCE
From Page 1

ment: Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, John Lewis, Diane Nash and Julian Bond to name a few. Her Freedom Rider mugshot has been called one of the most iconic in American history.

Mulholland has appeared in several books including “Coming of Age in Mississippi,” “Breath of Peace,” “We Shall Not Be Moved” and “She Stood For Freedom.” She has appeared on television and news programs like the “CBS Nightly News” and award-winning documentaries including “Ordinary Hero,” PBS’s “Freedom Riders,” “Standing on My Sister’s Shoulders” and the groundbreaking film “Eyes on the Prize.”

Events throughout the week of Feb. 17-21 include film screenings, question-and-answer sessions, roundtable discussions and a special concert.

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

Feb. 17

- 1-1:50 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “Elbert Williams: From the Treadmill in 1900, Jim Emison, Tennesseans for Historical Justice;
- 2:2-50 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “Civil Rights Issues in Tennessee,” Mr. Tom Castelli, legal director for the ACLU Foundation of Tennessee;
- 3:3-50 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “Everyday Issues for Minority Students on Campus” panel;
- 4:4-50 p.m. — Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Humanities Building, Room 209: “Human Rights are Civil Rights” roundtable;
- 6-7:30 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “Building Community: The Work Continues,” Weakley County Reconciliation Project;
- Noon 1:50 p.m. — Fine Arts Building Band Room: Lunch with the Pedrito Martinez Group;
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “The History of Segregation and Education in Weakley County”;
- 4-5:15 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “The Ballot or the Bullet: The Next Generation,” LeLan Evans community organizer;
- 7 p.m. — Harriet Fults Theater; Concert: The Pedrito Martinez Group;
- Feb. 19
- 1-1:50 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “LGBTQ couples’ experience post Obergefell v. Hodges;”
- 2-2:50 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “How Not to be ‘That Person’: Destroying the Bystander Effect,” Amy McLean, associate professor of social work;
- 3:3-50 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: “Issues Faced by Immigrants in Tennessee;”
- 4 p.m. Watkins Auditorium: Screening: “After Selma” followed by a question-and-answer with Loki Mulholland, director and screenplay writer;
- Feb. 20
- 9 a.m. until noon — Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom: Community Action Poverty Simulation;
- 2:30-4 p.m. — Watkins Auditorium: Screening: “The Uncomfortable Truth” followed by a question-and-answer with Loki Mulholland, director and screenplay writer;
- 4:5-15 p.m. — Boling University Center Room 206: Workshop: “Minority Student Leadership Experiences in Tennessee Campuses;”
- Feb. 21
- 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. — Boling University Center: Free health fair offering screenings, yoga methods, insurance information, samples from local businesses and information regarding sexual health care, chronic disease and suicide prevention.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. Lindsay Anderson, associate professor of sociology and conference organizer at 731-881-7523.
UTM to Host Civil Rights Conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin's 20th-annual Civil Rights Conference will address the theme "Ordinary Heroes: The Struggle for Human Rights" with events the week of February 17-21 on the UT Martin main campus.

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a civil rights icon who had participated in more than 50 sit-ins and demonstrations by the time she was 23 years old, will give the keynote address at 7 p.m., February 20, in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium. She was a Freedom Rider, a participant in the Jackson Woolworth's sit-in, the March on Washington, the Meredith March and the Selma to Montgomery March. She is also a recipient of the 2015 National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award.

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

**February 17**
- "Elbert Williams: First to Die - Investigating the cold case murder of NAACP member Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tennessee, in 1949"; Jim Emerson, Tennesseans for Historical Justice; 1:15 p.m.
- "Civil Rights Issues in Tennessee"; Mr. Tom Castelli, legal director for the ACLU Foundation of Tennessee; 2:20 p.m.
- "Everyday Issues for Minority Students on Campus" panel; 3:30 p.m.
- "Human Rights are Civil Rights" roundtable; Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 206; 4:45 p.m.
- "Building Community: The Work Continues"; Weakley County Reconciliation Project; 6:30 p.m.

**February 18**
- Lunch with the Pedrito Martinez Group; Fine Arts Building Ballroom; noon-1 p.m.; "The History of Segregation and Education in Weakley County"; 1:15-2:15 p.m.
- "The Ballot or the Bullet: The Next Generation"; Leann Evans, community organizer; 4:50 p.m.
- Concert: The Pedrito Martinez Group; Harriet Fulton Theater; 7 p.m.

**February 19**
- "LGBTQ+ couples' experience post Obergefell v. Hodges"; 1:15 p.m.
- "How Not to be 'That Person': Destroying the Bystander Effect"; Amy McLean, associate professor of social work; 2:20 p.m.
- "Issues Faced by Immigrants in Tennessee"; 3:30 p.m.
- Screening: "After Selma" followed by a question and answer with Loki Mulholland, director and screenplay writer; 4 p.m.

**February 20**
- Community Action Poverty Simulation; Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; 9 a.m.-noon.
- "The Sustaining Role of Religious Music in the Civil Rights Movement"; Rev. Courtney Pace; 1:20 p.m.
- Screening: "The Uncomfortable Truth" followed by a question and answer with Loki Mulholland, director and screenplay writer; 2:30-4 p.m.
- Workshop: "Minority Student Leadership Experiences on Tennessee Campuses"; Boling University Center, room 206; 4:50 p.m.
- "Envisioning a Healthy LGBTQ+ Community"; Del Ray Zimmerman, director of the Office for Diversity Affairs and LGBTQ+ Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; 4:50 p.m.
- Keynote: Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, civil rights icon; 7 p.m.

**February 21**
- Free student health fair; Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Dr. Lindsay Anderson, associate professor of sociology and conference organizer, at 731-981-7623.
Experiential learning institute to be presented in March in UC

The University of Tennessee at Martin and West Texas A&M University have partnered to host the Experiential Learning Leadership Institute on March 25-27 at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

The institute will focus on active, hands-on learning and how it can be applied in classrooms at all levels to improve student comprehension.

Registration is $275 for those presenting in a concurrent session, $50 for university students and $75 for area K-12 educators and community participants.

March 25 will offer on-site experiential leadership training modules for those educators who are already participating in that program. Concurrent presentation sessions will begin at 9 a.m. March 26 and end with dinner and a keynote speaker at 6 p.m. that evening.

The conference will conclude March 27 with poster presentations by student researchers.

Educators who wish to register for module trainings on March 25 should submit registration information by Feb. 28. Registration for all other participants must be received by March 15.

Anyone interested can register online at utm.edu/elli.

Contact Dr. Lajuan Davis, associate professor of information systems, at ldavis91@utm.edu or (731) 881-7364 for more information or registration assistance.

University’s WestTeach Program to host Feb. 28 education summit

The WestTeach Program, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program, will host the West Tennessee Education Summit from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 28 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson.

All conference activities will take place in the hospital’s Walter Barnes Conference Center.

The summit will focus on facilitating change and curriculum to enhance workforce development across the region and improve opportunities for all educators. A panel comprised of teachers, superintendents, legislators, school board members and private business owners will discuss challenges facing education across West Tennessee.

Those involved in education and workforce development are invited to attend. There is no cost to register, but pre-registration is required by Feb. 25.

School superintendents are also invited to a luncheon following the summit, and those able to attend the luncheon must register with Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, by email at vgrimes@utm.edu or by phone at (731) 881-7298.

Online registration for the summit is available at utm.edu/weststar. Contact Ms. Grimes for more information or registration assistance.

UT Martin to Co-Host Experiential Learning Leadership Institute

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin and West Texas A&M University partnered to host the Experiential Learning Leadership Institute on March 25-27 at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

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Contact Dr. Lajuan Davis, associate professor of information systems, at ldavis91@utm.edu or 731-881-7364 for more information or registration assistance.
20th Civil Rights Conference begins Monday at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin 20th annual Civil Rights Conference will address the theme “Ordinary Heroes: The Struggle for Human Rights” with events next week on the main campus.

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a civil rights icon who had participated in more than 50 sit-ins and demonstrations by the time she was 23 years old, will give the keynote address at 7 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium.

She was a Freedom Rider and a participant in the Jackson Woolworth's sit-in, the March on Washington, the Meredith March and the Selma to Montgomery March.

She is also a recipient of the 2015 National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award.

All events are free to the public and located in Watkins Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

A schedule of events includes:

**Monday**
- "Elbert Williams: First to Die: Investigating the cold case murder of NAACP member Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tennessee, in 1940"; Jim Emison, Tennessean for Historical Justice; 1-1:50 p.m.
- "Civil Rights Issues in Tennessee"; Tom Castelli, legal director for the ACLU Foundation of Tennessee; 2-2:50 p.m.
- "Everyday Issues for Minority Students on Campus" panel; 3-3:50 p.m.
- "Human Rights are Civil Rights" roundtable; Hortense Parrish Writing Center, Andy Holt Humanities Building, room 209; 4-4:50 p.m.
- "Building Community: The Work Continues"; Weakley County Reconciliation Project; 6-7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday**
- Lunch with the Pedrito Martinez Group; Fine Arts Building Band Room; noon-1 p.m.
- "The History of Segregation and Education in Weakley County"; 1:15-2:15 p.m.
- "The Ballot or the Bullet: The Next Generation"; LeLann Evans, community organizer; 4-5:15 p.m.
- Concert: The Pedrito Martinez Group; Harriet Fulton Theater; 7 p.m.

**Feb. 19**
- "LGBTQ+ couples’ experience post Obergefell v. Hodges"; 1-1:50 p.m.
- "How Not to be ‘That Person’: Destroying the Bystander Effect"; Amy McLean, associate professor of social work; 2-2:50 p.m.
- "Issues Faced by Immigrants in Tennessee"; 3-3:50 p.m.
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- Community Action Poverty Simulation; Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; 9 a.m.-noon.
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- Keynote: Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, civil rights icon; 7 p.m.

**Feb. 21**
- Free student health fair; Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

UT Martin announces musical events

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin has announced the following concerts:
- Steve Darling, a faculty tuba recital, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall
- Jackson Symphony Valentine Pops with the UTM Choirs, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Carl Perkins Convention Center in Jackson
- Death by Voice Competition, Sunday at 3 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall
- Test Flight/UTM Audition Day, all day Monday in the Fine Arts Building, high school students should register by Friday.
- Pedrito Martinez Group, Tuesday at 7 p.m. Reserve free tickets at umtm.edu/music/events. A question-and-answer session will be held at noon with a free Afro-Cuban lunch.
MacIntyre legacy at UTM enters 3rd generation

By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports Editor

Not long after arriving on campus, Jay MacIntyre paid a visit to the UT Martin Athletic Hall of Fame plaques, found his grandfather George and took a photo that he then texted to his father Mike.

Three generations. One school. UTM and the city of Martin are, indeed, special to the MacIntyre family.

Jay is the third generation of MacIntyre men to coach at UTM, recently hired as the wide receivers coach. He follows his father, who was an assistant on Don McLear's staff from 1993-96, and his grandfather, the Pacers' head coach from 1975-77.

"I sent it to my dad and he was just like, wow, what awesome memories," Jay said. "So, he loves it here. He always comes back, and he's on the top of the world when he comes back. He'll see everybody, and everyone loves him and he loves everybody here."

While Jay only knew his grandfather after he was stricken with Multiple Sclerosis — he died on Jan. 5, 2016, after a 20-plus year battle with the disease — he recalls hearing several stories about those Martin days.

"My grandpa brought up Martin a couple times through the years, and this place held a special place in his heart. Mr. (David) Murphy and all those people — my dad talks about them all the time."

Mike believes his son is at a great place, in a great program surrounded by great people.

"I'm really excited for Jay to be at UTM," he said. "Jason Simpson has done an excellent job there, and he's well-respected in our business. He has a great offensive mind, and he's a good person. That's good for my son to be around."

FAMILY BUSINESS

Jay was born in Martin in 1995, when his father was on the football staff.

The family moved around as Mike took different coaching positions, and Jay eventually graduated from high school in Colorado and played for his dad, then the head coach at the University of Colorado.

Jay had a stellar career with the Buffaloes, finishing 26th in career receptions (88) and 30th in total yards (1,057) in the program's history.

Mike knows the routine well, having packed his bags many times as his father moved from one coaching job to another.

Mike was nine years old when the family landed in Martin from Nashville, where George had been an assistant at Vanderbilt, in December of 1974. George was hired as the UTM head coach, replacing Bob Carroll, and led the program to back-to-back 8-3 seasons in his second and third years before going to Ole Miss as offensive coordinator in 1978 and then returning to Vanderbilt as head coach the following season.

GOOD TIMES — Colorado head coach Mike MacIntyre and his son Jay, a wide receiver for the Buffaloes, hug following a game during their time in Boulder. In a college rivalry, Mike played for his father George at Vanderbilt and later coached his son.

"Everybody who knew my dad always talks about the kind of person he was," Mike said. "He was a good father, a good Christian man. He really cared about his players, and he was a phenomenal football coach. He turned around UTM, and he turned around Vanderbilt."

"He's the reason I got into coaching."

Currently the defensive coordinator at the University of Memphis following one season in the same position at Ole Miss, the 30-year coaching veteran and two-time National Coach of the Year has had a well-traveled career.

At every stop, he treated it as it would be his last job — just like his father taught him.

"My dad gave me a lot of advice when I was getting started," Mike said. "The main thing was he told me to treat every job like I'm going to be there for a lifetime but understand that it might be only temporary. He said never go into a job like you're looking for the next one. That way, you'll give it your all, the people will trust and respect you, and you'll leave a good legacy. Give it all you have, and you will not only be respected, but you'll always have a job somewhere."

Both were certainly well-respected during their time coaching at UT Martin.

"We have a tremendous connection with UT Martin," Mike said. "It's a special place to our family."

FATHER TO SON, TO SON

What George passed down to Mike, Mike is now passing down to Jay.

In his second coaching stop since graduating college, Jay is following his father's advice.

"Jay was thinking about being a GA (graduate assistant) somewhere to get started, and I told him to find a small college where he'll be in charge of a room and coaching a position," Mike said. "He will find out if he loves it, and people will find out about him."

Jay spent one season as receivers coach at Southeastern University, an NAIA school in Lakeland, Fla.

The team finished with an 8-1 record and ranked 14th in the final NAIA poll but was skipped over for a spot in the playoff field.

"He's a great role model for me," Jay said of his father. "That's the biggest part about coaching. It's like you can be a great coach, but if you're not a good person, what's the point? I do think that I am a good coach, but at the same time I'd rather be a good person. That's kind of what he gave me, just by watching him every day. He's a great coach. He knows and loves football. That guy will watch football every single day of the week, every single hour. But, he taught me how to just live life in a way that's not performance-based in coaching but rather to help other people out in the way."

"That's what I'm trying to do. If I could be half the coaching person my grandfather was and dad is, then I think I'll be doing good because they both were very successful. So, hopefully, I can follow their foot-

(See Page 7, Col. 2)
steps in my own way, but also in a way that respects them as well."

'THE SHOT' 
In the early-to-mid 1990s, Mike made some life-long friends in the Martin community and on the UTM coaching staff.

That staff, in fact, was filled with big names who have gone on to major success in their moves since those Martin days.

"I enjoyed my time there," Mike said. "We had some good players, and our family made some friends - people like David Murphy, Phil Dane, Shorty Alexander and so many more, and we've been able to get to know Keith Carver in the last few years and really like him."

"It's amazing how many great football coaches have come from there. That was an amazing staff when I was there."

The list reads like a Who's Who in coaching, with several connections to the University of Tennessee football program.

Marion Hobby, currently on the Miami Dolphins' staff, and Kacy Rodgers, now with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, both played for the Volunteers.

The staff also included Drew Fabianich, now a national scout for the Dallas Cowboys.

