Somerville Student Overcomes Challenges To Earn Her Bachelor's Degree

By: Bud Grimes
UT Martin

Danielle Ables didn't consider herself college material when she first enrolled for courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center in Fall 2016. She overcame self-doubt and multiple challenges to complete her Bachelor's Degree one semester early from UT Martin—just in time for the birth of her first child, Averi Jo on Dec. 10. Averi Jo's arrival into the world kept her mother from walking in the Commencement Line Dec. 14 to receive her degree, but Ables' story teaches an important life lesson that most anything is possible if you want to succeed.

Ables, age 23, was born in Memphis but lived her early years in Mississippi. She completed the ninth grade at Hernando (Miss.) High School but dropped out of school when her mother became ill and needed Ables to care for her. She eventually moved to Somerville, found skilled care for her mother in Bolivar and found a home for herself when she moved in with her aunt. Ables knew that she needed to complete her high school education and discovered Fayette Literary with the help of her aunt. The nonprofit organization provides services for adult learners to acquire, improve and apply basic literacy skills, as well as prepare individuals to earn a high school equivalency diploma, which Ables received in 2014.

Danielle continued to care for her mother, who was in a nursing home while living with her aunt, but her aunt told her that she needed to move ahead with her life and either attend college or find a job. She turned to Somerville Center Director Kara Tapp for guidance and applied to UT Martin while also seeking employment at FedEx. "So I got a job at FedEx and I actually got a call from Kara saying that I was accepted into Martin the exact same day (in August 2016)," she said.

Ables recalled that the decision at that time to pursue a college degree was a huge leap of faith. "I mean it was one of those things where I honestly didn't think that I was cut out for college, like I didn't think that my education or (I) could persevere through college at the time," she said. "So that's one reason why I didn't go (to college) for so long. I mean it was a two-year gap, and after talking with Kara and understanding I do have options, I can do this, is when college became more of what I wanted to do."

Her original goal was to pursue a healthcare career, either working with people or animals. Tapp again stepped in to advise her, this time on a possible major and she suggested Ables enroll in an introductory agriculture class. This initial class quickly redirected her interest to pursuing an agricultural business degree with a concentration in farm and ranch management. Ables proceeded to load her schedule with classes, studying and work. However, the combination of full-time academics and Federal Work Study hours during the day and overnight package-handling duties at FedEx caused her to step away from FedEx after about a year so she could focus on school.

Another significant opportunity happened for Ables in Spring 2019 when she applied for an internship position at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center under Dr. Ayat Shekoofa, a crop physiologist who studies water stress and irrigation management and the effects of water deficit stress on various row crops. Ables received the internship and began assisting Shekoofa with drought research, which is conducted under hot and demanding conditions but is the kind of challenge that Ables readily embraced. "We do a lot of experiments and data collection... it's very interesting," Ables said.

Not only has Ables enjoyed the research work in Jackson, but other potential opportunities have emerged to make the experience even more valuable. "I'm hoping it (the internship) leads to a part-time position there. If not a full-time position, I am planning on staying there after graduation, because I would like to get my Master's, and I feel like being at the Research Center (and) working there, I have more of (the) resources to be able to complete a Master's. I would have Dr. Shekoofa's help," she said. "Whatever happens next. Ables has contributed in a meaningful way to the WTREC's research and has left a positive impression. "Danielle is a well-organized and hard-working person," Shekoofa wrote in an email. "She is reliable. My team and I (at the center) are glad that she joined our research team in 2019. We are looking forward to working with her in 2020 as well."

Spring Semester 2019 also brought an opportunity for international travel when Ables participated in a nine-day travel-study to Italy. thanks to the support of an anonymous donor from the Somerville area. The trip, which included stops in both Rome and Tuscany, allowed Ables and her fellow students to gain first-hand knowledge of how Italian agricultural practices differ from those in America and bring back ideas they could use in their future careers. The trip made her the first student from the Somerville Center to participate in a travel-study or study-abroad opportunity.

Amid the positive things during her college journey, Ables also encountered several significant roadblocks along the path to her degree. Interestingly, the academic major she picked might have created the most serious doubts in her mind about her ability to succeed in college. "I have to say my biggest challenge would be picking a major that I have no experience in," she said. "I picked agriculture with no background. So I don't have any family members who are farmers, who have any lands, who have anything like that," she said, adding, "And that's one reason why working at the (Jackson) research center has helped me out a lot, because when I applied there I had no experience."

Through the challenges and hardships, Ables stayed focused to achieve notable academic success in both her traditional classes at the Somerville Center and a handful of online classes. "It's like every year something was added on, so it's like every year has been hectic for me," she said. "But I have managed to keep a 3.5 GPA. I have managed to be able to graduate with magna cum laude honors... I guess you can say I have gotten
Danielle’s success is an inspiration to all of us,” Tapp wrote in an email. “She faced many obstacles to earning a college degree, and she refused to give up when the going got tough. I’m so proud of what she’s accomplished and, more importantly, the kind of person she is as Danielle begins the next chapter in her life.”

