UTM’s online rankings improve

Site lists MBA program as one of best in South

The University of Tennessee at Martin's online master's-level programs have again proven their value in several recent rankings.

The online Master of Business Administration program is included in three listings from OnlineMBAReport.com. The program is ranked 10th in the South, 22nd among public schools and 27th nationally in the 2016 lists. This is an increase from the website's 2015 rankings, which put the UT Martin program in 15th, 33rd and 39th, respectively. UT Martin is the highest-ranked Tennessee institution in all three categories, according to a UTM news release.

According to the online ranking page, the UT Martin program placed in the top 14 percent of Southern schools considered, the top 15 percent of public schools considered and the top 8 percent of schools included nationally.

Criteria considered for these rankings included academic reputation, tuition value, program enrollment, admissions selectivity and program quality and rigor. UT Martin's online MBA is a 33-credit hour program that can be completed entirely online in 20 months.

The UT Martin MBA program is independently accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

UT Martin's online master's degree in agriculture and natural resources was also recognized as a great value by BestMastersDegrees.com. The university is ranked ninth in the website's list of the most affordable master's degrees for 2016-17. This degree program offers concentrations in agribusiness and risk management, natural resources systems management and systems science in agriculture. UT Martin is the highest-ranked Tennessee institution in this listing as well.

For more information on UT Martin's online degree offerings, contact UT Martin Online at (731) 881-7021 or visit utm.edu/onlinestudies.

Resident attends UT Martin fall preview day

Jacob Eicher (center), a senior at Hendersonville High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Fall Preview Day on Nov. 12. This event is held to inform prospective students about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life at UT Martin. Eicher is pictured with his mother, Angela Eicher (left), and sister, Morgan Eicher. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
UTM program receives high ranks

The University of Tennessee at Martin's online master's-level programs have again proven their value in several recent rankings.

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Criteria considered for these rankings included academic reputation, tuition value, program enrollment, admissions selectivity, and program quality and rigor. UT Martin's online MBA is a 33-credit-hour program that can be completed entirely online in 20 months.

MILAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES RECEIVE UTM DEGREES - MHS graduates Haleigh Nicole Hoke, Class of 2013, and Kenneth Preston Wilson, Class of 2012, received Bachelors of Science degrees in Health and Human Performance at graduation ceremonies December 10, 2016. Ms. Hoke graduated Summa Cum Laude and will begin graduate classes next month at the U.T. Health Science Center, majoring in occupational therapy. Mr. Wilson plans to pursue graduate classes at the University of Memphis and is presently employed at D-1 Sports Academy in Collierville, TN. Ms. Hoke is the daughter of David and Lana Hoke of Milan and Mr. Wilson is the son of Kenneth and Angie Wilson, also of Milan.
UT Martin’s new Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver begins his new journey as the head of the university in his first day on campus today.

Dr. Carver was approved for the position at the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees meeting in October, after being recommended for the job by UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro.

Dr. Carver is a Crockett County native who had a public meet and greet with his wife and children at UT Martin in November after his confirmation as chancellor-elect. The new chancellor succeeds Dr. Bob Smith, who had been interim chancellor since May 2015. Dr. Smith took over in the temporary position when Tom Rakes stepped down as chancellor in April 2015.

Dr. Carver previously served as executive assistant to Dr. DiPietro, and was assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin from 2006 to 2010.
New UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver will begin his term at the university by meeting people in the region.

UT-Martin has organized a "Crusin' With Carver" event, that will include visits to 10 locations in both January and February.

Dr. Carver will kick off his meet and greet sessions today in Nashville, followed by January visits on January 10th in Memphis, the 17th in Parsons, the 24th in Dyersburg, 25th in Jackson and the 26th in Clarksville.

In February, Dr. Carver will start the month in Selmer on the 2nd, followed by Union City the 15th, Somerville the 16th and Ripley on the 23rd.

Dr. Carver began his role as Chancellor on Tuesday, succeeding interim Chancellor Dr. Bob Smith.
Breeden Returns Home For Guest Artist Exhibit

The University of Tennessee at Martin Development of Visual and Theatre Arts will host a guest exhibition by artist Josh Breeden, a university graduate and Martin native, Jan. 17-28, in the Fine Arts Building Gallery on the UT Martin main campus.

Breeden received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design from UT Martin in 2007 and currently works for the creative agency Loaded For Bear in Memphis. He also freelances for clients including MTV, The New York Times Magazine, Volcom Entertainment and Ardent Music.

Breeden’s work is known under the pseudonym “St. Francis Elevator Ride.” His UT Martin exhibit “Omnivorous Eyes” is free and open to the public.

An opening reception will be held in the gallery from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17. The gallery is open from 1-5 p.m. on weekdays and before major theater and music performances.

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UTM Parsons to celebrate 10 years

The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center will celebrate its 10-year anniversary Jan. 17 with guest speakers and a visit from the university’s new chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver.

An event will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the center. Local supporters Jim and Janet Ayers, co-founders of The Ayers Foundation and major donors to the center’s West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing, will be present as guest speakers alongside Carver.

The Parsons Center continues to see record-breaking enrollment in the 2016-17 academic year. The center offers courses toward degrees in nursing, education, criminal justice, social work, psychology, interdisciplinary studies, history and business in the Decatur County area.
Coalter Graduates From UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — Four years after beginning her journey as a 16-year-old undergraduate student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Amelia Coalter crossed the commencement stage Dec. 10 with a Bachelor of Science degree at the age of 20. Although she graduated at a younger age than most, for Coalter, she’s only continuing a family tradition set by her father and older sister, who also graduated from high school at age 16. “It’s not new really in my family, so to me it doesn’t seem as big of a deal. I guess it just depends on your perspective,” she said.

Coalter originally came to UT Martin as a chemistry major, but after taking an introductory geology course, she realized she had passion for geology that surpassed any feelings she had for chemistry.

“I remember on that first day of class, Dr. (Stan) Dunagan (professor of geology) said, ‘My goal is to get you to be driving in your car and to look out and see the rocks and just annoy your family talking about them.’ I remember so specifically thinking how great that was because I do that all the time,” she said.

During her time in the geosciences program, Coalter gained hands-on experience through field trips that benefited her both as a student and as a future professional. Geology field trips allowed Coalter to build relationships with her classmates and grasp key concepts through travels to the Gulf Coast, East Tennessee and Missouri.

“You sit in the class and (professors) tell you about all these things and to try and picture them in your head. It’s a lot easier to figure out what is actually going on (during field work),” she said.

Coalter’s age isn’t the only thing that sets her apart from other geology students, however. Her faith continues to play a role in how she approaches the science-based field. “(My faith has) been a big deal, partly because it’s a part of me and affects everything I do,” she said. Growing up in a small Christian school, she was taught a certain perspective about the theory of evolution. “To them, evolution was a cell turned into a monkey turned into you, which is very limited in scope,” she said.

The theory of evolution is a large part of geology, and it was through her classes that Coalter discovered what it really means. “People who grow up in tiny Christian schools like I did, they don’t have someone to explain to them, ‘This is creation, and this is evolution, and this is how they overlap or how they’re different.’ I want to help other people see what I didn’t see,” said Coalter.

Coalter will participate in one last field trip to Florida before beginning graduate school in the fall of 2017. She hopes to spend time in the field as a geologist and someday teach others her love of geology. Looking back on her experience at UT Martin, she says being a supplemental instructor for two years taught her how to teach and prepared her for her future.

Although she enjoyed her time at UT Martin, Coalter looked forward to graduating with anticipation. “Part of me (was) really just ready to be done with school, but then there’s also that part of me that (was) like, ‘I accomplished something,’ and I’m really excited about that,” she said.
WestStar Leadership Program Holds Alumni Reunion

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program hosted an alumni reunion Dec. 1 in Memphis. Among those in attendance were Weakley County residents (l-r) Charley Deal, executive director, WestStar Leadership Program; Bobby and Susie German, of Dresden, both retired; and Virginia Grimes, coordinator, WestStar Leadership Program.

Martin native returning home for guest artist exhibit at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host a guest exhibition by artist Josh Breeden, a university alumnus and Martin native, Jan. 17-28 in the Fine Arts Building Gallery on the UT Martin main campus.

Breeden received a bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design from UT Martin in 2007 and currently works for the creative agency Loaded For Bear in Memphis.

He also maintains an extensive list of freelance projects for such clients as MTV, The New York Times Magazine, Volcom Entertainment and Ardent Music.

Breeden’s work is known under the pseudonym “St. Francis Elevator Ride,” and he has shown work in exhibitions across Tennessee and the Southeast as well as in digital galleries worldwide. His UT Martin exhibit, “Omnivorous Eyes,” is free and open to the public.

An opening reception will be held in the UT Martin Fine Arts Gallery from 5-6:30 p.m. Jan. 17. The gallery is open from 1-5 p.m. on weekdays and before major theatre and music performances.

Samples of Breeden’s work can be viewed at stfranciselevatorride.com.
Four years after beginning her journey as a 16-year-old undergraduate student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Amelia Coalter crossed the commencement stage last month with a bachelor of science degree at the age of 20.

Although she graduated at a younger age than most, for Miss Coalter, she’s only continuing a family tradition set by her father and older sister — who also graduated from high school at age 16.

“It’s not new really in my family, so to me it doesn’t seem as big of a deal. I guess it just depends on your perspective,” she said.

Miss Coalter originally came to UT Martin as a chemistry major, but after taking an introductory geology course, she realized she had passion for geology that surpassed any feelings she had for chemistry.

“I remember on that first day of class, Dr. (Stan) Dunagan (professor of geology) said, ‘My goal is to get you to be driving in your car and to look out and see the rocks and just annoy your family talking about them.’ I remember so specifically thinking how great that was because I do that all the time,” she said.

During her time in the geosciences program, Miss Coalter gained hands-on experience through field trips that benefited her both as a student and as a future professional. Geology field trips allowed Miss Coalter to build relationships with her classmates and grasp key concepts through travels to the Gulf Coast, East Tennessee and Missouri.

“You sit in the class and (professors) tell you about all these things and to try and picture them in your head. It’s a lot easier to figure out what is actually going on (during field work),” she said.

Miss Coalter’s age isn’t the only thing that sets her apart from other geology students, however. Her faith continues to play a role in how she approaches the science-based field.

“(My faith has) been a big deal, partly because it’s a part of me and affects everything I do,” she said.

Growing up in a small Christian school, she was taught a certain perspective about the theory of evolution.

“To them, evolution was a cell turned into a monkey turned into you, which is very limited in scope,” she said.

The theory of evolution is a large part of geology and it was through her classes that Miss Coalter discovered what it really means.

“People who grow up in tiny Christian schools like I did, they don’t have someone to explain to them, ‘This is creation, and this is evolution, and this is how they overlap or how they’re different.’ I want to help other people see what I didn’t see,” said Miss Coalter.

She plans to begin graduate school in the fall of 2017 and hopes to someday teach others her love of geology.

Looking back on her experience at UT Martin, she says being a supplemental instructor for two years taught her how to teach and prepared her for her future.

Although she enjoyed her time at UT Martin, Miss Coalter looked forward to graduating with anticipation.

“Part of me (was) really just ready to be done with school, but then there’s also that part of me that (was) like, ‘I accomplished something,’ and I’m really excited about that,” she said.
Angie Gertsch of Martin has been looking forward to graduation day for 20 years. After two decades of hard work and perseverance, she received her bachelor's degree during the University of Tennessee at Martin's commencement exercises last month alongside her husband, Robert Gertsch, and her son, Jonathan Crawford, who also received bachelor's degrees.

Her daughter, Hannah Crawford, is scheduled to graduate in December 2017.

Angie took her first UT Martin classes in 1996 while juggling a full-time job and the responsibilities of a single mother of two. After withdrawing several times, she began the final leg of her journey in 2010 with her children alongside her. Jonathan began his own college experience that same year, and Robert and Hannah enrolled a few years later.

"Having our whole family in school at the same time has been a wonderful, chaotic experience. We have spent the past few years having classes together and trying to arrange schedules so we can have lunch together," said Angie. "We have spent many nights at the library studying together and helping each other out."

With four family members juggling courses in four different academic areas, the struggle to stay connected was real. However, Angie says it was nice to have a support system regardless of the subject area.

"We have a built-in audience for speeches and presentations, editors for papers and study buddies to ask us review questions," she said. "Even though we are all from different majors, we have all had at least one class with each other, which was a lot of fun."

Angie received her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and plans to earn a master's degree in education focused on student affairs and college counseling.

Robert earned a degree in criminal science and, as a veteran himself, hopes to help future student-veterans navigate their way through the college process.

Jonathan studied business administration with a focus in information systems, and Hannah is set to graduate later this year with a degree in veterinary health technology.

Jonathan says having his family in school with him has helped him choose the best professors and classes to benefit his career goals. Hannah says the difference in academic perspectives has helped her in her studies, as well.

"With my studies (in veterinary health technology), it helps that mom knows a good deal about medical terminology ..."

"Having our whole family in school at the same time has been a wonderful, chaotic experience."

— Angie Gertsch

Even though she took the human class while I am taking the animal class," she said. "While our fields are so different, we do try to help each other whenever possible. My role is mainly that of an editor and proofreader. It is definitely hectic at times and can be very stressful (to have everyone in school). While it is difficult to keep four schedules straight, it is also something to be proud of. It involves a lot of due dates, late nights and lots of coffee."

Angie and Robert hope their academic perseverance teaches Jonathan and Hannah a lesson about the value of hard work and dedication.

"I hope that (my children) can take a sense of pride from seeing me finish this degree. They have given me a lot of love and hope through these years, which has inspired me and kept me going. I hope that I can be an example to them to always keep dreaming, to never stop trying, and to never lose their sense of self in the crowd," said Angie.

Hannah says she is inspired by the dedication her mother, stepfather and brother have shown to further their education.

"They have all taught me to push for the goal and give it my all. I have seen all of the hard work, determination and perseverance that it takes to finish, and it has given me the motivation to finish my last year, this final stretch," she said.

Coming to the end of the road is a bittersweet moment for the Gertsch/Crawford family. After sharing so many college experiences together, they have all found a deeper love not only for each other, but for the campus they call home.

"Sharing this chaotic and adventurous experience with my family has been one of the most pivotal moments in my life," Robert said. "There have been many late nights spent at the university waiting on each other and chasing each other in our crazy class schedules, but I cannot imagine my college experience without sharing it with my family. It has been the bond that has brought us all together. UT Martin is not just a place we all met or that we share and have in common. UTM is our family's university. We take great pride in truly being a Skyhawk family."

"This has truly been a wonderful experience to have as an individual, but to be able to share this with my family is overwhelming," Angie added. "These have been some of the happiest of years. UT Martin will always be special to me."

For other nontraditional students who may be contemplating finishing or beginning a college degree, Angie passes on a few words of wisdom given to her by a fellow student: "Don't keep putting off going back to school," she said.

"I have been in classes where I was the oldest person in the class, including the professor. I have also been in class with a wonderful lady who was 83 years old and her words are still fresh in my mind. She told me, "Honey, I am 83 and I will never get too old to learn something. Never give up on yourself. Just keep on going, however long it takes. You should compare yourself to no one; you are only competing with yourself."
FAMILY PLAN — Gathered before the commencement ceremony last month at the University of Tennessee at Martin were family members (from left) Hannah Crawford, Robert Gertsch, Angie Gertsch and Jonathan Crawford. Robert, Angie and Jonathan all graduated together, while Hannah will graduate later this year.

UT Martin’s Parsons Center to celebrate 10-year anniversary

The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center will celebrate its 10-year anniversary Jan. 17 with special guest speakers and a visit from the university’s new chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver.

A special event will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at the center.

Local supporters Jim and Janet Ayers, co-founders of The Ayers Foundation and major donors to the center’s West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing, will be present as guest speakers, alongside Carver.

The UT Martin Parsons Center continues to see record-breaking enrollment in the 2016-17 academic year. The center offers courses toward degrees in nursing, education, criminal justice, social work, psychology, interdisciplinary studies, history and business close to home in the Decatur County area.

The event is open to the public, with alumni, community members, students, faculty and staff invited to attend.
CRUISING WITH CARVER — Dr. Keith Carver is shown addressing a crowd of UT Martin faculty, staff and community members during his open forum interview in September 2016.

Carver begins tour of West Tennessee region

Dr. Keith Carver, newly-appointed chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, began his official duties Jan. 3. One of his first priorities is to meet faculty, staff and students at the five UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville as well as donors, alumni, potential students and members of the working media across West Tennessee.

A "Cruisin' with Carver" tour will canvas the region throughout the months of January and February. A variety of events and visits are planned for the duration of the tour, including alumni chapter meetings and visits to local high schools.

A schedule of stops is included below, and each stop will include a public reception. Visit utmforever.com/cruisin for information on public events as details become available and to register intent to attend.

- Jan. 5 – Nashville
- Jan. 10 – Memphis
- Jan. 17 – Parsons
- Jan. 24 – Dyersburg
- Jan. 25 – Jackson
- Jan. 26 – Clarksville
- Feb. 2 – Selmer
- Feb. 15 – Union City
- Feb. 16 – Somerville
- Feb. 23 – Ripley

For more information about public events or the "Cruising with Carver" tour schedule, contact Jackie Johnson, UT Martin associate director of alumni programs, at 731-881-7610 or by email at jjohn253@utm.edu.
WPSD 1/5/2017 4:38:39 AM: ...at 10 p.m. at fort campbell. soldiers with the 101-st airborne division are coming home from their nine-month deployment to iraq... and other areas in the southwest asia. 

### you're invited to meet with the newly-appointed chancellor of the university of Tennessee at martin. keith carver is launching a cruisin with carver tour across west Tennessee. carver is scheduled to be in january 24th. dyersburg on tuesday, he'll be at the lannom center from 4:30 to six pm. carver is also set to be in union city on february 15th. you can find the full schedule at wpsd local six dot com.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Friday, January 6, 2017

## UTM chancellor tours West Tenn.

Newly-appointed University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver — who began his official duties Tuesday — will visit Union City next month as part of his “Cruisin’ With Carver” tour.

One of Carver’s first priorities in his new position is to meet faculty, staff and students at the UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, as well as donors, alumni, potential students and members of the media across West Tennessee.

His “Cruisin’ With Carver” tour will canvass the region throughout January and February.

(Continued from Page 1)

variety of events and visits are planned for the duration of the tour, including alumni chapter meetings and visits to local high schools.

He is scheduled to be in Union City on Feb. 15, with details to be announced closer to that date.

Each stop will include a public reception. Go online to www.utmforever.com/cruisin for information on public events as details become available and to register intent to attend.

Carver’s first stop was Thursday in Nashville. Next week, he will visit Memphis on Tuesday.

Beyond next week, his remaining visits include Parsons, Jan. 17; Dyersburg, Jan. 24; Jackson, Jan. 25; Clarksville, Jan. 26; Selmer, Feb. 2; Union City, Feb. 15; Somerville, Feb. 16; and Ripley, Feb. 23.

For more information about public events or the “Cruising With Carver” tour schedule, contact Jackie Johnson, UT Martin associate director of alumni programs, at (731) 881-7610 or by email at jjohn253@utm.edu.
Carver has held roles at several UT campuses

THE JACKSON SUN

Newly appointed chancellor of UT Martin Keith Carver began his official duties Tuesday and is launching a tour through West Tennessee.

One of his first priorities is to meet faculty, staff and students at UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, as well as donors, alumni, potential students and members of the media.

Carver replaced Tom Rakes, who announced his intentions to return to teaching in April 2015. Robert “Bob” Smith had served as interim chancellor since May 2015. Smith’s contract ended Monday.

Carver had served as executive assistant to the UT president since January 2011. Prior to that, he held roles at UT campuses in Knoxville, Martin and Memphis, including serving as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin.

‘Cruisin’ with Carver’ tour dates

* Jan. 10 – Memphis
* Jan. 17 – Parsons
* Jan. 24 – Dyersburg
* Jan. 25 – Jackson
* Jan. 26 – Clarksville
* Feb. 2 – Selmer
* Feb. 15 – Union City
* Feb. 16 – Somerville
* Feb. 23 – Ripley

See UTM, Page 10A

Dr. Keith Carver addresses UT Martin faculty, staff and community members during his open interview in September.
The Jackson Sun Sunday, January 8, 2017

WestStar Leadership Program resumes

THE JACKSON SUN

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program will have its first class of 2017 Thursday and Friday, with a session on agriculture and transportation, featuring Weakley and Obion counties, according to a UTM press release.

It is the first of eight sessions that will take class members across the region to discuss topics of economic importance to the area, culminating in a June 20 graduation ceremony to be held in Jackson to honor the 2017 class.


On March 14-15 the topic will be “Public Policy Issues: What Is Happening in Tennessee?” in Davidson County, and April 6-7 is on “Energy, Environment and Technology” in Crockett and Gibson counties.

On May 18-19: “Building Partnerships for West Tennessee and Tourism” will be held in Henry County, and finally June 8-9: “Taking Your Community Strengths and Making Them an Asset” in McNairy and Hardin counties.

The WestStar Leadership Program, founded in 1989, is the oldest and largest regional leadership program in Tennessee and has 768 total alumni. Keith Carver, newly appointed UT Martin chancellor and 2009 WestStar graduate, will welcome the incoming class during the first session.

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, contact coordinator Virginia Grimes at (731) 881-7298.

See WestStar, Page 3B

WestStar

Continued from Page 1B

Technology” in Crockett and Gibson counties.