Mike himself spent time coaching in the NFL, working under Bill Parcells when he was the Cowboys' head coach.

But, coaching football is rarely the topic of conversation when those guys see each other.

"When we get together, all we talk about are those morning basketball games (in the fieldhouse)," Mike said.

Another basketball story involving Mike has become stuff of legend.

At a home basketball game one year, Mike was selected to shoot a full-court shot for a chance to win a truck.

He took off his jacket, fired away and hit the shot.

"I always hear the story about when my dad hit the fullcourt shot," Jay said. "We've actually seen that on video. He's a legend, and we always bring it up. Every time I go in that gym, I take a picture, and I'm like, dad hit a fullcourt shot here. There's just a lot of special places and a lot of special memories here."

Other people remember the shot, too. Mike mentions one encounter that happened not long after the shot.

"I was at PV's Hut (in Union City), and a man sat down beside me," Mike recalled. "He said he knew me from somewhere, so I told him that I was a football coach at UT Martin. He said that wasn't it, and then his eyes got really big and he said, 'You're that guy who hit the fullcourt shot!'"

A truck at that time, with a young family, was not a practical prize for Mike. So, he went to Terry Petty, whose dealership in Union City sponsored the giveaway, and asked for a mini-van.

The MacIntyre family got the van, and the university also got a courtesy car for recruiting purposes.

FACING OFF

Mike played for his father at Vanderbilt for two seasons and then coached his son for four years at Colorado.

It is one of the few family stories - if not the only one - where someone played for his father and later coached his own son at the collegiate level.

"My dad and I have a special bond," Jay said. "We've been through that together. We've been in the trenches together, so we understand. We understand the hurt that we went through, we understand the good times and we understand the grind that it took to get to where we both are as a coach and as a player. I'll never take back those moments. It was hard and there was a lot of pressure, but at the same time it was probably one of the biggest blessings for me and my dad's relationship."

That relationship will have to be put on hold for one week in November this year, however.

On Nov. 21, the Skyhawks will close their regular season playing at Memphis.

Not only will their teams be facing off, father and son will be trying to out-scheme each other. Jay coaches wide receivers at UTM; Mike is in charge of defensive backs at Memphis in addition to his DC duties.

"We really are coaching against each other," Jay said. "So, he told me he's not going to talk to me that week. And I said he's not allowed at any of our practices. We're for each other until that game. So that'll be pretty fun."
THE BEGINNING — George Maclntyre (center) talks with UT Martin athletic director Dr. Bob Paynter (left) and UTM chancellor Dr. Larry McGehee while Maclntyre’s 9-year-old son, Mike, looks on at the press conference where George Maclntyre was introduced as the new football coach at UTM. The photo appeared on the front page of The Messenger on Thursday, Dec. 19, 1974. The Maclntyre family legacy at UTM began on that day and has now spanned three generations. Mike Maclntyre was an assistant coach in the early 1990s, and Mike’s son Jay is now on the UTM staff as wide receivers coach.
TALKING TIME — George MacIntyre speaks at a community function during his tenure as the UT Martin football head coach. MacIntyre coached the Pacers from 1975-77, his teams posting 8-3 records in each of his last two seasons.
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 also be recommended by their principal, director of schools or superintendent, and only one teacher per school district is chosen to participate. Four WestTeach sessions held across West Tennessee from August through November covered topics in agriculture, entrepreneurship, leadership, education partnerships for economic development and building communities.

Spivey chosen for WestStar class of 2020

Katelyn Spivey, of Benton County, was selected to participate in UTM’s WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020. Spivey will join 28 other participants from 18 counties in a series of seminars to be held through June that focus on topics such as economic development, public policy, education, and technology.

A graduate of Camden Central High School, Spivey completed her bachelor’s degree in marketing at UTM in 2014 and began working for Carroll Bank and Trust the next year. Now a marketing director at CB&T in Huntingdon, Spivey serves as president of the Camden Downtown Business Association, as marketing and social media events chair for the Carroll County Young Professionals, and as an avid volunteer in the community with programs such as Benton County Leadership.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UTM 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. It also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area.

Dr. Charley Deal is WestStar’s executive director. For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Program Coordinator Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298.
Co-host Experiential Leadership Institute

The University of Tennessee at Martin and West Texas A&M University have partnered to host the Experiential Learning Leadership Institute on March 25-27 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. The institute will focus on active, hands-on learning and how it can be applied in classrooms at all levels to improve student comprehension. Registration is $275 for those presenting in a concurrent session, $75 for university students and $75 for area K-12 educators and community participants. March 25 will offer on-site experiential leadership training modules for those educators who are already participating in that program. Concurrent presentation sessions will begin at 9 a.m., March 26, and end with dinner and a keynote speaker at 6 p.m. that evening. The conference will conclude March 27 with poster presentations by student researchers.

Educators who wish to register for module trainings on March 25 should submit registration information by Feb. 28. Registration for all other participants must be received by March 15. Interested individuals can register online at utm.edu/eli.

Contact Dr. Laijuan Davis, associate professor of information systems, at ldavis91@utm.edu or 731-881-7364 for more information or registration assistance.

UTM hosts open forums for vice chancellor for university advancement

Martin — The University of Tennessee at Martin and the University of Tennessee Foundation Inc. are in the midst of a national search for a permanent vice chancellor for university advancement. Two external candidates and one internal candidate will participate in on-campus open forums Feb. 26-28. All forums will be held from 1-2 p.m. in room 111 of the Boling University Center. Dr. Charley Deal will present to the campus community on Feb. 26. He currently serves as executive director of research, outreach and economic development for UT Martin, where he oversees operations pertaining to government relations, research grants and expenditures, and non-degree courses and camps. Deal has held this position since February 2019. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from UT Martin and doctoral degree in philosophy, learning and leadership from UT Chattanooga.

Andrew Shafer will present an open campus forum on Feb. 27. He has served as planned giving manager for the Nashville Symphony Orchestra since 2019 and as founder and owner of SD Solutions since 2012. SD Solutions is a Nashville-based firm specializing in funding strategy, planning and execution of nonprofit organizations and professionals. He holds both a bachelor’s degree in communications and a master’s degree in public administration from UT Knoxville.

Dr. Bryan Robinson will present to campus on Feb. 28. He is currently vice chancellor for advancement for the University of North Carolina System in Chapel Hill and president of the UNCP Foundation Inc., where he manages university advancement operations, planning and implementation in collaboration with the University of North Carolina. He has
Charley Deal held this position since 2018. Robinson holds both a bachelor’s degree in pre-law studies and a master’s degree in higher education administration from the University of Louisville in Kentucky and a doctoral degree from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky.

The vice chancellor for university advancement is a member of the chancellor’s leadership team. This position is responsible for managing UT Martin’s fundraising and alumni relations programs; coordinating development efforts with UT Foundation and UT System administration; and representing UT Martin in the community and among alumni groups and potential university supporters.

“The vice chancellor for university advancement is a key player in the funding and sustaining of UT Martin’s expansion, scholarship and endowment goals,” said Carver. “I look forward to selecting a candidate who can help move UT Martin forward and realize the dreams we have for both our students and our campus in the coming decade.”

The search committee includes both faculty and staff members as well as student representation. Dr. Shadow Robinson, dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, is serving as committee chairperson. Other committee members are:

- Dr. Philip Smartt, chair of the UT Martin Faculty Senate
- Love Collins, UT Foundation Inc. vice chancellor for advancement at the UT Health Science Center
- Bill Blankenship, UT Martin supporter and member of the UT Martin Development Committee
- Phillip Clendenin, UT Foundation Inc. board member and UT Martin alumnus
- Jennifer Hampton, UT Martin alumnae
- Dana Prince, UT Foundation Inc. advancement staff
- Andrew Hart, UT Foundation Inc. central staff and UT Martin alumnus
- Carol Houser, assistant vice president of human resources for the UT Foundation, is serving as the staff contact for this search.

The national search is managed by Aspen Leadership Group.

For more information or to view full finalist resumes, visit utm.edu/vcuasearch.
WestTeach Class sees opportunities in West Tennessee

Martin — Paul Richards' education career is off to a positive start as a second-year middle school literature teacher at Bradford High School in Gibson County. Beyond the classroom, his selection last May to the second WestTeach class provided knowledge and insights that will benefit his students.

WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program. Richards was among 22 WestTeach class members who graduated Jan. 28 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson.

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

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

For Richards, working with fellow WestTeach teachers created bonds that made the experience beneficial. "Once we came together, we had our first session, and we started sharing our ideas, our passions, all of this, and I realized, 'Hey, we're one in the same here. We're on the same side, so why not come together, for example, with WestTeach?'

And we kept building and building and building on top of that until now and our graduation. I feel like we've had a really successful thing happen here," he said.

Through WestTeach, Richards and his classmates were exposed to new ideas and gained knowledge that will carry over into the classroom. "I am a UTM graduate, but college doesn't necessarily have to be the answer for every student. There are other options (for education and careers) out there," he said.

"Through this program, we have learned that there are many, many options and many, many different ways for anybody to be successful after high school."

Dan Black, superintendent of the Bradford Special School District, attended the WestTeach graduation to support Richards. The longtime educator said the program is beneficial for teacher development, and he plans to continue his support for educators like Richards to participate in the future.

"I would encourage any of my teachers to be a part of it, and I would take care of anything that they need to be a part of it," he said.

"It (WestTeach) just helps them become better at what they do and understand the surroundings that we have in West Tennessee. I think it's a great program."

Following a reception and dinner, Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, welcomed class members and their families, as well as WestStar board members, alumni and program sponsors.

He introduced UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, who served as the event's keynote speaker.

Following plaque presentations and the event's conclusion, other new WestTeach graduates shared their thoughts about the program. "You learn so much about West Tennessee and what West Tennessee has to offer for our students, that they don't have to leave West Tennessee to go find bigger and better things," said Brittan Knott, a teacher at Martin Elementary School.

She added, "By teachers experiencing this, we're able to know what we can talk to these students about, what they can go do after high school, what they can go do when they graduate. They don't have to go off to big, better places. Right here in West Tennessee, there is so much."

The 2019 WestTeach class will next host the West Tennessee Education Summit on Feb. 28 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson. All conference activities will take place in the hospital's J. Walter Barnes Conference Center. A panel of teachers, superintendents, legislators, school board members and private business owners will discuss challenges facing education across West Tennessee. Anyone involved in education and workforce development are invited to attend.

For more information contact WestStar at 731-881-7298.
W EST T EACH GRADUATES SECOND CLASS — Members of the second WestTeach class graduated from the program Jan. 28 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. The graduating class members (seated from left) are Stacey McAdams, Bells Elementary School, Bells; Lindsey Walker, Union City Middle School, Union City; Colette Carrabba, Chester County Junior High School, Henderson; Madine Nichols, Selmer Elementary School, Selmer; Brittan Knott, Martin Elementary School, Martin; Meredith McMackins, Finley Elementary School, Finley; Christina Warren, LaGrange-Moscow Elementary School, Moscow; Sharon Clark, East Side Intermediate School, Brownsville; Catherine Nailling, Lake Road Elementary School, Union City; Anne Ladd Welch, Dyersburg Primary School, Dyersburg; (back row) Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director; Chad Davis, Halls High School, Halls; Paul Richards, Bradford High School, Bradford; Nichole Lusk, Hardin County High School, Savannah; Amanda Pruitt, Huntingdon High School, Huntingdon; Sarah Comuzie, Camden Central High School, Camden; Brittany Fowler, West Carroll Elementary School, Trezevant; Rommy Criswell, Trenton Elementary School, Trenton; Beth Smith, Brighton Elementary School, Brighton; Cara Chadwick, Carroll County Technical Center; Huntingdon; Carrie Jones, Innam Middle School, Paris; Shelly Russell, Bargerton Elementary School, Lexington; and Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator. Not pictured is Cary Bivens from Riverside High School in Decaturville.

FORUM AT UT MARTIN addresses matters of race

By CHRISTIAN ASHLAR
Press Reporter

In November of 2019, an organized attempt to circulate flyers on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s campus resulted in an immediate recall of said flyers. University Chancellor, Keith Carver sent out a campus-wide email denouncing the flyers.

Artwork on the seemingly-inflammatory leaflets depicted males with a possessive arm around a female with derisive terminology advocating violence toward black people. Right away, Chancellor Carver ordered the flyers removed and university personnel responded. While this solved the immediate problem, the incident left serious safety concerns in the minds of students who were seemingly targeted by the flyers.

Kaylyn Bailey, president of the Black Student Association, approached Carver about putting together a forum to address the threat black students may face from white supremacists like those responsible for the flyers. Tuesday evening, UTM hosted this forum. Its title, “How Should UTM Respond to Threats of White Supremacists,” reflected the concerns and fears of the campus’ students. The goal of the forum was to bring together faculty, campus leaders and students to address the flyers and the underlying intent many find still exists — one of deep-seeded racism.

Bailey welcomed the panel, consisting of Chancellor Carver; Dr. David Barber of the Department of History and Philosophy; Kayla Gooden; Bailey; Dr. Andy Lewter, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; and Dr. Henry Parker of the Department of History and Philosophy.

The evening’s discussion began with the question from Bailey, “What were your initial reactions when the flyers were posted?” Carver has been quoted as saying he thought the flyers were “racist” and “disgusting.” He began by stating how shocked he was when he discovered they had been distributed in the parking lot near Pacer Pond. He also stated the incident incited a certain amount of anger.

Gooden, next to answer, gave voice to the thoughts

SEE FORUM

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of many students in the room. She said, “I was slightly shocked, but not fully because in today’s society, a lot of situations make it seem like it’s okay to do things like that.”

In his role with student affairs, Lewter said, “I was appalled by what I saw and said we needed to take some action.”

Also in his role, he began to investigate the flyers, what they said and how (or if) their message pertained to the issue of free speech. It may seem like a strange concept, but there are some dense gray areas when it comes to what is considered hate-speech and what could be protected as free speech. Lewter’s role means he has to be knowledgeable of these areas and is able to make distinctions.

Last to answer, Parker expressed shock, as well, but also added, “We’ve lost our innocence.” This statement resonated with several of those present.

Parker expanded, “I’ve been here since 1990 and we haven’t had any problems like that of any significance; but this one is significant because we have to be very concerned about the slippery-slope effect. If they (white supremacists) can start out doing that, then God knows what they can do next.”

This last statement involving the “slippery-slope effect” also addresses Lewter’s concerns for free speech as well.

These sorts of issues have to be addressed before specific actions can be taken. Parker questioned whether or not the perpetrator of the incident was a student or an outsider, yet another factor that had to be taken into consideration before any action was taken. In addition, Parker asked for a copy of the flyer(s) to be shown to the assembly, as many had not seen them. The reaction of the crowd varied from silent head-shaking, visible disgust and even a few sad faces.

More visceral reactions including murmured questions such as, “How can people still be doing this?” and “What kind of hate does someone have to have in them to do something like that?”

A rather unique answer from Barber addressed a different aspect and alternative perspective. “It’s a threat to black students,” he began. “But also a threat to the moral integrity of white students.”

This beginning question began a frank discussion between the panel and their audience.

During the second question about which students should have been contacted after the incident, Gooden said all of the student body should have been contacted. She went on to say, “Racism isn’t just a black problem.” After this poignant comment, the discussion then turned to university policy, specific actions taken and those that should have been taken.

The instigator of this incident did not just target the Martin campus. He and others of his organization went to campuses in other states to distribute their hate-filled leaflets. Because this happened just before the Thanksgiving break, immediate action of any significance could not be taken. A meeting with UTM Safety and Security did, however, take place on the Monday following the holiday. They began working with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to see if the group had any “hot spots” or any active cells that recruited others to their despicable cause.