Now that her infant daughter is part of the story, Ables can someday share her life lessons and suggest how she too can succeed in college. “I would definitely tell her that college isn’t easy, but it is necessary, and that she’ll be able to do anything she can put her mind to because I definitely did,” Ables said. “I was able to complete something that I never in a million years thought I could do. And I never gave myself the credit or the meaning to be able to do this, and as long as she keeps (moving) ahead and puts her mind to anything, she will be able to accomplish anything.”

A December 2016 photo of Ables, two of her friends—Elizabeth Burns and Courtney Wilburn—and UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Bob Smith, a key figure in the creation of the Somerville Center, was taken at a reception following the official groundbreaking event for the facility, which opened in Fall 2017. The photo marks a significant beginning for the three friends, who all received their degrees December 14, as well as the beginning of a higher education destination for future generations. As it did for Danielle Ables, the center will provide opportunities for others to learn that they too are “college material” as they take the first steps toward a bachelor’s degree and a better future.

Local students degree recipients from University of Tenn., Martin

Several local residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held Dec. 14 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus in Martin, Tenn.

Students receiving an undergraduate degree were: Melissa Aynne Mora, of Fulton; and Kevin Bartholomew, Melanie Amber Johnson, and Destinee Brooke Mayo, all of South Fulton.

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“Danielle’s success is an inspiration to all of us,” Tapp wrote in an email. “She faced many obstacles to earning a college degree, and she refused to give up when the going got tough. I’m so proud of what she’s accomplished and, more importantly, the kind of person she is as Danielle begins the next chapter in her life.”

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Reflections of 2019 from UT Martin

By ERIN CHESNUT
University Relations

The Spring semester is right around the corner for the University of Tennessee at Martin. As campus officials look forward to the coming year, growth and progress remain among the list of priorities each passing year. The town and gown relationship UT Martin maintains with its community is evident as the university reflects on 2019 accomplishments.

JANUARY
• UT Martin Advisory Board meets for the first time and appoints Art Sparks, of Union City, board chairman.
• UT Martin announces partnership with Southwest Tennessee Community College to host courses toward associate degrees at the UT Martin Somerville Center.
• The sixth cohort of UT Martin students work in hospitality management during Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta, Georgia.

FEBRUARY
• UT Martin hosts the 19th-annual Civil Rights Conference and continues as one of two annual collegiate civil rights conferences nationwide.
• Country Radio Broadcasters Inc. awarded the UT Martin broadcasting program $25,000 to assist broadcasting students with educational expenses.
• Kate Fagan, former ESPN sports journalist and author of the book "What Made Maddy Run," spoke to UT Martin student-athletes about mental health and collegiate athletics.
• UT Martin announces partnership program in legal studies for students majoring in either English or political science. Eligible students can now complete three years of undergraduate work at UT Martin before transferring to the UT College of Law to finish their bachelor’s degrees while simultaneously beginning work on a juris doctorate.

EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK ... — UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and his wife Hollianne joined in the celebration in Sharon for the UT System statewide mural project. Robinson & Belew Grain Co. was chosen as the second site for the campaign messaging in 2019.

MARCH
• UT Martin added a concentration in mechatronics engineering to the Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, bringing the total number of concentrations to six. A focus in mechatronics combines principles from mechanical, electrical and manufacturing engineering and allow graduates to work in fields where machines and processes are highly automated.
• WUTM 90.3 "The Hawk" earns a ninth consecutive platinum award from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

APRIL
• UT Martin breaks ground on the National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Garden at Unity Circle, a monument area meant to recognize the contributions of the "Divine Nine" traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin.
• UT Martin engineering students placed second in the nation and fifth internationally during the 2019 SAE International Aero Design East Competition, which invites teams of student engineers from around the world to compete in the design, presentation and flight of a self-constructed aircraft. UT Martin competed against 20 other schools in the advanced cat-

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egory and was one of the only schools present without a dedicated aerospace engineering program.

- UT Martin dedicated the Verna B. Coleman Center for Women and Gender Equality in room 255 of the Paul Meek Library. The center was made possible by a donation from Coleman's granddaughter, Martha Edinger, a 1984 UT Martin alumna and longtime resident of both Obion and Weakley Counties.

**MAY**

- The inaugural Skyhawk Regional Retention Summit welcomed almost 250 educators and administrators from 28 colleges and universities in six states for discussion on student success and perseverance to graduation across the region.
- UT Martin's Veterinary Health Technology Program was elevated to full accreditation status following a campus visit from the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities. The program enjoyed initial accreditation status since its first review in spring 2014.
- More than 700 students received degrees during UT Martin’s spring 2019 commencement ceremony. Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, executive director for Complete Tennessee, served as keynote speaker.