On May 18-19: “Building Partnerships for West Tennessee and Tourism” will be held in Henry County, and finally June 8-9: “Taking Your Community Strengths and Making Them an Asset” in McNairy and Hardin counties.

The WestStar Leadership Program, founded in 1989, is the oldest and largest regional leadership program in Tennessee and has 768 total alumni. Keith Carver, newly appointed UT Martin chancellor and 2009 WestStar graduate, will welcome the incoming class during the first session.

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, contact coordinator Virginia Grimes at (731) 881-7298.

http://www.robertsoncountyconnection.com/

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

STAFF REPORTS
Monday, January 9, 2017 12:19 am

Discover UT MARTIN

Several Robertson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held Dec. 10 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Allyson Louise Payne, Cedar Hill; Cleve A. Birdwell, Springfield and Brette Elyse Akridge, Daniel J. Guill and Annabella G. Zizzi, all of White House.

The students receiving graduate degrees were Renee N. Stubblefield, Greenbrier and Caitlin Shae Roach of Springfield.
UT Martin Newly Appointed Chancellor 'Cruising' the Region

By EBONY CLARK • JAN. 10, 2017

Credit UT Martin Media Relations

UT Martin's newly appointed chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver is canvassing the region as part of the "Cruisin' With Carver" tour, which will conclude at the end of February.

Carver says he's visited with students, faculty, donors, and community officials and is focused on the university's impact on the region.

"We want to be a partner with our state officials, our regional officials, but also our school districts, our hospitals, and we want to engage and wherever we have resources whether that be intellect or people power, we want to collaborate with people," says Carver.

Carver says community engagement plays a significant role in student success.

"Having Martin at the table when there are issues to be discussed, whether it's an education issue, healthcare issue, cultural issue, economic development issue, Martin wants to be part of the solution."

Carver previously served as executive assistant to University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and was recommended as the new chancellor after Tom Rakes stepped down last year.

A schedule of stops is included below, and each stop will include a public reception. Visit utmforever.com/cruisin for information on public events as details become available and to register intent to attend.

Jan. 10 - Memphis
Jan. 17 - Parsons
Jan. 24 - Dyersburg
Jan. 25 - Jackson
Jan. 26 - Clarksville
Feb. 2 - Selmer
Feb. 15 - Union City
Feb. 16 - Somerville
Feb. 23 - Ripley

UT Martin recognized as one of the best in the country for online degree

http://www.kfvs12.com/s

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin has been recognized as having one of the best online master of business programs in the country.

U.S. News & World Report ranked UTM as the top institution in Tennessee.

UTM's Online MBA program tied for 36th place overall.

Students enrolled in the program don't ever have to step foot on campus to obtain their degree.

According to a release from the school, it's geared toward working professionals and offers enough flexibility that students can complete the program within two years.
UT Martin names local students to Fall semester honor roll

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 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 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).

Atwood - Allie E. Cunningham, Highest Honors; Cassidy N. Sheehan, Honors.

Beech Bluff - Connor J. Alley, Honors.

Bradford - Madison K. Adams, Highest Honors; Colton D. Barber, Honors; Alexander H. Cantrell, Honors; Katherine L. Cardwell, Highest Honors; Tanya Chopra, High Honors; Keecay A. Davis, Highest Honors; Elizabeth C. Dowland, High Honors; Cody E. Miles, Highest Honors; Hannah N. Moore, High Honors; Matthew B. Puckett, High Honors; Jeremy B. Reynolds, High Honors; Emily A. Rodgers, Honors.

Dyer - Zach W. Brukette, Highest Honors; Cady M. Griffin, Honors; Sydney D. Imman, Highest Honors; Chelsea K. Joyce, High Honors; Erin T. Lannom, Honors; Tyler A. Laster, Honors; Rebecca L. Lee, Highest Honors; Danielle E. Rickman, High Honors; Garrett Z. Ritter, High Honors; Kaitlyn A. Ritter, Highest Honors; Charles L. Rowlett, Honors.

Humboldt - Clint A. Brown, High Honors; Shalyn E. Brown, Honors; Morgan N. Conder, Honors; Gerrard E. Cox, High Honors; Hunter B. Farley, High Honors; Logan Farley, High Honors; Seth D. Gibson, Honors; Holly E. Graves, High Honors; Landon C. Griffin, Honors; Jonathan H. Hefley, High Honors; Sarah E. Langley, High Honors; Chloe D. Lollar, Honors; Joshua M. Matthis, High Honors; Stephen C. Miller, High Honors; Taylor J. Pannell, Honors; Tanner R. Petty, Highest Honors; Grady L. Potts, Highest Honors; Kristin P. Taylor, Highest Honors; Kayla E. Tinnon, High Honors; Shelby G. Vasquez, Highest Honors; Chandler B. Whitaker, Highest Honors; Keaton B. Wilson, High Honors; Logan H. Youmans, Honors.

Kenton - Erin R. Chandler, Honors; Andrea L. Penn, Highest Honors; Cameron B. Spencer, Honors.

Lancaster - Cody A. Goins, Honors.

Lexington - Amanda L. Singleton, Highest Honors.

Martin - Brooks A. Becton, Honors; Dalton C. Cook, High Honors; Billy W. Duck, Honors; Cody A. Kinney, Highest Honors; Destiny S. Meyer, High Honors; Austin W. Mosier, Honors; Hohner K. Porter, Highest Honors; Robert C. Rayburn, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Terry, Honors; Eli M. Todd, High Honors.

Medina - Alyssa N. Burrous, Honors; Casey A. Dunavan, High Honors; Bradley K. Duncan, Honors; Abby J. Hays, Highest Honors; Logan J. Helton, High Honors; Shae lyn M. Horner, High Honors; Ryan B. Hooper, Medina, TN 38355-8911, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Martin, High Honors; Benjamin M. Ort, High Honors; Emily M. Poole, High Honors; Hayden M. Presson, Honors; Sara J. Ragain, Honors; Elizabeth C. Trotter, Highest Honors; Kathryn L. Woods, High Honors.

Milan - Melanie B. Allen, Highest Honors; Sydney C. Blackburn, Honors; Ethan G. Brake, High Honors; Caitlyn N. Brown, High Honors; Shelby L. Carter, Honors; Victoria A. Collins, Honors; Micah B. Cortez, High Honors; Rachel K. Curry, Highest Honors; Madison B. Dowdy, High Honors; Kathryn L. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Joshua M. Fields, High Honors; Kaitlyn M. Frandsen, Highest Honors; Kyndal K. Hayes, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Hoke, High Honors; John M. Horton, High Honors; Catherine D. Ing, Highest Honors; Erin E. Kelley, High Honors; Mary E. Pate, Honors; Emily A. Rice, Honors; David D. Rodemaker, Honors; Jessica R. Schaefer, Highest Honors; Jenna M. Sellers, Highest Honors; Mallory K. Staley, High Honors; James R. Stevenson, High Honors; Aubrey N. Walgren, High Honors; Chad A. Warden, Highest Honors; Erica E. Weaver, Honors; Eric A. Yates, Highest Honors; Joshua M. Young, Honors.

Newbern - Michael C. Arnold, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn B. Carlton, Highest Honors; Jessica M. Jetton, Highest Honors.

Rutherford - Cassidy A. Caldwell, Honors; Shelby N. Dotson, Honors; Robert J. Eddlemon, Honors; Taylor B. Fuqua, Highest Honors; Taylor M. Kelly, Honors; Christian H. Kemp, High Honors; Eva A. Olivares, Highest Honors; Garner A. Perkins, Honors; Logan C. Rahm, Highest Honors.

Trenton - Collin A. Abbott, Highest Honors; Hayden P. Barnett, Honors; Teagan S. Bartholomew, High Honors; Ryan D. Bateman, High Honors; Allison N. Breece, Highest Honors; Remington L. Burch, High Honors; Emily M. Campbell, Highest Honors; Bethesda L. Cobb, Honors; Sarah K. Coday, Honors; Holly B. Cole, High Honors; Taylor P. Coomer, High Honors; Taylor L. Davis, High Honors; Sarah E. Dodd, Highest Honors; Candie L. Doss, High Honors; Lillian M. Forester, High Honors; Kory T. Galloway, High Honors; Patrick D. Hill, High Honors; Robert A. Lowery, Honors; Kayla C. Mathenia, Honors; Eli T. McCaig, Highest Honors; Dustin L. Murdoch, Honors; Eric H. Partee, Honors; Morgan A. Robertson, Highest Honors; Jan M. Smith, High Honors; Ethan T. Temple, High Honors; Candace L. Tucker, Honors; Deonza W. Turner, Honors; Michael S. Wofford, High Honors.

Union City - Summer N. Patterson, Honors.

Yorkville - Melody Pafford, Highest Honors.

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Included are:

- Trenton: Collin A. Abbott, Highest Honors; Hayden P. Barnett, Honors; Teagan S. Bartholomew, High Honors; Ryan D. Bates, High Honors; Allison N. Breece, Highest Honors; Remington L. Burch, High Honors; Emily M. Campbell, Highest Honors; Bethany L. Cobb, Honors; Sarah K. Cody, Honors; Holly B. Cole, High Honors; Taylor P. Coomer, High Honors; Taylor L. Davis, High Honors; Sarah E. Dodd, Highest Honors; Candice L. Doss, High Honors; Lillian M. Forester, High Honors; Kory T. Galloway, High Honors; Patrick D. Hill, High Honors; Robert A. Lowery, Honors; Kayla C. Mathenia, Honors; Eli T. McCaig, Highest Honors; Dustin L. Murdock, Honors; Eric H. Partee, Honors; Morgan A. Robertson, Highest Honors; Jan M. Smith, High Honors; Ethan T. Temple, High Honors; Candace L. Tucker, Honors; Deonza W. Turner, Honors; Michael S. Wofford, High Honors;

- Bradford: Madison K. Adams, Highest Honors; Colton D. Barber, Honors; Alexander H. Cantrell, Honors; Katherine L. Cardwell, Highest Honors; Tanya Chopra, High Honors; Keeley A. Davis, Highest Honors; Elisabeth C. Dowland, Highest Honors; Cody E. Miles, Highest Honors; Hannah N. Moore, High Honors; Matthew B. Puckett, High Honors; Jeremy B. Reynolds, High Honors; Emily A. Rodgers, Honors; Dyer: Zach W. Braketta, Highest Honors; Cady G. Griffin, Honors; Daniel D. Inman, Highest Honors; Chelsea K. Joyce, High Honors; Erin T. Lannom, Honors; Tyler A. Laster, Honors; Rebecca L. Lee, Highest Honors; Danielle E. Rickman, High Honors; Garrett Z. Ritter, High Honors; Kaitlyn A. Ritter, Highest Honors; Charles L. Rowlett, Honors;

- Rutherford: Cassidy A. Caldwell, Honors; Shelby N. Dotson, Honors; Robert J. Eddlemon, Honors; Benjamin Taylor, Highest Honors; B. Fuqua, Highest Honors; Taylor M. Kelly, Highest Honors; Christian H. Kemp, High Honors; Eva A. Oliveras, Highest Honors; Garner A. Perkins, Honors; Logan C. Rahm, Highest Honors; Yorkville: Melody Pafford, High Honors;

- Kenton: Erin R. Chandler, Honors; Andrea L. Penn, Highest Honors; Cameron B. Spencer, Honors;

- Humboldt: Clint A. Brown, High Honors; Shalyn E. Brown, Honors; Morgan N. Conder, Honors; Gerrard E. Cox, High Honors; Hunter B. Farley, High Honors; Logan Farley, High Honors; Seth D. Gibson, Honors; Holly E. Graves, High Honors; Landon C. Griffin, Honors; Jonathan H. Hefley, High Honors; Sarah E. Langley, High Honors; Chloé D. Lollar, Honors; Joshua M. Mathis, High Honors; Steven C. Miller, High Honors; Taylor A. Malmell, Honors; Tanner R. Petty, Highest Honors; Grady L. Potts, Highest Honors; Kristin P. Taylor, Highest Honors; Kayla E. Tinnon, High Honors; Shelby G. Vasquez, Highest Honors; Grady L. Potts, Highest Honors; Keaton B. Wilson, High Honors; Lathan Y. Youmans, Honors; Mican B. Cortez, Highest Honors; Rachel K. Curry, Highest Honors; Madison B. Dowdy, High Honors; Kathryn L. DuCarp, Highest Honors; Jonathan M. Fields, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Frandsen, Highest Honors; Kyndal K. Hayes, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Hoke, High Honors; John M. Horton, High Honors; Catherine D. Ing, Highest Honors; Erd E. Kelley, High Honors; Mary E. Pate, Honors; Emily A. Rice, Honors; David D. Rodmaker, Honors; Jessica R. Schaefer, Highest Honors; Jenna M. Sellars, Highest Honors; Mallory K. Staley,最高荣誉; James R. Stevenson, Highest Honors; Aubrey N. Walgren, High Honors; Chad A. Warden, Highest Honors; Erica E. Weaver, Honors; Eric A. Yates, Highest Honors; Joshua M. Young, Honors;

- Newbern: Michael C. Arnold, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn B. Carlton, Highest Honors; Jessica M. Jetton, High Honors; UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs.
UT Martin names local students to Fall semester Chancellor's Honor Roll

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 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 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).

**Bath Springs** - Zachary S. Jowers, High Honors; Letitia L. Pulley, High Honors

**Darden** - Haley M. Harris, Highest Honors; Rachel S. Reeves, Highest Honors

**Decaturville** - Haley A. Carpenter, High Honors; Bailey S. Freeman, High Honors; Torrie R. Hays, High Honors; Justin M. Holmes, High Honors; Aaron T. Keen, Highest Honors; Joshua W. Mangrum, High Honors; Bryan P. McDonald, Honors; Andrew C. Pirtle, High Honors; Rachel L. Pope, High Honors; Collin W. Singleton, Highest Honors; Brooklyn G. Taylor, Honors; Katie B. Tubbs, High Honors.

**Henderson** - Melanie N. Tuten, High Honors.

**Hickory Valley** - Darrius M. Dandridge, Highest Honors.

**Jackson** - Deshea M. Mays, Highest Honors.

**Martin** - Brooklyn A. Kennedy, Honors; Ivory L. Russell, Highest Honors.

**Medina** - Abby J. Hays, Highest Honors.

**Parsons** - Brooke H. Barnett, Highest Honors; Savannah M. Brawley, Honors; Jessica S. Brownyard, High Honors; Hannah N. Chumney, Honors; Renee Chumney, High Honors; Dakota W. Conrad, Honors; Stephanie Gibson, Honors; Tammy R. Guldledge, High Honors; Abigale R. Hammond, High Honors; Brady A. Jones, Highest Honors; Ashley D. Lindsay, Highest Honors; Katelyn E. McFall, Highest Honors; Dustin W. Menges, High Honors; Randi M. Montgomery, Highest Honors; Alissa L. Peaine, Honors; Karlee D. Stricklin, Honors; Trevor G. Teague, Highest Honors; Zachariah A. Thomas, Highest Honors; Taylor B. Trull, Highest Honors.

**Reagan** - Rae Lynn Green, Honors.

**Scotts Hill** - Samantha B. Galbraith, High Honors.

**Sugar Tree** - Dakota C. Waits, Highest Honors.

**Troy** - Mark D. Hawkins, Highest Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
UT Martin Parsons Center:
A Decatur County Success Story
On January 17 the University of Tennessee Martin Parsons Center will celebrate its tenth anniversary and will welcome the university's new chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver. This announcement reminds everyone of just how far the UTM Parsons Center has come in such a short period of time.

Parsons Mayor Tim David Boaz credited the idea of bringing a college to Decatur County to Dan Lindsey, a former City of Parsons employee. Mayor Boaz said that the City of Parsons held a job fair, and while there was a great turnout of employers and job seekers, no higher education institutions were present. That was when Lindsey said, "If they won't come to us, we need to build our own." Fortunately some in the county took the idea seriously. Mayor Boaz approached Jim Ayers to discuss how to make the dream a reality. Dr. Nick Dunagan, who was the Chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin at the time, was asked if the university could bring UTM to Decatur County. The typical answer for a university would be to say that Decatur County was just too small to have a higher education facility but Dunagan was not a typical chancellor. He had been the Vice Chancellor for Development prior to becoming the UTM Chancellor and he understood that a university had to expand beyond its traditional campus. Chancellor Dunagan promised that the university would see what it could do. Mayor Boaz said that Dunagan came back to Parsons and laid out a detailed plan of what UTM could do in Decatur County.

Since no building was available, UTM-P began by having classes at Riverside High School. In 2006 Jason Rushing was named the Director of the UTM Parsons Center. Rushing was a graduate of Riverside High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin. He had been a part of the first class of Ayers Scholars at Riverside. Jason's first office was a converted closet in the Parsons Municipal Building. But by 2007 classes were being taught at Riverside High School and at the Parsons Municipal Building. At that time there were 108 students taking a total of 663 credit hours. In the first few years many of the students were non-traditional students meaning that they had not enrolled in college immediately after high school or had previously dropped out of college. Many of these students were already in the workforce and their schedules would not permit them to go to school full-time. In 2007 the UTM Parsons Center offered degrees in Education, University Studies and LPN to BSN.

Now that the university had come to Decatur County there needed to be a facility for them to call home. Many local residents became involved in the planning process. Mayor Boaz stated that Jim Ayers proposed a funding plan that would consist of the Ayers Foundation, local governments and private donations. The Ayers Foundation pledged $1,000,000.00. The City of Parsons and Decatur County Government each pledged $500,000.00. The rest of the money would come from private donations. This meant that private citizens would have to contribute at least $2,000,000.00. That would be quite a feat for a county of slightly more than 10,000 residents.
Although the proposed facility would not be owned by the University, UTM loaned the services of Len Solomons, Vice Chancellor of University Development, and Keith Carver, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Development, to spearhead the fundraising efforts. If the name Keith Carver sounds familiar it's because it's the same Dr. Keith Carver who is returning 10 years later as the new Chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Local businessman, the late Danny Graves, donated the property for the facility and the dream moved closer to becoming a reality. Plans were drawn up for a 20,000 square foot facility which would cost approximately 3.5 million dollars. Construction began in early 2008 and classes in the new building began in the spring semester of 2009.

By the beginning of the 2009 fall semester the Parsons Center had grown to 300 students who were taking a total of 2,680 semester hours. By this time many students were enrolling right out of high school. The Center added a degree program in Social Work.

The end of 2011 saw the resignation of Center Director, Jason Rushing. Rushing had been instrumental in getting the Center off the ground and laying the foundation for the Center's current success. In 2012 Dr. Kelli Deere became the Director of the Center. In 2013 the Center added a degree program in Criminal Justice. In 2014 degrees in Psychology and History became available at the Parsons Center.

2015 saw another ambitious undertaking at the Parsons Center. Thanks to a $1,000,000.00 grant from the State of Tennessee, a $1,000,000.00 endowment from the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation and private donations, the Parsons Center added a 10,000 square foot nursing wing. This state-of-the-art facility allowed the Parsons Center to add a BSN nursing degree. Thirty students are admitted to the program on a yearly basis.

Today the UTM Parsons Center has 334 students taking a total of 3,666 credit hours. A degree in Business Administration has been added to the curriculum. As of December, 278 students have obtained their degrees at the UT Martin Parsons Center. Many other students have completed their degree prerequisites and have transferred to other places such as the UT Martin main campus in order to obtain degrees that are not offered at the Center.

Decatur County, Henderson County and Perry County provide the largest number of students. Students also come from Benton County, Wayne County, Hickman County, Hardin County and McNairy County. The Center also provides on campus dual enrollment classes for high school students from Riverside High School, Scotts Hill High School and Frank Hughes High School in Clifton. Dr. Kelli Deere, Center Director, said that student surveys always indicate that the top reason students choose the UTM Parsons Center is because of the caring atmosphere of the campus.

The UTM Parsons Center is a testimony to what can be done when an entire community pulls together. When the Parsons Center celebrates its tenth anniversary there will be one long time supporter missing. Mrs. Peggy Chumney was an ardent supporter of the Center from its very inception. She passed away a few days ago but if she was still here you can be sure she would have a front row seat.
Local students named to UTM honor roll

For the Independent Appeal

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Adamsville – Andrew J. Alexander, Honors; Colby R. Anderson, Highest Honors; Courtney A. Forsythe, Highest Honors; Taylor B. Freeman, Highest Honors; Kortney C. Fye, High Honors; Caroline H. Gray, High Honors; Mitchell W. Howie, High Honors; Tracy Johnson, High Honors; Abbie L. Lunsford, Honors; Madison B. Pickens, Highest Honors; Haleigh E. Poe, Highest Honors; Eric T. Stanford, Honors; Megan E. Thomas, Highest Honors; Benjamin T. White, High Honors; Brandon L. White, High Honors; Nathan H. White, Highest Honors; William A. White, Highest Honors; Colton L. Williams, High Honors; Brandy N. Willingham, High Honors.

Bethel Springs – Courtney L. Barnes, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn B. Boggs, Highest Honors; Sara G. Carroll, Honors; Devin R. Holt, Honors; Bryanna M. Huggins, Highest Honors; Christopher A. Lambert, High Honors; Brooklyn P. Lipford, Honors; Jennifer S. Naillon, Highest Honors; Olivia S. Peters, High Honors; Amber N. Powell, Honors; Elizabeth B. Redmon, Highest Honors; Christian M. Taylor, High Honors; Kaila C. Wagoner, Honors; Darryl W. Weatherford, Honors.