A very difficult question was then posed by Parker to the Black Student Association’s leaders. “Are you satisfied with what the administration has done, in regards to this?” An emphatic response by Gooden indicated some dissatisfaction.

She went on to say, “I would like to know, how much of a priority is this to you guys because you can only see so much. It runs deeper in me than it will in you, because you’re not black.” To offer another perspective into what Gooden was saying, another way to word this statement would be, “It runs deeper in those victimized than those who were not.”

This statement called attention to the importance of perspective when dealing with these sorts of incidents. Gooden further appraised administrative action by saying, “I feel like classes for that hour block should have been cancelled so everybody could have attended that meeting. I feel like more ideas could have been shared and more perspectives could have been gained from more students being present.”

Another meeting was held in January. Of this meeting, Carver stated several positive things came of it. Suggestions by students concerned safety issues such as having a safe way to make what would be a biased report of harm or the threat of harm, without the threat of repercussion.

Other issues were racial representation in student-oriented organizations, sensitivity and diversity training for faculty, Pep leaders being trained in the same manner and raising the cultural and educational levels for students.

One important factor of the entire discussion was the term, “white supremacy,” one misunderstood by a vast number of people. On the surface, it conjures images of hooded figures, burning crosses and blatant acts of aggression and violence. However, the actuality of white supremacy is much more subtle and often unseen.

Lewter addressed this when he said, “I think it’s easy for white people to hear ‘white supremacy’ and think, those people that handed out that flyer, but it’s even more basic to go down to an individual level and say if you are a person who believes that white people are inherently better than other races, you are a white supremacist — that’s the thought pattern in your brain.”

Many in Martin see the university as an insular, almost separate entity. In many ways, they are correct in terms of how situations with students and education are handled. However, in situations such as this, this viewpoint can be detrimental.

Racial hatred and actions taken because of it have no tangible borders and often have no limits. What begins in one small area, like a college campus, can spill out into the surrounding community and have devastating effects.

Addressing this very thing, Parker had this to say, “I am concerned with escalation.” He went on to add, “I’ll say it again, we have been innocent here. We don’t have the experience with problems like this. Race has been an easy issue (on campus) but racism is here and we have to do something about it.”

The message of the BSA Forum and discussion, at its conclusion, was one of education and preparedness.

Their goal was to raise awareness and consciousness to the seriousness of a problem many do not see because they are not affected in the same way as those who are.

Most in attendance said they feel as though their goal was met and the forum was a success. BSA President Bailey agrees, but also alluded to the fact, there is much more work to be done.
OPEN DISCUSSION — Community leader and UTM graduate student Joyce Washington was on hand for the open forum hosted by UT Martin Tuesday. The forum discussed matters of race, campus life and the handling of situations by campus administrators.

RACE MATTERS — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Black Student Association hosted a community forum to discuss matters of race, addressing concerns and fears of students on campus. The event was in response to the distribution of flyers on campus depicting racist and sexist images. The panel consisted of the chancellor, student leaders and department professors.
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to offer tuition discounts in 9 states

Associated Press  Published 1:39 p.m. CT Feb 16, 2020

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A Tennessee university plans to offer discounted tuition starting this fall to students from nine surrounding states.

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga officials said the goal of the new regional tuition program is to attract and retain diverse talent in the area as well as reach enrollment goals laid out for the University of Tennessee system. The Chattanooga Times Free Press reported (https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2020/feb/15/utc-offer-discounted-tuitionstudents-nine-neighborhoods/).

"We really have paid attention to Tennessee residents and how we serve the state of Tennessee well," university Chancellor Steve Angle said. "This kind of is rounding out our student body and bringing in additional young people to this community that can add to the economy and hopefully drive the future of the region. We are trying to set UTC up to be a net importer of talent in the community."

Under the program, students from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia would pay about $18,000 a year instead of about $26,000 a year as out-of-state students.

"This absolutely reflects a shift in thinking commensurate with the future in thinking in higher education," said Tennessee Higher Education Commission Executive Director Mike Krause. "This is the right thing to do for Tennessee. We know a student is likely to stay in the city where they went to college."

An existing program that offers tuition discounts to residents of neighboring counties in Georgia and Alabama would remain in effect.

The university has an enrollment of nearly 11,700 students. About 10% of those are from outside Tennessee.

Other Tennessee schools that have tuition programs or partnerships with neighboring counties or states include the University of Memphis, Austin Peay State University and the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Farmers, agribusinesses, and agriculture leaders will benefit from attending the Mid-South Agricultural Trade Conference on March 5 on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The conference offers attendees a unique opportunity to learn about the role, importance, and significance of international trade on local agriculture production, markets, and economies as well as equipping them with an increased awareness of agriculture exporting tools and resources. The all-day event is being hosted by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, UT Extension, UT Martin, and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and will take place at the UT Martin Boling University Center. The conference format will include various speakers, presentations, and a panel discussion with commodity representatives.

Seven experts are slated to share their knowledge. Speakers and panel members include Daniel Whitley, the associate administrator of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS); Andrew Muhammad, a professor in the UTIA Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics who holds the Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy, and Jody Campiche, vice president of economics and policy analysis for the National Cotton Council in Cordova, Tenn. Also on the agenda are Whitney Flatt, Tennessee Department of Agriculture international trade consultant, who leads the Business Development Division’s trade-focused initiatives which promotes Tennessee value-added food, horticulture, livestock, and genetics and forestry and wood products abroad; Jennifer Houston, a Tennessee native and current president of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA); Parks Wells, executive director of the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council, located in Jackson, Tenn.; and Rob Dongoski, leader of Ernst and Young’s (EY) Agribusiness sector.

Due to generous conference sponsorships, the conference registration fee will be waived for the first 75 participants who preregister, as well as all current university students. Preregistration for all others is $50 prior to Feb. 26 or $75 after that date including on-site registration. To register, contact Joey Mehlhorn or Carrie Arant at mehlhorn@utm.edu or call 731-881-7211. The conference will begin on March 5 with registration at 9:30 a.m. CST and kick-off at 10 a.m. Sessions will conclude by 3:15 p.m.

Organized by the UT Center for Profitable Agriculture, conference sponsors include the Agricenter International, Farm Credit Mid-America, Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association, Tennessee Corn Production Council, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Tennessee Forestry Association, Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council, Tyson Obion County Complex, and UT Extension.
UT Music offers free Cuban experience concert

By Admin User | February 17, 2020 | 0

The Pedrito Martinez Group, led by Grammy-nominated percussionist Pedrito Martinez, will perform at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Harriet Fulton Theatre.

This performance is free and open to the public, but tickets should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/music/events.

Martinez was born in Havana, Cuba, and by the age of 27 had won the Thelonius Monk Award for Afro-Latin Hand Percussion and appeared in the documentary “Calle 54.” He is widely regarded as the leading percussionist in Latin jazz music and has recorded or performed with Eric Clapton, Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, Sting and others as both percussionist and vocalist.

The group’s appearance is the second spring 2020 installment in UT Martin’s Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series and is specifically sponsored by the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference, Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs, Department of Music, and Department of History and Philosophy, as well as the Coleman Foundation, Dr. Lynn Alexander, Ed Sargent and Joan Jett.

A percussion masterclass is open to the campus community at 2 p.m. Feb. 18 following a noon question-and-answer session about Cuban culture in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building.

A free Afro-Cuban buffet will be provided for attendees. More information about the group’s performance experience, including video and sound clips, is available at pedritomartinezmusic.com.

For more information about the UT Martin performance, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
MARTIN, Tenn. — Potential students are getting a chance to take a test flight of college.

"We've got over 400 visitors on campus. Obviously, some of those are moms and dads along with their students, but primarily, it's students," University of Tennessee Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said.

This event is proving that UT Martin's recruitment strategy is working, even though community college is virtually free in Tennessee.

"We're trying to get out there more and tell our message, and talk about the UT Martin quality and value package, but we're also recruiting students earlier," Carver said. "We're starting to recruit students when they're sophomores in high school."

Students even got a chance to meet with some of the professors and visit the classrooms they might be in one day.

"They're going to different departments around campus, and each department does their own unique activity and unique program for their students," admissions counselor Mykaela Watkins said.

An engineering professor says there are typically only a half-dozen people in these tours, but Monday's tour had about 20, which is the average class size at UT Martin.

"Something I loved as a student was having the smaller class sizes and the personal connection with my professors," Watkins said.

And the students even got a chance to learn a few things about their potential major.

"That's wonderful for in-class time and for prospective job opportunities. Professors already know you and can write you good letters of recommendation and give you good guidance," Watkins said.

UT Martin offers campus tours every day. To set one up, call the admissions center at (731) 881-7020.
LC band students attend prestigious camps, earn numerous awards

Feb 17, 2020

Lincoln County High School had two students perform at the University of Tennessee Ma Young and Evelyn Warden, who both participated in master classes and performances. A here, competed in a Solo Concerto Competition where she was the youngest competitor place and a $4,000 scholarship for her performance of the Creston Sonata for alto saxop

Lincoln County High School band students started 2020 full steam ahead by taking part in various district and southeastern United States honor bands.

To kick off the year, two students from Lincoln County, Evelyn Warden and Wyatt Lozier, auditioned for a spot in the highly competitive Mid-State Bands hosted by the Middle Tennessee Band and Orchestra Association. Both students auditioned against hundreds of other trumpet and saxophone students across middle Tennessee.

Warden placed first chair alto sax in the Silver band, and she rehearsed and performed with the Mid-State band in January in a clinic held on MTSU's campus. In all of south-central Tennessee and the Tri-Lakes District, only two students won a spot in an MTSBOA honor band, with the other student being from Shelbyville Central.
This year, LCHS had six students accepted into the University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band. These students are Krisslynn Campbell, second chair bass clarinet, Concert Band; Baleigh Young, sixth chair flute, Symphonic Band; Michael Morales, fifth chair percussion, Wind Ensemble; Taylor Slayton, fourth chair tuba, Symphonic Band; Aaron Osborne, fourth chair, Wind Ensemble; and Daniel Pogue, first chair, Concert Band.

These students traveled to UTM on Thursday, Jan 23, and auditioned for placement in an ensemble based on their grade and playing ability. The next two days were spent in rehearsals; various master classes put on by university faculty and in performances that took place throughout the day and culminated into an evening montage performance put on by the Department of Music.

These students spent time in rehearsals with renowned clinicians and gave a stellar performance on Saturday afternoon in the newly renovated Harriet Fulton Theater on UTM's campus. Lincoln County was one of the only four schools from Middle Tennessee represented at this honor band, which included many schools from across Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Mississippi.

While Jonathan Johnson, director of bands, and LCHS students were at UTM Honor band, another six students placed and participated in the Annual Tri-Lakes Honor Band clinic held at Harris Middle School in Shelbyville. Those students were Will Shelton, trombone; Cameron Niemi, trombone; Thomas Worsham, trombone; April Rigsby, trumpet; Samantha Cabello, percussion; and Elizabeth Erbe, tuba.

These students arrived after school on Friday and auditioned for a placement and then rehearsed until 9 p.m., that evening. On Saturday, the students rehearsed again that morning and up until the concert at 5 p.m. Saturday evening.

In addition to these honor bands, LCHS has had several other students earn honors over the past year. In November, 20 Lincoln County students participated in the Austin Peay State University Band Day. These students spent the morning rehearsing with the APSU Governors Own Marching Band, then performed in the stands and at halftime with them during their game that day.

"This was a great opportunity for students to get first-hand experience in band at a collegiate level," said Johnson.

That same weekend in November, LCHS also had two students performing at UTM's Woodwind Day. Baleigh Young and Evelyn Warden both participated in master classes and performances. Additionally, Evelyn competed in a Solo Concerto Competition where she was the youngest competitor and unanimously won first place and a $4,000 scholarship for her performance of the Creston Sonata for alto saxophone. Evelyn went on to submit an audition for the North American Saxophone Alliance International Saxophone Competition which is held every four years.
"Though she did not continue to semi-finals, she was the only student from Tennessee to make it through the audition process and definitely a first for Lincoln County," Johnson noted.

Results were recently announced Memphis Honor Band, with Evelyn Warden, saxophone, being accepted. She will travel during the second weekend in February and audition for placement in their honor band. This weekend will include a residency by Wind Band Composer Steven Bryant, who will work with the bands.

"We are extremely proud of each of these students for representing not only the LCHS Band well, but for representing the entire community and having a true attitude of gratitude," Johnson said. "Music and arts education is incredibly important in our students' lives. I work with fantastic educators in the art department at LCHS, and in the last four years, we have seen our programs almost triple in size. We are approaching nearly half of the student body involved in the arts, in one way or another.

"These students are continually getting recognition from universities and other organizations for their accolades and accomplishments," he added. "We are lucky to have a supportive community and administration who understand the need for further investment in our students' well-rounded education and the value of music, art and drama.

"The art programs are alive and well in Lincoln County Schools, and next year's incoming ninth grade class is a testament to that, with a third of the class selecting Fine Arts as a possible elective focus in recent eighth grade visits.

"I would like to thank both Billy Owens and our LCHS administration for being supportive and helping students see these accomplishments come to fruition," Johnson said. "I would also like to thank the band booster organization, the LCDOE Board of Education, the Leadership Team, Renee Pryor and Dr. Bill Heath for also ensuring that these students and I were able to attend these master classes, rehearsals and educational opportunities that otherwise we would not have access to."

MORE INFORMATION

LC band finishes marching season in style
BETTYE GILES TO BE INDUCTED IN TENNESSEE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

MARTIN, Tenn. – Bettye Giles, the first and only director of women’s athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was announced as a 2020 inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame during halftime of the UT Martin women’s basketball game Feb. 14. She is pictured following the announcement with (from left) Art Sparks, chair of the UT Martin Advisory Board; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; and Lin Dunn, a member of both the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame.

Giles founded the Tennessee College Women’s Sports Federation, which began with 18 member colleges and universities and grew to 34 institutions by 1974. She spent her career advocating for women’s equality in sports across the state and established the UT Martin women’s tennis program, which was the first women’s sport to achieve varsity status at UT Martin.

“I can think of no one more befitting of the honor of Tennessee Sports Hall of Famer than Bettye Giles. Her contributions to athletics across the state and throughout the nation over the last half-century cannot be overstated,” said Brad Willis, chief advancement and operations officer for the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. “Her story is one that the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame will be happy to share for years to come.”
Originally from Clarksville, Giles served as director of women’s athletics at UT Martin from 1969 until her retirement in 1994. She received the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports for her work. Her leadership and activism coincided with the Title IX education amendments of 1972, which require federally funded educational institutions to provide fair and equal treatment in all areas of educational programming, including sports. Title IX was enacted by the U.S. Congress on June 23, 1972.

The full 2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame induction class will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Sports Information at 731-881-7630.
University of Tennessee of Martin hosts their 20th annual Civil Rights Conference

February 18, 2020 | Imani Williams, WNBJ

As Black History Month continues, one local university continues a tradition to help students and the community learn more about civil rights.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting their 20th Annual Civil Rights Conference this week.

This conference brings together speakers from across the country to talk about past and present civil rights issues.

UT Martin student, Amethyst Hawkins, says "It's like multiple people who went through these things, they are telling us their stories. It's pretty powerful, I like to learn from other people and their experiences."

The conference goes deep into topics that fall under the umbrella of civil rights like voting, immigration, and the LGBTQ community.

"Because what we are trying to do, we are trying to show that civil rights is everyone's fight. That it is not just certain groups, it's not just groups that are understood as minorities. Minority rights are everyone's rights," says conference coordinator, Dr. Lindsey Anderson.

The first speaker of the conference spoke about the murder of one of the charter members of the Haywood County NAACP chapter, Elbert Williams.

Lawyer Jim Emison said Williams' murder was done to deter African Americans from using one of their civil rights... voting.