**JUNE**

- The UT System commissioned a 46-foot mural to be installed on the side of a grain bin owned by Robinson & Belew Inc. just off Highway 45 South in Sharon.
- The mural, “Everywhere you look, UT” is part of a statewide campaign to remind Tennesseans of the impact of the UT System across the state.
- The WestStar Leadership Program graduated its 30th class, bringing the total number of program alumni to 828.
- Thirteen students announced acceptance into veterinary schools from the UT Martin class of 2019.
- Kerri Arnold, a junior from Holladay, is crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 and will spend the 2019-20 academic year as Gov. Bill Lee’s spokesperson for character education in elementary schools.
- UT Martin graduate Bill Nunnelly, of Nashville, and his wife, Rosann, announce a university bequest of $22 million to fund scholarships for students from rural Tennessee counties. This is the largest single gift in university history.

**JULY**

- Former NFL quarterback Ryan Leaf continues UT Martin’s mental health series for student-athletes, discussing his rise to become the number two overall selection in the 1998 NFL Draft and subsequent depression, substance abuse, and incarceration.
- UT Martin receives official notice of a positive accreditation mid-term review from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Overall university accreditation is reevaluated every 10 years.
- Four incoming freshmen were announced as the first to receive scholarships from Bill and Rosann Nunnelly, making them UT Martin’s inaugural Nunnelly Scholars.

**AUGUST**

- Three Obion County residents receive the first Annette Sublett Ferguson Scholarships, created in memory of the longtime Obion County educator.
- UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver graduates from Leadership Tennessee, a 10-month, five-session course encouraging collaboration from rural and urban leaders statewide.
- He is also named one of 14 members of a new UT Commission on Agriculture, created by UT System Interim President Randy Boyd.
- Brayden Faulkner of Henderson, and Chris Humphreys of Martin, both advance to the final round of the national 2019 Cyber FastTrack Competition. This cyber-security challenge competition included more than 13,000 students nationwide.
- UT Martin’s bachelor’s degree program in social work received accreditation for the next eight years following an on-campus visit in December 2018. The program has been externally accredited since 1974.
- Three UT Martin engineering students placed fourth in their category and 12th overall in the third-annual Spaceport America Cup.
- This annual competition is the only United States collegiate rocket engineering competition in the world.

**SEPTEMBER**

- Dr. Jean Twenge, professor of psychology at San Diego State University, gave the first presentation in the UT Martin Engage Program’s speaker series with a focus on “Gen Z: The Smartphone Generation” from a psychological perspective.
- The UT Promise Scholarship Program, announced by the UT System, officially kicks off with a campaign to permanently fund the program’s endowment. UT System Interim President Randy Boyd starts his three-day, statewide tour in northwest Tennessee to discuss the program with potential students and families.

**OCTOBER**

- The UT Martin Educator Preparation Program, which places student teachers in classrooms across the region, was named one of the most-improved programs on the statewide report card for the 2018-19 academic year by the Tennessee State Board of Education.

**NOVEMBER**

- UT Martin dedicates the National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Garden at Unity Circle, a monument area meant to recognize the contributions of the “Divine Nine” traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin.
- UT Martin dedicates the Nunnelly Family Welcome Center on the first floor of the Boling University Center, as well as the Nunnelly Columns along University Street in front of the Hall Moody Administration Building, in honor of Bill and Rosann Nunnelly.
- UT Martin surveys current students, alumni, faculty and staff to create a new athletic mark to represent the Skyhawk teams.

**DECEMBER**

- More than 340 students participated in UT Martin’s fall 2019 commencement exercises.
- Stuart McWhorter, commissioner of the State of Tennessee Department of Finance and son of the late Clayton McWhorter, served as keynote speaker.
DIVINE NINE — This photo shows four of the nine plaques in UT Martin’s new NPHC Greek Garden at Unity Circle, which was dedicated Nov. 2 in honor of the Divine Nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities — all of which are represented at UT Martin.

GRADUATES FROM UTM — Autumn Faulkner (right) of Gleason graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on Dec. 14 with a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance. She is pictured with her mother, Tammy Solomon. Approximately 348 students participated in UT Martin’s fall commencement ceremony, which officially awarded degrees to eligible students from both the summer and fall 2019 semesters. For more information on UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
Airport newsletter is partnership with UTM

By CHRIS MENNEES
Special to The Press

Everett-Stewart Regional Airport’s social media presence is really taking off.

Plans for an increased presence have resulted in an airport newsletter being launched.

The newsletter is the work of University of Tennessee at Martin students who came on board to lend their talents.

The local airport maintains an excellent working relationship with UT Martin, which is an avid supporter and frequent user of the airport’s facilities.

The three-page color newsletter was created by a team of four UT Martin students as a public relations department project, according to airport manager Chris Rodgers.

He said the newsletter is an energetic undertaking which will likely be produced on a quarterly basis, rather than monthly.

“It gives the students good experience and it promotes Everett-Stewart,” Rodgers said, adding that the newsletter contains a good mix of local schools and business, as well as lots of photos.

The newly-launched newsletter may be accessed online on the airport’s Facebook page — which include the new “Everett-Stewart Regional Airport” page which can be “liked” or the older existing “Everett Stewart” page which can be “friended.”

Rodgers said he also hopes to email the newsletter to those who have an interest in the airport or who utilize its facilities.