Finger – Ceslii M. Caraway, High Honors; Drew D. Hemby, High Honors; Cheyanne S. Honey, Finger, Honors; Abigail H. Riningger, High Honors.

Guys – Justin R. Lewis, Honors; Tessa N. Tucker, High Honors.

Martin – Jerry L. Emmons, High Honors; Zachary R. King, Highest Honors; Barbara M. Signorelli, High Honors.

Richie – Shelby L. Fowler, High Honors; China L. Horton, High Honors; Leah T. Johnson, Honors; Stacy N. McCain, High Honors.

Ramer – Mikayla D. Boswell, Highest Honors; Caitlyn M. King, High Honors; Lauren E. Rhodes, Honors; Patti D. Sautler, Highest Honors; Preston C. Smith, High Honors; Nicklaus P. Wolfe, Honors.

Selmer – Cassidy L. Ashe, High Honors; Zachary P. Blakely, Honors; Hannah L. Carroll, Highest Honors; Emma E. Foret, Honors; Justin C. Fortune, Highest Honors; Madelyn R. Hammock, Highest Honors; Makayla J. Hill, Honors; William J. Huff, Honors; Jennifer L. Huggins, Honors; Emily A. Johnson, Highest Honors; Rachel E. Johnson, Highest Honors; Will R. Latham, Honors; Lincoln R. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Olivia K. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Ansley M. Moore, Highest Honors; Carlotta Murrell, Highest Honors; Charles M. Rankin, Honors; Hannah J. Robinson, High Honors; Haley L. Sellers, Honors; Cassidy B. Shambeau, High Honors; Rylee C. Smith, High Honors; Ty C. Smith, Highest Honors; Hunter J. Steele, Highest Honors; Kristen N. Wilkins, Highest Honors; Jon M. Williams, High Honors; Kimberly N. Williams, Highest Honors; Averi L. Yalda, Honors.

UT-Martin announces local honor students

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Locals who made the list include:

- Gates: Austin D. Kissell, High Honors; Chad A. Lewis, Highest Honors; Malissa R. Pittman, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Sorrell, Honors.
- Halls: Brittany R. Bizzell, Honors; ames L. Crews, Honors; Hayley L. Gillion, High Honors; Zachary Harris, Honors; Jessica L. Howell, Honors; Leah B. Jacobs, Highest Honors; Hannah N. Langley, Highest Honors; Chris J. Rogers, Honors; Katelyn M. Sego, Honors; Alan B. Smith, Honors; James T. Wright, Highest Honors.

- Henning: Bryan F. Burnett, High Honors; Kaci L. Racine, Highest Honors; Audrea G. Williams, Honors; Erin N. Young, Highest Honors.

- Ripley: Gabrielle L. Arwood, Honors; Kasie E. Barnett, Honors; Tammy J. Barron, Highest Honors; Jeanetta Bates, Highest Honors; Dana L. Beard, High Honors; Terrie L. Bishop, Honors; Christina R. Buckner, Highest Honors; Marygrace T. Burnett, Highest Honors; Jessica N. Carver, Highest Honors; Brianna L. Castelman, Honors; Carling M. Champion, Highest Honors; Jasmine M. Dowell, Honors; Shan’Derda W. Farrow, Honors; Edward M. Gaines, Honors; Caitlyn D. Gitchell, High Honors; Hailey B. Holcomb, High Honors; Jeremy K. Jackson, Honors; Courtney R. Johnson, Honors; Stacy N. Maclin, High Honors; Jeffery R. Manns, Highest Honors; Bethany N. McCaslin, Highest Honors; Justin K. Olds, Honors; Sonam S. Patel, Highest Honors; Carli A. Scott, High Honors; Summer D. Scott, Honors; Britanny T. Simmons, High Honors; Brittany S. Smith, Highest Honors; Ashton M. Tatum, Honors; Britney B. Watkins, Honors; Allison P. Webb, Highest Honors; and Sheila C. Whitehorn, High Honors.
UTM gets help to help vets

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as one of six institutions to receive funding through the 2016 Veteran Reconnect program in the fall of 2016. The first of many new resources available to student veterans is the creation of a dedicated veterans’ services coordinator.

“We have, in the last several years, been looking at ways to serve our veterans better. This grant has opened up many doors for us to provide more services,” said Janet Wilbert, director, UT Martin Student Success Center.

The new veterans’ service coordinator is part of the UT Martin Student Success Center and will provide student veterans with a one-stop-shop to address financial aid questions, academic credits and other concerns.

“The person will pull (existing) resources together and make it much easier for veterans on our campus to be successful,” said Wilbert. “This person will also make connections statewide and make sure that UT Martin has access to all the newest and finest resources for our veterans, including resources in student health and mental health counseling.”

The interview process is underway for this new position, and the selected candidate is expected to begin later this spring. UT Martin currently accepts military credits in place of related academic credits and applies GI Bill funds toward the cost of education.

For more information on the Veterans Reconnect Grant and related services, contact Wilbert at 731-881-1688.

Photoshop course scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin will again offer its popular training course on using Adobe Photoshop software this spring.

Classes will meet from 6-9 p.m. Mondays from Jan. 23 through Feb. 27 on the main UT Martin campus.

The registration fee is $145 per person.

Dr. Tom Gallien, course instructor, brings a lifetime of photography experience into the classroom to show participants various ways to edit digital photos using the Photoshop software. Samples of Gallien’s work can be viewed online at molliebiscuit.com.

This course is offered once per year and seats are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registration is encouraged.

For more information or to register for the Photoshop course, visit utm.edu/outreach or contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082.

UT Martin’s online MBA earns recognition again

U.S. News & World Report has again recognized the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online master of business administration degree as one of the nation’s best in their 2017 ranking, released Tuesday.

The UT Martin programs tied for 36th place in the “2017 Best Online MBA Programs” category and is the top-ranked Tennessee institution. Tennessee Technological University is the next-ranked state school at number 65.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated institutions in five categories: student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. Data was collected through self-reported survey answers and peer assessments of similar institutions.

The UT Martin online MBA is offered entirely online with no on-campus requirements. The program is geared toward working professionals and offers enhanced course flexibility to allow students to complete required hours within two years.

For more information, contact Dr. Ashley Kilburn, UT Martin’s online MBA program coordinator with the College of Business and Global Affairs, at (731) 881-7245.
'Rock tuba' recital planned

Several faculty and staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin will join forces to present a "rock tuba" recital at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the university's Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts Building.

Dr. Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands and instructor of music, will headline the recital.

Dr. Jim Feiser from the Department of History and Philosophy, Micah Barnes and Dr. Josh Smith from the Department of Music and Kenny Robinson from WLJTD-T will accompany Waterman on the guitar, bass, drums and keyboard, respectively.

This recital will not only showcase a unique musical style, but will show the interdisciplinary relationships among UT Martin faculty and staff.

The recital is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.

Grant to fund services for veterans at UTM

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For more information on the Veterans Reconnect Grant, contact Ms. Wilbert at (731) 881-1688.
Teacher’s legacy continues through UTM endowment

The Annette Sublett Ferguson Graduate Scholarship Endowment will be used to help finance the education of master’s level students pursuing degrees in K-6 education, with first preference given to students focusing on grades K-3. Applicants must be current teachers in the Obion County School System and demonstrate successful academic performance. The UT Martin Scholarship Committee will select two students each year to receive equal awards.

The Fergusons met at UT Martin and ultimately called the area home after settling on Mrs. Ferguson’s family farm near Rives.

“She was a preppy ADPi (Alpha Delta Pi) in the business school and I was a red-neck AGR (Alpha Gamma Rho) in the agriculture school. ... I am still amazed she was ever interested in me, although with her ‘gentle’ encouragement, I did go back and earn a master’s degree in economics and have spent a 30-year career in business as a financial adviser,” Ferguson said.

Annette Ferguson had a special love for children.
As a first- and second-grade teacher in the Obion County School System, she nurtured classrooms full of students from all walks of life and looked forward to the start of each new year.

“Every year before school started, she just really couldn’t wait,” said her husband, Scott Ferguson. “Some of those children have a real tough time in life, and some of them aren’t getting much love and encouragement at home. ... Sometimes she could really do wonders with them. She was an absolute natural at it.”

The Obion County native spent 11 years in the local school system before she passed away Sept. 18, 2016, at the age of 57 after a battle with breast cancer.

Now, her legacy will help local educators through a scholarship endowment at the couple’s alma mater — the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Her love of children extended beyond the classroom, however, and encompassed several children’s programs at the family church. She was a dedicated Sunday school teacher and helped to organize the congregation’s Vacation Bible School activities, as well as drove a bus to transport local children to and from worship services.

“She led by example and helped build a ministry for ‘unchurched children.’ She was an awesome woman of God and she lived and practiced her faith,” her husband said.

Ferguson, who funded the scholarship endowment in his wife’s memory, hopes the funds will help current Obion County teachers pursue master’s degrees at the university he and his wife called home.

“I decided to go ahead and do it for master’s degree (students) because that’s definitely somebody who’s going beyond and is really trying to further their education, like she did,” he said.

Mrs. Ferguson was one of three generations of UT Martin graduates in the Sublett/Ferguson family. Mrs. Ferguson’s parents are Wanda Sublett and the late Kenneth Sublett of Union City.

Her father played basketball at the former University of Tennessee Junior College and her oldest son, Ben, graduated with an accounting degree in 2009. Additionally, her sister, Barbara, and both of Barbara’s children are UT Martin alumni.

The Fergusons have three grown sons — Ben, Dan and Joe — and a granddaughter, Andalyn.

For more information on how to apply for the Annette Sublett Ferguson Graduate Scholarship Endowment, contact the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies at (731) 881-7210.
OC students honored at UT Martin

The outstanding academic achievements of numerous undergraduate students from Obion County have been recognized with publication of the fall semester Chancellor’s Honor Rolls at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Included are students from 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 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).

Obion County’s honorees are:

- Hornbeck — Rebecca A. Bloodworth, high honors; Claudia A. Cheatham, high honors; Lucian P. Freeze, highest honors; Briana M. Hinton, highest honors; Marli M. Hogg, highest honors; and Jessica D. LaMasus, high honors.

- Union City — Victoria P. Abrigo, highest honors; Joseph W. Agee, highest honors; Mitchell B. Arnett, highest honors; Brady T. Baird, high honors; Jake A. Bell, honors; Tiffany J. Bogle, high honors; Abigail H. Bolding, highest honors; Laribeth A. Bondurant, high honors; Nicholas L. Breden, highest honors; Ronda A. Brewer, highest honors; Elizabeth J. Carpenter, highest honors; Courtney B. Carroll, high honors; Mary H. Driver, highest honors; Megan L. Dunn, honors; Joshua T. Dyer, highest honors; Lauren B. Futhy, high honors; Brendan L. Galbraith, honors; Dianna C. Gammons, highest honors; Morgan E. Grisham, honors; Maria G. Guerrero, highest honors; Dallas C. Gurlay, high honors; Franklin J. Hawks, honors; Richard L. Hempel, high honors; Andrew J. Horner, high honors; Jonathan M. Hurtado, high honors; James B. Hutchens, highest honors; Christina A. Jackson, honors; Darcey H. Jones, honors; Matalyn O. Kelly, honors; Angelique M. Kendall, honors; Cruz M. Kepner, high honors; Sean J. Lanahan, highest honors; Danielle A. Leggett, highest honors; Timothy C. Long, honors; Makayla Lynn, highest honors; Taylor S. Martin, highest honors; Kaycee L. Mathenia, highest honors; Timothy M. McClain, highest honors; Kathryn G. Moore, honors; Luz M. Morales, high honors; Natalie E. Noles, high honors; Avery A. Partin, high honors; Summer N. Patterson, honors; Stella D. Preuett, high honors; Victoria L. Reedy, highest honors; Johen A. Rico, honors; Cody A. Robertson, highest honors; Imelda Rodriguez Olvera, highest honors; Barbara P. Russell, high honors; Nancy Sanchez, high honors; Linden G. Scarbrough, highest honors; Holly A. Seng, highest honors; Victoria L. Seng, highest honors; Lauren M. Shaw, honors; Hailey E. Slaughter, highest honors; Chasity N. Smith, honors; Whitney D. Smith, highest honors; Chloe B. Smithson, highest honors; Savannah N. Sneed, highest honors; Kendall B. Speed, honors; Julie E. Spencer, high honors; Breanna N. Stephenson, highest honors; William T. Tankersley, highest honors; Robert A. Terrell, highest honors; Macy A. Thompson, highest honors; Jaime Torres, honors; John A. Warner, highest honors; Brandon A. Webster, high honors; Brenna M. Wilkins, honors; Colton A. Woodward, highest honors; Wendi L. Wright, high honors; and Ashley N. Yates, high honors.

In addition, the Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Obion County include:

- Martin — Terrence L. Bishop, honors; Tyler A. Bolton, highest honors; Casey Callins, honors; Alison E. Clement, honors; Travis L. Crum, honors; Katelynn E. Cunningham, highest honors; John A. H. Davis, honors; Kathryn R. Scott, highest honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, highest honors; Jessica G. Tejeda, honors; and Blake A. Walton, high honors.

- Troy — Haley M. Cook, honors; William C. Cousins, honors; Daniel L. Finch, highest honors; Mark D. Hawkins, highest honors; Mason N. Hoffman, honors; Leah D. Hutchison, honors; Jessica B. Jennings, highest honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, highest honors; Kathryn G. Kerr, highest honors; Anna D. Logan, highest honors; Charles R. Marshall, highest honors; Leandra N. Moore, honors; Andrew D. Pickard, highest honors; Morgan C. Quinton, honors; Diana G. Ramos, highest honors; Rebecca L. Robb, high honors; Laina L. Roberson, highest honors; Ashlyn M. Runion, high honors; Josh A. VanValkenburg, high honors; Matthew D. Vanwormer, high honors; and Nicholas K. Wilson, highest honors.

- South Fulton — Austin L. Akers, honors; Taylor H. Allen, high honors; Mindy A. Baker, honors; Samantha E. Connor, honors; Saralynn Eaves, honors; Mikaela M. Hardy, highest honors; Jane E. Johnson, honors; Whitney H. Johnson, highest honors; Morgan E. Maxwell, honors; Caitlyn A. McClain, highest honors; James R. Moore, high honors; Victoria C. Perez, high honors; Brianna A. Rinker, highest honors; and Kimberly D. Schwartz, honors.
UT Martin names local students to fall semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduates students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 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 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).

-Adamsville - Andrew J. Alexander, Honors; Colby R. Anderson, Highest Honors; Courtney A. Forsythe, Highest Honors; Taylor B. Freeman, Highest Honors; Kortney C. Fye, High Honors; Caroline H. Gray, High Honors; Mitchell W. Howie, High Honors; Tracy Johnson, High Honors; Abbie L. Lunsford, Honors; Madison B. Pickens, Highest Honors; Haleigh E. Poc, Highest Honors; Eric T. Stanfield, Honors; Megan E. Thomas, Highest Honors; Benjamin T. White, High Honors; Brandon L. White, High Honors; Nathan H. White, Highest Honors; William A. White, Highest Honors; Colton L. Williams, High Honors; Brandy N. Willingham, High Honors.

-Bethel Springs - Courtney L. Barnes, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn B. Boggs, Highest Honors; Sara G. Carroll, Honors; Devin R. Holt, Honors; Bryanna M. Huggins, Highest Honors; Christopher A. Lambert, High Honors; Brooklyn P. Lipford, Honors; Jennifer S. Naillon, Highest Honors; Olivia S. Peters, High Honors; Amber N. Powell, Honors; Elizabeth B. Redmon, Highest Honors; Christian M. Taylor, High Honors; Kalla C. Wagener, Honors; Darryl W. Weatherford, Honors.

-Finger - Cesli M. Caraway, High Honors; Drew D. Hemby, High Honors; Cheyanne S. Honey, Finger Honors; Abigail H. Rininger, High Honors.

-Guys - Justin R. Lewis, Honors; Tessa N. Tucker, High Honors.

-Michele - Shelbie L. Fowler, High Honors; China L. Horton, High Honors; Leah T. Johnson, Honors; Stacy N. McCain, High Honors.

-Ramer - Mikayla D. Boswell, Highest Honors; Caitlyn M. King, High Honors; Lauren E. Rhodes, Honors; Patti D. Sauter, Highest Honors; Preston C. Smith, High Honors; Nicklaus P. Wolfe, Honors.

-Selmer - Cassidy L. Ashe, High Honors; Zachary P. Blakely, Honors; Hannah L. Carroll, Highest Honors; Emma E. Foret, Honors; Justin C. Fortune, Highest Honors; Madelyn R. Hammock, Highest Honors; Makayla J. Hill, Honors; William J. Huff, Honors; Jennifer L. Huggins, Honors; Emily A. Johnson, Highest Honors; Rachel E. Johnson, Highest Honors; Will R. Latham, Honors; Lincoln R. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Olivia K. Mitchell, Highest Honors; Ansley M. Moore, Highest Honors; Carlotta Murrell, Highest Honors; Charles M. Rankin, Honors; Hannah J. Robinson, High Honors; Haley L. Sellers, Honors; Cassidy B. Shambeau, High Honors; Rylee C. Smith, High Honors; Ty C. Smith, Highest Honors; Hunter J. Steele, Highest Honors; Kristen N. Wilkins, Highest Honors; Jon M. Williams, High Honors; Kimberly N. Williams, Highest Honors; Averi L. Yalda, Honors.

- Stantonville - Grayson T. Chandler, Highest Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Harnett Student Named To UT Martin Honor Roll

http://www.mydailyrecord.com/

January 13

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 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 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).

Haley R. Davis of Dunn was named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll, High Honors.
Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and breakfast are scheduled

Tickets for the fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and breakfast are still available.

The event, which is sponsored by the City of Martin and the Black Student Association at the University of Tennessee, will be held in the University Center ballroom at 9 a.m. on Monday. Tickets are $5 each and are available at Martin City Hall.

For more information, contact Brad Thompson or Camille Noe at 588-2507 or email cnoe@cityofmartin.net

UT MARTIN TO OPEN SPRING CONCERT SEASON WITH ‘ROCK TUBA’ RECITAL

Several faculty and staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin will join forces to present a “rock tuba” recital at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 17, in the university’s Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts Building.

Dr. Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands and instructor of music, will headline the recital. Dr. Jim Feiser, Department of History and Philosophy; Micah Barnes and Dr. Josh Smith, Department of Music; and Kenny Robinson, WLJT-DT, will accompany Waterman on the guitar, bass, drums and keyboard, respectively.

This recital will not only showcase a unique musical style, but shows the interdisciplinary relationships among UT Martin faculty and staff.

The recital is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

Kickoff meeting and breakfast for MBA are planned

The 2017 kickoff meeting for the Martin Business Association will be held at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 with new UT-Martin Chancellor Keith Carver as the featured speaker.

The meeting will be held in the Champions Club Room in Hardy Graham Stadium. Please enter through the parking lot side door and take elevator to the third floor. Mayor Randy Brundige will officiate the swearing in of the 2017 board members and an overview of upcoming events will be presented. Martin Housing Authority and First Community Bank will sponsor the breakfast.

For more information on the Organization, go to www.martinbusinessassociation.com
UTM graduate scholarship honors late Obion County teacher

Annette Ferguson had a special love for children. As a first- and second-grade teacher in the Obion County School System, she nurtured classrooms full of students from all walks of life and looked forward to the start of each new year.

"Every year before school started, she just really couldn't wait," said her husband, Scott Ferguson. "Some of those children have a real tough time in life, and some of them aren't getting much love and encouragement at home. ... Sometimes she could really do wonders with them. She was an absolute natural at it."

The Obion County native spent 11 years in the local school system before she passed away Sept. 18, 2016, at the age of 57 after a battle with breast cancer. Now, her legacy will help local educators through a scholarship endowment at the couple's alma mater – the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Annette graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor's degree in marketing in 1982, and later returned to earn a master's degree in education in 2005.

She passed her love of life and learning on to students at both Ridgemont and Lake Road elementary schools and was twice selected as the Obion County Teacher of the Year.

Her love of children extended beyond the classroom, however, and encompassed several children's programs at the family church. Annette was a dedicated Sunday school teacher and helped to organize the congregation's vacation bible school activities, as well as driving a bus to transport local children to and from worship services.

“She led by example and helped build a ministry for ‘unchurched children.’ She was an awesome woman of God and she lived and practiced her faith,” said Scott. Scott, who funded the scholarship endowment in his wife's honor, hopes the funds will help current Obion County school teachers pursue master's degrees at the university he and his wife called home.

“I decided to go ahead and do it for master’s degree (students) because that’s definitely somebody who’s going beyond and is really trying to further their education like she did,” he said.

The Annette Sublett Ferguson Graduate Scholarship Endowment will be used to help finance the education of master’s students pursuing degrees in K-6 education, with first preference given to students focusing on grades K-3. Applicants must be current teachers in the Obion County School System and demonstrate successful academic performance. The UT Martin Scholarship Committee will select two students each year to receive equal awards.

Scott and Annette met at UT Martin and ultimately called the area home after settling on Annette’s family farm near Rives.

“She was a preppy ADPi (Alpha Delta Pi) in the business school, and I was a redneck AGR (Alpha Gamma Rho) in the agriculture school. ... I am still amazed she was ever interested in me, although with her 'gentle' encouragement I did go back and earn a master’s degree in economics and have spent a 30-year career in business as a financial adviser,” said Scott.

Annette was the second of three generations of UT Martin graduates in the Sublett/Ferguson family. Her father, Kenneth, played basketball at the University of Tennessee Junior College, and her oldest son, Ben, graduated with an accounting degree in 2009. Additionally, her sister Barbara and both of Barbara’s children are also UT Martin alumni.