Lawyer Jim Emison, says, "People had to fight for their rights. They didn't just... they weren't just given to them. They had to fight for them."

The civil rights conference will be going on all week long in Martin, for 39 News, I'm Imani Williams.

www.greenevillesun.com

Tenn. University To Offer Tuition Discounts In 9 States

Feb 18, 2020

CHATTANOOGA (AP) — A Tennessee university plans to offer discounted tuition starting this fall to students from nine surrounding states.

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga officials said the goal of the new regional tuition program is to attract and retain diverse talent in the area as well as reach enrollment goals laid out for the University of Tennessee system, The Chattanooga Times Free Press reported.

"We really have paid attention to Tennessee residents and how we serve the state of Tennessee well," university Chancellor Steve Angle said. "This kind of is rounding out our student body and bringing in additional young people to this community that can add to the economy and hopefully drive the future of the region. We are trying to set UTC up to be a net importer of talent in the community."
Under the program, students from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia would pay about $18,000 a year instead of about $26,000 a year as out-of-state students.

"This absolutely reflects a shift in thinking commensurate with the future in thinking in higher education," said Tennessee Higher Education Commission Executive Director Mike Krause. "This is the right thing to do for Tennessee. We know a student is likely to stay in the city where they went to college."

An existing program that offers tuition discounts to residents of neighboring counties in Georgia and Alabama would remain in effect.

The university has an enrollment of nearly 11,700 students. About 10% of those are from outside Tennessee.

Other Tennessee schools that have tuition programs or partnerships with neighboring counties or states include the University of Memphis, Austin Peay State University and the University of Tennessee at Martin.
BETTYE GILES ANNOUNCED AS 2020 INDUCTEE OF THE TENNESSEE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

NASHVILLE, TN – Feb. 18, 2020 – Bettye Giles, a nationwide innovator who advocated for women’s equality in sports in Tennessee, is a 2020 Inductee of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. It was announced during the halftime show of the University of Tennessee Martin basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Clarksville, Tennessee native Bettye Giles founded the Tennessee College Women’s Sports Federation, serving on numerous national committees promoting women’s sports. The organization began with 18 colleges and universities and grew to 34 institutions by 1973.

Giles was instrumental in the development of athletic opportunities, beginning the women’s tennis program at University of Tennessee Martin – it was the first women’s sport to achieve varsity status at UT Martin. Giles even convinced a then-UT Martin freshman Pat Head Summitt to play volleyball as a “conditioner” for basketball season. Summitt went on to become one of the best coaches in basketball history.

“I can think of no one more befitting of the honor of Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame than Bettye Giles,” said Brad Willis, Chief Advancement and Operations Officer for the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. “Her contributions to athletics across the state and throughout the nation over the last half-century cannot be overstated. Her story is one that the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame will be happy to share for years to come.”

In 1969, Giles was entrusted as the school’s first and only director of women’s athletics and served until 1994. For her work, she received the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports.

Giles’ leadership and activism for women’s athletics coincided with the Title IX education amendments of 1972, which requires federally-funded educational institutions to provide fair and equal treatment in all areas of educational programming.
The full 2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class will be released in the coming weeks.

Information regarding tickets for the 2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be announced at a later date.

Established in 1966, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame honors figures from every sport including basketball, baseball, football, golf, soccer and track & field, along with coaches, teams, sports writers and others who made an impact. The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development oversees all operations along with the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

For more information, visit www.tn.gov/tourism.

About the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame

Established in 1966, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame enshrines and honors athletes, teams, coaches, sports writers and sports administrators who have made an impact on the history of Tennessee sports. The Hall serves as a platform to connect athletes, coaches, sports fans, and supporters by acknowledging life achievements implemented through sports. The Hall celebrates athletes of all forms, from all across the state. Additionally, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame aspires to educate youth about the importance of healthy habits and the positive impact they have on lifestyle choices. The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame is located at 501 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Tickets are $3 for adults and $2 for children and can be purchased at the Visitor Center in Bridgestone Arena, right outside of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. Group rates are available for 10 or more. For more information, visit www.tn.gov/tourism.
MacIntyre legacy at UT Martin enters third generation

By Kevin Weaks
Special to The Press

Not long after arriving on campus, Jay MacIntyre paid a visit to the UT Martin Athletic Hall of Fame plaques, found his grandfather George and took a photo that he then texted to his father Mike.

Three generations. One school.

UTM and the city of Martin are, indeed, special to the MacIntyre family.

Jay is the third generation of MacIntyre men to coach at UTM, recently hired as the wide receivers coach. He follows his father, who was an assistant on Don McLeary’s staff from 1993-96, and his grandfather, the Pacers’ head coach from 1975-77.

“I sent it to my dad and he was just like, wow, what awesome memories,” Jay said. “So, he loves it here. He always comes back, and he’s on the top of the world when he comes back. He’ll see everybody, and everyone loves him and he loves everybody here.”

While Jay only knew his grandfather after he was stricken with Multiple Sclerosis — he died on Jan. 5, 2016, after a 20-plus year battle with the disease — he recalls hearing several stories about those Martin days.

“My grandpa brought up Martin a couple times through the years, and this place held a special place in his heart. Mr. (David) Murphy and all those people — my dad talks about them all the time.”

Mike believes his son is at a great place, in a great program surrounded by great people.

“I’m really excited for Jay to be at UTM,” he said. “Jason Simpson has done an excellent job there, and he’s well-respected in our business. He has a great offensive mind, and he’s a good person. That’s good for my son to be around.”

FAMILY BUSINESS

Jay was born in Martin in 1995, when his father was on the football staff.

The family moved around as Mike took different coaching positions, and Jay eventually graduated from high school in Colorado and played for his dad, then the head coach at the University of Colorado.

Jay had a stellar career with the Buffaloes, finishing 26th in career receptions (88) and 30th in total yards (1,057) in the program’s history.

Mike knows the routine well, having packed his bags many times as his father moved from one coaching job to another.

Mike was nine years old when the family landed in Martin from Nashville, where George had been an assistant at Vanderbilt, in December of 1974. George was hired as the UTM head coach, replacing Bob Carroll, and led the program to back-to-back 8-3 seasons in his second and third years before going to Ole Miss as offensive coordinator in 1978 and then returning to Vanderbilt as head coach the following season.

― Everybody who knew my dad always talks about the kind of person he was,” Mike said. “He was a good father, a good Christian man. He really cared about his players, and he was a phenomenal football coach. He turned around UTM, and he turned around Vanderbilt.

“He’s the reason I got into coaching.”

Currently the defensive coordinator at the University of Memphis following one season in the same position at Ole Miss, the 30-year coaching veteran and two-time National Coach of the Year has a well-traveled career.

At every stop, he treated it as it would be his last job — just like his father taught him.

“My dad gave me a lot of advice when I was getting started,” Mike said. “The main thing was he told me to treat every job like I’m going to be there for a lifetime but understand that it might be only temporary. He said never go into a job like you’re looking for the next one. That way, you’ll give it your all, the people will trust and respect you, and you’ll leave a good legacy. Give it all you have, and you will not only be respected, but you’ll always have a job somewhere.”

Both were certainly well-respected during their time coaching at UT Martin.

“We have a tremendous connection with UT Martin,” Mike said “It’s a special place to our family.”

FATHER TO SON, TO SON

What George passed down to Mike, Mike is now passing down to Jay.

In his second coaching stop since graduating college, Jay is following his father’s advice.

“Jay was thinking about being a GA (graduate assistant) somewhere to get started, and I told him to find a small college where he’ll be in charge of a room and coaching a position,” Mike said. “He will find out if he loves it, and people will find out about him.”

Jay spent one season as receivers coach at Southeastern University, an NAIA school in Lakeland, Fla.

The team finished with an 8-1 record and ranked 14th in the final NAIA poll but was skipped over for a spot in the playoff field.

“He’s a great role model for me,” Jay said of his father. “That’s the biggest part about coaching. It’s like you can be a great coach, but if you’re not a good person, what’s the point? I do think that I am a good coach, but at the same time I’d rather be a good person. That’s kind of what he gave me, just by watching him every day. He’s a great coach. He knows and loves football. That guy will watch football every single day of the week, every single hour. But, he taught me how to just live life in a way that’s not performance-based in coaching but rather to help other people out on the way.

“That’s what I’m trying to do. If I could be half the coaching person my grandfather was and dad is, then I think I’ll be doing good because they both were very successful. So, hopefully, I can follow their footsteps in my own way, but also in a way that respects them as well.”

MARTIN, FRIENDS, ‘THE SHOT’

In the early-to-mid 1990s, Mike made some life-long friends in the Martin community and on the UTM coaching staff.

That staff, in fact, was filled with big names who have gone on to major success in their moves since those Martin days.

“I enjoyed my time there,” Mike said. “We had some good players, and our family made some great friends — people like David Murphy, Phil Dane, Shorty Alexander and so many more, and we’ve been able to get to know Keith Carver in the last few years and really like him.”

“It’s amazing how many great football coaches have come from there. That was an amazing staff when I was there.”

The list reads like a Who’s Who in coaching, with several connections to the University of Tennessee football program.

Marion Hobby, currently on the Miami Dolphins’ staff, and Kacy Rodgers, now with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, both played for the Volunteers. The staff also included Drew Fabianich, now a national
scout for the Dallas Cowboys.

Mike himself spent time coaching in the NFL, working under Bill Parcells when he was the Cowboys’ head coach.

But, coaching football is rarely the topic of conversation when those guys see each other.

"When we get together, all we talk about are those morning basketball games (in the fieldhouse)," Mike said.

Another basketball story involving Mike has become stuff of legend.

At a home basketball game one year, Mike was selected to shoot a fullcourt shot for a chance to win a truck.

He took off his jacket, fired away and hit the shot.

"I always hear the story about when my dad hit the fullcourt shot," Jay said. "We’ve actually seen that on video. He’s a legend, and we always bring it up. Every time I go in that gym, I take a picture, and I’m like, dad hit a fullcourt shot here. There’s just a lot of special places and a lot of special memories here."

Other people remember the shot, too. Mike mentions one encounter that happened not long after the shot.

"I was at PV’s Hut (in Union City), and a man sat down beside me," Mike recalled. "He said he knew me from somewhere, so I told him that I was a football coach at UT Martin. He said that wasn’t it, and then his eyes got really big and he said, ‘You’re that guy who hit the fullcourt shot!’"

A truck at that time, with a young family, was not a practical prize for Mike. So, he went to Terry Petty, whose dealership in Union City sponsored the giveaway, and asked for a mini-van.

The MacIntyre family got the van, and UTM also got a courtesy car for recruiting purposes.

FACING OFF

Mike played for his father at Vanderbilt for two seasons and then coaches his son for four years at Colorado.

It is one of the few family stories — if not the only one — where someone played for his father and later coached his own son at the collegiate level.

"My dad and I have a special bond," Jay said. "We’ve been through that together. We’ve been in the trenches together, so we understand. We understand the hurt that we went through; we understand the good times and we understand the grind that it took to get to where we both are as a coach and as a player.

"I’ll never take back those moments. It was hard and there was a lot of pressure, but at the same time it was probably one of the biggest blessings for me and my dad’s relationship."

That relationship will have to be put on hold for one week in November this year, however.

On Nov. 21, the Skyhawks will close their regular season at Memphis.

Not only will their teams be facing off, father and son will be trying to out-scheme each other. Jay coaches wide receivers at UTM; Mike is in charge of defensive backs at Memphis in addition to his DC duties.

"We really are coaching against each other," Jay said. "So, he told me he’s not going to talk to me that week. And I said he’s not allowed at any of our practices. We’re for each other until that game. So that’ll be pretty fun.”

GOOD TIMES — Then-Colorado head coach Mike MacIntyre and his son Jay, a wide receiver for the Buffaloes, hug following a game during their time in Boulder. In a college rarity, Mike played for his father George at Vanderbilt and later coached his son. (Photo courtesy of the South Bend, Ind., Tribune)
ANOTHER HONOR — Bettye Giles (center) is accompanied to the floor of the Elam Center on Saturday by Art Sparks (left), UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, and Lin Dunn, who is a Dresden native and currently is the special assistant to University of Kentucky women's basketball head coach Matthew Mitchell. UT Martin announced Saturday that Giles will be one of the newest inductees to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. Giles is the second inductee to be announced for the Class of 2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. More inductees will be announced in the coming weeks with the induction weekend taking place in the summer.
Paul Richards' education career is off to a positive start as a second-year middle school literature teacher at Bradford High School in Gibson County. Beyond the classroom, his selection last May to head the second WestTeach class provided knowledge and insights that will benefit his students.

WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2017. Richards was among 22 WestTeach class members who graduated Jan. 28 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson.

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 also be recommended by their principal, director of schools or superintendent, and only one teacher per school district is chosen to participate. Four WestTeach sessions held across West Tennessee from August through November covered topics in agriculture, entrepreneurship, leadership, education partnerships for economic development and building communities.

For Richards, working with fellow WestTeach teachers created bonds that made the experience beneficial.

"Once we came together, we had our first session, and we started sharing our ideas, our passions, all of this, and I realized, 'Hey, we're one in the same here. We're on the same side, so why not come together for example, with WestTeach?'

And we kept building and building and building on top of that until now and our graduation. I feel like we've had a really successful thing happen here," he said.

Through WestTeach, Richards and his classmates were exposed to new ideas and gained knowledge that will carry over into the classroom.

"I am a UTM graduate, but college doesn't necessarily have to be the answer for every student," he said. "There are other options (for education and careers) out there. Through this program, we have learned that there are many, many options — many, many different ways for anybody to be successful after high school."

Dan Black, superintendent of the Bradford Special School District, attended the WestTeach graduation to support Richards. The longtime educator said the program is beneficial for teacher development, and he plans to continue his support for educators like Richards to participate in the future.

"I would encourage any of my teachers to be a part of it, and I would take care of anything that they need to be a part of it," he said. "[WestTeach] just helps them become better at what they do and understand the surroundings that we have in West Tennessee. I think it's a great program."

Following a reception and dinner, Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, welcomed the WestTeach class members and their families, as well as WestStar board members, alumni and program sponsors. He introduced UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, who served as the event's keynote speaker.

The 2019 WestTeach class will next host the West Tennessee Education Summit on Feb. 28 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson. All conference activities will take place in the hospital's J. Walter Barnes Conference Center. A panel of teachers, superintendents, legislators, school board members and private business owners will discuss challenges facing education across West Tennessee. Anyone involved in education and workforce development are invited to attend. For information, contact WestStar at 731-881-7208.

Members of the 2019 graduating class are Cary Bivens, Riverside High School, Decaturville; Collette Carrabba, Chester County Junior High School, Henderson; Cara Chadwick, Carroll County Technical Center, Huntingdon; Sharon Clark, East Side Intermediate School, Brownsville; Sarah Comuzie, Camden Central High School, Camden; Ronny Criswell, Trenton Elementary School, Trenton; Chad Davis, Halls High School, Halls; Brittany Fowler, West Carroll Elementary School, Tazewell; Carrie Jones, Inman Middle School, Paris; Brittan Knott, Martin Elementary School, Martin; Nicole Lusk, Hardin County High School, Savannah; Stacey McAdams, Bells Elementary School, Bells; Meredith McMackins, Finley Elementary School, Finley; Catherine Nailling, Lake Road Elementary School, Union City; Madine Nichols, Selmer Elementary School, Selmer; Amanda Pruitt, Huntingdon High School, Huntingdon; Paul Richards, Bradford High School, Bradford; Shelly Russell, Bargerton Elementary School, Henderson; Beth Smith, Brighton Elementary School, Brighton; Lindsay Walker, Union City Middle School, Union City; Christina Warren, LaGrange-Moscow Elementary School, Moscow; and Anne Ladd Welch, Dyersburg Primary School, Dyersburg.
The University of Tennessee at Martin and West Texas A&M University have partnered to host the Experiential Learning Leadership Institute on March 25-27 at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

The institute will focus on active, hands-on learning and how it can be applied in classrooms at all levels to improve student comprehension. Registration is $275 for those presenting in a concurrent session, $50 for university students and $75 for area K-12 educators and community participants.