The online issue for December highlights the silver-medal success of the U.S. Unlimited Aerobatic Team — which held practice camps at Everett-Stewart this past year — at the world championships in France.

The newsletter also mentions the lease agreement signed in May with Hospital Wing for the potential of establishing a base at the local airport; and it reports that private pilot tests and drone tests were the most popular exams given at the local airport’s testing center in 2019.

An interesting feature is a listing of notable Everett-Stewart customers — an ever-expanding list which includes Gov. Bill Lee, former NFL quarterback Brett Favre, Titan Tire, Kohler, Dar Pro, Insteel, University of Tennessee athletic director and former head football coach Phil Fulmer, IndusTree, MIA Seating, Stella Jones Corp., National Forest Products, the University of Georgia equestrian team, Greenfield Products, the state Department of Human Resources, Texas A&M head football coach Jimbo Fisher, UT interim president Randy Boyd, UT head football coach Jeremy Pruitt, Clemson University and the Kohler organization, as well as several companies working on the Tyson Foods expansion in Obion County.

The airport’s facilities have also been utilized by many small business flyers, recreational flyers and local airmen.

Tucked inside the inaugural edition of the newsletter are an employee spotlight (featuring Obion County Central High School senior Max Simmons, who participates in the Aviation Program as an airport lineman during the school year) as part of the Career and see AIRPORT

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Technical Education Program); and mention of airport-based businesses (Russell Flying Service and WillAero) which provide jobs for the local area. There are also several photos of notable airport customers or their aircraft, in addition to a picture of local pilot and former airport board member Stoney Orton talking to Lake Road School students about careers in aviation.

In addition to the student-produced newsletter and increased social media presence, Everett-Stewart’s board has been talking with UT Martin leadership to explore the possibility of coordinating an internship program in the future.

Editor’s note: Chris Mennees is Senior Staff Reporter for the Union City Daily Messenger. She may be contacted by email at cmennees@ucmessenger.com.
OCCUPY OF A LIFETIME — Ansley Moore, a UT Martin graduate from Selmer, is pictured on the south lawn of the White House during her internship last spring in the White House Management Office.

Grad earned elite internship

Last year, Ansley Moore of Selmer, waited to be rejected for an internship at the United States White House.

"Over 3,000 people apply for the internship, but less than 100 are accepted," she said. "I actually applied with the intention that when I got turned down, I might see what area(s) I needed to work on in order to apply again and be successfully admitted."

Instead of opening a rejection letter, however, Moore found herself living in Washington, D.C., for the first four months of 2019. As an intern in the White House Management Office, she spent her time learning the true definitions of professionalism and discretion and filled all sorts of roles — from conducting a parking audit on White House grounds to taking coats for foreign delegations and delivering supplies to staffers in the West Wing.

"This experience taught me to be much more thorough and detail-oriented in everything I do," she said.

"In the White House Management Office, so much of what I did directly correlated with other offices. This meant that a number of people would see any project I worked on."

One such inter-office assignment took the form of a massive spreadsheet tracking the monthly use of resources throughout the department. Moore says this assignment taught her the value of accurate records and will remain in use for years to come to help the office monitor usage and areas of need.

Moore, who graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin during commencement exercises Dec. 14, earned a bachelor's degree in history — a love that began with stories from her grandparents.

"As a child, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents, who always talked about what life was like for them as they were growing up. Since then, I have enjoyed studying and learning about how life has changed over time, which ultimately led me to the field of history," she said.

Her time in the nation's capital provided weekends and evenings full of national landmarks, museums and tourist locations as well as those areas most people never see — such as the Truman Bowling Alley.

"The staff in my office were amazing people, so anytime they could show me something that related to my love of history, they did," she said.

Moore plans to pursue future degrees in history and ultimately teach at the collegiate level.
YOUNG MEN'S BUSINESS CLUB OF MARTIN SCHOLARSHIP — Joseph Frazier (left), a senior nursing major from Greenfield, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Frazier, who received the Young Men's Business Club of Martin Endowed Scholarship, is pictured with club representatives Lisha and David Tuck and their granddaughter, Addy Tuck, all of Martin, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters.

NICK DUNAGAN WESTSTAR SCHOLARSHIP — Brennan Brown (center), a sophomore agriculture major from Martin, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Brown, who received the Nick Dunagan WestStar Scholarship, is pictured with donors Dr. Nick and Cathy Dunagan, also of Martin, at the reception.

TOM NOBLE GIFT — Jaya Baine (left), a senior management major from Jackson, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Baine, who received the Tom Noble Management Scholarship, is pictured with donor Janice Noble, of Martin, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters.
MES STUDENTS MAKE UTM VISIT — Fifth-graders Macy Norton and Nathan Cole were treated to a UTM visit and tour recently. They were winners of a special fifth-grade drawing from Charger Tickets. MES students earn Charger Tickets for reaching goals, showing kindness, helping others, completing work, and many other things. MES would like to thank Stacie Evans for being so welcoming and such a great representation of what UTM athletics is all about. Stacie, along with Breanna Boggs, were tour guides for the visit. Both ladies stressed the importance of grades along with hard work. The kids were welcomed by players, coaches, and other campus staff. It was a great day to be a Skyhawk. Those pictured (from left) were UTM Women’s basketball representatives Jasmine Newsome, Stacie Evans, Demi Burdick, Chelsey Perry, and Emma Davis, (front row) MES students Macy Norton and Nathan Cole.