Scott and Annette Ferguson have three grown sons, Ben, Dan and Joe, and one granddaughter, Andalyn. Annette is the daughter of Wanda and the late Kenneth Sublett of Union City.

For more information on how to apply for the Annette Sublett Ferguson Graduate Scholarship Endowment, contact the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies at 731-881-7210.
Locals achieve education goals

UT Martin names local students to fall chancellor’s honor roll

MARTIN – The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored with publication of the fall chancellor’s honor rolls.

To be eligible for chancellor’s honor roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the chancellor’s honor roll with honors, high honors or highest honors.

Ashleigh G. Hester, of Lebanon, earned honors. Shelby S. Jacobs-Johnston, of Martin, earned honors. From Mt. Juliet, Joseph Baltz earned honors, Gina F. Beckman earned honors, Loren S. Campbell earned highest honors, Jennifer L. Greene earned highest honors, Tyler J. Hayzlett earned honors, Hunter L. Palmer earned highest honors, Savannah R. Stanley earned highest honors and Erin A. Walsh earned highest honors. Michael P. Singer and William M. Singer, both of Hermitage, each earned highest honors. Kendall A. Spray, of Nashville, earned highest honors.

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

– Staff Reports

UT Martin Classes Resume Today

A new chancellor is welcoming UT Martin students back today for the beginning of the second semester.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver has been on campus for over a week, and finally gets a chance to interact with students at the university he now heads.

Meanwhile, due to the university resuming class on a Thursday, some students, especially those on a commuting schedule, will begin their first day tomorrow.

In other news, some faculty and staff have already been working in preparation for the new semester prior to today.
MLK Breakfast at UTM Monday January 16th

Posted on January 12, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News

The City of Martin and the Black Student Association at UT Martin are presenting the 5th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Breakfast Monday January 16th at 9 in the University Center Ballroom on campus.

Community leaders will attend this event which features music, speakers, and a variety of awards.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, and BSA President Corri Chanel Oliver will welcome guests, and Pastor Jackie Thomas of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church will do the invocation.

Keynote speakers include Criminal Justice major Kameron Echols and retired Westview teacher Beverly Claybrooks.

UT Martin Public Relations says the Harold Conner City of Martin award, BSA torch, and awards by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity will be given to honorees that morning.

Breakfast will be catered at this event.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/
UTM Parsons Center to celebrate 10 years

The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center will celebrate its 10-year anniversary with special guest speakers and a visit from the university's new chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the center. Local supporters Jim and Janet Ayers, co-founders of The Ayers Foundation and donors to the center’s nursing wing, will be present as guest speakers alongside Carver. The Parsons Center continues to see record-breaking enrollment in the current academic year. A mere half hour drive from Benton County, the center offers courses toward degrees in business, criminal justice, education, history, interdisciplinary studies, nursing, psychology, and social work.

The event is open to the public, and alumni, community members, students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend. For more information, contact Parsons Center Director Kelli Deere at 731-847-3880 or kdeere@utm.edu.

UTM names students to fall Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of 30 undergraduates from Benton County who are attending the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with inclusion in the Fall 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Roll for the Colleges of Agriculture, Applied Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Business, Fine Arts, Global Affairs, Education, Engineering, Health, Humanities, and Natural Sciences.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UTM, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (not including pass-fail courses) and achieve a “B” average, or 3.2 GPA based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (GPA=3.2-3.49), high honors (GPA=3.5-3.79) or highest honors (GPA=3.8-4.0).

Benton County students achieving UTM Honor Roll recognition for the Fall 2016 semester include:

Veteran Reconnect Grant to Fund New Services at UT Martin

Published: Sunday, January 15th 2017, 7:39 pm CST
Updated: Sunday, January 15th 2017, 8:00 pm CST
Written by Kyle Hinton, Content Specialist

http://www.kfvs12.com/

Martin, TN - The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as one of six institutions to receive funding through the 2016 Veteran Reconnect program in the fall of 2016. The first of many new resources available to student veterans is the creation of a dedicated veterans' services coordinator.

"We have, in the last several years, been looking at ways to serve our veterans better. ... This grant has opened up many doors for us to provide more services," said Janet Wilbert, director, UT Martin Student Success Center.

The new veterans’ services coordinator is part of the UT Martin Student Success Center and will provide student veterans with a one-stop-shop to address financial aid questions, academic credits, and other concerns.

"This person will pull (existing) resources together and make it much easier for veterans on our campus to be successful," said Wilbert. "This person will also make connections statewide and make sure that UT Martin has access to all the newest and finest resources for our veterans, including resources in the student health and mental health counseling."

The interview process is underway for this new position, and the selected candidate is expected to begin later this spring.

UT Martin currently accepts military credits in place of related academic credits and applies GI Bill funds towards the cost of education.

For more information on the Veterans Reconnect Grant and related services, contact Wilbert at (731) 881-1688.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Monday, January 16, 2017

IN APPRECIATION — Patricia Jones of Chester County (right), a member of WestStar Leadership Program, thanked Friday morning's speakers who addressed members of the organization at a session at Discovery Park of America. Greeting class members were (from left) Union City Mayor Terry Hailey, Obion County Mayor Benny McGuire and Obion County Joint Economic Development Corporation executive director Lindsay Frilling. Class members started the day with a tour of Tyson Foods Inc. and then traveled to DPA in Union City as part of the focus on Weakley and Obion counties for the first session of 2017. The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, who want to help West Tennessee become a better place and who are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.
'FLIGHT' TO WESTSTAR — Jon Ed Powers (left) co-owner, along with his brother, of Final Flight Outfitters Inc. in the Midway community, was one of several local speakers who shared information about Union City and Obion County with members of the WestStar Leadership Program Friday at Discovery Park of America. Union City Mayor Terry Hailey (right) welcomed class participants to the event, as did Obion County Mayor Benny McGuire and Economic Development Director Lindsay Frilling. Former U.S. Congressman John Tanner, University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and Discovery Park of America CEO Jim Rippy addressed the group during the afternoon and the WestStar class enjoyed a tour of DPA as part of its unit on Agriculture/Transportation/Regionalism.

University of Tennessee-Martin honor roll

MARTIN, Tenn. - Keely L. Rountree was named to the honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the fall 2016 semester. To be eligible for the honor roll recognition, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.
A chair labeled for Pat Summitt sits at the end of the Tennessee women's bench before a game against Baylor earlier this season. In addition to the chair, Tennessee players are wearing commemorative patches on their uniforms to honor Summitt, who died June 28.

LADY VOLS NOT ALONE IN HONORING SUMMITT

Harvard, Kentucky among programs paying homage

STEVE MEGARGEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KNOXVILLE - Tributes to former Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt in the season after her death are taking place at the program she built into a national power and on other campuses across the country.

Harvard, Kentucky, Vermont and Division II program Metropolitan State of Denver are among the women's basketball teams that have joined Tennessee in wearing commemorative patches on their uniforms to honor one of their game's greatest ambassadors. Such patches are among the ways the teams are honoring Summitt, who died June 28 at the age of 64 after battling early-onset dementia, Alzheimer's type.

"I am just a big believer in role modeling and mentorship and pioneers. She was one of our best — if not our best."

KATHY DELANEY-SMITH
HARVARD COACH

Harvard, Vermont and Kentucky are among the Division I teams joining Tennessee in wearing commemorative patches to honor one of the game's greatest ambassadors.

Summitt led Tennessee to eight national titles before stepping down in 2012. She was among the few coaches to win a national title in both men's and women's basketball.

"To be honest with you... we all should be doing it," Day said.

See Summitt, Page 9B
April 2012, one year after announcing her diagnosis. She spent the rest of her life leading the fight against Alzheimer’s through contributions that included the development of her foundation and the establishment of the Pat Summit Alzheimer’s Clinic that opened last month at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the clinic was held Sunday.

Tennessee hosts No. 6 Notre Dame on Monday as part of the Southeastern Conference’s “We Back Pat” week that raises awareness of the Pat Summit Foundation. As it has done for every home game, Tennessee will leave a chair on its bench vacant except for a strip of tape with the word “Summitt.”

“I have a tendency to look at the chair every once in a while,” said Tennessee coach Holly Warlick, who played for Summitt and worked as an assistant coach on her staff for 27 seasons. “It’s a visual for me just to understand where I am, what I’m doing and kind of what I’m doing it for.”

But the tributes to Summitt have extended far beyond Tennessee. Not only are a few schools wearing commemorative patches, but many high schools and colleges have conducted their own “We Back Pat” games to raise Alzheimer’s awareness.

“It’s incredible, and really I say that as a fan more than anything else,” said Patrick Wade, the director of the Pat Summit Foundation. “It’s just special anytime you see any kind of testimonial from someone outside our area code. You’re just reminded constantly of how highly people think of who Pat was.”

Some of the schools wearing commemorative patches have ties to Summit.

Kentucky coach Matthew Mitchell worked as a graduate assistant for Summitt at Tennessee. Metropolitan State head coach Tanya Haave and Kentucky assistants Niya Butts and Kyrush Elzy played for Summitt’s Tennessee teams. Kentucky assistant Lin Dunn and Summit are both Women’s Basketball Hall of Famers and Tennessee-Martin graduates.

Vermont and Harvard don’t have such connections to Summit but chose to honor her anyway.

“I am just a big believer in role modeling and mentorship and pioneers,” Harvard coach Kathy Delaney-Smith said. “She was one of our best — if not our best.”

Another tribute to Summitt could have a particularly lasting impact.

Elzy, whose grandmother died of Alzheimer’s disease, started the “SEC Win Challenge” project to benefit the Pat Summit Foundation during the 2012-13 season while working as an assistant on Tennessee’s staff.

During the first year of the project, she and her husband donated $50 to the foundation for every win the Lady Volunteers earned in SEC competition. The next year, she increased the contribution to $100 for every SEC win. All the while, Elzy encouraged fans to make their own contributions to Summit’s foundation.

Now that she’s at Kentucky, Elzy is continuing the practice by donating $100 for every SEC win Kentucky earns.

She increases the total to $200 per win for the SEC and NCAA tournaments.

Wade said the project has raised over $75,000. Wade added that Mitchell already has pledged to donate $2,000 to the foundation for each of Kentucky’s SEC wins this season. Fans have been encouraged to donate money for however many conference wins their own favorite SEC team earns, whether it be Tennessee, Kentucky or anyone else.

“It’s bigger than just Tennessee because Coach Summitt is a national icon and figure,” Elzy said. “With what she brought to the women’s game — the exposure that she brought it — and the classiness she had (that was) second to none, people want to honor her as a person and as a coach.”
PARSONS, Tenn. — In the spring of 2007, University of Tennessee Martin Parsons Center began in Riverside High School with a class of 18 students.

"And now in the spring of 2017, we have a record-breaking enrollment of 340 students, and we have seven total degrees you can earn right here in Parsons, Tennessee." UTM Parsons Director Kelli Deere said.

Students, faculty and staff came together Tuesday to celebrate not only their 10-year anniversary coming up next month but also the first campus visit of the newly appointed 10th UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.

"Geographically this area is very disperse, and for the University of Tennessee at Martin to be able to have these community centers and offer programs from the main campus is a great access vehicle for our students," Carver said.

Even though the University of Tennessee Martin Parsons Center had a record enrollment this year, regarding the growth of their school, staff told us they don't plan on stopping now.

"All of our faculty, staff, students, we will continue to grow, see programs added and just make this center a home of higher education," Deere said.

Dr. Carver says he wants to use his position to not only promote growth within the campus but within the community as well.

"We've got high unemployment rates, we've got population in decline — it's going the wrong way, so really looking at how can Martin be part of the answer," Carver said.

Students at the Parsons Center told us they appreciate the opportunity to get a University of Tennessee education in a place that feels like home.
MLK Breakfast at UTM

Posted on January 17, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News

The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held on the campus of UT Martin Monday brought community members together in commemoration of Dr. King.

Martin Alderman David Belote emceed the event as Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, and Black Student Association President Corri Chanel Oliver welcomed the audience.

Pastor Jackie Thomas of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Martin did the invocation and reminisced about times when African-Americans weren’t treated as equals.

After breakfast was served, History Professor Dr. David Barber announced the upcoming Civil Rights Conference next month and discussed how some matters were difficult for black people after Dr. King’s death.

Senior Criminal Justice Major Kameron Echols and former Westview teacher Beverly Claybrooks spoke before awards were given to honorees.

To close the ceremony, Senior Music Performance Major Johna Jackson sang “Lift Every Voice and Sing”.

Emcee David Belote
Music at MLK Breakfast on UTM campus

Posted on January 17, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News

"In a sense the freedom songs are the soul of the movement. ... These songs bind us together, give us courage together, help us march together."

- Martin Luther King Jr., 1961

Music at the Martin Luther King Celebration and Breakfast at UT Martin was a major factor in the ceremony.

Optometrist Dr. Danny Donaldson performed piano throughout the event Monday, and also when patrons were eating breakfast.

Meanwhile, UT Martin Senior Music Performance Major Johna Jackson performed a couple songs before the keynote speakers came to the podium.

Miss Jackson also closed the event with "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as the crowd sang along with her.

UT Martin grad Jeff Askey wins CBR

University of Tennessee-Martin graduate Jeff Askey battled 23 bull riders and seven 90-point-plus rides through three rounds of competition for the chance to thank the standing-room-only crowd for their hometown support as he accepted the $11,125 check and prize package for his second event win on the CBR's 2017 Road to Cheyenne pro bull riding tour.

Askey packed away 271.5 total points in Jackson, and with his three-ride win he finds himself in fourth place in the CBR World Standings, according to a CBR release. During the course of three rounds and 17 qualified rides, Askey challenged a roster that included two world champions, eight rookies and a seasoned bunch of Championship Bull Riding veterans in front of the annual sold-out show at Oman Arena.

Askey finished the night with two 91 point scores in round one, and an 89.5 in the semifinal round.

"The fast pace is challenging of the three-round format — you don't get much time ..."

JEFF ASKEY

"The fast pace is challenging of the three-round format — you don't get much time ...

The loud sellout crowd was inspirational. Saturday night's performance featured the CBR three-round, tournament-style competition worth over $30,000 to the 24 bull riders competing and $45,000 to the bulls performing alongside in the CBR's Bull Team competition.

The Jackson Sun Tuesday, January 17, 2017
In fall 2011, two Martin-area physicians approached faculty members at the University of Tennessee at Martin to find out how they could become more involved with students hoping to go to medical school. The answer became known as the UT Martin Pre-Med Scholars Program, a two-year job shadowing plan for selected pre-medical students.

Fourteen students are participating in the program during the 2016-17 academic year, and they rotate among two area hospitals and nine local physicians in a variety of specialties, according to a UTM press release. Some students have even been able to observe major procedures such as pacemaker placement and childbirth.

Dr. Nikhil Patel, a Martin-based gastroenterologist and one of the program’s founding physicians, believes this hands-on, behind-the-scenes experience is vital to help students get a glimpse into life after medical school.

“It’s not so much about learning the science, it’s about visualizing what your future is going to be and deciding whether you like it or not,” he said. “(The students) get to see us in the office... We can involve them in medical records and the nursing side, the front desk, hospital rounds and surgeries — so they really get first-hand experience that would be difficult for them to get otherwise.”

Josh Diltz, a senior from Albuquerque, N.M., has completed his time in the program and looks forward to beginning medical school in the coming years. “Being a Pre-Med Scholar... I got to witness first-hand what doctors do and how they interact with their patients,” he said.

Diltz believes the most important lesson picked up during his time in local clinics is the art of a caring bedside manner. “That’s the biggest key, I think, to being a good doctor,” he said. “You can know as much as you want to, but if you’re not able to relate to the patient one-on-one, then it doesn’t matter.”

Many participating physicians also serve as unofficial mentors and advise students on topics such as preparing for the Medical College Admission Test and medical school interviews. Patel and others have also contributed MCAT study materials for student use.

For more information on UT Martin’s Pre-Med Scholars Program and the application process, contact Kristina Pitzi, pre-professional programs coordinator, at (731) 881-7478 or by email at kpitzl@utm.edu.
Workshops for ACT prep

The University of Tennessee at Martin offers several opportunities each semester to help area high school students prepare for the national ACT exam, which is considered when applying for colleges and universities across the nation.

Classes are offered on the UT Martin main campus and at many of the university centers across West Tennessee. All classes meet from 8 a.m. to noon, with a $45 per student registration fee, unless otherwise noted.

The UT Martin main campus will offer a one-day workshop May 20 and a four-week series on Saturdays, March 4-25. The four-week series costs $95 per student.

The UT Martin Jackson Center will offer workshops Jan. 28, March 25 and May 20. Classes will meet at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer on Feb. 4; and the UT Martin Somerville Center will offer a course March 18. The UT Martin Parsons Center will offer one-day workshops Jan. 28, April 1 and June 3, and students at this location have the option to purchase an additional textbook to help with workshop assignments.

UT Martin's contracted instructors will teach test-taking strategies, time-management skills and other tips for taking the standardized test to help both first-time test-takers and those who wish to improve upon a previous score.

Pre-registration is required to attend any course session. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/outreach and navigate to non-degree programs, general classes and your preferred location.
UT Martin announces winter honor roll students

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for 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 achieving honors who asked to be announced in the Weakly County Press are listed below by hometown.

Bradford – Cody E. Miles, Highest Honors.
Collinsville, Ala. – Rachel E. Womack, Highest Honors.
Cottage Grove – Taryn A. Marter, Honors.
Dresden – Allison J. Baggett, Honors; Aleya M. Brent, Highest Honors; Christina M. Chain, High Honors; Nickolas W. Cobb, Honors; Kaitlyn E. Courtney, Highest Honors; Thomas W. Doster, High Honors; Alex L. Dunn, High Honors; Autumn A. Faulkner, Highest Honors; Samantha J. Greeson, High Honors; Leann T. Hensley, Honors; Dylan C. Hughley, Highest Honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Lamb, Honors; Jennifer Matte, Honors; Amy M. McAlpin, High Honors; James C. Palmer, Highest Honors; Colten W. Snider, Honors; Jennifer R. Sommerville, High Honors; Joshua T. Walker, Honors; Amber N. Woods, Honors; Asa C. Woodward, High Honors.

Glasgow – Emily M. Bell, High Honors; Colby S. Brooks, Honors; Drew A. Flowers, Honors; Elizabeth S. Francisco, Highest Honors; Casey J. Greer, High Honors; Tucker D. Kail, Highest Honors; Daniel J. Lampkins, Highest Honors; Teresa N. Little, Honors; Amanda S. Mansfield, Highest Honors; William J. Mansfield, Highest Honors; Breanna N. Martin, High Honors; Christophé W. Mayo, Highest Honors; Claire E. Oliver, High Honors; Avery S. Orr, High Honors; Jonathan R. Riley, High Honors; Austin M. Shafer, Honors; Carson A. Stafford, Honors; Spencer C. Stewart, Highest Honors.

Greenfield – Leasha J. Allen, Honors; Tera A. Alvarez, High Honors; Kristin L. Bates, Honors; Daniel A. Bethel, Highest Honors; Blake A. Brawner, Highest Honors; Brock A. Brauer, Highest Honors; Hunter J. Crouse, Highest Honors; Alle M. Dees, Honors; Mercie L. Eubank, Highest Honors; Brittany M. Evans, High Honors; Victoria D. Galey, Honors; Tannah L. Higginbotham, Honors; Katie M. Kail, High Honors; Holly M. Morris, High Honors; Drake A. Roberts, Honors; Kaitlyn L. Sanders, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Simmons, Highest Honors; Brenna G. Taylor, Highest Honors; Richard M. Willis, Highest Honors; Cassidy M. Wren, Highest Honors.

Martin – Ava M. Abad, Honors; Christopher T. Ablon, High Honors; Shara C. Adcock, Honors; Arelí G. Aguilar, Highest Honors; Chrysele J. Alexander, High Honors; Beth A. Allmon, Highest Honors; Sarah K. Anderson, Highest Honors; Hayden L. Ashmore, Highest Honors; Myron D. Askew, Honors; Lauren E. Baker, Highest Honors; Andrew B. Barnes, High Honors; Kevin W. Bartholomew, Highest Honors; Christopher C. Bass, High Honors; Dinah C. Batchelor, Highest Honors; John C. Bateman, High Honors; Brooks A. Becton, Honors; Ellen L. Bell, Highest Honors; Lakyn M. Bell, Highest Honors; Samuel J. Bell, Highest Honors; Hayli M. Benefield, Highest Honors; Terrence L. Bishop, Honors; Jaquelynn D. Blackmon, Highest Honors; Maggie E. Blackwell, Honors; Tyler A. Bolton, Highest Honors; Brandon L. Bookout, Highest Honors; Kalina R. Borman, Highest Honors; William D. Bratton, Honors; Guy E. Brawley, Honors; Chase R. Breeden, Honors; Reagan N. Brock, High Honors; Brandyn H. Brown, Highest Honors; Christopher T. Brown, Honors; Georgia L. Brown, Highest Honors; Emma R. Bruner, Highest Honors; Grace A. Bruner, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Buckley, High Honors; Jesse Burns, Highest Honors; Brooklyn E. Burrell, Honors.