March 25 will offer on-site experiential leadership training modules for those educators who are already participating in that program. Concurrent presentation sessions will begin at 9 a.m., March 26, and end with dinner and a keynote speaker at 6 p.m. The conference will conclude March 27 with poster presentations by student researchers.

Educators who wish to register for module trainings on March 25 should submit registration information by Feb. 28. Registration for all other participants must be received by March 15. Interested individuals can register online at utm.edu/elli.

Contact Dr. Lajuan Davis, associate professor of information systems, at ldavis91@utm.edu or 731-881-7364 for more information or registration assistance.

WESTTEACH GRADUATES SECOND CLASS – Members of the second WestTeach class graduated from the program Jan. 28 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. The WestTeach graduating class members for 2019 are (first row, from left) Stacey McAdams, Bells Elementary School, Bells; Lindsey Walker, Union City Middle School, Union City; Colette Carrahta, Chester County Junior High School, Henderson; Madine Nichols, Selmor Elementary School, Selmor; Brittan Knott, Martin Elementary School, Martin; Meredith McMackins, Finley Elementary School, Finley; Christina Warren, LaGrange-Moscow Elementary School, Moscow; Sharon Clark, East Side Intermediate School, Brawsville; Catherine Nailling, Lake Road Elementary School, Union City; Anne Ladd Welch, Dyersburg Primary School, Dyersburg; (back row) Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director; Chad Davis, Halls High School, Halls; Paul Richards, Bradford High School, Bradford; Nichole Lusk, Hardin County High School, Savannah; Amanda Pruitt, Huntingdon High School, Huntingdon; Sarah Comuzie, Camden Central High School, Camden; Brittany Fowler, West Carroll Elementary School, Trezevant; Ronny Criswell, Trenton Elementary School, Trenton; Beth Smith, Brighton Elementary School, Brighton; Cara Chadwick, Carroll County Technical Center, Huntingdon; Carrie Jones, Inman Middle School, Paris; Shelly Russell, Bargerton Elementary School, Lexington; and Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator. Not pictured is Cary Bivens from Riverside High School in Decaturville.
Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame to induct
Bettye Giles — ‘pioneer’ in women’s sports

Bettye Giles, who played a pivotal role in the development of women’s athletics not only at the University of Tennessee at Martin but also nationwide, will be enshrined in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame as part of its Class of 2020.

Known to many as “Ms. Bettye,” she was the primary advocate for women’s equality in sports in the state of Tennessee, as well as instrumental in their development of athletic opportunities. She has served on numerous national committees promoting the growth of women’s sports, receiving the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports and founding the Tennessee College Women’s Sports Federation.

Union City’s Art Sparks, who serves on the board of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, lauded her in the world of women’s sports.”

“Ms. Giles is most deserving as she was a leader in getting Title IX introduced in the State of Tennessee,” he said. “She was instrumental in getting the Tennessee College Women’s Sports Federation formed.

“This organization was an organization of colleges and universities in the State of Tennessee that wanted to play women’s sports. Obviously, it was the start of what we now see with teams competing in the SEC, OVC and many other conferences,” he said.

A Clarksville native, Ms. Giles graduated from the former Austin Peay State College with a bachelor’s degree in physical education and health in 1950 before receiving her master’s degree in physical education and health two years later. By the fall of 1952, she began her tenure as a professor of physical education at the former UT Martin Branch and fell in love with the campus.

That same year, she also began the women’s tennis program at UTMB and was the head coach of the team for eight seasons. In 1956, that program was the first women’s sport to achieve varsity status at the school. Women’s athletics began to gain momentum at UT Martin soon thereafter.

In 1969, she was entrusted as the school’s first and only director of women’s athletics — a role she would (See Page 5, Col. 5)
Bettye Giles...

(Continued from Page 1) proudly serve until 1994.

UT Martin was at the forefront in forming the Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation in 1970, as Ms. Giles served as the first president. After the organization started with 18 colleges or universities, the TCWSF membership list grew to 34 institutions by 1973.

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

In the fall of 1976, the first athletic scholarships for women were awarded at UT Martin when Amy Underwood was awarded a basketball grant-in-aid.

Six years earlier, Ms. Giles jokingly convinced a tall, skinny UT Martin freshman from Ashland City that she had to play volleyball as a “conditioner” for basketball season. That student-athlete was Pat Head Summitt, who would later establish herself as one of the best coaches in the history of basketball, winning 1,098 games and eight national championships at the University of Tennessee.

Coach Summitt was often quick to credit Ms. Giles with her success, as the two remained friends until Coach Summitt passed away in June 2016. It was Coach Summitt who established the Bettye Giles/Nadine Gearin Endowed Scholarship at UT Martin in 2003, honoring her first athletics director and first head women's basketball coach.

Ms. Giles served as the university's cheerleading sponsor from 1952-73 and also was the first sponsor for UT Martin's rifle and dance (folk and square) programs on campus.

She was president of the UT Martin Faculty Senate and was inducted into the school's Athletics Hall of Fame in 1985. She retired in 1995 but has remained an enthusiastic supporter of UT Martin's athletic and academic programs.

During her tenure as a UT Martin faculty member, she was honored by numerous professional organizations for her outstanding contributions.

She received the Honor Award from the Tennessee Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) as well as the Honor Award from the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), Southern District.

She also earned the Joseph P. Kennedy Junior Foundation Special Olympic Appreciation Award and the Tennessee Society for Crippled Children and Adults Honor Award after directing the local Special Olympics for over 20 years.

Ms. Giles' impact at UT Martin is immeasurable.

The Skyhawk softball program branded its stadium as "Bettye Giles Field" in 1996. During Homecoming weekend of 2012, statues of Giles, Summitt and Gearin were unveiled outside of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

An award bearing her name is given out to UT Martin's top female student-athlete at the annual awards banquet. She has also served on the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame selection committee for nearly four decades.

A longtime board member of the Martin Kiwanis Club, Ms. Giles was also recognized by the Ohio Valley Conference as UT Martin's representative at a luncheon on the 40th anniversary of Title IX in 2013. She was named an honorary sister of the Chi Omega sorority at UT Martin in April 2017.

UT Music programs set

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin has announced the following concerts:

- Nate Matthews, junior saxophone recital, Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall.
- Peter Steiner, guest trombone recital with Constanze Hochwartner, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall.
- Wind Ensemble Side-by-Side Concert with McNairy High School, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in Fulton Theatre
- Richard Henson, guest percussion recital, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall.
- Pre-College Piano Competition March 7. Participants should register by Feb. 26.

For a full calendar listing of events, visit utm.edu/music/events.
WWII exhibit open at UTM's museum

A new exhibit titled "Work, Fight, Give: American Relief Posters of WWII" opened Feb. 10 at the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum.

The museum is located inside the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

The exhibit is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays until March 6.

Visitors' parking passes can be obtained at the library's information desk.

"Work, Fight, Give" uses a collection of poster art, poster stamps, photographs, banners and programs issued by various relief agencies and the National War Fund to challenge the traditional memory of World War II. These organizations found creative ways to mobilize Americans and collectively raise millions of dollars to help those located in war zones. The exhibit focuses on those who used their artistic talents to persuade their fellow American citizens to donate their time and resources to the cause.

The exhibit was created by Hal Wert, professor of history at the Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas City, Mo., and organized by ExhibitsUSA, a program of Mid-American Arts Alliance.

For more information, contact the Paul Meek Library at (731) 881-7065.

Business programs fully reaccredited

The AACSB International board of directors has confirmed the University of Tennessee at Martin will maintain AACSB accreditation for all of its business programs for the next five years.

Accredited programs include marketing, management, information systems, accounting, economics and finance at the undergraduate level and the master of business administration degree for grad students.

"AACSB accreditation is akin to the 'Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval' for business schools," said Dr. Katie High, interim dean of the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. "Anyone who sees it can be confident that our faculty are of the highest caliber; our school is offering relevant, up-to-date curricula; and our business students are graduating fully equipped to succeed in their chosen fields."

UT Martin's online master of business administration degree was tied for 35th place nationally and first place in Tennessee in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report rankings released in January and consistently receives high scores from other rankings each year. Accredited business courses in many subjects are also available at its centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.
WestTeach class sees opportunities in the area

Paul Richards’ education career is off to a positive start as a second-year middle school literature teacher at Bradford High School in Gibson County.

Beyond the classroom, his selection last May to the second WestTeach class provided knowledge and insights that will benefit his students.

WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStarLeadership Program’s class of 2017. Richards was among 22 WestTeach class members who graduated Jan. 28 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson.

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

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

For Richards, working with fellow WestTeach teachers created bonds that made the experience beneficial.

“Once we came together, we had our first session, and we started sharing our ideas, our passions, all of this, and I realized, ‘Hey, we’re one in the same here. We’re on the same side, so why not come together, for example, with WestTeach?’ And we kept building and building and building on top of that until now and our graduation. I feel like we’ve had a really successful thing happen here,” he said.

Through WestTeach, Richards and his classmates were exposed to new ideas and gained knowledge that will carry over into the classroom. “I am a UTM graduate, but college doesn’t necessarily have to be the answer for every student. There are other options (for education and careers) out there,” he said.

“Through this program, we have learned that there are many, many options — many, many different ways for ... anybody to be successful after high school.”

Dan Black, superintendent of the Bradford Special School District, attended the WestTeach graduation to support Richards. The longtime educator said the program is beneficial for teacher development, and he plans to continue his support for educators like Richards to participate in the future.

“I would encourage any of my teachers to be a part of it, and I would take care of anything that they need to be a part of it,” he said.

“It (WestTeach) just helps them become better at what they do and understand the surroundings that we have in West Tennessee. I think it’s a great program.”

Following a reception and dinner, Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, welcomed the WestTeach class members and their families, as well as WestStar board members, alumni and program sponsors. He introduced UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, who served as the event’s keynote speaker and spoke about life lessons learned from his late aunt, Katie Sue Fewell, an educator who taught history for many years at Alamo High School in Crockett County.

Although she was known as a schoolteacher, he said she was probably better recognized as a community leader or, in today’s world, a servant leader. Carver recalled four life lessons from this important role model, which he encouraged everyone in the audience to apply in their own lives.

Those lessons included to “always wear the same-size hat,” which meant to always practice humility. Carver said that while people can accumulate many things in life, “What we need to invest in are people, in relationships, in our towns, our communities, our schools, the school children, the people that we work with every day. And always wearing the same-size hat means ... keeping grounded and focusing on people and relationships.”

“We’re all turtles on a fencepost” was the next life lesson, and Carver emphasized that gratitude is a foundation of relationships. He recalled Fewell taking time each day to tell someone how important they were to her.

“She kept a stack of note-cards on the kitchen table, and every night after dinner ... she would write handwritten notes to people,” he said.

These notes included uplifting words to people who were experiencing tough times, and when he talked to her about these notes she would say, “So many people invested in me, in my time here, that I’m going to make sure while I’m here that I’m always telling someone how grateful I am for them, how proud I am for them, how I’m praying for them.”

He reminded the audience “we’re all turtles on a fencepost” and to always be grateful to others for helping us along the way.

Carver next advised the audience “always bloom where you’re planted.” Although his aunt was an avid gardener, this advice went beyond growing beautiful flowers and plants. She made the decision in her 70s to run for Alamo mayor, and a hard-fought campaign ended in a nine-vote loss. Carver remembered that he and other family and friends were disappointed, but she congratulated her opponent on a clean, hard-fought election and moved forward.

“Here tonight, I don’t know what you’re struggling with. ... Life’s going to throw haymakers at us, but what we can do is we can control our response to those. ... If we’re consistent in our response, we can handle whatever life throws at us,” Carver added.

His aunt’s final life lesson was about bravery, and he told of her battle with cancer after her diagnosis.
shortly following the election. She eventually had to leave Alamo to live with her son in Fullahoma. In her final days, she requested to see the Carvers' first child, their daughter Carson, and he and his wife, Hollianne, took the baby to see her. Besides the joy of seeing the child, his aunt used the occasion to urge him to keep his priorities in order.

"You're going to have so many opportunities to help people," she told him. "But it's going to take courage, and you need to make courage a habit." He then added, "Folks, if we do the right things and the little things, when life's big haymakers come at us, we're going to immediately do default do the right things and the big things.

At the conclusion of the program, other new WestTeach graduates shared their thoughts about the experience.

Catherine Nailing, who teaches at Lake Road Elementary School in the Onion County School System, was also impressed to learn about the job opportunities available for young people in West Tennessee. She said other teachers would benefit from participating in the WestTeach program.

"It has been a wonderful learning experience, and the vocational aspect of how I can train my children or provide for the children that I teach," she said to be ready for the workforce has been invaluable, and I really think that other people need to experience that," Ms. Nailing said.

Union City Middle School teacher Lindsay Walker said WestTeach will help her to better prepare her students for high school and after graduation.

"We are fortunate to have so many amazing industries that invest in the future of our students right here in West Tennessee, and I was able to see that firsthand," Ms. Walker said.

Elizabeth Russell Owen of McKenzie, a manager with WestTeach sponsor Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC, was a member of the 2017 WestStar class that created WestTeach. She believes in the program's purpose and what it's accomplishing for participants.

"It's important to give the teachers, the backbone of the community, an opportunity to learn what we get an opportunity to learn through WestStar," she said. "They don't have the opportunity to go through the full WestStar program because of the time restrictions, but teaching is just so important because it touches everyone in the community and all of the youth and is building a foundation for continued progress in the community.

The 2019 WestTeach class will next host the West Tennessee Education Summit Feb. 28 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson. All conference activities will take place in the hospital's J. Walter Barnes Conference Center. A panel of teachers, superintendents, legislators, school board members and private business owners will discuss challenges facing education.

For more information about the summit, contact WestStar at (731) 881-7298.

Dr. Bryan Robinson will present to campus on Feb. 28. He is currently vice chancellor for advancement for the University of North Carolina System in Chapel Hill and president of the UNCP Foundation Inc., where he manages university advancement operations, planning and implementation in collaboration with the University of North Carolina. He has held this position since 2018.

Robinson holds both a bachelor's degree in prelaw studies and a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Louisville in Kentucky and a doctoral degree from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky.

The vice chancellor for university advancement is a member of the chancellor's leadership team.

This position is responsible for managing UT Martin's fundraising and alumni relations programs; coordinating development efforts with UT Foundation and UT System administration; and representing UT Martin in the community and among alumni groups and potential university supporters.

"The vice chancellor for university advancement is a key player in the funding and sustaining of UT Martin's expansion, scholarship and endowment goals," UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. "I look forward to selecting a candidate who can help move UT Martin forward and realize the dreams we have for both our students and our campus in the coming decade."

The search committee includes both faculty and staff members, as well as student representation. Dr. Shadow Robinson, dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, is serving as committee chairperson.

Carol House, assistant vice president of human resources for the UT Foundation, is serving as the staff contact for the search. The national search is managed by Aspen Leadership Group.
University of Tennessee System Interim President Randy Boyd delivered his second State of the University address Friday at the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy on the UT Knoxville campus.

During his address, he reflected upon his first year in office, laid out his goals for 2020 and announced a new aspect of the UT Promise scholarship.