Local students attend UTM leadership event

Two Henry County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2019 RisingStar Leadership Summit Nov. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is a youth program for high school juniors and seniors designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured are (from left) Virginia Grimes, program director; students Annie Underwood and Macie Brush; and Jordan Gardner, program specialist.
UT MARTIN STUDENTS HONOR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS – (center, l-r) Madison Barker, a junior nursing major from McKenzie; Kaitlyn Martin, a senior nursing major from Medina; and Bethany Eddings, a junior nursing major from Kenton, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Baker, Martin and Eddings, who all received the Dr. Robert G. and Elizabeth Latimer Scholarship, are pictured with donors Carol (far left) and Ron Kirkland, of Union City, at the reception.

UT MARTIN STUDENTS HONORS SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTER – Mayralin Ponce (far left), a sophomore biology major from Memphis; Magdalena Martinez (center, left), a junior music major from Medina; and Sinahi Carrizales, a sophomore communications major from Somerville (far right), attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Ponce, Martinez and Carrizales, who all received the Coleman Opportunity Scholarship, are pictured with donor Martha Edinger (center, right), of Union City, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.
MLK celebration set at UT Martin

The eighth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast will be held Jan. 20 in the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

The event will get under way at 8:45 a.m.

Dr. Mark McCloud, UT Martin director of career planning and development, will serve as keynote speaker.

McCloud has more than 25 years of experience in the fields of financial services, K-12 education, mental health, non-profits and higher education with 14 years specifically in career services.

He currently oversees programming, strategic planning, recruiting and overall operations for the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development, which helps UT Martin students find careers for which they are well-suited, prepare portfolio materials, practice interview skills and build a professional network.

McCloud holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from UT Martin and both a master’s degree and a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Mississippi. He is currently vice president of the Martin Rotary Club and the northwest Tennessee liaison for the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Employers.

All community members are invited. There is no charge to attend the event, but pre-registration is required at Eventbrite.com by searching for “Martin Luther King” in Martin. All attendees should bring their digital or printed tickets to the event, and tickets will be checked at the door.

The 2020 event is co-hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, the City of Martin and the UT Martin Black Student Association.

For more information or assistance, call Martin City Hall at (731) 587-3126.

Water aerobics to be offered

Community members interested in water aerobics can enroll in either a morning or an evening course at the University of Tennessee at Martin this spring.

Morning classes will be held from 9:15-10:15 Mondays and Wednesdays from either Jan. 13 to Feb. 26 or March 9 to April 22. Evening classes will be held from 5:30-6:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays from either Jan. 14 to Feb. 27 or March 10 to April 23.

Registration for any single session is $25 per person. Attendees may register for two consecutive sessions for $40 and save $10 per person.

Registration and payment are taken online before the first session.

Register online at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/Martin.php by selecting water aerobics from the course list.
UT Martin Students Honors Scholarship Supporters
Mayralin Ponce (far left), a sophomore biology major from Memphis; Magdalena Martinez (center, left), a junior music major from Medina; and Sinahi Carrizales, a sophomore communications major from Somerville (far right), attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Ponce, Martinez and Carrizales, who all received the Coleman Opportunity Scholarship, are pictured with donor Martha Edinger (center, right), of Union City, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.

UT Martin Student Receives Endowment
Ethan Pendergrass (center), a freshman natural resources management major from Bon Aqua, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Pendergrass, who received the Jeremy and Jodi Fleming Price Scholarship Endowment, is pictured with donors Linda and Jack Price of Moscow at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.
UTM spring semester begins today

UT Martin’s spring semester begins today.

Returning students and new students will be back on campus today which means more traffic in the City of Martin.

With the influx of students back in Martin, motorists are reminded to watch and stop for pedestrian traffic at crosswalks along University Street and Mt. Peila Road.

The spring semester at UTM runs through April 24th, with finals the week of April 27th and commencement on May 2nd.

Annual MLK breakfast set for Jan. 20

The eighth-annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast will be held at 8:45 a.m., Jan. 20, in the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

This celebration breakfast is a Town and Gown event that brings together the community and the university to celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to raise awareness that people should all dream with a vision and live with a purpose.

Dr. Mark McCloud, UT Martin director of career planning and development, will serve as keynote speaker.

McCloud has more than 25 years of experience in the fields of financial services, K-12 education, mental health, non-profits and higher education with 14 years specifically in career services. He currently oversees programming, strategic planning, recruiting and overall operations for the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development, which helps UT Martin students find careers for which they are well-suited, prepare portfolio materials, practice interview skills and build a professional network.