Abigail R. Butler, Highest Honors; Hallie B. Butler, Highest Honors; Ryan Butler, High Honors; Alex A. Bynum, Honors; Drew S. Cagle, Highest Honors; Cassandra J. Cain, Honors; Tiffany M. Calderon, High Honors; Lakita R. Callahan-Poster, Honors; Casey Collins, Honors; Micah V. Capps, Honors; Heather L. Carter, Highest Honors; Matthew K. Castileman, Honors; Alison E. Clement, Honors; Alyssa J. Clifton, Honors; Amelia S. Coarer, Highest Honors; Courtney L. Coburn, High Honors; Forrest N. Coleman, Highest Honors; Dalton C. Cook, High Honors; Kayla D. Cooper, Highest Honors; Nicholas B. Covington, Honors; Olivia P. Cox, Highest Honors; Amanda M. Crask, Highest Honors; Madison L. Crow, Highest Honors; Megan C. Crow, Highest Honors; Travis L. Crum, Honors; Candace M. Crumby, High Honors; Katelynn E. Cunningham, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Curlin, Highest Honors; Jacob L. Daniel, High Honors; Melanie L. Davis, Honors; Victoria B. Davis, High Honors; Craig M. Dawson, Honors; Adrian E. De Sagon, Honors; Cody L. Diebold, Honors; Joshua M. Ditz, Highest Honors; Stephen L. Downing, Highest Honors; Carson A. Doyle, High Honors; Billy W. Duck, Honors; Susanna C. Edwards, Highest Honors; Thomas S. Elam, Honors; Jerry L. Emmons, High Honors; Jordan R. Epperson, Honors; Emma M. Fieser, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Fieser, Highest Honors; Caitlin L. Flynn, Honors; Lexie D. Forrester, Honors; Nicholas R. Fortner, High Honors; Brookelyn R. France, High Honors; Abigail L. Frazier, High Honors; Adam S. Fuqua, High Honors; Yvannah M.
ors; Jacob R. Last, Highest Honors; James C. Laubach, Honors; Macy K. Leyhve, Highest Honors; Elizabeth C. Lille, Honors; Jordan H. Long, Highest Honors; Katy E. Lowry, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Lund, High Honors; Rebecca E. Lund, Highest Honors; Brandon M. Milatland, High Honors; Andrei V. Malacapay, High Honors; Andrew V. Malacapay, Honors; Taylor P. Martin, Highest Honors; Emma M. Massey, Highest Honors; Brianna K. Maya, Honors; Donovan N. Mayfield, High Honors; James D. McLanahan, High Honors; Stacy K. McGrath, Highest Honors; Nicholson R. McKenzie, High Honors; Destiny S. Meyer, Highest Honors; Spencer W. Meyer, High Honors; William A. Miles, High Honors; Peter J. Moran, Honors; Jessica D. Morris, Highest Honors; Austin W. Mosier, Honors; Autumn L. Moss, High Honors; Zachary G. Moss, High Honors; Ezra F. Nance, Honors; Summar Nassar, Honors; Katelyn M. Odom, Highest Honors; Rachel M. Owen, Honors; Levi J. Owens, High Honors; Brendan T. Page, Honors; James C. Patton, Honors; Ashton B. Pence, Honors; Keaton N. Penick, High Honors; Hannah L. Peppers, High Honors; William A. Perry, High Honors; Michael A. Player, Honors; Hohner K. Porter, Highest Honors; Christopher Z. Postel, Honors; Tyler J. Postel, Honors; Ashten O. Priest, Highest Honors; Amy R. Pullen, High Honors; Alisa M. Quayle, Highest Honors; Patricia A. Ramos, Highest Honors; Robert C. Rayburn, Highest Honors; Justin Reh, Highest Honors; Lee A. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Paul E. Richards, Honors; Kelvin S. Riddle, High Honors; Connor D. Rinker, High Honors; Madison B. Robbins, High Honors; Sydney S. Robbins, High Honors; Timothy C. Robertson, Honors; Jacob H. Robinson, High Honors; Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla, Highest Honors; Brittny A. Rose, High Honors; Ivory L. Russell, Highest Honors; Meghan N. Sands, High Honors; Kathleen Schubert, Honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, Highest Honors; Sylisa L. Scott, Honors; Colton J. Sensing, Honors; LaTessa L. Shane, Highest Honors; Caleb P. Shumake, Highest Honors; Barbara M. Signorelli, High Honors; Catherine R. Skeen, Honors; Brenna S. Slater, Honors; Mallory E. Slaughter, High Honors; Wesley A. Sliger, Honors; Jarrett L. Snider, Honors; Jonathan C. Spencer, Honors; Taylor J. Spencer, Honors; Alexandria N. Stanly, Honors; Alyssa J. Stegall, Honors; Brooklyn N. Steveson, Highest Honors; Madeline M. Stokes, Highest Honors; Collin L. Stricklin, Highest Honors; Amber G. Taylor, High Honors; Darius T. Taylor, Honors; Katelyn M. Taylor, Highest Honors; Marlee N. Taylor, High Honors; Stephanie L. Taylor, High Honors; Jessica G. Tejeda, Honors; Sarah E. Terry, Honors; Chelsea A. Thewatt, Highest Honors; Eliz M. Todd, High Honors; Maryann H. Upchurch, High Honors; Lyndsey B. Vancleave, Honors; Marcus W. Vancleave, Honors; Ellen E. Vaughn, Highest Honors; Madison N. Vaughn, Highest Honors; John L. Vincent, High Honors; Kaitlynn T. Vincent, Honors; Makenzie B. Vincent, Honors; Teddy K. Vincent, Honors; Blake A. Walton, Highest Honors; Dustin A. Warren, High Honors; Sarah J. Webb, Honors; Stefanie D. Webb, High Honors; Sesley A. Welch, High Honors; Summer E. Weldon, Honors; Aaron M. White, Honors; Kathlene M. White, Highest Honors; Mckell E. Wilbanks, Highest Honors; Caleb D. Williamson, High Honors; Nathan E. Williamson, Highest Honors; Koltin B. Winstead, Highest Honors; Luke A. Winters, Honors; Barriana S. Woods, High Honors; Brince L. Woods, High Honors; Jared F. Wortham, Highest Honors; Kassl L. Wright, High Honors; Travis D. Wright, High Honors; Jonathan R. York, Honors.

McKenzie - Sara N. Bradford, Highest Honors; Keaton T. Collins, Honors; Ashley J. Hughes, High Honors; Leslie M. Todd, Honors.

Medina - Ryan B. Hooper, Highest Honors/ Palermisville - Jennifer Alford, Highest Honors; Laura M. Bell, High Honors; Shannon M. Merrell, High Honors; Marissa P. Parks, High Honors; Lauren S. Smethwick, High Honors.

Paris - Dakota W. Parsons, High Honors; Lawrence E. Sims, High Honors; Thomas D. Sims, Honors.

Sharon - Christopher G. Adams, Honors; Taylor N. Alderson, Honors; Andrew W. Allen, High Honors; Emily B. Allen, Honors; Melissa T. Burkeen, Honors; William B. Erwin, High Honors; Rachel B. Melton, Highest Honors; Zachary M. Morgan, Highest Honors; Courtney D. Plunk, Highest Honors; Emily L. Plunk, High Honors; Brandon K. Stacks, Highest Honors; Audrey S. Waterfield, High Honors.

Tiptonville - Ashley R. Ritz, Highest Honors.

Union City - Laribeth A. Bondurant, High Honors.
Local doctors provide cure for pre-med students

In fall 2011, two Martin-area physicians approached faculty members at the University of Tennessee at Martin to find out how they could become more involved with students hoping to go to medical school. The answer became known as the UT Martin Pre-Med Scholars Program, a two-year job-shadowing plan for selected pre-medical students.

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Josh Diltz, a senior from Albuquerque, N.M., has completed his time in the program and looks forward to beginning medical school in the coming years. “Being a Pre-Med Scholar … was a great way for me to reaffirm that I want to become a doctor because I got to witness first-hand what doctors do and how they interact with their patients,” he said.

Diltz believes the most important lesson picked up during his time in local clinics is the art of a caring bedside manner. “That’s the biggest key, I think, to being a good doctor,” he said. “You can know as much as you want to, but if you’re not able to relate to the patient one-on-one, then it doesn’t matter.”

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For more information on UT Martin’s Pre-Med Scholars Program and the application process, contact Kristina Pitz, pre-professional programs coordinator, at 731-881-7478 or by email at kpitz1@utm.
THEC selects UTM for Veteran Reconnect

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as one of six institutions to receive funding through the 2016 Veteran Reconnect program in the fall of 2016. The first of many new resources available to student veterans is the creation of a dedicated veterans' services coordinator.

"We have, in the last several years, been looking at ways to serve our veterans better. ... This grant has opened up many doors for us to provide more services," said Janet Wilbert, director, UT Martin Student Success Center.

The new veterans' service coordinator is part of the UT Martin Student Success Center and will provide student veterans with a one-stop-shop to address financial aid questions, academic credits and other concerns.

"This person will pull (existing) resources together and make it much easier for veterans on our campus to be successful," said Wilbert. "This person will also make connections statewide and make sure that UT Martin has access to all the newest and finest resources for our veterans, including resources in student health and mental health counseling."

The interview process is underway for this new position, and the selected candidate is expected to begin later this spring.

UT Martin currently accepts military credits in place of related academic credits and applies GI Bill funds toward the cost of education.

For more information on the Veterans Reconnect Grant and related services, contact Wilbert at 731-881-1688.

Photoshop course offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin will again offer its popular training course on using Adobe Photoshop software this spring. Classes will meet from 6-9 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 23-Feb. 27, on the main UT Martin campus. The registration fee is $145 per person.

Dr. Tom Gallien, course instructor, brings a lifetime of photography experience into the classroom to show participants various ways to edit digital photos using the Photoshop software. Samples of Gallien's work can be viewed at molliebiscuit.com.

This course is offered once per year, and seats are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registration is encouraged.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/outreach or contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
‘Just stand up’

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

“You have a mark against you: your color,” Harold Conner once told Beverly Claybrooks. “You march on.

“You’ve got to be the best you can be every single day of your life,” he admonished her.

A retired Martin Westview teacher, Claybrooks was one of two keynote speakers at the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration yesterday.

Co-sponsored by the Black Student Association of the University of Tennessee at Martin and the City of Martin, the event drew over 200 civic leaders, students and everyday people to mark and remember King’s legacy.

Claybrooks told the audience that although King’s dream has been realized, it hasn’t yet been recognized. She said

SEE KING, PAGE 2

KING,
FROM PAGE 1
there were civil rights leaders present in the audience.

“I don’t have to Google them,” she said. “There are heroes right here.”

Having faced discrimination early in her life, Claybrooks helped the fight to get new textbooks for black students, and to have a band at the Martin Training Center.

“When you’ve done all you can do, just stand,” she told the audience.

Kameron Echols, the student keynote speaker, said three P’s were necessary for success: a plan, passion and a purpose.

“Vision without action is just a dream,” he said. “Action without vision just fills time. But vision with action can change the world.”

Johna Jackson, a UTM senior music performance major, performed for the audience to a standing ovation and led them in “Lift Every Voice and Sing” at the conclusion of the celebration.

Dr. Henry Parker and James Coleman received the Alpha Ward; Anthony Prewett received the BSA Torch Award and Clara Hamilton received the Harold Conner/City of Martin Award.

LIFT EVERY VOICE — Clara Hamilton (center), winner of the Harold Conner/City of Martin award, was among those singing the final song, ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing,’ at the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on the UTM campus.

Photo by Linda Thurston
Not by the color of their skin
Enrico Wells, Jasmine Coleman (Alpha Award), Anthony Parrish

Johnny and Vera Shanklin
but by the content of their character
The University of Tennessee at Martin recently released an updated web application for students, alumni and community supporters, now available in the iOS App Store and Google Play Store.

The new app gives students access to their class schedules, account balances, grades and holds. Students can also register for classes through the improved application. Quick access to the Blackboard and Canvas learning management systems is also available, as well as access to alumni services, dining services and the UT Martin Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Alumni and community supporters can stay current on the latest UT Martin news, sports and events with the campus calendar and news features. A map feature allows users to locate buildings, departments and other important offices, and find and share directions as needed.

The new-and-improved app version maintains the directory feature to find contact information for students, faculty, staff and administrators. Users can also find Skyhawk sports statistics, schedules and scores; search the online catalog for UT Martin’s Paul Meek Library; listen to a livestream from WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk”; browse campus photography and connect with UT Martin through various social media channels.

Current users should be prompted to update their app automatically. New users can find the latest version in the iOS App Store or Google Play Store.
Pat Summitt honored with memorial game at her high school alma mater

CCCHS hosted a memorial game in honor of Summitt, a 1970 graduate of the school.

The Cubs and Lady Cubs faced off against White House Heritage. The boys lost 61-46 and the girls won 61-46.

Many of her family members, including her mother, Hazel Head, brother, Charles Head, and sister, Linda Head, were in attendance.

“We are grateful to have had a legendary athlete and coach attend CCCHS, and we are honored to have her family here representing and contributing to her legacy,” said Audra Fowler, the school’s dean of students.

The school was recently able to acquire another special keepsake – a signed basketball from Summitt.

During a special ceremony, the basketball was presented to her family and dedicated to CCCHS athletes and their efforts to be winners in every season of life.

The basketball will go in the Summitt memorabilia display, which is in the lobby in front of the gymnasium.

Also during the ceremony, longtime CCCHS coach Jimmy Harden presented the Pat Head Summitt Scholarship to Ashlee Douglas, Summitt’s great niece and a 2014 CCCHS graduate. The $500 scholarship will go toward her education at Austin Peay State University.

Summitt died in June 2016. She was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s disease five years earlier.

She played basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin, graduating in 1974. At age 22, she became the head coach for the Lady Vols.

During her 38-year career at UT, she compiled a record of 1,098-208. Her victory total was the most for any men’s or women’s coach in NCAA Division I basketball history.

While at UT, Summitt won eight national titles and her teams made 18 Final Four appearances.
RHS Band to perform at UTM Honor Band Event

By Melvin Taylor

The Decatur County Board of Education met in regular session on Jan. 12, 2017 at the board office at 6 p.m. Director of Schools Branson Townsend and board members Tommy Haggard, J. Wayne Stanfill, Becky Stanfill, Art Bawcum, Robert Bibbs, Jennifer Black and Athalia Taylor were present. Board members Ashunda Montgomery and Jeff Rhodes were absent.

The board approved the consent agenda which included approval for Riverside Band trips. The band will perform at the UT Martin Honor Band Event from Jan. 26 through Jan. 28. The band will also compete in the All-West Tennessee Performance Competition held in Memphis from Feb. 9-11.

Riverside principal Hugh Smith reported that the school had been focused on improving the ACT English scores for grades 9-11. 72% of the students had either improved or maintained their previous score. The average improvement was 1.76 points. Beginning Jan. 17, Riverside High School will partner with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to raise funds to support research and treatment for blood related cancers. This program is sponsored by Riverside HOSA. In honor of Tennessee School Board Appreciation Week, Decatur County school board members will be the honored guests at the Riverside vs. Perry County basketball games on Jan. 28. Beginning on Feb. 13, Riverside High School will host the District 15A basketball tournament.

Decaturville Elementary School principal Melinda Thompson announced that on Feb. 17 the school will have a Family Fun and Information Night. In honor of Tennessee School Board Appreciation Week Decatur County school board members are invited to breakfast. After the meal the members will be speaking to Social Studies classes to explain their roles in education.

The board adopted a resolution establishing Jan. 12, 2017 as School Food Service Appreciation Day. The board also adopted a resolution establishing Feb. 9, 2017 as School Principal Appreciation Day.

Director of Schools Branson Townsend presented the personnel report which was approved by the board. Reuben Yarbro was appointed Assistant Baseball Coach at Decatur County Middle School. Kameron Herndon, Teres Ivy, Kandi Montgomery, Casey Parrish and Hannah Ratliff were approved as substitute teachers. Andrea Adkins was selected as cook at Decatur County Middle School. Kameron Herndon and Teres Ivy were approved as cafeteria substitutes. Teres Ivy and Kameron Herndon were approved as substitute custodians.

Board chairman Art Bawcum notified the board that the Tennessee School Board Association had reviewed the first sections of the school board policies and had issued their recommendations. Bawcum stated that the board did not have to automatically accept the recommendations and he wanted them reviewed prior to them being adopted by the school system. The chairman appointed a committee to review the recommendations and bring back their findings to the full board. The committee will consist of board member Tommy Haggard, board member Jennifer Black, Riverside High School principal Hugh Smith, Decaturville Elementary School principal Melinda Thompson and Riverside High School band director Scott King. Haggard will serve as chairman of the committee.

Chairman Bawcum presented a draft of the Director of Schools evaluation form. He asked the director and the board members to review the form and bring back any suggestions to the next board meeting.

The next school board meeting will be held on Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at the board of education office.

RHS Band to perform

FROM PAGE A3
The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center celebrated its tenth anniversary on Tuesday. The Center has continued to grow each year and many local students have benefitted from what started as just an idea. Numerous supporters were on hand as Jim Ayers, above, mentioned several members of the community who helped launch this now vital part of our area. Mr. Ayers then introduced UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver describing him as "the right man at the right time." Both Ayers, Carver and Center Director Dr. Kelli Deere also mentioned one of their favorites, Ms. Peggy Chumney, who just recently passed away. Ms. Chumney was a great supporter of the UTM Parsons Center and will be missed dearly by many associated with the Center.
U.S. News and World Report again recognizes UT Martin online

MARTIN, Tenn. - U.S. News & World Report has again recognized the University of Tennessee at Martin's online master of business administration degree as one of the nation's best in their 2017 ranking, released Jan. 10.

The UT Martin program ties for 36th place in the "2017 Best Online MBA Programs" category and is the top-ranked Tennessee institution. Tennessee Technological University is the next-ranked state school at number 65.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated institutions in five categories: student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. Data was collected through self-reported survey answers and peer assessments of similar institutions.

The UT Martin online MBA is offered entirely online with no on-campus requirements. The program is geared toward working professionals and offers enhanced course flexibility to allow students to complete required hours within two years.

For more information on the degree program, contact Dr. Ashley Kilburn, graduate program coordinator with the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs, at 731-881-7245 or akilburn@utm.edu.

Veteran grant to fund new services at UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. - The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as one of six institutions to receive funding through the 2016 Veteran Reconnect program in the fall of 2016. The first of many new resources available to student veterans is the creation of a dedicated veterans' services coordinator.

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For more information on the Veterans Reconnect Grant and related services, contact Wilbert at 731-881-1688.
Several schools honor Summitt

KNOXVILLE (AP) — Tributes to former Tennessee women’s basketball coach Pat Summitt in the season after her death are taking place at the program she built into a national power and on other campuses across the country.

Harvard, Kentucky, Vermont and Division II program Metropolitan State of Denver are among the women’s basketball teams that have joined Tennessee in wearing commemorative patches on their uniforms to honor one of their game’s greatest ambassadors. Summitt died June 28 at the age of 64 after battling early-onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type.

Vermont coach Chris Day said it was an obvious decision.

“To be honest with you... we all should be doing it,” Day said.

Summitt led Tennessee to eight national titles before stepping down in April 2012, one year after announcing her diagnosis. She spent the rest of her life leading the fight against Alzheimer’s through contributions that included the development of her foundation and the establishment of the Pat Summitt Alzheimer’s Clinic that opened last month at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the clinic was held Sunday.

Tennessee played host to No. 6 Notre Dame on Monday as part of the Southeastern Conference’s “We Back Pat” week that raises awareness of the Pat Summitt Foundation. As it has done for every home game, Tennessee will leave a chair on its bench vacant except for a strip of tape with the word “Summitt.”

“I have a tendency to look at the chair every once in a while,” said Tennessee coach Holly Warlick, who played for Summitt and worked as an assistant coach on her staff for 27 seasons. “It’s a visual for me just to understand where I am, what I’m doing and kind of what I’m doing it for.”

But the tributes to Summitt have extended far beyond Tennessee. Not only are a few schools wearing commemorative patches, but many high schools and colleges have conducted their own “We Back Pat” games to raise Alzheimer’s awareness.

“It’s incredible, and really I say that as a fan more than anything else,” said Patrick Wade, the director of the Pat Summitt Foundation. “It’s just special anytime you see any kind of testimonial from someone outside our area code. You’re just reminded constantly of how highly people think of who Pat was.”

Some of the schools wearing commemorative patches have ties to Summitt.

Kentucky coach Matthew Mitchell worked as a graduate assistant for Summitt at Tennessee. Metropolitan State head coach Tanya Haave and Kentucky assistants Nila Butts and Kyra Elzy played for Summitt’s Tennessee teams. Kentucky assistant Lin Dunn and Summitt are both Women’s Basketball Hall of Famers and Tennessee-Martin graduates.

Vermont and Harvard don’t have such connections to Summitt but chose to honor her anyway.

“I am just a big believer in role modeling and mentorship and pioneers,” Harvard coach Kathy Delaney-Smith said. “She was one of our best — if not our best.”

Another tribute to Summitt could have a particularly lasting impact.

Elzy, whose grandmother died of Alzheimer’s disease, started the “SEC Win Challenge” project to benefit the Pat Summitt Foundation during the 2012-13 season while working as an assistant on Tennessee’s staff.

During the first year of the project, she and her husband donated $50 to the foundation for every win the Lady Volunteers earned in SEC competition. The next year, she increased the contribution to $100 for every SEC win. All the while, Elzy encouraged fans to make their own contributions to Summitt’s foundation.

Now that she’s at Kentucky, Elzy is continuing the practice by donating $100 for every SEC win Kentucky earns. She increases the total to $200 per win for the SEC and NCAA tournaments.