UT Promise, first announced in March 2019, is the UT System's new undergraduate scholarship program guaranteeing free tuition and mandatory fees for qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT's campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis. To date, the UT Promise has garnered more than 7,000 applications and will welcome its first class of students in fall 2020.

"As the land-grant university, we don't want to measure ourselves by who we exclude; we want to measure ourselves by who we include," Boyd said.

As part of the program, UT Promise students will be paired with mentors who help guide students through the transition to university life and beyond. Boyd was the first to sign up as a UT Promise mentor, with some of the UT chancellors participating as well.

"I am excited to serve as a UT Promise mentor because I believe this is one of the greatest aspects of the UT Promise scholarship," Boyd said. "Having the experience to interact with professors, chancellors, community leaders, alumni and more is invaluable to our students in preparing them for their lives during their college years and beyond."

Mentors will be paired with two to five students and will spend one hour per month with their mentees. Mentors are asked to serve the same students for a two-year period. UT faculty and staff will be paired with freshmen and sophomore students, while UT alumni and friends will be paired with juniors and seniors. Those interested in learning more about the UT Promise mentorship program can visit tennessee.edu/ut-promise/mentoring.

Boyd also used his address to review some of the UT System's key accomplishments in 2019, including increases in enrollment and degrees awarded, progress in mental health awareness and the creation of the Oak Ridge Institute at UT.

"Total system-wide enrollment grew 1.5 percent to an all-time high of 51,582 students across all UT campuses. The university also awarded more than 12,000 degrees."

"Student success is the 'why' behind what we do," Boyd said. "It will continue to be a top priority as our campuses work to enhance first-year retention and improve four-year and six-year graduation rates."

The system hosted the first Summit for Opioid Addiction and Response in August 2019, and Boyd vowed the UT System would continue to work toward a solution to the problem. The summit gathered resources from across the UT System and the state of Tennessee to address key issues in this area.

"This hits home in every corner of our state," Boyd said.

He also spoke about his goals for 2020, including making further progress in helping students through the OneUT for Student Mental Health and Wellbeing initiative, which will build a more robust and supportive mental health culture on each UT campus. Mental health professionals will meet and recommend best practices for ensuring student mental health and wellness, and they will identify necessary steps toward making UT a national leader in supporting student wellbeing.

Launching the first phase of the Oak Ridge Institute is also among Boyd's goals for 2020. This phase will include recruiting new faculty members and about 50 new graduate students, as well as exploring the acquisition of a facility to house the institute.

"There have been some incredibly successful decades in UT history. To say this next decade will be the greatest in UT's history is a bold, audacious statement," Boyd said. "But all that has come before has provided us the foundation on which to build. Today, we have the resources, talent and will to make it happen. 2020 will be the first step in the journey, and I cannot wait to get started."
UT Trustees want Boyd as University President for five more years

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees is wanting Interim University President Randy Boyd to serve on a regular basis for an additional five years.

Boyd tells Thunderbolt Radio News...

During a recent board meeting in Chattanooga, Board Chairman John Compton asked Boyd to go to each campus and make his case.

Boyd, who has close Obion County family ties, will hold his town hall next month on the UT Martin campus.
THE WORK CONTINUES — Members of the Weakley County Reconciliation Project hosted a panel discussion on the campus of UT Martin Monday evening as part of the 20th annual UTM Civil Rights Conference. Henri Giles (from left) introduced panelists Rev. Randy Cooper, John Ashworth, Sidney Brooke Church and Dr. Cindy Boyles. The group talked about West Tennessee’s painful past that centered around lynching and racial terrorism.

WCRP panel reveals painful truths

By CHRISTIAN ASHLAR
Press Reporter

On Monday evening, the Weakley County Reconciliation Project (WCRP) sponsored a panel titled, "Building Community: The Work Continues." As part of the 20th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference, the panel featured John Ashworth, Dr. Cindy Boyles, and Sidney Brooke Church.

Henri Giles of the UTM Communications Department began the event. She gave a short summary of the WCRP and their mission. "When we look at our history as a country, there are some events that are courageous, spirited, heartbreaking and painful. All of them need to be passed down so we don’t forget. Yes, even the painful ones. The events surrounding lynching in America are, indeed, painful. They mark a horrendous chapter in our history. The pages in that chapter are too numerous to ignore, especially if we want to find understanding. The Weakley County Reconciliation Project decided to turn the page and present the panel and the work others are doing to honor the lives of Tennesseans who were terrorized and lynched. The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Alabama has documented 4,084 racial terror lynchings in 12 Southern states and that includes Tennessee," she said.

Giles’ opening comments set a serious tone, one emphasizing the gravity of the subjects to be discussed. Many citizens of Weakley County and the surrounding areas are unaware of the many lynchings that took place in this part of Tennessee.

Before the panel discussion began, Giles shared a short news feature highlighting the efforts of civil rights worker, Dr. Paul Thomas. A tireless advocate, Thomas worked toward furthering civil rights in the 1960s, a time ripe with conflict for a large portion of this country’s southern states.

Panelists then spoke about their own experiences combating prejudice.
and injustice in favor of civil rights.

Vietnam veteran John Ashworth began the panel discussion. In addition to being the secretary of the Haywood County Election Commission, Ashworth also serves on the Brownsville Regional Planning Committee and the Historic Zoning Commission. He has engaged in various civil activities within his community, including co-founding the Dunbar Carver Museum and the Geneva Miller Historical Society, also serving as treasurer for the latter organization. As if this were not enough to keep him busy, Ashworth also serves as Historian and Project Manager for the Lynching Sites Project of Memphis.

Ashworth gave an educational presentation highlighting the struggles many people of color faced during the Civil Rights Movement. Instances of tent cities, makeshift housing for people displaced because of the color of their skin, were startling. Jarring testimonials of people who were detained, beaten and terrorized by white members of their community were also included.

During one portion of his presentation, Ashworth referenced "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome," a book by Dr. Joy DeGruy. "White America has gone through 400 years of cognitive dissonance. Black America has gone through 400 years of trauma without intervention." Adding, "That legacy is still with us," Ashworth's point emphasized the work still left to do.

Lynching in America affected entire families. Elijah Davis was a man taken out of his home in the middle of the night and in front of his seven children. Davis' son, Nuri Ansari said of the event, "The impact of the incident was profound in that my brothers and sisters and I were overprotected. We have to live sheltered lives." Through tears, Ansari then said, "Couldn't really have friends."

UTM associate professor Dr. Cindy Boyles spoke next. She began her talk by citing Madison County's three lynching victims and a brief history of each. Eliza Woods, a former slave, found herself accused of poisoning her employer's wife. Woods was lynched on Aug. 19, 1886. After her death, J.P. Wooten, her employer, confessed to his wife's murder.

In 1891, John Brown got into a shooting altercation with a switchman on a train. The local paper reported the switchman as "mortally wounded." Brown was arrested. That night, 500 masked men came into the jail, broke him out and dragged him down to the courthouse yard. Brown was lynched for the murder of the switchman. Unknown to the mob, the purported victim of the shooting did not die and was recovering when they hung Brown.

Frank Ballard, a 17-year-old African-American male was accused of the sexual assault of Berdie Thomas, a 16-year-old young woman. Without substantial proof, Ballard was chased down, tied to a tree and shot multiple times.

Through her work with the Jackson-Madison County Community Remembrance Project (JMC-CRP), Boyles helped spearhead historical marker placement for Eliza Woods and John Brown. These markers are to be placed on the Madison County Courthouse lawn in April. Boyles continues to work in concert with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to get the same recognition for Frank Ballard.

UTM sophomore Sidney Brook Church closed the discussion. A political science major from Columbia, Church spent her freshman year researching the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, as well as Columbia's long history of racial injustice. In October 2019, Church presented the results of her research as a co-speaker for the Department of English and Modern Foreign Language's colloquium series.

During her closing remarks, Church offered hope to those conducting civil rights work. She had reached out to Columbia mayor Chaz Molder, and asked if he thought Columbia might be open to a monument similar to the National Memorial.

Mayor Molder responded, "...this monument will ultimately make its way to Columbia. Part of the process will entail educating our citizens as to what the monument means and stand for. This monument would assist bringing everyone together and help us unite around an issue that once divided many."

In conclusion, Church said, "Knowing an elected official is so supportive of this gives me a little hope."
WEAKLEY COUNTY MATTERS — Weakley County Reconciliation Project volunteers (from left) Joyce Washington, Ryan Trump and Heidi Huse are spreading awareness about the county's painful past and asking the community to come together for reconciliation. The group is creating conversations about uncomfortable topics. The project developed after a group of community members visited the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama.

UTM opens WWII exhibit in J. Houston Gordon Museum

A new exhibit titled "Work, Fight, Give: American Relief Posters of WWII" opened Feb. 10 at the University of Tennessee at Martin's J. Houston Gordon Museum, located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit is open to the public from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, until March 6. Visitors' parking passes can be obtained at the library's information desk.

"Work, Fight, Give" uses a collection of poster art, poster stamps, photographs, banners and programs issued by various relief agencies and the National War Fund to challenge the traditional memory of World War II.

These organizations found creative ways to mobilize Americans and collectively raise millions of dollars to help those located in war zones. The exhibit focuses on those who used their artistic talents to persuade their fellow American citizens to donate their time and resources to the cause.

The exhibit was created by Hal Wert, professor of history at the Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas City, Missouri, and organized by ExhibitsUSA, a program of Mid-American Arts Alliance.

For more information, contact the Paul Meek Library at 731-881-7065.
Minority issues on campus discussed

By CHRISTIAN ASHLAR
Press Reporter

A panel comprised of four UT Martin students addressed issues they faced on campus as members of a minority. The panel, titled "Everyday Issues for Minority Students on Campus" was held Monday as part of the 20th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference.

Sophomores Andre Parker, Brianna Hampton, Kayla Gooden and junior Haylie Fortner each had different reasons for attending UTM but they had the same goal, one of a successful future. Issues of care, support, safety and a basic foundation of respect often hinder the achievement of this goal. As members of the panel, they spoke about these issues.

One very real issue facing many students of color is one of feeling overlooked. Many minority students said they feel as though their needs and concerns are often secondary. One example given by the panelists concerned mentors.

These are people who act as a sort of guide through different programs, activities and events on campus. Mentors do their very best to make certain they understand and reach the needs of all of the university's students. However, some minorities have felt as though their specific needs are not recognized and addressed.

These needs are often based in a cultural realm and thus get overlooked due to a lack of understanding.

Campus organizations such as the Black Student Association and Spectrum exist to help provide resources for minority students. They help these students to feel included, to feel as though their voices are being heard. On the outside of these organizations, other students might feel as though they are being excluded. As such, some of these organizations have been targeted as discriminatory.

Addressing this allegation, Parker said, "I completely disagree with that. It's not saying that it's the organization only for those people (minorities), it's just saying that we're there to support those people because we acknowledge there is a disadvantage (for minorities)."

The panel went on to discuss experiences in the classroom. They talked of often being the only person of color or of a different orientation. This fos-

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tered feelings of being ostracized just by walking in the door. "It can be tough," Gooden said. "Because you don't even know the type of person I am. You just see the color of my skin."

While not the blanket experience of all minorities, it is one repeated over and again. In regards to professors, each of the panel had different experiences, as well. Gooden offered one perspective.

"There have been times when there are only a few black students in the classroom and you notice the teacher is only paying attention to one side of the class," she said. "They're not doing it on purpose, they just don't know."

The panel agreed, many professors have stepped in as allies. Of her own professors in the Music Department, Hampton stated, "Educators should be there to help you and not make you feel less than you are. They do a really good job of that."

When asked what the university could do to improve, one course of action the panelists agreed on was education for its professors and administration. Cultural awareness and diversity training were two suggestions offered by the panelists.

According to Parker, a lack of cultural awareness leads to a breakdown in people's understanding of the challenges faced by some minorities. "People are partly unwilling to learn but a lot of times, they don't affect them so they don't have to learn." Incorporating the student voice into these educational training sessions was another suggestion the panelists agreed on.

Overall, the panel agreed that their experience at UTM has been, and continues to be, a positive one. Their presence on the panel and the chance to offer their opinion was a collective effort to make certain, the situation on their campus continues to improve for everyone.

One way to do this is to keep the channels of communication open. Hampton put it best when she said, "As long as we keep talking about it, as long as we keep having those uncomfortable conversations that we need to have, we can be more progressive and do better."

UNITED FOR THE SAME CAUSE — UT Martin students (from left) Andre Parker, Haylie Fortner, Brianna Hampton and Kayla Gooden brought together community members, students and faculty for an open discussion about issues minorities face on campus as part of the 20th annual Civil Rights Conference on the UTM campus Monday.
PROGRESSIVE VOICES — UT Martin students (from left) Haylie Fortner, Brianna Hampton, Kayla Gooden and Andre Parker are united in their cause to better their campus for everyone. They hosted a panel discussion Monday titled, "Everyday Issues for Minority Students on Campus" as part of the 20th annual UTM Civil Rights Conference at the university throughout this week.

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame to add Bettye Giles

Bettye Giles, the first and only director of women’s athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was announced as a 2020 inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame during halftime of the UT Martin women’s basketball game Feb. 14.

Giles founded the Tennessee College Women’s Sports Federation, which began with 18-member colleges and universities and grew to 34 institutions by 1974. She spent her career advocating for women’s equality in sports across the state and established the UT Martin women’s tennis program, which was the first women’s sport to achieve varsity status at UT Martin.

“Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame to add Bettye Giles”

"I can think of no one more befitting of the honor of Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame than Bettye Giles. Her contributions to athletics across the state and throughout the nation over the last half-century cannot be overstated," said Brad Willis, chief advancement and operations officer for the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. "Her story is one that the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame will be happy to share for years to come."

Originally from Clarksville, Giles served as director of women’s athletics at UT Martin from 1969 until her retirement in 1994. She received the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports for her work.

Her leadership and activism coincided with the Title IX education amendments of 1972, which require federally funded educational institutions to provide fair and equal treatment in all areas of educational programming, including sports. Title IX was enacted by the U.S. Congress on June 23, 1972.

The full 2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame induction class will be announced in the coming weeks.

NEW MEMBER — Bettye Giles waves to the fans as they acknowledge her 91st birthday during UT Martin’s game against Belmont University on Jan. 11. The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame announced Feb. 15 that Giles is an inductee for this year’s class.
Bettye Giles, the first and only director of women's athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was announced as a 2020 inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame during halftime of the UTM women's basketball game on Friday, Feb. 14.

Giles founded the Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation, which began with 18 member colleges and universities and grew to 34 institutions by 1974. She spent her career advocating for women's equality in sports across the state and established the UTM women's tennis program, which was the first women's sport to achieve varsity status at UTM.

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The full 2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame induction class will be announced in the coming weeks. For more information about Giles, contact the UTM Office of Sports Information at 731-881-7630.
Civil Rights issues still under debate

By CHRISTIAN ASHLAR
Press Reporter

The third day of the 20th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference opened with a four-person panel titled, "LGBTQ+ Couples’ Experience Post-Obergefell v. Hodges." The panel, hosted by Morgan Robertson, introduced two couples who spoke about how their lives were affected by this landmark civil rights case.

The United States Supreme Court ruled that the ability to marry was a guaranteed right to same-sex couples. The ruling cited both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Rights Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The ruling not only requires all 50 states to recognize same-sex marriage, but to afford them the same terms and conditions afforded to opposite-sex couples. This includes any and all rights and responsibilities.

This ruling was met with resistance by plaintiffs in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan. Many state-level bans on same-sex marriage were seen as unconstitutional. This resistance led to a review of the ruling by the Supreme Court, which overturned Baker v. Nelson. As a result, Obergefell requires all states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and to recognize such a marriage as valid.