McCloud holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from UT Martin and both a master’s degree and a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Mississippi.

He is currently vice president of the Martin Rotary Club and the Northwest Tennessee liaison for the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Employers.

All community members are invited. There is no charge to attend the event, but pre-registration is required at Eventbrite.com by searching for “Martin Luther King” in Martin.

All attendees should bring their digital or printed tickets to the event, and tickets will be checked at the door.

There are three different awards presented at the annual event — The Alpha Award, The Torch Award, and The City of Martin Har-old Connor Award.

UT Martin student Nylan Barr will present a special vocal performance.

The 2020 event is co-hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, the city of Martin and the UT Martin Black Student Association.

For more information or assistance, call Martin City Hall at 731-587-3126.
UTM names former Lady Vol as new tennis coach

Caitlyn Williams, who achieved a national top-10 doubles ranking during her playing career at the University of Tennessee, has been named the Skyhawk head tennis coach, athletic director Kurt McGuffin announced Monday.

Williams becomes the ninth women’s tennis coach at University of Tennessee at Martin, replacing Dennis Taylor, who retired on Dec. 31 after 32 seasons at the helm.

“After an extended nationwide search, we are excited to have Caitlyn join the Skyhawk family,” McGuffin said. “Caitlyn’s successful background as a student-athlete, familiarity with the state of Tennessee, and deep family ties to the sport of tennis has prepared her well for this opportunity.”

A Knoxville native, Williams played for the Lady Vols from 2011-15 under co-head coaches Mike Patrick and Sonia Hahn-Patrick. She compiled a 57-35 career record in doubles (.620 winning percentage), while also contributing a 29-25 singles mark (.537). She was responsible for three doubles titles and one singles championship during her time at Tennessee.

“I am very thankful for the opportunity that athletic director Kurt McGuffin has given me to coach here at UT Martin,” Williams said.

“I am excited to start working with the team. We will do our best to represent the university in a positive manner both on and off the court.”

Williams rose as high as No. 9 in the national doubles rankings on Feb. 28, 2012, alongside her playing partner Natalie Pluskota. She concluded her illustrious collegiate career by taking part in the 2015 NCAA National Championships alongside Joanna Henderson in doubles, topping off a season where she went 17-3 in doubles.

She was honored by the Southeastern Conference on two different occasions. She became just the 11th Tennessee player to nab SEC Player of the Week accolades on April 9, 2014, while she also earned SEC Freshman of the Week honors on March 7, 2012 – becoming only the sixth different Lady Vol to secure that title.

Off the court, Williams notched ITA Scholar-Athlete mentions in 2013 and 2015 and was a three-time SEC Honor Roll recipient (2013-15). She graduated cum laude (3.65 overall Grade Point Average) with a degree in Linguistics from Tennessee in 2015.

Williams attended Alpha Omega Academy in Knoxville, where she was hailed as a five-star blue-chip recruit by TennisRecruiting.net. She was ranked as one of the top-15 high school players in the nation and was in the top-50 in the ITF Girls 18 world rankings.

That came after she was the No. 1 ranked player in the United States in the Girls 16 rankings. She also took part in the 2010 Junior French Open and won a pair of WTA futures double championships, capturing titles at prestigious events held in Sumter, South Carolina, and Antalya, Turkey.

Following her collegiate graduation, Williams played professionally on the WTA Tour for one season, achieving a professional doubles ranking of No. 668. Since May 2017, she has served as a tennis instructor at Cedar Bluff Racquet Club in Knoxville.

Tennis has always been deep-rooted with Williams, as her family was named the Tennessee Tennis Family of the Year in 2006. Her grandfather Mike DePalmer was the head men’s coach at Tennessee from 1980-94 and is enshrined in the ITA Hall of Fame.

Williams’ mother Michelle DePalmer-Williams was an All-American for the Lady Vols from 1980-82 before entering the professional ranks, ranking as high as 90th in the world on the WTA Tour.

Her father played tennis at Duke from 1983-87 and accrued All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors twice in his storied career. Her brother played professionally after earning All-American accolades twice at Tennessee from 2009-11, while her sister enjoyed an All-Big South Conference career at Birmingham Southern College from 2002-06.

Williams inherits the keys to a tradition-rich UT Martin program that has won six Ohio Valley Conference championships.

She will make her collegiate head coaching debut on Jan. 20 when the Skyhawks open the 2020 spring season with matches against Memphis and Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi.
UTM celebrates generosity

Each year, the University of Tennessee at Martin holds a "Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude" to show appreciation for those who support UTM students through generous donations, endowments, scholarships, and other financial gifts. At the 2019 event, a local UTM student got to offer a special word of thanks to her scholarship sponsors.

Angel Green, a senior educational studies major from Big Sandy, received the Paul and Sue Foote Math Education Scholarship to help fund her degree. At the celebration last November, she was able to meet John and Liz Foote, who established the academic award in honor of their family. Green appreciated the opportunity to thank the Foote's personally for awarding her the scholarship.