Wade said the project has raised over $75,000. Wade added that Mitchell already has pledged to donate $2,000 to the foundation for each of Kentucky’s SEC wins this season. Fans have been encouraged to donate money for however many conference wins their own favorite SEC team earns, whether it be Tennessee, Kentucky or anyone else.

“It’s bigger than just Tennessee because Coach Summitt is a national icon and figure,” Elzy said. “With what she brought to the women’s game - the exposure that she brought it - and the classiness she had (that was) second to none, people want to honor her as a person and as a coach.”
A morning of celebration, reflection and remembrance highlighted the fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Monday in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin’s Boling University Center.

The event was sponsored by the City of Martin and the university’s Black Student Association to honor the memory of slain Civil Rights Movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. An overflow crowd included community members, local elected officials, university faculty and staff and UT Martin students.

Martin alderman David Belote, also a staff member in the university’s Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, emceed the event and introduced Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver for words of welcome and opening remarks. Corri Chanel Oliver, UT Martin Black Student Association president, added her welcome and was followed by Jackie Thomas, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church pastor, who offered the invocation.

Following the meal, Kameron Echols and Beverly Claybrooks served as keynote speakers.

Echols, a senior criminal justice major from Memphis and a volunteer in the Martin Housing Authority’s after-school program, asked the question, “What does it mean to dream with vision and live with passion?” He credits having both a plan and a purpose for his achieving success as he pursues his passion to earn a degree and also make a difference in the community.

“Vision without action is merely a dream. . . . Vision with action can change the world,” he said.

Ms. Claybrooks, an award-winning educator, holds an undergraduate degree from Tennessee State University and a master’s degree from UT Martin. She began her teaching career in Nashville before returning to Weakley County to teach at Sharon Elementary School. After her retirement, she later accepted a teaching position in Hickman, Ky., where she continues her service in the classroom.

Ms. Claybrooks questioned whether Dr. King’s dream has been fully realized and recalled moving as a child from Michigan to Martin, where she experienced segregation first hand. She credited many local black community leaders with pushing for change.

“As younger black students at that time, we didn’t understand what extraordinary, prolific, outstanding, devoted, concerned, intelligent teachers that we had, but we do now,” she said, crediting these individuals with preparing her and others for the challenges they would face in life.

“Yes, the dream has been realized but not recognized to the extent that it should be,” she added. “His dream, Dr. King’s dream, brings freedom in a world filled with national disaster, racism, greed, deception and injustice. But the dream breeds love, love for all of us, for we are all God’s people and the sheep of His pasture.”

Music and award presentations were also featured in the program. Senior UT Martin music major Johna Jackson of Nashville sang two selections accompanied on piano by Dr. Danny Donaldson, a Martin optometrist and UT Martin graduate.

Award recipients were Dr. Henry Parker, UT Martin professor of philosophy, Alpha Award of Merit; Jamesé Coleman, UT Martin senior integrated studies major, Alpha Award of Merit; and Anthony Prewitt, UT Martin Office of Housing, the Black Student Association Torch Award. The Alpha Awards were presented by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

The Harold Conner City of Martin Award was presented by Brundige to Martin resident Clara Hamilton. The award recognizes lifetime service and dedication to the community and is named for the Rev. Harold Conner, the first African American administrator employed by UT Martin after the university was desegregated in 1969.

In addition, Dr. David Barber, associate professor in the Department of History and Philosophy, previewed the 17th Annual Civil Rights Conference, scheduled for Feb. 19-26. UT Martin is one of only two higher education institutions in the country to sponsor a conference devoted to highlighting the Civil Rights Movement.

Brad Thompson, City of Martin economic and community development director, was pleased with this year’s remembrance celebration and said growing participation “tells me that this event is the right thing to do.”

“Each year, it (the celebration) gets bigger, it gets better, and when you have to pull out two more additional tables for an event, that is always a good sign,” he said. “That’s a good problem to have.”
HANDS-ON TRAINING — Dr. Elizabeth Lund (right), a physician with the Surgical Associates of Martin, shows Catrina White (center), a second-year Pre-Med Scholar, how to examine a patient as part of their involvement in the University of Tennessee at Martin Pre-Med Scholars Program, a two-year job shadowing plan for selected pre-med students.

Physicians help next generation in Pre-Med Scholars Program

In fall 2011, two Martin-area physicians approached faculty members at the University of Tennessee at Martin to find out how they could become more involved with students hoping to go to medical school.

The answer became known as the UT Martin Pre-Med Scholars Program, a two-year job shadowing plan for selected pre-medical students.

Fourteen students are participating in the program during the 2016-17 academic year and they rotate among two area hospitals and nine local physicians in a variety of specialties. Some students have even been able to observe major procedures, such as pacemaker placement and childbirth.

Dr. Nikhil Patel, a Martin-based gastroenterologist and one of the program’s founding physicians, believes this hands-on, behind-the-scenes experience is vital to help students get a glimpse into life after medical school.

“It’s not so much about learning the science, it’s about visualizing what your future is going to be and deciding whether you like it or not,” he said. “(The students) get to see us in the office. ... We can involve them in medical records and the nursing side, the front desk, hospital rounds and surgeries, so they really get first-hand experience that would be difficult for them to get otherwise.”

Josh Diltz, a senior from Albuquerque, N.M., has completed his time in the program and looks forward to beginning medical school in the coming years.

“Being a Pre-Med Scholar ... was a great way for me to reaffirm that I want to become a doctor because I got to witness first-hand what doctors do and how they interact with their patients,” he said.

Diltz believes the most important lesson picked up during his time in local clinics is the art of a caring bedside manner.

“That’s the biggest key, I think, to being a good doctor,” he said. “You can know as much as you want to, but if you’re not able to relate to the patient one-on-one, then it doesn’t matter.”

Many participating physicians also serve as unofficial mentors and advise students on topics such as preparing for the Medical College Admission Test and medical school interviews. Patel and others have also contributed MCAT study materials for student use.

For more information on UT Martin’s Pre-Med Scholars Program and the application process, contact Kristina Pitz, pre-professional programs coordinator, at (731) 881-7478 or by email at kpitz1@utm.edu.
ACT prep workshops made available

The University of Tennessee at Martin offers several opportunities to help high school students prepare for the ACT exam. Classes are offered on the UT Martin main campus and at many of the university centers. All classes meet from 8 a.m.-noon.

The UT Martin main campus will offer a one-day workshop May 20 and a four-week series on Saturdays, March 4-25.

For more information about fees or to register, visit utm.edu/outreach.

Korean language class slated at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer one-hour courses in Korean language and culture for all experience levels on Mondays from Feb. 6 - April 24 on the main campus.

The fee is $30 and includes handouts and a student textbook.

A course for beginners will meet at 5:30 p.m. Intermediate-level students will meet at 6:30 and advanced students will meet at 7:30.

Advance registration is required and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit utm.edu/outreach or call (731) 881-7082.

UTM career planning office offers resource for businesses

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Office of Career Planning and Development will help students and alumni navigate the job-search process more effectively and provide training in resume preparation, interview strategies, personal branding and professional networking.

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

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

Students should then be prepared to pursue internship opportunities during the junior year.

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

The office hosts a variety of professional development sessions for students, including resume and cover letter writing, interview strategies and salary negotiation. These sessions help students develop key skills not always included in their course curriculum.

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

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development at (731) 881-7712.
Improved UT Martin web app provides students ease of access

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently released an updated web application for students, alumni and community supporters, now available in the iOS App Store and Google Play Store.

The new app gives students access to their class schedules, account balances, grades and holds.

Students can also register for classes through the improved application. Quick access to the Blackboard and Canvas learning management systems is also available, as well as access to alumni services, dining services and the UT Martin Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Alumni and community supporters can stay current on the latest UT Martin news, sports and events with the campus calendar and news features. A map feature allows users to locate buildings, departments and other important offices and to find and share directions as needed.

The new and improved app version maintains the directory feature to find contact information for students, faculty, staff and administrators. Users can also find Skyhawk sports statistics, schedules and scores; search the online catalog for UT Martin’s Paul Meek Library; listen to a livestream from WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk”; browse campus photography and connect with UT Martin through various social media channels.

Current users should be prompted to update their apps automatically. New users can find the latest version in the iOS App Store or Google Play Store.

Local students tapped for UTM honors

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 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 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).

South Fulton – Austin L. Akers, Honors; Taylor H. Allen, High Honors; Mindy A. Baker, Honors; Samantha E. Connor, Honors; Saralynn Eaves, Honors; Mikaela

M. Hardy, Highest Honors; Jessica R. Johns, Honors; Whitney H. Johnson, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Maxwell, Honors; Caitlyn A. McClain, Highest Honors; James R. Moore, High Honors; Victoria C. Perez, High Honors; Brianna A. Rinker, Highest Honors; Kimberly D. Schwartz, Honors.

Fulton – Sara A. Caldwell, Highest Honors; and Joshua S. Allen, Honors.

Clinton – Matthew R. Morgan, High Honors.

Water Valley – Morgan A. Wade, High Honors.

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

Approves Inter-Fund Loan for UT Martin Somerville Center Renovations

Finance Items
First was Resolution #01-2017 to authorize issuance, sale, and payment of Somerville's inter-fund loan capital outlay notes not to exceed $695,000 for the UT Martin Somerville center renovations. It was noted this would be paid back by rent paid by UT Martin. The board voted approval.

UT Martin Names Local Students to Fall Semester Chancellor Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 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.

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- Arlington - Connor R. Henson, Honors.
- Collierville - James W. Beesinger, High Honors; Haley S. Renner, High Honors.
- Eads - Marena S. Locke, High Honors; Meagan N. Stedman, Highest Honors; Bennett A. Wimberly, High Honors.
- Mason - Jay S. Atkins, High Honors.
- Oakland - Laura E. Adams, Highest Honors; Adam R. Bass, Honors.
- Somerville - Danielle M. Ables, Honors; Ragan A. Avant, Highest Honors; Tristen H. Avant, Highest Honors; Jovontio Bailey, High Honors; Elizabeth F. Burns, Honors; Kavarius D. Hester, Honors; Willie J. McNeal, Honors; Kayla N. Pattat, High Honors; Emily G. Reeves, High Honors; Dedra Shepard, Honors; Dylan T. Skelton, High Honors; Luke N. Switzer, Honors; Mercy M. Switzer, High Honors.
- Whiteville - Hannah J. Tapp, Highest Honors; Kimberly A. Thomley, High Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
City of Martin and UTM Honor Memory Of
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A morning of celebration, reflection and remembrance highlighted the fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Jan. 16 in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin's Boling University Center. The event is sponsored by the city of Martin and the university's Black Student Association to honor the memory of slain Civil Rights Movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. An overflow crowd included community members, local elected officials, university faculty and staff, and UT Martin students. Martin Alderman David Beleto, also a staff member in the university's Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, emceed the event and introduced Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver for words of welcome and opening remarks. Corri Channel Oliver, UT Martin Black Student Association president, added her welcome and was followed by Jackie Thomas, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church pastor, who offered the invocation.

Following the meal, Cameron Echols and Beverly Claybrooks served as keynote speakers. Echols, a senior criminal justice major from Memphis and a volunteer in the Martin Housing Authority’s after-school program, asked the question, “What does it mean to dream with vision and live with passion?” He credits having both a plan and a purpose for his achieving success as he pursues his passion to earn a degree and also make a difference in the community. “Vision without action is merely a dream. ... Vision with action can change the world,” he said.

Beverly Claybrooks, an award-winning educator, holds an undergraduate degree from Tennessee State University and a master’s degree from UT Martin. She began her teaching career in Nashville before returning to Weakley County to teach at Sharon Elementary School. Following her retirement, she later accepted a teaching position in Hickman, Ky., where she continues her service in the classroom.

Claybrooks questioned whether Dr. King’s dream has been fully realized and recalled moving as a child from Michigan to Martin, where she experienced segregation first hand. She credited many local black community leaders with pushing for change. “As younger black students at that time, we didn’t understand what extraordinary, prolific outstanding, devoted, concerned, intelligent teachers that we had, but we do now,” she said, crediting these individuals with preparing her and others for the challenges they would face in life.

“Yes, the dream has been realized but not recognized to the extent that it should be,” she added. “His dream, Dr. King’s dream, brings freedom in a world filled with national disaster, racism, greed, deception and injustice. But the dream breeds love, love for all of us, for we are all God’s people and the sheep of his pasture.”

Music and award presentations were also featured in the program. Senior UT Martin music major Johna Jackson, of Nashville, sang two selections as she was accompanied on piano by Dr. Danny Donaldson, a Martin optometrist and UTM graduate. Award recipients were: Dr. Henry Parker, UT Martin professor of philosophy, Alpha Award of Merit; Jameese Coleman, UT Martin senior integrated studies major, Alpha Award of Merit; and Anthony Prewitt, UT Martin Office of Housing, the Black Student Association Torch Award. The Alpha Awards were presented by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

The Harold Conner City of Martin Award was presented by Mayor Brundige to Martin resident Clara Hamilton. The award recognizes lifetime service and dedication to the community and is named for the Rev. Harold Conner, the first African American administrator employed by UT Martin after the university was desegregated in 1969.

In addition, Dr. David Barber, associate professor in the Department of History and Philosophy, previewed the 17th Annual Civil Rights Conference, scheduled Feb. 19-24. UT Martin is one of only two higher education institutions in the country to sponsor a conference devoted to highlighting the Civil Rights Movement.

Brad Thompson, city of Martin economic and community development director, was pleased with this year’s remembrance celebration and said growing participation “tells me that this event is the right thing to do.”

“Each year, it (the celebration) gets bigger, it gets better, and when you have to pull out two more additional tables for an event, that is always a good sign,” he said. “That’s a good problem to have.”
Dr. Keith Carver, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, offers words of welcome and opening remarks for the fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Jan. 16 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. This marked Carver's first time to attend the event since being named the university's chancellor. Speakers, music and award presentations highlighted the event that honors the memory of the slain civil rights leader.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com

UTM Chancellor Speaks at MBA Breakfast

Posted on January 19, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver spoke to the crowd about his experience being back in West Tennessee at the Martin Business Association breakfast Wednesday in the Champions Room of Graham Stadium.

Dr. Carver says he wants to focus on two areas for UTM.

The first is student success.

The second part is the identity of the university.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and new MBA President Dustin Frazier of First Community Bank also addressed the audience at the meeting.
UT Martin to offer courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer one-hour courses in Korean language and culture for all experience levels on Mondays, Feb. 6-April 24, on the UT Martin main campus. The fee is $30 per person and includes necessary handouts and a student textbook.

A course for beginners will meet at 5:30; intermediate-level students will meet at 6:30; and advanced students will begin class at 7:30. Students will cover the Korean alphabet and basic conversation skills.

Participants will also be invited to the annual Korean New Year party and kimchi festival to experience Korean culture and food with other students and community members. Jisun Collier, course instructor, has taught Korean language courses since 2013 and has a master’s degree as a teacher of English to speakers of other languages.

Advance registration is required, and seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/outreach and select non-degree programs, general classes and the Martin campus. Information can also be obtained by contacting the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

Herron to discuss Southern heritage with historical society

Roy Herron, a Weakley County native who achieved prominence in state politics, will speak to the Weakley County Historical and Genealogical Society on Monday.

Herron, a former Tennessee state senator, attorney and former Methodist minister, will speak about memories of his father, who instilled in him what defines the South, the values that form Southern character.

“Things Held Dear: Soul Stories for My Son,” is Herron’s book about the hopes, dreams and aspirations of a true son of the South.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, Herron is an attorney and businessman who also served as an adjunct faculty member at Vanderbilt, where he earned his law degree.

Herron was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 1986 to fill Governor Ned McWherter’s seat. He was later elected to the state Senate, and served a total of 26 is the Legislature.


Herron will speak at 7 p.m. in the conference room at C.E. Weldon Library. The public is invited.
Polar Plunge to raise funds for Special Olympics

By CHRIS MENEES
Special to The Press

It’s time to take the plunge for Special Olympics.

The sixth annual Polar Plunge will make its chilly return Feb. 11 at Aloha Pools & Spas in Union City.

The Polar Plunge — billed as “Freezin’ For A Reason” — benefits Special Olympics across the state. Locally, funds raised support Upper West Tennessee-Area 7 Special Olympics, comprised of Weakley, Obion, Henry and Lake counties.

During the event, volunteer plungers will lend their support to Special Olympics by jumping into the cool waters of a swimming pool at Aloha, located at 1400 West Reelfoot Ave. A minimum of $50 in donations will earn each plunger an official Polar Plunge T-shirt and bragging rights associated with the chilly endeavor.

Participants are encouraged to wear costumes, with awards to be presented in categories for top costumes and top fund raising efforts.

The Polar Plunges held the last five years in Union City have drawn individual plungers, pairs, trios and even teams consisting of several plungers. They have donned costumes ranging from whimsical old-time bathing suits and long johns to more comical princess, ballerina, Cupid, polar bear and penguin outfits for their brisk dips.

Registration information may be found online at www.polarplunge tn.com. By clicking on the Union City Polar Plunge location, participants may register and begin collecting donations online.

On-site registration will begin at noon Feb. 11 at Aloha Pools & Spas and the plunge will get underway at 1 p.m.

Nearly 30 people have already registered to take the plunge, according to Dr. Clinton Smith, a University of Tennessee at Martin assistant professor of special education who serves as area director for Upper West Tennessee-Area 7 Special Olympics.

He said the goal is to register 50 people and to raise at least $15,000.

Smith said excitement is building for this year’s event, which will benefit Special Olympians in the four-county area that includes Weakley County.

Because of last year’s efforts, local Special Olympics was able to send a basketball team to Memphis to compete in a city tournament, as well as send three athletes and two coaches to the state summer games in Nashville.

“We’re excited to announce our first athlete training nights beginning Jan. 24 and continuing through March. Then we will begin our first season of Special Olympics All Ball that will run the end of March through the first of May. “The funds raised from the Polar Plunge help us be able to provide year-round sports training and competition for the Special Olympians in Lake, Obion, Weakley and Henry counties,” Smith told The Messenger.

The local Polar Plunge is sponsored by Aloha and a number of local businesses, which will be recognized during the event.

Last year’s Polar Plunge raised $7,600 — as well as awareness — for Upper West Tennessee-Area 7 Special Olympics.

Editor’s note: Chris Menees is a staff reporter for The Messenger in Union City. She may be contacted by email at cmenees@uc-
MARKING TEN YEARS — The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center celebrated its 10-year anniversary Tuesday with special guest speakers and a visit from the university's new chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver. Local supporters Jim and Janet Ayers, co-founders of The Ayers Foundation and major donors to the center's West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing, were present as guest speakers alongside Carver. The UT Martin Parsons Center continues to see record-breaking enrollment in the 2016-17 academic year. The center offers courses toward degrees in nursing, education, criminal justice, social work, psychology, interdisciplinary studies, history and business close to home in the Decatur County area. For more information, contact UT Martin Parsons Center Director Kelli Deere at 731-847-3880 or by email at kdeere@utm.edu.

WESTSTAR SESSION OPENS — Jai Templeton, Tennessee commissioner of agriculture and a native of McNairy County, spoke to the 2017 WestStar class Jan. 12 on the UT Martin main campus. The WestStar Leadership Program opened its 2017 session Jan. 12-13 with a discussion of agriculture and transportation issues in West Tennessee.
UT Martin Selmer/McNairy Campus to offer ACT prep courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin offers several opportunities each semester to help area high school students prepare for the national ACT exam, which is considered when applying for colleges and universities across the nation. Classes are offered on the UT Martin main campus and at many of the university centers across West Tennessee. All classes meet from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and the registration fee is $45 per student unless otherwise noted. The UT Martin main campus will offer a one-day workshop May 20 and a four-week series on Saturdays, March 4-25. The four-week series costs $95 per student.

The UT Martin Jackson Center will offer workshops January 28, March 25 and May 20. Classes will meet at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer on February 4. UT Martin's contracted instructors will teach test-taking strategies, time-management skills and other tips for taking the standardized test to help both first-time test-takers and those who wish to improve upon a previous score.

Pre-registration is required to attend any course session. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/outreach and navigate to non-degree programs, general classes and your preferred location.

Good News: Muhn makes chancellor’s honor roll for University of Tennessee at Martin

By Daily Republic staff From page A2 | January 21, 2017

Kendall L. Muhn, who has ties to Travis Air Force Base, made the chancellor’s honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the university announced.

To be eligible for chancellor’s honor roll recognition, Muhn had to take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Pass-fail courses were not eligible.

Former bank CEO now interim director of Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at UTM

January 23, 2017 by WBJJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn.-John Clark, former president and CEO of First South Bank, has accepted a position as interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The chair serves as facilitator to assist regional banks as they address industry-wide issues and frequently conducts research in the area of banking.

The office also hosts the Mid-South Agriculture Finance Conference, which is in its 15th year of existence.
UTM art exhibit interactive

Robotics display combines music, technology and art

THE JACKSON SUN

Visitors to the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery will soon be able to create their own artwork using sound and motion during an interactive display by guest artist Robbie Lynn Hunsinger. The exhibit, called “Visible Sounds,” will open Jan. 31 and run through Feb. 11. A public reception will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. opening night.

Hunsinger’s installation uses custom-coded robotics and hacked game controllers to combine technology, music and art. Visitors can use Wii remotes to “draw” geometric shapes and a virtual drum kit to create art with movement. An audio exhibit also invites visitors to use a microphone to control animation with sound.