For many individuals, this ruling meant the possibility of enjoying the same protections afforded opposite-sex couples under federal law. For couples already living together, this meant being able to take the next step and becoming married spouses.

Couple, John Hart and Mark Buchanan, joined another couple, Miranda and Mel Howard, to address some of the issues resulting in this ruling. One aspect both couples agreed on was the legitimacy the ruling gave to their marriages. Their opposite-sex counterparts do not have to worry about this aspect, as legitimacy is almost a given.

At the time of the ruling, the majority of arguments against same-sex marriage seemed to be rooted in the religious aspect. While everyone is...
entitled to their religious belief, this entitlement stops at the point where it infringes upon the rights of others.

It was discussed during the panel session this is a nation founded upon the principals of freedom from religious persecution and this includes those of same-sex orientation.

As the Supreme Court ruled, it also extends to areas of marriage. Couples like Hart and Buchanan and the Howards share all of the challenging aspects of their lives because of this ruling.

An online dictionary defines discrimination as, "The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age or sex."

The recent adoption bill in Tennessee allows adoption agencies to deny adoption rights to same-sex couples. This legislation encourages a denial of rights based on the orientation of the couples seeking to give needy children loving homes. By its very nature, this is discrimination.

Hart and Buchanan addressed the issue of adoption, again citing the stabilizing effect marriage has. They each went on to state family support as being a predominate factor in adoption.

The adoption bill only makes this process harder for same-sex couples in areas where these agencies are allowed to discriminate.

The Howards spoke about fostering a young child for a limited amount of time and said it was one of the best times for both themselves and the child.

They also voiced a desire for adoption, should such an option present itself.

The panel concluded on a positive note with each of the individual panelists talking of a hopeful future for everyone.

"Time will normalize things," Hart said. This sentiment seemed to be shared by the Howards as well.

Both Hart and Buchanan work with the Tennessee Equality Project, a group practicing legal advocacy for equal rights of LGBTQ+ people across the state.

This includes lobbying the Tennessee General Assembly and local state governments. More information can be found at www.tnep.org.
Ordinary hero, extraordinary close

By CHRISTIAN ASHLAR
Press Reporter

Inspirational activist Joan Trumpauer Mulholland visited the UT Martin campus Thursday evening as part of the 20th annual Civil Rights Conference. It was the final evening of this year's conference, with her taking the stage to close out the annual event.

The conference was titled, “Ordinary Heroes: The Struggle For Human Rights.” Mulholland began her talk by thanking the audience for their standing ovation.

She then told them to sit down but, “Next time you hear opening notes of ‘Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing’ — get on your feet! Don’t wait for the old white lady up front to do it; y’all do it!”

Prior to taking the stage, the speaker stood for the New Pacer Singers’ stirring rendition of this song, written in 1900 by James Weldon. First performed as a poem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” was set to music by Weldon’s brother, John Rosamond Johnson in 1905.

A song of affirmation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) named it a national hymn for African-Americans.

Opening her talk, Mulholland addressed a photo of herself sitting with two other activists at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. “That’s probably the most famous of the Civil Rights sit-in photos,” Mulholland said.

“It is definitely the most integrated sit-in that took place.” Native American tribal member Dr. John Salter sits to her left. Anne Moody, an African-American activist, sits to her right.

The disturbing aspect of this photo is the sea of angry white faces behind them and the various condiments the trio had had poured over them. Dr. Salter, at this point, had even been burned from a cigarette by one of the crowd.

Born in Washington, D.C., Mulholland grew up in Arlington, Virginia, during the Civil Rights Movement. She attended a Presbyterian church, but its religious morality did not align with the segregation going on around her.

At 10 years old, she and a childhood friend dared one another to cross the train tracks into the “black” side of town. This fateful walk altered Mulholland’s life. “No one said anything to me,” she said.

“But the way they shrank back and became invisible showed me that they believed that they weren’t as good as me.” She promised herself she would join the Civil Rights Movement and make a difference in the world.

With collegiate beginnings at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, Mulholland began her activism in the spring of 1960. Her brave stance caused concern with the administration at Duke but this did not deter her. It began an extensive journey, which would lead her to many difficult destinations.

On May 14, 1961, a group of black and white activists set out to challenge segregation by riding together on buses with clear segregation rules in place. These “Freedom Riders” sought to stage a peaceful protest.

Thirteen of them left Washington,
HERO
From Page 1

D.C., on two buses bound for New Orleans. When they arrived in Anniston, Alabama, the buses were firebombed by the Ku Klux Klan. Many of the Riders suffered smoke inhalation, just escaping with their lives.

That night, Mulholland and Stokely Carmichael, a United States civil rights activist, flew to New Orleans and caught a train to Jackson, Mississippi.

Of the event, Mulholland said, "(The) Kennedy Administration didn't like the Freedom Rides — bad publicity. But, the agreement was, there would be no violence in Mississippi like there had been in Alabama." However, because of the bombing and other terrorism, violence erupted. Riots took place in Jackson.

Mulholland went on to explain, "They (local police) could arrest us on a local charge. So, we were all arrested, close to 400 of us, for breach of peace." For the average person, this equated to drunk and disorderly.

For these 400 people, Mulholland said, "In our case, we were upsetting the peace of mind of the local white folks."

Following the arrest, the protestors were housed in the county jail. More of the Freedom Riders had been arrested for refusing to leave a bus station waiting area so the jail was filling up fast.

Mulholland lightened the mood a bit when she said, "Here I was, in this cell for white women, locked up with all these Yankees who were there because they did not like white Southerners — and I was a white Southerner, the only one in the cell! They didn't know what grits were, or greens, or anything! That was the hardest part of the Freedom Rides for me — being locked up with all those Yankee girls!"

On a more somber note, Mulholland added, "It got so crowded, less than three square feet of floor space per prisoner, unless you counted the space under the bunks. One girl always slept curled-up in the dripping shower."

Mulholland and Carmichael were both just 19 years old when they participated in the Freedom Rides. Carmichael would go on to become the youngest person imprisoned for his civil rights activism.

In June of 1961, Mulholland and many of the other Riders were sent to Parchman Penitentiary, one of Mississippi's most violent prisons. They were housed in the death-row area of the prison while the previous prisoners were moved to a nicer (in comparison) area.

"I'm telling you, it was roomier, it was cleaner," Mulholland said of the obvious scare tactic. "And, the food was way better than that county jail in Jackson."

In spite of the humor injected into her story, the severity of what Mulholland experienced impacted her rapt audience. Her casual tone belied the seriousness of the incident.

The three activists experienced some of the harshest conditions imaginable, all in the name of ridding the nation of segregation. They had a very bold plan.

"The idea was, to fill the jails," Mulholland explained.

"To make it so inconvenient and expensive that they would decide to obey the Supreme Court ruling of the previous December, which said all the facilities had to be open to everybody equally."

After being released in the fall, Mulholland enrolled at Tougaloo College in Jackson, becoming the first white student there.

She then went on to become the first white student accepted into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Members of this sorority were in the audience at UT Martin Thursday evening to support their sister.

Toward the end of her talk, Mulholland spoke of Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman.

These three activists were murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan during Freedom Summer. The irony was not lost on the audience.

By way of tribute, Mulholland said, "I feel, when I get the chance, I must always do a little bit extra for those who didn't live to do their part."

Before receiving an appreciative round of applause, Mulholland closed with a piece of advice.

"You need to get out there and do something about it (injustice). Get together with your buddies who agree with you — and go out there and change the world! And us old folks — we'll have your backs! We've got to make it a better world for generations to come," she emphasized.
The local meeting at UT-Martin Wednesday night at 6 p.m. will be streamed live for UT employees and the general public. The public is invited to gather in person or online for a free motivational event. The public is invited to attend the virtual event. The public is invited to attend the virtual event.

The Banner • McKenzie, Tenn. • Tuesday, February 25, 2020

UT Board of Trustees Announces Statewide Town Halls

KNOXVILLE — University of Tennessee Board of Trustees has announced a series of town hall meetings in advance of its winter meeting to gather input and feedback on the appointment of interim president Randy Boyd to the presidency of the UT System for a term of an additional five years. Boyd has served as interim president since November 2018.

The town hall meetings will be held during the following dates and are open to students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community:

The local meeting at UT-Martin is Tuesday, March 10 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the UT Martin – Boling University Center, Phillip Watkins Auditorium (11 Wayne Fisher Drive).

In addition to hosting a live town hall, the session will also be streamed live for UT employees and visitors — information on how to access the live stream will be sent to all employees in advance. A virtual question and answer session will also be available during this town hall meeting.

At its winter meeting on February 19, the UT Board of Trustees began its consideration of the interim title for Boyd. Based on positive feedback from Boyd’s review process, including hearing from legislators, University Faculty Council, as well as alumni, staff and student leadership councils and boards — UT Board Chair John Compton recommended at the Feb. 19 Board of Trustees meeting that consideration should be given to remove the interim title and extend Boyd’s term as president for a term of five additional years.

Compton added that he wanted to hear from UT’s students, faculty and staff regarding Boyd serving as president.

“I ask that you go campus by campus and state your case,” Compton said to Boyd at the board meeting.

During the town hall meetings, Boyd will articulate his vision for moving the University forward and respond to questions from campus constituents.

“Naming the president of the University of Tennessee System is one of our most important decisions that we will undertake as trustees, and I just want to make sure that we are as considerate and comprehensive as possible to all key stakeholders,” Compton said.

Attendees who wish to submit a question for the town hall meetings in advance may do so by visiting https://presidenttownhall.questionpro.com/.

Campus security protocols will be in effect for these town hall meetings. A sign language interpreter will be available at each town hall meeting.

For more information, please visit https://trustees.tennessee.edu/ut-president-town-hall/.
Special courses offered at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host non-degree courses in beginning sign language and water aerobics for community members beginning in March.

Beginning sign language will be taught from 2-4 p.m. Saturdays from March 7-21.

The course will focus on basic sign language vocabulary and the numbers 1-20. Students will learn more than 100 signs, including how to introduce themselves, through activities that enhance basic expressive and receptive skills.

The registration fee for the sign language course is $45.

Water aerobics will be taught from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from March 9-April 22 and from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 10-April 23 in the pool at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Water aerobics is a low-impact fitness class that helps relieve chronic pain and joint problems while also building cardiovascular stamina, strength and flexibility.

The registration fee for the water aerobics course is $25.

Online registration and payment are available at utm.edu/departments/non-degree/martin.php.

For more information about the two non-degree courses, contact the UT Martin Outreach at (731) 881-7104.

UTM offers class

Community members seeking careers in the healthcare field are encouraged to register for a 90-hour phlebotomy technician program offered from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 10-June 9, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. The registration fee for this course is $1,799 and includes textbooks and supplies.

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

The National Healthcare Association certification exam is given at the end of class and is an additional $105 paid directly to the National Healthcare Association.

Students who have completed farm work of any kind in the past two years may qualify for financial assistance through the Tennessee Opportunity Programs. For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/phlebotomy.
Bettye Giles is 2020 Inductee to Tennessee Sports Hall Of Fame

MARTIN (February 14) — Bettye Giles, the first and only director of women's athletics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was announced as a 2020 inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame during halftime of the UT Martin women's basketball game Friday.

Giles founded the Tennessee College Women's Sports Federation, which began with 18 member colleges and universities and grew to 34 institutions by 1974. She spent her career advocating for women's equality in sports across the state and established the UT Martin women's tennis program, which was the first women's sport to achieve varsity status at UT Martin.

"I can think of no one more befitting of the honor of Tennessee Sports Hall of Famer than Bettye Giles. Her contributions to athletics across the state and throughout the nation over the last half-century cannot be overstated," said Brad Willis, chief advancement and operations officer for the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. "Her story is one that the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame will be happy to share for years to come."

Originally from Clarksville, Giles served as director of women's athletics at UT Martin from 1969 until her retirement in 1994. She received the Pathfinder Award from the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports for her work. Her leadership and activism coincided with the Title IX education amendments of 1972, which require federally-funded educational institutions to provide fair and equal treatment in all areas of educational programming, including sports. Title IX was enacted by the U.S. Congress on June 23, 1972.

The full 2020 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame induction class will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Sport Information at 731-881-7630.
Sign Language, Water Aerobics Offered at UTM

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- In addition to hosting a live town hall, the session will also be streamed live for UT employees — information on how to access the live stream will be sent to all employees in advance. A virtual question and answer session will also be available during this town hall meeting.

At its winter meeting on February 19, the UT Board of Trustees began its conversation to consider removing the interim from UT Interim President Randy Boyd’s title. Based on positive feedback from Boyd’s review process—including hearing from legislators, University Faculty Council, as well as alumni, staff, and student leadership councils and boards—UT Board Chair John Compton recommended at the Feb. 19 Board of Trustees meeting that consideration should be given to remove the interim title and extend Boyd’s term as president for a term of five additional years.

Compton said to Boyd at the board meeting.

During the town hall meetings, Boyd will articulate his vision for moving the University forward and respond to questions from campus constituents.

“Naming the president of the University of Tennessee System is one of our most important decisions that we will undertake as trustees, and I just want to make sure that we are as considerate and comprehensive as possible to all key stakeholders,” Compton said.

Attendees who wish to submit a question for the town hall meetings in advance may do so by visiting https://president-townhall.questionpro.com.

Campus security protocols will be in effect for these town hall meetings. A sign language interpreter will be available at each town hall meeting.

For more information, please visit https://trustees.utk.edu/ut-president-town-hall/.
UTM STUDENT NEWSPAPER, RADIO STATION BRING HOME GOLD FROM SOUTHEAST JOURNALISM CONFERENCE

MARTIN, Tenn. – Students from the University of Tennessee at Martin's student newspaper, The Pacer, and student-run radio station, WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” competed during the 34th annual Southeast Journalism Conference held in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and brought home numerous awards for the Department of Communications.

Area students on staff are from Paris, Martin, South Fulton, Puryear, and McLemoresville.

The students competed in on-site competitions and for the title of "Best of South" in their respective categories from previously submitted work against 30 colleges representing seven Southeastern states. WUTM ranked first in the "Best College and Audio Newscast" category for the fifth consecutive year and third in "Best College Radio Station." The Pacer ranked fourth in "Best College Newspaper" and 10th in "Best College Website."
• Best Advertising Staff Member: Jessica Davis, a senior from Bells, second place.
• Best Arts and Entertainment Writer: Emily Wilson, a senior from Lawrenceburg, fourth place.
• Best Radio News Feature Reporter: Jillianne Moncrief, a senior from McMoresville, fourth place;
• College Journalist of the Year: Sarah Knapp, a 2019 graduate from Moscow, seventh place;
• Best Arts and Entertainment Writer: Hannah Hughes, a sophomore from Paris, ninth place.

In the on-site competition, students competed in journalism-based exercises to test their knowledge and media skills. The UT Martin students who placed in the SEJC 2020 On-site competitions are as follows:

• Media Law and Ethics: Jason Repath, a senior from White House, first place,
• Arts and Entertainment Writing: Antonia Steele, a junior from Ashland City, third place.

"Our students continue to do well at the conference. They did a great job again this year," said Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of Communications and WUTM faculty adviser.

Tomi McCutchen, coordinator of student publications and instructor of communications, was reelected as acting secretary during the SEJC business meeting and is the UT Martin faculty delegate for the convention.

"I'm so proud of our award-winning students from The Pacer and WUTM, as well as those who excelled in on-site individual competition in other media areas," said Dr. Robert Nanney, chair of the Department of Communications. "They and their faculty mentors represent our department and UT Martin with distinction."

For more information, contact McCutchen at tomimmc@utm.edu, Robinson at rrobins@utm.edu, or visit sejc.org.