The annual Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude is held to connect scholarship donors with the students whose educations they help sponsor. The UTM experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters. For more information about UTM financial awards, call 731-881-7620.

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS – From left, John Foote, Angel Green, and Liz Foote met at the UTM Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude last fall. Green thanked the Foote's for receiving the Foote Scholarship that they set up for math education students.

Locals receive UTM degrees

Ten Benton County residents were among students who received undergraduate degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement on Dec. 14, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UTM campus.

Camden graduates included Wesley Blow, Cheyanna Hargis, Laine McGee, Tiffani Miller, Colin Myrick, and John Summers, Jr. Graduates from Big Sandy were Jack Barrett and Mariah Purcell. Sara Hooten, of Eva, and Crystal Gale Perez, of Holladay, also graduated.
Marker recognizing 2 lynchings in Tennessee to be installed

By Adrian Sainz | AP
January 10

JACKSON, Tenn. — In 1886, an African American domestic worker was accused of poisoning her white employer in Jackson, Tennessee. A mob broke into the city’s jail, dragged Eliza Woods to the courthouse lawn, ripped her clothes off, and hanged her from a tree. Her body was riddled with bullets, historians say.

Five years later, John Brown was accused of severely injuring a switchman on an Illinois Central Railroad train. Brown, a black man, was removed from the train in Jackson and jailed. An angry mob of 500 masked men armed with rifles forcibly took him from the jail - and he, too, was lynched on the courthouse lawn.

Both stories had gone mostly ignored in Jackson until last year, when a college professor and a coalition of church leaders, educators and private citizens led a movement to memorialize both lynchings with a historical marker on the Madison County courthouse lawn. They worked with the Equal Justice Initiative - the Montgomery, Alabama, nonprofit that has created a national memorial acknowledging cases of racial injustice and sponsors the installation of lynching markers in U.S. cities.

After initially rejecting the marker, the Madison County commission voted in August to approve it. The Jackson-Madison County Community Remembrance Project, led by University of Tennessee-Martin criminal justice professor Cindy Boyles, announced Wednesday that the marker is being ordered and dedication ceremony has been set for April on the courthouse lawn.

"Neither Eliza Woods or John Brown received due process for their alleged crimes and were killed by mobs who never faced prosecution for their lynchings," the marker will say.

With the installation, Jackson will join the ranks of cities such as Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Wilmington, Delaware, that have markers sponsored by the Equal Justice Initiative, the group led by lawyer and civil rights advocate Bryan Stevenson, author of the book “Just Mercy.”
The book chronicles Stevenson's defense of a black man who was convicted and sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. It has been turned into a feature film of the same name that is currently running in U.S. movie theaters.

According to the EJI, more than 4,400 racially motivated lynchings took place in the U.S. between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and 1950. During that time, there were more than 230 lynchings in Tennessee.

Three happened in Jackson, located about 85 miles northeast of Memphis. In the late 1800's, Jackson was a railroad town surrounded by farms where slaves had been held and where African Americans received unjust, unequal, and sometimes violent treatment from whites, including members of law enforcement, judges and elected officials.

Eliza Woods proclaimed her innocence, but she was jailed. After Woods was lynched on Aug. 18, 1886, prominent anti-lynching writer Ida B. Wells protested the killing in her writings.

Woods was later exonerated when the husband of the dead white woman confessed to killing her, according to Boyles, who has researched the lynchings.

John Brown's lynching took place at midnight on July 26, 1891. The switchman he was initially accused of killing actually survived, Boyles said.

Another black man, Frank Ballard, was lynched in Jackson in 1894. According to The Jackson Sun, he had been accused of raping a white woman, but the location of his lynching is unknown.

A marker bearing the names of the three Madison County lynching victims hangs at The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery.

Boyle and others felt the lynchings also should be remembered in the county where they occurred. So, she contacted the EJI, which not only pays for and delivers lynching markers but also gathers soil from the lynching sites.
Boyles' proposal was the subject of several meetings, and it was voted down early last year. After further discussions with county commissioners, the markers were approved. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for April 18.

Boyles said the markers are important because they shed light on racial injustices that must be discussed in the context of current day instances of criminal justice failures.

"Eliza Woods was lynched in 1886. We had a functioning criminal justice system here, and it didn't work for the African Americans who were in this community," Boyles said. "We want to be able to recognize that, and say that it wasn't right then, it's not right today."

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University of Tennessee-Martin criminal justice professor Cindy Boyles talks to a reporter about the installation of a lynching marker on Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, in Jackson, Tenn. Boyles has led an effort to put a marker on the Madison County courthouse lawn remembering the brutal, public killings of two black people who had been accused of crimes in the late 1800s in Jackson, a West Tennessee city located about 85 miles northeast of Memphis. A dedication ceremony for the marker has been set for April. (Adrian Sainz/Associated Press)
The team

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MARTIN, Tn. (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board, listened to presentations from university officials on student affairs, and student crisis response.