Hunsinger began her musical training at age 5 and started her professional career at 14. She has since played with major orchestras and symphonies both nationally and internationally. Her multimedia work began with the creation of a digital soundscape and has evolved into the creation of her own digital instruments, sensors, acoustic sculptures and interactive art using items such as webcams, iPhones and game system controllers.

“Visible Sounds” is a unique experience that provides engagement for all age groups. Children are especially encouraged to participate. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 1-5 p.m. weekdays.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/s

Scholarship Benefit for Late UT-Martin Student

A scholarship endowment benefit dinner will be held for a UT-Martin student, who passed away just two months after receiving his bachelor’s degree.

Family and friends of 24 year old Phillip Trey Lindsey, of Medon, will honor his memory on February 18th at the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

The Southside High School graduate was working a two month summer internship with Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife, when a blood clot sent him into cardiac arrest.

The family said the event is being organized to bring together the major components of Lindsey’s life, which were sports, hunting, wildlife and family.

Former Major League baseball player Adam LaRoche, who is now the star of the “Buck Commander” television hunting show, will be the event’s featured speaker.

Lindsey served as vice-president of the UT-Martin Wildlife Society, and the Phillip “Trey” Lindsey Scholarship Endowment will be used to support academic pursuits of juniors and seniors studying wildlife biology at the university.
Former Bank President Named to UTM Dunagan Chair

Former First Bank President John Clark has been named interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at UT Martin.

Mr. Clark, originally from Jackson, will assist regional banks as a facilitator when addressing issues that affect the banking industry.

The former bank president graduated from UT Martin in 1975 and later established his own banking company in 1986, Sharon Bancshares, which had four locations and became known as First State Bank in 2003.

John Clark served as CEO and President of First State Bank until 2015 when his company merged with Simmons Bank.

Mr. Clark recently announced his retirement from Simmons Bank before accepting this position at UTM.

Clarinet quartet to perform next week

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host the Hijinx Clarinet Quartet at 3 p.m., Feb. 1, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall.

The quartet began in 2015 and aims to provide performances that include new or original music for clarinet quartet while also incorporating other artistic disciplines. Its current members, Jennifer Reeves (UT Martin '12), Shiana Montanari, Elizabeth Johnson and Adam Jones, are all graduate students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln under the instruction of Dr. Diane Barger, Hixon-Lied professor of clarinet.

The quartet's 2016-2017 production season, titled "Introspective," incorporates the original work of composer Joshua Spaulding (UT Martin '15) with photo, video, electronic sound and movement to achieve a more personal connection with diverse audiences.

This project has been accepted for the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors' national conference in Santa Fe, N.M., and for the College Music Society's Great Plains regional conference in Lincoln, Neb.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Dr. Trisha Capansky, of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, recently gave a presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Martin entitled, “Understanding the Declaration of Independence through the Role of the Dunlap Broadside.” John Dunlap, official printer to the Continental Congress, produced the first printed version of the American Declaration of Independence in his Philadelphia shop on the night of July 4, 1776. Dr. Capansky explained the significance of this Broadside as a “birth announcement” for a nation. Capansky and Jim Clark, Kiwanis Club president, are pictured examining a reprint of the Dunlap Broadside.

Interactive exhibit to debut next week

Visitors to the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery will soon be able to create their own artwork using sound and motion during an interactive display by guest artist Robbie Lynn Hunsinger. The exhibit, called “Visible Sounds,” will open Jan. 31 and run through Feb. 11. A public reception will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. on opening night.

Hunsinger’s installation uses custom-coded robotics and hacked game controllers to combine technology, music and art. Visitors can use Wii remotes to “draw” geometric shapes and a virtual drum kit to create art with movement. An audio exhibit also invites visitors to use a microphone to control animation with sound.

Hunsinger began her musical training at age 5 and started her professional career at 14. She has since played with major orchestras and symphonies both nationally and internationally. Her multimedia work began with the creation of a digital soundscape and has evolved into the creation of her own digital instruments, sensors, acoustic sculptures and interactive art using items such as webcams, iPhones and game system controllers.

EXHIBIT, FROM PAGE 1

“Visible Sounds” is a unique experience that provides engagement for all age groups. Children are especially encouraged to participate. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 1-5 p.m. on weekdays.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
MBA selects officers & board

The Martin Business Association is off and running for the new year.
Over 80 MBA members attended the first meeting of 2017 at the Champions Club in the Hardy Graham stadium on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Mayor Randy Brundige inducted the 2017 officers and board of directors and newly named Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver was the keynote speaker. After stating how proud he is to be back at UTM, Chancellor Carver shared his vision for the University and the City of Martin, beginning with a stronger partnership between the two entities.

Carver said he wants Martin to be THE PLACE in Northwest Tennessee when students think about higher education.

Carver is especially interested in partnering and working together with the Martin community and local Martin businesses. He plans to expand the outreach and partnership with the local community and other communities of Northwest Tennessee.

Following Dr. Carver, Brad Thompson, Martin Community Development Director, gave an overview of MBA’s 2017 new plans and reiterated the mission of MBA, which is to coordinate and maximize the efforts of groups and businesses within the City of Martin in order to enhance community awareness of available local resources.

Thompson also discussed the Goals for 2017: Continue to grow membership; enhance marketing efforts; become more event and activity-focused; enhance professional development and educational opportunities; inform members of events and activities of university and community and revamp the MBA mobile app.

“MBA is composed of businesses, individuals and nonprofits who all see the benefit in networking; to enhance community spirit and to encourage the use of available local resources,” Thompson said.

Individuals, businesses, or groups interested in joining MBA are welcome to contact Co-Executive Directors Brad Thompson or Camille Noe about membership. Inquiries can be made through the MBA website, MBA Facebook, MBA Instagram, MBA mobile app or by stopping by Martin City Hall.

MBA can be reached by phone at 731-588-2507 at its website, www.martinbusinessassociation.com.

The 2017 MBA President Dustin Frazier discussed the new meeting structure and the upcoming MBA events. Frazier was eager to kick off the new year and re-brand the Martin Business Association with a new group of board members by his side.

The 2017 MBA board consists of new businesses owners and local community members that area eager to give back to the Martin community and help MBA increase the visibility of our local businesses.
Interim director chosen for chair

John Clark, former president and CEO of First State Bank, has accepted a position as interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Clark, originally of Jackson, graduated from UT Martin in 1975 with a master’s degree in education. He began working with the Bank of Sharon in 1976 and rose to be president and CEO of the bank and board of directors by 1981.

He established a one-bank holding company — Sharon Bancshares — in 1986 and it grew to include four locations: The Bank of Sharon, City State Bank, Weakley County Bank and First State Bank.

Clark consolidated the four bank locations under the First State Bank name in 2003 and remained president and CEO until an official merger with Simmons Bank in 2015. During his time with First State, Clark helped the company grow to oversee two billion dollars in assets and see extensive internal growth across Tennessee.

He also served on the Tennessee Bankers Association board of directors and was awarded the Banking in Excellence Award by the Tennessee Bankers Association in 2008.

“Mr. Clark’s main duties will be serving as a liaison between the university and the financial services industry with focus on community banking companies. He will also be a mentor to students in banking-related courses,” said Dr. Ross Dickens, dean of the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs.

The chair holder serves as a facilitator to assist regional banks as they address industry-wide issues and frequently conducts research in the area of banking.

The office also hosts the Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference, which is in its 15th year of existence, and co-hosts the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending, which is in its fifth year.

For more information, contact Jennifer Schlacht, program resource specialist for the Dunagan Chair, at (731) 881-7350 or by email at jschlacht@utm.edu.

Interactive exhibit to open at UTM

Visitors to the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery will soon be able to create their own artwork using sound and motion during an interactive display by guest artist Robbie Lynn Hunsinger.

The exhibit, called “Visible Sounds,” will open Tuesday and run through Feb. 11.

An opening-night public reception will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Ms. Hunsinger’s installation uses custom-coded robotics and hacked game controllers to combine technology, music and art. Visitors can use Wii remotes to “draw” geometric shapes and a virtual drum kit to create art with movement. An audio exhibit also invites visitors to use a microphone to control animation with sound.

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Clarinet quartet performance slated

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UTM names new chair of banking

Clark is former president and CEO of First State

THE JACKSON SUN

Former First State Bank President and Chief Executive Officer John Clark has been named interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

As chair holder, he will serve as a facilitator to assist regional banks in addressing industrywide issues and will conduct research on banking. The chair also hosts the Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference, now in its 15th year, and co-hosts the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending, which is in its fifth year.

"Mr. Clark’s main duties will be serving as a liason between the university and the financial services industry with focus on community banking companies," UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs dean Ross Dickens said in a statement. "He will also be a mentor to students in banking-related courses."

Clark, a Jackson native, earned a master's degree in education from UT Martin in 1975. His work in banking began in 1976 at the Bank of Sharon, where by 1981 he was bank president and CEO.

Clark established Sharon Bancshares, a one-bank holding company in 1986, which grew to include four locations: The Bank of Sharon, City State Bank, Weakley County Bank and First State Bank.

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During his career Clark also served on the board of directors of the Tennessee Bankers Association, and in 2008 received its Banking in Excellence Award.

UTM online MBA recognized

U.S. News & World Report has again recognized the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online master of business administration degree as one of the nation’s best in their 2017 ranking, released January 10.

The UT Martin program ties for 36th place in the "2017 Best Online MBA Programs" category and is the top-ranked Tennessee institution. Tennessee Technological University is the next-ranked state school at number 65.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated institutions in five categories: student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. Data was collected through self-reported survey answers and peer assessments of similar institutions.

The UT Martin online MBA is offered entirely online with no on-campus requirements. The program is geared toward working professionals and offers enhanced course flexibility to allow students to complete required hours within two years.

For more information on the degree program, contact Dr. Ashley Kilburn, graduate program coordinator with the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs, at 731-881-7245 or akilburn@utm.edu.

UTM offers resources for local businesses

For the Independent Appeal

MARTIN – The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Career Planning and Development allows local businesses opportunities to partner with the university to provide employment and internship opportunities for students and alumni.

Local businesses can post internship opportunities, as well as both part-time and full-time positions in a single location accessible to students.

Professionals seeking to hire students can also search student resumes, schedule interviews and reach out to specific students as needed to fill open positions.

Developing a student internship program includes benefits for businesses such as early training, review of the upcoming workforce and the ability to hire immediately after graduation.

The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will help students and alumni navigate the job-search process more effectively and provide training in resume preparation, interview strategies, personal branding and professional networking.

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

Students will begin engaging with potential employers through informational interviews during the freshman year, followed by job shadowing opportunities during the sophomore year.

Office staff will help students prepare for and pursue these opportunities in order to gain a better understanding of possible career paths and professional expectations. Students should then be prepared to pursue internship opportunities during the junior year.

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

The office hosts a variety of professional development sessions for students, including resume and cover-letter writing, interview strategies and salary negotiation.
Interactive art exhibit opens at UT Martin

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For more info, contact the UTM Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

Clark Named Interim Director Of UTM Chair Of Excellence

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The chair holder serves as a facilitator to assist regional banks as they address industry-wide issues and frequently conducts research in the area of banking. The office also hosts the Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference, which is in its 15th year of existence, and co-hosts the Mid-South School of Advanced Agricultural Lending, which is in its fifth year.
Whaley Graduates From UTM
Sherry Whaley recently graduated from UTM, Magna Cum Laude, with a Bachelor Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She has been employed at UTM for twelve years. She currently works as an Assistant to Ms. McPhearson, Interim Chancellor for Finance and Administration. She is the wife of James Whaley, and the daughter of Garey and Lillian Mosley.

Local educators show UT Martin pride
MARTIN, Tenn., Jan. 20, 2017 - Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, visited Riverside High School in Decaturville Jan. 17 as part of his "Cruisin' with Carver" tour. He met with students and school counselors as well as several faculty members who are UT Martin alumni. Pictured are (l-r, seated) Ruthie Boroughs ('10), Barbara Ivey ('90), Elaine Carrington ('86), Angela Marshall ('02), Kadi Adkins ('10), (standing) Brad Dyer ('96), Josh Eason ('07), Chancellor Keith Carver, David Crockett ('80), Brian Jones ('80) and Terry Turnbo ('91).
The University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a special reception Jan. 17. Employees who have been with the center since its opening in 2007 were recognized during the event and presented with commemorative plaques in appreciation for their service. Pictured are (l-r) Jim Reed, mathematics; Lou Ann Wallace, psychology; Tammie Patterson, educational studies; Lori Brasher, accounting; Kathleen Przybeck, program resource specialist; and John Overton, criminal justice. Not pictured are Judy Duke, visual art; Marcus Hayes, communications; and Drs. Julie Floyd and Mary Radford, nursing.

Ex-banking chief gets UT Martin interim post

John Clark, former CEO of First State Bank, is interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at UT Martin.

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UT-Martin admits 60 DCHS seniors for fall semester

RACHELTOWNSEND
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Early Tuesday morning, Dyer County High School was proud to welcome numerous visitors from the University of Tennessee-Martin, including Chancellor Keith Carver and Undergraduate Admissions Director Destin Tucker.

According to DCHS Principal Laura Brimm, the visit was prompted by the overwhelming number of senior students who have already been admitted to the university, and will begin taking classes during this fall.

Recently, 60 senior students of DCHS who will be attending UT-Martin this fall welcomed UT-Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and Director of Undergraduate Admissions Destin Tucker, who took time to present the students with some basic information about the school.
The Tennessee Higher Education Commission selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as one of six institutions to receive funding through the 2016 Veteran Reconnect program in the fall of 2016. The first of many new resources available to student veterans is the creation of a dedicated veterans’ services coordinator. "We have, in the last several years, been looking at ways to serve our veterans better. ... This grant has opened up many doors for us to provide more services," said Janet Wilbert, director, UT Martin Student Success Center.

The new veterans' service coordinator is part of the UT Martin Student Success Center and will provide student veterans with a one-stop-shop to address financial aid questions, academic credits and other concerns. "This person will pull (existing) resources together and make it much easier for veterans on our campus to be successful," said Wilbert. "This person will also make connections state-wide and make sure that UT Martin has access to all the newest and finest resources for our veterans, including resources in student health and mental health counseling."

The interview process is underway for this new position, and the selected candidate is expected to begin later this spring.

UT Martin currently accepts military credits in place of related academic credits and applies GI Bill
Dr. Keith Carver, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor, offers words of welcome and opening remarks for the fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Jan. 16 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. This marked Carver's first time to attend the event since being named the university's chancellor. Speakers, music and award presentations highlighted the event that honors the memory of the slain civil rights leader.

the memory of slain Civil Rights Movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. An overflow crowd included community members, local elected officials, university faculty and staff, and UT Martin students.

Martin Allenman David Befor, also a staff member in the university's Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, preceded the event and introduced Martin Mayer Randy Brumfield and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver for words of welcome and opening remarks. Cerco Chanell Oliver, UT Martin Black Student Association president, added her welcome and was followed by Jackie Adams. Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church pastor, who offered the invocation.

Following the meal, Kameron Echols and Beverly Claybrooks served as keynote speakers. Echols, a senior criminal justice major from Memphis and a volunteer with the Martin Housing Authority's after-school program, asked the question, "What does it mean to dream with vision and live with passion?" He credits having both a plan and purpose for his achieving success as he pursues his passion to earn a degree and also make a difference in the community. "Vision without action is merely a dream... Vision with action can change the world," he said.

Beverly Claybrooks, an award-winning educator, holds an undergraduate degree from Tennessee State University and a master's degree from UT Martin. She began her teaching career in Nashville before returning to Westley County to teach at Sharon Elementary School. Following her retirement, she later accepted a teaching position in Jackson, Ky., where she continues her service in the classroom.

Claybrooks questioned whether Dr. King's dream has been fully realized and recalled seeing as a child from Michigan to Martin, where she experienced segregation first hand. She credited many local black community leaders with pushing for change. "As younger black students at that time, we didn't understand what extraordinary, prolific, outstanding, devoted, concerned, intelligent teachers that we had, but we do now," she said, crediting these individuals with preparing her and others for the challenges they would face in life.

"Yes, the dream has been realized but not recognized to the extent that it should be," she added. "His dream, Dr. King's dream, brings freedom in a world filled with national disaster, racism, greed, deception and injustice. But the dream breeds love, love for all of us, for we are all God's people and the sheep of his pasture."

Music and award presentations were also featured in the program. Senior UT Martin music major Jaha Jackson of Nashville, sang two selections as she was accompanied on piano by Dr. Danny Donaldson, a Martin ophthalmist and UT Martin graduate. Award recipients were: Dr. Henry Parker, UT Martin professor of philosophy; Alpha Award of Merit, Janese Coleman, UT Martin senior integrated studies major; Alpha Award of Merit, and Anthony Pressey, UT Martin Office of Housing, the Black Student Association Torch Award. The Alpha Awards were presented by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.
Clark named to UTM chair of excellence in banking

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For more information, contact Jennifer Schlicht, program resource specialist for the Dunagan Chair, at 731-881-7350 or by email at jschlicht@utm.edu.
Benefit to fund Phillip ‘Trey’ Lindsey scholarship in graduate’s memory

Family and friends of Phillip Trey Lindsey of Medina will honor his memory with a benefit dinner to fund a scholarship endowment in his name. The event will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 18 in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Duncan Ballroom, located inside the Boling University Center. Lindsey passed away July 12, 2016, at the age of 24, two months after receiving his bachelor's degree from UT Martin.

The event will bring together sports, hunting, wildlife, family and friends of Lindsey to honor his dedication to those around him. Adam LaRoche, former Major League Baseball player and star of the “Buck Commander” television show, will be the evening’s featured speaker.

The event will also include silent auctions of sports memorabilia and outdoor products.

Lindsey was born May 7, 1992, to John and Lisa Lindsey, and was a 2010 graduate of Southside High School in Jackson. After studying wildlife biology at UT Martin, Lindsey accepted a two-month summer internship position as a research technician for the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Southwest Nebraska Pheasant Research Project.

While being treated at a local hospital for swelling in his leg, a blood clot sent Lindsey into cardiac arrest. Medical personnel were unable to revive him.

Lindsey served as vice president of the UT Martin Wildlife Society and was dedicated to the expansion and promotion of the organization. The Phillip “Trey” Lindsey Scholarship Endowment will be used to support the academic pursuits of eligible juniors and seniors studying wildlife biology at UT Martin. Graduates of Southside High School will be given preference during the selection process.

Those interested in attending the benefit dinner may purchase a half table (seating four people) for $350, or a full table (seating eight people) beginning at $650.

Higher sponsorship levels are available and include possible meet-and-greet opportunities with LaRoche prior to his presentation.

Individual tickets are not available at this time; however, those interested in purchasing an individual seat can be added to a waiting list.

All ticket and auction proceeds will be used to fund the scholarship endowment.

For more information or to express interest in an individual ticket, contact John Lindsey at 731-217-7187 or jl8802@att.com.
Hughes to speak at conference

Scottie Nell Hughes, a news director, American journalist and political commentator, will be among the speakers at the Working Women's Conference in February.

Hughes, a UT Martin communications graduate, has appeared on CNN, O'Reilly Factor, Hannity, Fox & Friends, The Real Story and numerous other TV shows. Her topic will be "Taking Center Stage of Your Life."

The conference will be held Friday, Feb. 10, at the UT Martin Ballroom. The event begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

Other presenters will include Dawn Garofalo, owner of Bravo Hair Gallery & Color Bar in Jackson; Dr. Lolly Eldridge, OB/Gyn, Jackson Clinic; Kimberly Rush, aesthetician with Nordstar Medical Skincare & Laser Center in Jackson; Heidi Shafer, Shelby County Commissioner and chief marketing officer with Flinn Clinic; Gerry Scholes, owner of Maggie’s Boutique in Paris; Dr. Teresa Collard, associate communications professor at UT Martin; and Dr. Lisa LeBlanc, professor, Department of Family & Consumer Sciences at UT Martin.

The conference, entitled "Lights, Camera, Action," will be emceed by Dee Henderson, executive director for institutional advancement at Jackson State Community College and a 2002 graduate of WestStar.

To register contact jjone239@utm.edu. The deadline to RSVP is Feb. 1.

STATE GAZETTE | THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

SENIORS

Continued from Page 1

"High school seniors have put in years of hope of being able to continue their education at a college or university. We are thrilled to celebrate the 60 members of DCHS class of 2017 who have been admitted to the University of Tennessee at Martin. We wish the best of luck to these students and all members of this year's graduation class," stated DCHS Principal Laura Brimm.

Students met with Carver, Tucker, and various other members of the UT-Martin administrative staff in the commons area of the high school where they were presented with some basic information about the university, as well as helpful advice for students still undecided about what course of study to major in, or where to start.

Tucker also discussed orientation, and the process that students would need to follow before beginning classes, including a consultation with one of the university's student advisors and information about obtaining books.

Closing the presentation, Carver illustrated to students the overall dynamic of the Martin campus, as well as the city.

"You're going to know your professors, you are going to know your fellow students and the student body. Not only are you going to be seeing these people on campus, but also you will see them at the grocery store and the movie theater. Martin is a place where people are going to know your name. I also want to tell you that when you come to UT-Martin, you ARE going to graduate. Our graduation rates are among the best in the state," stated Carver.

Following the event, Carver stated, "It was a pleasure to visit with the students, faculty and administration at Dyer County High School. We are grateful for the long-standing relationship between UT Martin and Dyer County and we know that the students we receive from DCHS will be well-prepared to succeed in their college studies."
UTM offers ACT prep classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin offers several opportunities each semester to help area high school students prepare for the national ACT exam, which is considered when applying for colleges and universities across the nation.