Photo. From left, Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of Communications and WUTM faculty adviser, Brooke Boshers, of Mt. Pleasant; Evan Parkhill, of Purbear; Jason Repath, of White House; Taylor Larson, of Covington; Antonia Steele, of Ashland City; Jillianne Moncrief, of McMoresville; Emma Bruner, of South Fulton; Anais Bocher, of Orleans, France; Emily Wilson, of Lawrenceburg; Callie Dunlap, of Martin, and Tomi McCutchen, coordinator of student publications and instructor of communications.
FARM CREDIT MID-AMERICA/UTM PARTNER TO EXPAND AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

MARTIN, Tenn. – Farm Credit Mid-America has partnered with the University of Tennessee at Martin to support students in the university's Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. The recent collaboration will support the recruitment of minority students in agricultural business fields and the creation of an agricultural business futures and options course.
UT Interim President Randy Boyd to Visit UT-Martin

Posted on February 27, 2020 by Charles Choate

University of Tennessee Interim President Randy Boyd will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin on March 10th.

Boyd will attend a town hall meeting from 3:00 until 4:30, to discuss the proposed removal of the interim designation from his title as president.

Boyd’s appearance on campus is in response to the February 19th UT Board of Trustees meeting, in which Chairman John Compton proposed to appoint Boyd as the official UT System president.

If approved, the move would allow Boyd to serve for an additional five years.

The town hall meetings, at each UT campus, will include his vision for the future of the UT System, while also receiving feedback from faculty, students, alumni and community members on his performance to date.
LEADING THE CHARGE — Anthony Prewitt (left), Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs and Dr. Lindsay Anderson (right) coordinated the 20th annual Civil Rights Conference hosted by UT Martin. The conference, titled "Ordinary Heroes: The Struggle for Human Rights," took place last week and is the second of its kind in the nation.

UTM student is new-gen activist

By CHRISTIAN ASHLAR
Press Reporter

Memphis native and student, Kayla Gooden represents a new generation of activism. A sophomore at UT Martin, she chooses her words with care while embodying a quiet resolve. The choice to attend UTM came as a result of a powerful draw toward the university.

"I'm not really big on staying home," Gooden said with a smile. "But every time I tried to find somewhere else (to go to school), this place would always, somehow, bring me back. I just ended up here and I love it."

Gooden began student life by serving on the Freshman Council. She then became a part of the Black Mentor Collaborative, a group of black professors and faculty who help students acclimate to university life. These individuals act as guides to help students achieve and succeed. Anthony Prewitt, assistant director of Multi-

Kayla Gooden
cultural Affairs at the university, serves as contact person for the Collaborative.

As Gooden points out, "Statistics show it's not likely for us to graduate." Of Prewitt and the Collaborative she says, "They're there to push us and to get us to that finish line."

The office of Student Life hosts Service Saturdays, a chance for those who are interested to give their time and effort back to the surrounding communities. "We went to the soup kitchen in Jackson," Gooden said.

"Another weekend we did letters to professors. We helped out at the teen center. It's just really fun. I like community service. I like giving back."

Being community-minded and wanting to give back led Gooden to her work with the Black Student Association.

Her BSA work began in her freshman year. Helping with meetings and organizing events, Gooden did what she could, where she could. Other members took notice and encouraged her to take on bigger and bigger roles.

Now, in her sophomore year, Gooden serves as second vice president of the BSA. "I'm very involved," she said. "But I'm not in many groups. The BSA takes the majority of her time in terms of group activities.

At the recent 20th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference, sponsored by the university, Gooden occupied one of six seats on a panel focusing on the issue of inflammatory flyers distributed on campus in the fall. The Feb. 13 edition of The Press covered this in greater detail. Gooden's participation on the panel, sponsored by the BSA, came about because she was not afraid to be vocal and voice an opinion, even if it might not be a popular one.

Among her fellow students, Gooden is often described as "confident and strong" but also, "fearless."

The racist nature of the flyers sparked fear in other students, so much so a few of them chose not to return to school after the Thanksgiving break. Having found out about the flyers through a BSA group chat, Gooden had another reaction. "When I saw it (the flyer)," she said, "It just made my stomach hurt. Racism makes me sick."

Her responseprompted her to do what she has always done — get involved. Gooden volunteered to be on the panel and be a voice for those who may have felt theirs wasn't strong enough.

Involvement on the panel also made certain students' concerns be addressed. "They (other students) were afraid we weren't going to have any form of protection or reassurance that we were going to be okay," Gooden explained. "Which is understandable. If someone is coming onto your campus, your second home where you lay your head, and you can't walk to your car without seeing someone handing out (these types of) flyers — you never know what they're going to do."

Without targeting any single person, Gooden also spoke about university faculty and administration. "I understand that they are under a lot of pressure. Everybody is expecting you to do something and sometimes, you're in situations where you can't do anything and you're trying your best to get something done."

Understanding aside, Gooden did have one pointed criticism concerning what she viewed as a lack of concern about student's fears. "Being a face on this campus is not the only important job," she said.

Other members of the panel addressed university policy regarding the flyers and their distribution. Policy then became the talking point, taking up the majority of the time allotted to the panel. Regarding policy, Gooden said, "Policies can be changed, so why, when something is going on with the minority groups, do you have to stop at policy?"

This question reflected ones asked by several other members of the forum audience.

Others might feel a certain amount of pressure being in a position like this. Gooden says, "I don't feel any pressure at all. It makes me want to work harder to make things better for minorities, for white students who are for minorities on campus. The harder I work, the more I could inspire someone else to do (the same) when I leave here."

The work Gooden does through the BSA goes well beyond the UT Martin campus. Community service is not just a concept but a practice, meaning BSA is always facing new challenges.

"We don't get anything handed to us," Gooden says. "We work for everything we get. We pay our dues, we budget — to make things happen."

Unlike some other organizations, the BSA is not funded by the university. As such, they rely on fundraising events like car washes at the beginning and ending of the school year to fund events such as the Mahogany Ball.

One of the most difficult issues facing society today is the racial divide some see broadening every day. Often, blame is assigned to present-day people for atrocities visited upon people of the past. While these acts do not need to be forgotten, they often hinder future progress.

Gooden said, "I don't blame anything on white people because of their ancestors. I judge you based on how you treat me now. I love to see white students trying to be there, trying to help. When you're trying now, that's the only thing that matters." Gooden is not dismissive of past struggles nor does she condone the violence happening today. She chooses, instead, to see the person standing in front of her and their actions in the present.

When asked about the often-uncomfortable work to be done in the future, Gooden said, "I try not to have a comfort zone. When you're comfortable, things don't get done." The work she does on campus and in surrounding communities reflects this idea. With a confident smile, Gooden concluded the interview by saying, "Uncomfortable should be the new comfortable."
UT Martin Communications students excel in journalism competition

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The UT Martin students who placed individually in the Best of South competition are as follows:

- Best Radio News Reporter: Kevin Bartholomew, a 2019 graduate from South Fulton, first place;
- Best Advertising Staff Member: Jessica Davis, a senior from Bells, second place;
- Best Arts and Entertainment Writer: Emily Wilson, a senior from Lawrenceburg, fourth place;
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“Our students continue to do well at the conference. They did a great job again this year,” said Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of Communications and WUTM faculty adviser.

Tomi McCutchen, coordinator of student publications and instructor of communications, was reelected as acting secretary during the SEJC business meeting and is the UT Martin faculty delegate for the convention.

“I’m so proud of our award-winning students from The Pacer and WUTM, as well as those who excelled in on-site individual competition in other media areas,” said Dr. Robert Nanney, chair of the Department of Communications. “They and their faculty mentors represent our department and UT Martin with distinction.”

For more information, contact McCutchen at tomic@utm.edu, Robinson at rrobins@utm.edu, or visit scjc.org.

COMMUNICATION STUDENTS COMPETE IN CONFERENCE — Attending the Southeast Journalism Conference (from left) are Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of Communications and WUTM faculty adviser, Brooke Boshers, of Mt. Pleasant; Evan Parkhill of Puryear; Jason Repath of White House; Taylor Larson of Covington; Antonia Steele of Ashland City; Jillianne Moncrief of McLemoresville; Emma Bruner of South Fulton; Ansais Boher of Orleans, France; Emily Wilson of Lawrenceburg; Callie Dunlap of Martin, and Tomi McCutchen, coordinator of student publications and instructor of communications.
asked Boyd to give his vision for moving the University forward and respond to questions from campus constituents.

"Naming the president of the University of Tennessee System is one of our most important decisions that we will undertake as trustees, and I just want to make sure that we are as considerate and comprehensive as possible to all key stakeholders," Compton said.

After the series of campus visits and review of feedback, a special meeting of the board will be called to discuss Boyd's service as president.

When Boyd agreed to serve as interim president in 2018, he said he would only serve two years. However, he said, that he has enjoyed serving as president.

"There's no better job in the state of Tennessee than serving in the state of Tennessee through the University of Tennessee," Boyd said. "I'd be happy to continue serving for a few more years, if you'll let me."

Compton's remarks came after praising Boyd during his one-year performance review Wednesday.

"Randy has had an excellent first year as interim president," Compton said.

From providing visionary leadership to developing effective relationships with the state legislature and officials and advancing the University's relationship with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Compton said Boyd elicited praise.

"His ability to think big, resolve issues and be innovative were listed among his strongest leadership qualities," Compton said.

As an example, Compton cited Boyd's creation of UT Promise scholarship to help student access and afford a UT education.

"The UT Promise is a bold step toward eliminating financial barriers to admission and reducing financial burdens for enrolled students," Compton wrote in his report. "It recognizes the University's full commitment to all Tennesseans."

He also praised Boyd's leadership in hiring UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman as well as working to raise UT's research profile through the creation of the Oak Ridge Institute, the re-unification of UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Knoxville and the creation of One UT Innovation and Collaboration Grants.

In his address to the board, Boyd said that he wants to use the momentum from 2019 to keep UT moving forward.

"We are committed to making this the greatest decade in the history of the University of Tennessee," he said. "This is not said with disrespect to those who have come before. I think they expect us to make it the greatest decade...To say we're going to make it the greatest means it is also one of the greatest challenges."

Boyd also expressed thankfulness for Gov. Bill Lee's recommended budget, which includes a 2.5 percent merit pool for faculty and staff pay increase, an additional $2.2 million to hire 32 more extension agents, $5.9 million in additional funds for the UT Health Science Center's operating and maintenance costs. It also includes $10 million to launch the Oak Ridge Institute.
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Feedback from faculty, students, alumni and community members on his performance to date as interim president before final decisions are made.

Boyd has served as the interim president since November 2018 and spent his first day in office at UT Martin.

Attendees who want to submit a question for Boyd in advance of the town hall meeting can do so at presidenttownhall.questionpro.com.

Boyd will also visit UT Chattanooga on March 4; the UT Health Science Center on March 5; UT Knoxville on March 9; and constituents in Nashville at the UT Polk Avenue Building on March 11, which will be live-streamed for UT employees.

For more information, visit trustees.tennessee.edu/ut-president-town-hall.
Carver: County’s students at UTM well prepared

BY MICHAEL WILLIAMS
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“Really want to commend Henry County,” the chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Keith Carver Jr., said during an interview at The Post-Intelligencer Thursday morning. He said 177 current UTM students are from Henry County.

“We’re really happy with that,” he added.

“Our Henry County students are so well prepared,” Dr. Carver said, adding that he wishes more high schools would follow the model of Henry County High School’s “freshman academy” (ninth-grade Grove School campus).

Another Henry County connection at UT Martin is its Call Me MiSTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program, which is in its second year under the leadership of Parisian Sam Tharpe, who accompanied Carver Thursday to The P-I.

Tharpe retired from a 34-year career in the Henry County School System in the summer of 2017; at the time, he was Grove’s principal. He’s still a Paris Commissioner and a former city mayor.

He didn’t stay retired long. Carver recruited him to launch the first and only Call Me MiSTER (CMM) program in Tennessee. It accepted its first students in 2018; those students are currently sophomores.

The program recruits more diverse students, especially black men, to train to become teachers and role models for their future students.

“This program is really making an impact for UT Martin and the region,” Carver said, adding that it addresses a need to get these young men to major in education and not only become fantastic teachers and administrators, but also great role models.

“This program is so inspiring. The students themselves love it” and have developed pride in their program, Tharpe said.

CMM will have a big effect in attracting others into education, he said. “They’re passionate about their studies.”

Carver said 19% of UTM students are African-American, but very few initially think about majoring in education, especially the men.

CMM focuses on training students to teach in elementary and middle school; if a student is in CMM for four years, they agree to teach a minimum of four years in a Tennessee public school.

This year, Tharpe has a co-director, Austin Ferrell, who has two master’s degrees and is working on his doctorate.

Tharpe said some of his nine students can’t wait to teach third- and fourth-grade math.

Speaking of math, Carver said UTM will break ground April 23 on its new $6.5 million STEM building, which will house its engineering, physics, computer science and math programs.

And speaking of retaining CMM students for four years, he said UTM will host its second annual Syhawk Retention Summit May 13-14, during which faculty and staff host their counterparts from colleges in eight states — more than 250 in all — to train to attract and retain the best and brightest students.

And Carver concluded by pointing out his own connections to Henry County: His father, Keith Carver Sr., lives near the Britton Ford Peninsula, and has owned the residence since 1970; and his uncle, Tim Barcroft, is service manager at Nissan of Paris.

Upon leaving The P-I, Carver and Tharpe met with planned and prospective students at Henry County High School before Carver spoke to the Paris Rotary Club, of which Tharpe is a member.
Dyer County's Kemani Lewis to join Call Me MiSTER program at UT Martin

Dyer County High School senior Kemani Lewis signed on to become a member of the Call Me MiSTER program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Lewis desires to become a math teacher. Pictured at the signing, left to right, are UTM Call Me MiSTER program co-coordinator Austin Farrell, Kemani's aunt Patricia Bryant, Kemani Lewis, and program co-coordinator Sam Tharpe.
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On Tuesday, February 25, Dyer County High School senior Kemani Lewis signed with the University of Tennessee at Martin to become part of the college’s Call Me MiSTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role models) program. A large number of classmates, family members, DCHS staff, and members of the UTM Educational Studies Department were in attendance.

“I give thanks to God and for everyone here who has supported me,” said Lewis at the signing. “If it wasn’t for you all - the teachers, my peers - I wouldn’t be where I’m at today. I want to thank my family for pushing me to strive to be my best. Thank you all.”

Originally founded in 2000 at Clemson University, the program strives to increase the pool of available teachers from a more diverse background. Student participants are large-ly selected from among under-served, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities.

The teacher leadership program provides participants, who are entitled ‘Call Me MiSTER scholars’, with the tools necessary to succeed as pre-service teachers. With preparation and support form the program, students can go on to pursue successful careers in elementary and middle schools in Tennessee.

The Call Me MiSTER program serves students in 24 participating colleges and 9 national partner insti-

tutions. In Tennessee, the University of Tennessee at Martin currently has the only Call Me MiSTER program in the state. The program first came to UTM in the fall of 2018.

To be admitted to the program, the applying student must be a Tennessee resident, eligible for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship, have a composite ACT score of at least 22, and agree to teach one year in a Tennessee public school each year of assistance provided by the program.

The program assists participating students with financial assistance with tuition and housing. Each student is also issued a computer and given the opportunity to apply for various scholarships.

Lewis will travel to Clemson in June for 4 days to view the national program chapter. He aspires to become a math teacher.

As Lewis begins his enrollment in the program, he will join 2019 Dyersburg High School graduate Daniel Gates who is currently in his first year in the Call Me MiSTER program at UTM.

Kemani is the son of the late Stephanie McPherson and the grandson of Ruth Bryant. Lewis’ aunt Patricia Bryant and cousin Kemaria Bernard were present during the signing.