UTM's contracted instructors will teach test-taking strategies, time-management skills and other tips for taking the standardized test to help both first-time test-takers and those who wish to improve upon a previous score. Saturday workshops are offered on the UTM main campus and at the four university centers across West Tennessee. All classes meet from 8 a.m.-noon, and the registration fee is $45 per student unless otherwise noted.

In addition to the single day workshops, the UTM main campus will offer a four-week series on Saturdays in March (March 4, 11, 18, and 25), which costs $95 per student. Pre-registration is required to attend any course session. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/outreach and navigate to non-degree programs, general classes, and choose your preferred location.

*Note: Students taking the ACT prep classes at the UTM Parsons Center have the option to purchase an additional textbook to help with workshop assignments.

UTM Saturday workshops include:
Jan. 28 - Jackson Center or Parsons Center*
Feb. 4 - McNairy County Center in Selmer
March 18 - Somerville Center
March 25 - Jackson Center
April 1 - Parsons Center*
May 20 - Jackson Center or Main Campus
June 3 - Parsons Center*

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"Visible Sounds" is a unique experience that provides engagement for all age groups. Children are especially encouraged to participate. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 1-5 p.m. on weekdays. For more information, contact UTM at 731-881-7400.

Locals complete studies at UT Martin

Several Benton County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during 2016 fall commencement, held Saturday, Dec. 10, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UTM campus in Martin.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees included Kristina Morganne Reed of Holladay, From Camden were graduates Brianna P. Berry, Destiny Lachelle Greenarch, Ashby Jae Reed, and Bronte Alissa Ward.
Martin's main man

Keith Carver, the recently-appointed chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, speaks to a group of students from Henry County High School who have been accepted into UTM during a visit to HCHS Thursday morning. Carver began as chancellor in early January and joked with the students that if they were to attend UTM, they — and he — would all be freshmen together. Carver replaced interim chancellor Bob Smith.
Interactive Art Exhibit Planned

Visitors to the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery will soon be able to create their own artwork using sound and motion during an interactive display by guest artist Robbie Lynn Hunsinger. The exhibit, called “Visible Sounds,” will open January 31st and run through February 11th. A public reception will be held from 5 p.m. through 6:30 p.m. on opening night.

Hunsinger’s installation uses custom-coded robotics and hacked game controllers to combine technology, music and art. Visitors can use Wii remotes to “draw” geometric shapes and a virtual drum kit to create art with movement. An audio exhibit also invites visitors to use a microphone to control animation with sound.

Hunsinger began her musical training at age five and started her professional career at 14. She has since played with major orchestras and symphonies both nationally and internationally. Her multimedia work began with the creation of a digital soundscape and has evolved into the creation of her own digital instruments, sensors, acoustic sculptures and interactive art using items such as webcams, iPhones and game system controllers. “Visible Sounds” is a unique experience that provides engagement for all age groups. Children are especially encouraged to participate. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 1 p.m. through 5 p.m. on weekdays.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

LINDSEY BOWIE, daughter of Stan and Pam Bowie, of Halls, graduated cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin December 10th with a bachelor of science degree in natural resource management with a concentration of park administration. She currently works as the wildlife educator for the Discovery Park of America in Union City. Lindsey is a 2013 graduate of Halls High School.
Resources Offered For Local Businesses

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

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

Developing a student internship program includes benefits for businesses such as early training, review of the upcoming workforce and the ability to hire immediately after graduation.

The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will help students and alumni navigate the job-search process more effectively and provide training in resume preparation, interview strategies, personal branding and professional networking. These additional training opportunities will produce potential employees who are more prepared for the demands of professional life, benefiting employers in the long run.

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

"By connecting students to employers through informational in-

terviews, job shadowing and internships, we hope to develop a pipeline of full-time candidates for regional employers," said Katie Mantooth, assistant director of career planning and development.

The office hosts a variety of professional development sessions for students, including resume and cover-letter writing, interview strategies and salary negotiation. These sessions help students develop key skills not always included in their course curriculum. The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development is funded by the Soar in Four program, which encourages students to graduate in four years.

For more information, business representatives can contact the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development at 731-881-7712.
Enrollment has gone down at the University of Tennessee at Martin each of the past six years.

New UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said he and his staff are going to put all their energy toward increasing enrollment; 6,700 students are currently enrolled at UT Martin.

"(We're) looking at not only how we recruit students and the work we do in trying to attract them to campus, but what are we doing to retain them — are they getting the good advising and counseling they need to be able to move through 12 to 24 to 36 hours to matriculate through and graduate on time," Carver told the crowd at Jackson Rotary on Wednesday.

Carver, who started as chancellor Jan. 3, visited Jackson in the latest stop of his six-week West Tennessee tour.

Carver said the main goal of this tour is to advocate for UT Martin. He has visited with principals, teachers, guidance counselors and potential students throughout the region.

He has also met with local and state officials, and UT Martin alumni donors.

Before taking the chancellor's position, Carver served as executive assistant to the UT president since January 2011, and has spent the last 19 years in numerous positions at UT campuses in Martin, Knoxville and Memphis.

For Carver, fixing the problems at UT Martin goes back to student success.

He said he believes that means recruiting students to UTM as early as their freshman year in high school.

"Admissions is one way to work with enrollment, and attention is another," Carver said. "Then actually bringing in applicants and accepted students to campus and making sure they have what they need to graduate on time, and they have the support structures that they need."

Visibility and involvement with the community are other aspects Carver wants to improve at UTM.

"The hallmark of a great public college is engaging in the region," Carver said. "Looking at the unemployment rate and declining population — how can we be part of connecting with our community, staff and students in engaging ways where we can be part of (the) solution and team moving toward the future."

Identifying problems is only solving part of the issue. Fixing them will ultimately determine the level of success Carver will have at UT Martin.

When he was one of four finalists for chancellor, Carver wrote his dissertation about failed university presidents.

Carver said in every case each president failed to build the right team around them.

"The big thing is identifying people who can do the job," Carver said, "who have the skills and competency to do the job, but also looking at people who are a great fit for rounding out your team."

Three weeks into his new role, Carver said it's a blessing to be back "home." He and his wife, Hollianne, are both from rural West Tennessee.

"It's been great to be back around old friends and family, and making a lot of new friends," Carver said. "It's an institution I love and really identify with."

Reach Omer Yusuf at oyun@jacksonsun.com. Follow him on Twitter: @OmerAYusuf
Cups for the Cure helps fight cancer

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Cups for the Cure as part of World Cancer Day, from 2-4 p.m. Feb. 4, at the UT Martin Wesley Foundation.

Cups for the Cure will be selling handmade ceramic cups and mugs for a $15 donation. One hundred percent of funds raised will go toward local cancer foundations and provide direct economic support to cancer patients in need.

Cancer impacts many in the community and can create an economic burden for patients.

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

The event is open to the public, and hot beverages and desserts will be available. The UT Martin Wesley Foundation is located at 512 Lovelace Ave., in Martin. For more information, contact McBeth at (731) 881-7416.

UT-Martin Professor Honored

Posted on January 31, 2017 by Charles Choate in Local News

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

The University of Tennessee has awarded a President's Award to a UT-Martin professor.

Dr. Jason Roberts, an associate professor of animal science, was nominated in the "Educate" category, which honors accomplishments that enhance educational offerings and diverse learning environments.

The series of awards was created in 2016 to honor UT employees, and was placed into four categories accordance to the universities mission statements.

Dr. Roberts is the director and co-founder of the UT Martin veterinary technology program, and director of the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostics Lab.

UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro will present the President's Awards following his State of the University of Tennessee address on February 21st in Nashville.
Hollianne Carver enters role as UT Martin FirstLady

Published: Tuesday, January 31st 2017, 8:30 am CST
Updated: Tuesday, January 31st 2017, 3:20 pm CST
Written by Don Frazier, Photojournalist

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

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

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

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

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

The couple's three children - daughter, Carson, 18; and sons, Jack Thomas, 15; and Britton, 11 - will join Keith in Martin at the end of the school year.

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

"It's a team effort," she said. "I believe in him. I believe in what he does, and when you love somebody you want to support them."

The UT Martin chancellor's position was officially posted last year, and the Carver family joined in prayer when deciding whether or not to take the leap.

"We were excited, cautiously optimistic, a little afraid. It's a lot to think about," she said. "We prayed diligently for God to open the doors - clearly open the doors - to where we were supposed to be and to shut those that were not the right path. We were excited and anxious and very, very prayerful."

Hollianne and Keith met while students at Memphis State University and married in August 1995, shortly after graduation. She has a Bachelor's Degree in education from Memphis State University and a Master's Degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She taught pre-kindergarten through eighth grade for 11 years.

"I chose education because I love working with children," she said. "I get a lot of energy from them, and it was just where I felt like my niche was. I think of myself as a kindergarten teacher...it's a fun age. I love them. They're fun, and it's all brand-new, and they love you."

She also taught as an adjunct instructor in the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies for a short time before the couple made the move to eastern Tennessee in 2010. She has also done grant work for the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The Carver's love of UT Martin and the western Tennessee region is evident through their dedication to the university and surrounding communities.

"For me and Hollianne, returning to our heritage at UT Martin and our family connections in West Tennessee is our homecoming 2017," Keith said. "We look forward to the opportunity to build strong alliances with the students, faculty, staff and the region, and we are glad to be home with old friends and are ready to make new ones...Hollianne and I look forward to the beginning of our journey, together, with the extended family at the University of Tennessee at Martin."

UTM Winter Blood Drive

Posted on January 31, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News

Residents wanting to donate blood have an opportunity at UT Martin's Lifeline Winter Blood Drive beginning Tuesday from 9 until 4 at the University Center.

Registration tables will be located near the bookstore inside the building, while Lifeline Blood Services vans will be waiting for donors outside.

This event will also continue Wednesday from 9 until 4 on campus, and persons giving blood will receive a free t-shirt and a chance to win a vacation cruise.

A photo ID is necessary to participate in this event.
Wearing his school colors— a blue, button down shirt and orange bowtie - new Univ. of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver visited Milan last week, one of several stops on a “Cruisin’ with Carver” tour.

Dr. Carver, who has held many positions on UT campuses in Martin, Knoxville and Memphis, began his new UTM job Jan. 3. His “Cruisin’ with Carver” tour is making visits to several cities - from Nashville and Memphis, to Jackson, Clarksville and Parsons. One of his priorities is meeting with faculty, staff and students at five UTM satellite centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

He also wants to touch base with donors, alumni, potential students and media members across West Tennessee. Last week he participated in an interview at the Victory 93.7 radio station.

UTM’s enrollment has declined the past six years, reflecting a population decline in West Tennessee. Nearly 70 percent of UTM’s enrollment comes from West Tennessee.

Dr. Carver, a Crockett Co. native, said he and his staff are devoting efforts to increase enrollment from the current 6,700 students.

“When you look at rural West Tennessee, the population is in decline,” said Dr. Carver, 46. “There are not as many of those 18 year-olds going to college as there were ten or twenty years ago. So it is competitive (for UTM). Memphis wants them, (as does) Austin Peay, Middle Tennessee, Knoxville. Regionally, we’ve got some out of state competitors as well. When you couple that with some of the online and private school offerings, we’ve got to be smart about how we recruit.”

“If the Tennessee Promise (state program providing tuition students to attend junior colleges) coming on and free community college, we agree wholeheartedly with the governor that attainment is a great thing, so what we’ve done is ramped up the recruitment end on the other side of that.” UTM is adapting to recruit junior college grads by offering junior and senior year courses, Carver said. Some of UTM’s popular programs are Agriculture, Business Management, Engineering, Health & Human Performance, and Nursing.

UTM works to provide accessible education for non-traditional students (over 25 years old), which account for one-fifth of the school’s student population, said UTM staff.

UTM is in the first year of a Soar in Four program, which encourages students to take 15 course hours per semester in order to graduate in four years and save costs of extra tuition and fees.

UTM’s economic impact on West Tennessee was measured at $481.1 million in 2014-15, according to a study.

Dr. Carver, executive assistant to the UT President since 2011, has served in various roles at UT campuses, including as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, and assistant vice chancellor for development at UTM.

He held several positions at UT Knoxville, including asst. director and director of development and alumni affairs for the College of Law.

Chancellor Carver has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the Univ. of Memphis, a master’s degree in college student personnel and educational leadership from UT Knoxville and doctoral degree from UT Knoxville.

He said it means a lot to come “home” to West Tennessee in his new job. “I can certainly identify with the students in this region and (am excited about) what UT Martin can mean for the future of, not only the students, but also what Martin can add to the greater community (in) providing education to all of West Tennessee,” he said.

Dr. Carver is a native of Alamo. He and his wife, Hollianne, a Lexington native, are the parents of a daughter, Carson, and two sons, Jack Thomas (J.T.) and Britton.
UT Martin Names Local Students to Fall Semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

MARTIN — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 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 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).

- Atwood — Allie E. Cunningham, Highest Honors; Laura B. Kilten, Highest Honors; Cassidy N. Sheehan, Honors.
- Bruenton — Sarah E. Barmhart, Honors; Abigail P. Pierce, High Honors; Amanda L. Stockdale, High Honors; Grace A. White, Honors; Michael P. Young, Honors.
- Buena Vista — Trevor A. Hall, High Honors.
- Cedar Grove — Mackenzie J. Clark, High Honors; Tyler D. Kelly, Highest Honors.
- Huntingdon — Haley M. Baker, Honors; Brianna Bartholomew, Honors; Sydney N. Batte, Highest Honors; Kayla N. Boyd, Highest Honors; John T. Burlison, High Honors; Morgan E. Cagle, Honors; Courtney J. Caton, High Honors; Jessica J. Davis, High Honors; Savannah C. Dodson, High Honors; Brett A. Hampton, Highest Honors; Daryl O. Hawkins, Highest Honors; Grace E. Hilliard, Highest Honors; Taylor L. Hilliard, High Honors; Megan J. Jarrett, High Honors; Ethan E. Maddox, High Honors; Kirr T. Maddox, Honors; McCord K. Maddox, High Honors; Leah M. Martin, Highest Honors; Morgan T. McMackin, High Honors; Benjamin J. Reiter, Honors; Heather R. Trevathan, Highest Honors; Jacob L. Warbritton, Highest Honors; Ashley C. Webb, High Honors; Caroline E. Williams, High Honors.
- Martin — Ellen L. Bell, Highest Honors; Brandon L. Bookout, Highest Honors; Ryan Butler, High Honors; Victoria B. Davis, High Honors; Jamal N. Glenn, Honors; Jennifer T. Hames, Honors; Carly B. Johnson, High Honors; Michael T. Keenan, High Honors; Emily A. Sanford, Highest Honors; Madeline M. Stokes, Highest Honors.
- McKenzie — Christine G. Aden, Highest Honors; Anna E. Anderson, Highest Honors; Ashley J. Barker, Highest Honors; Lexie N. Bolin, Highest Honors; Sara N. Bradford, Highest Honors; Juan Calderon, Highest Honors; Gaye L. Coleman, Highest Honors; Keaton T. Collins, Honors; Casey M. Cox, High Honors; Brianna N. Douglas, Honors; Rachel L. Edlin, Highest Honors; Allison S. Garrett, Honors; Ashley J. Hughes, High Honors; Morgan A. Klinzing, Honors; Breanne N. Lipford, Honors; Noah M. Lowrance, High Honors; Austin J. Maxwell, Highest Honors; John A. Oakley, Honors; Jacob H. Owen, High Honors; Sydney M. Patterson, Highest Honors; Katelyn D. Ridley, Highest Honors; Lucas K. Robertson, High Honors; Thomas A. Sam, High Honors; Emily K. Scott, Highest Honors; Emily B. Seaton, High Honors; Brooke A. Spivey, High Honors; Leslie M. Todd, Honors; Sarah E. Warren, Honors.
- McLemoresville — Morgan A. Lawrence, High Honors; Jilliane D. Moncrief, High Honors.
- Oakfield — Mikaela A. Miles, Highest Honors.
- Trezevant — Michael R. Andrews, High Honors; Matthew G. Austin, Honors; Doris E. Brown, High Honors; Tierra N. Williams, High Honors; Brittney L. Wilson, Highest Honors; Garrett L. Wright, High Honors.
- Yuma — Taylor L. Hays, Highest Honors; Brianna F. McClure, Highest Honors; Madison L. McClure, Highest Honors; Kelcie L. Singleton, Highest Honors.
NTEC workshops help businesses grow into companies

The Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center (NTEC), the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund, LLC and the University of Tennessee Martin have created the Skyhawk Entrepreneurial Vision Workshop series to teach business owners how to create sustainable business models.

On Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m., from February 9 until March 30, participants will learn from successful entrepreneurs how to identify the customer problem and find the solution; how to create a business model; how to work with a business team and how to pitch a business plan. The Feb. 9 session will begin at two hours earlier, at 4 p.m., and end at 8 p.m.

“I am excited about this joint project of NTEC, the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund and UTM to foster high-quality business ventures that will benefit our rural communities’ economic development,” said Carol Reed, executive director of NTEC.

The first event took place in the fall of 2016, with more than 80 different entrepreneurs participating in the workshops, each of which was designed to teach how a business concept can grow into a sustainable company.

“It is amazing how the material applied to so many discipline areas,” said participant Gaye Coleman.

The series will be held at the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business & Global Affairs Building, Room 33. Workshop materials and a light meal will be included each night free of charge with an RSVP. Residents of Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky may attend the workshops, which are free with registration.

Register online at ntecconnect.com or contact Reed at Carol.Reed@nwtd.org or 731.587.4213 ext.275.

This project is funded in part by Launch Tennessee.

‘Cups for the Cure’ to be held Saturday

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

Cups for the Cure will be selling handmade ceramic cups and mugs for a $15 donation. One hundred percent of funds raised will go toward local cancer foundations and provide direct economic support to cancer patients in need.

Cancer impacts many in the community and can create an economic burden for patients.

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

The event is open to the public, and a variety of hot beverages and desserts will be available. The UT Martin Wesley Foundation is located at 312 Lovelace Ave. in Martin.

For more information, contact McBeth at 731-881-7416.

KIWIANIAN OF THE YEAR — Anita Bell, immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, recently named Anna Clark as Kiwanian of the Year for 2015-16. Bell made the announcement at the Jan. 25 meeting of the club and presented Clark with a plaque. Clark is a faculty member in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at UT Martin, where she is also co-coordinator of the Hortense Parrish Writing Center. A resident of Martin since 1981, Clark recognizes the value of community service. She said, “I love being part of a group where the focus is children and youth. I enjoy working side by side with others to help improve the world one child and one community at a time.”
Roberts receives President's Award

The University of Tennessee System has awarded Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science at the University of Tennessee at Martin, a 2017 University of Tennessee President's Award.

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

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

Roberts, nominated in the “Educate” category, is director and co-founder of UT Martin’s veterinary technology program and director of the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostics Lab, which provides support to local livestock producers and veterinary profession-
als in the case of unknown animal death.

Roberts holds a bachelor of science from UT Martin and received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

He began his work with the UT Martin faculty in 2009 and was promoted to his current rank in 2013.

Roberts was instrumental in the design of UT Martin’s veterinary health technology program in 2010, and his efforts led directly to the program’s successful accreditation in 2014.

He is also a primary educator in the pre-veterinary science program, which has seen record-breaking numbers of veterinary school acceptances in recent years.

“Dr. Roberts is unquestionably a terrific educator and ambassador for UT Martin pre-veterinary students. He has worked tirelessly to make a difference in students’ lives both in the classroom and in their career advancements in both the pre-veterinary and veterinary technician programs,” wrote Dr. Jim Thompson, dean of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, in one of Roberts’ nomination letters.

“I have not seen one of his students stumble under the rigors of the professional degree program (at UT), and they have uniformly been absolutely excellent colleagues to their fellow students. These students have all, uniformly, credited Dr. Roberts’ leadership for encouraging them to be team players and for helping them to accomplish their educational career goals.”

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

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

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

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS - Scouts from all over West Tennessee and Kentucky attended the UT Martin Merit Badge Day on Saturday. A total of 120 boys signed up from various troops from Martin, Lexington, Jackson, Parsons, Union City, Huntington, Dresden and Fulton, Ky. Volunteers provided instruction. Pictured are (from left) Carter Gipson, Cameron Howard and D.J. Covington, all of Martin.

Photo by Christel Laney
Tuba Tigrek
Engineering Badge Instructor

Dr. Eric Pelren
Assistant Scoutmaster, Martin Troop 11
PRESIDENT'S AWARD — Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science, demonstrates a procedure during a laboratory exercise for veterinary health technology students. Roberts received a 2017 University of Tennessee President's Award from the UT System for his efforts to expand educational offerings at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
McMillan hands over interim AD tag at UTM

Kevin McMillan, UT Martin’s successful head women’s basketball coach, announced this week that he has completed his service to the university as interim athletics director.

Mike Swaim, who joined the staff in October 2016 to assist with day-to-day athletics program activities, will assume the interim position effective today. The position reports directly to Dr. Keith Carver, the university’s chancellor.

McMillan accepted the interim position under then-interim UT Martin Chancellor Bob Smith. He continued to coach full time while holding the interim athletics director’s position.

“Kevin has done a tremendous job and truly rose to the occasion when UT Martin needed him most,” Carver said in an email message to the university community. “He agreed to take on these additional responsibilities as interim athletics director in April 2016 to give UT Martin an opportunity to hire a permanent chancellor.

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

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

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