On Jan. 10, the advisory board listened to a presentation from vice chancellor for student affairs, Dr. Andy Lewter. One of the highlights of Lewter’s presentation was a discussion of the UT Martin Care Team and its crisis response procedures.

Launched in fall 2017, care.utm.edu provides an online reporting outlet for student health, safety and well being.

Students, staff, faculty, parent, employer or community member can also submit at "Hawk Alert." This alert, goes to a six person crisis response team, which responds within minutes.

"Depending on what has happened, if it’s a student who is in severe distress and needs a welfare check, we’ll get public safety out there, if a student needs to go to the hospital and have a crisis evaluation done, we will meet them at the hospital," said Shannon Perry, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.

A member from the response team said, they receive hawk alerts throughout the semester for situations ranging from a student missing class, academic concerns, and mild illnesses all the way to serious mental health crisis and self-harm. However, since the creation of the crisis response team, students are being helped far faster than in previous years.

The team often is also able to contact emergency services when students are unable or unwilling to do so for themselves. And team members have even contacted law enforcement in other states when online students were in crisis.

UT Martin Softball signs Team IMPACT recruit Jada Watson

Watson, a Bardwell, Kentucky native, is one of 30,000 patients in the United States living with cystic fibrosis (CF), a disease predominantly diagnosed in children at a young age.

Watson was diagnosed at a young age with CF which is a chronic, progressive and incurable disease that primarily affects the lungs and digestive system.

Through Team IMPACT’s program, Watson becomes an official member of the UT Martin softball team. As a team member, she will attend Skyhawk practices, games, team dinners, events and more.

“The entire UT Martin softball coaching staff and players are very excited to welcome Jada into our softball family,” Dunn said. “We are looking forward to her being a part of everything we do and believe that the energy and courage that she displays on a daily basis will help motivate all of us to be better players, coaches and people.”

Team IMPACT is a national nonprofit headquartered in Boston that connects children facing serious or chronic illnesses with college athletic teams, forming lifelong bonds and life-changing outcomes. Since 2011, Team IMPACT has matched more than 2,000 children with more than 700 colleges and universities in 48 states, reaching over 55,000 participating student athletes.

The child joins the athletic team and the student athletes join the child’s support team – from Draft Day to Graduation.

During the journey, the child gains strength, camaraderie, and support while the student athletes experience lessons of courage, resiliency and perspective they can’t learn in a classroom.

Jada’s determination to persevere through adversity has already made her an inspiration to her Skyhawks teammates.
UT Martin softball program makes special signing

Adam Wells
Jan 13, 2020

MARTIN, TN -- For the UT Martin softball program, it was a night to remember, and a signing that will never be forgotten.

"We spent the entire fall recruiting Jada," said head coach Brian Dunn. "And we are excited that she has decided to be with us."

Dunn was talking about the newest member of the Skyhawks program, Jada Watson. Watson, an 11-year old from Bardwell, Kentucky, has battled cystic fibrosis her entire life.

"It is very cool to be on a college team," Jada said.

It was all made possible by the non-profit organization, Team Impact. A group that is determined to connect children with chronic or life threatening illnesses to college athletics.

They were the ones that first reached out to UT Martin.

"There was no second thought," said assistant coach Chelsea Farmer. "It was something we knew we had to do."

"She has been so excited," Jada's mother Billie Watson said. "The first time we met all the girls, they just clicked and this is all she has talked about."

With the signing, Jada will attend Skyhawks practices and games, and just like any other athlete that comes to Martin, she gets her own locker and jersey.
"It brings a big light to our team," said UTM junior utility player Alexis Rogers. "What she is going through is hard. She is in and out of school. Her being a part of the team makes it a lot easier."

And there is already a connection between Jada and her new teammates.

"I've gotten close to some of the girls," said Jada.

"We snap chat all the time," Rogers said.

But it is not just Jada that benefits from this experience, it is her new team as well.

"She never lets it slow her down," Billie said. "She goes constantly."

"What a joy to know that we have this girl come to our practices to show that she is ok," Farmer said. "We're really making an impact on her today."

And when it comes time for Jada to actually go to college, making that decision is easy.

"I told my mom this is the school I am going to," said Jada. "Since I am already on the softball team."
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

SUBMITTED
Jan 14, 2020

Several Sumner County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held Dec. 14, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Gallatin - Emily Ann Holder and Ashley Nicole Penton; Hendersonville - Matthew Thomas Bridgers and Portland - Elizabeth Faith Sapp and Andrew M. Stinchcomb.

The students receiving graduate degrees were: Gallatin - Darrell Walter Spears and Hendersonville - John B. Gregory III.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
Long tapped for Board of Directors role

Jordan Long of Martin is the latest addition to the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, a 54 year-old civics organization. The organization holds an annual mock general assembly at the State Capitol consisting of the legislative, judicial, and executive branch. In the years following its creation, lobbyists and reporters were added to the mix.

The Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature Board of Directors works with a nearly $100,000 yearly budget. Long joins the Board consisting of Tennessee lobbyists, business leaders, and government officials such as the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Long looks forward to maintaining and growing the organization, encouraging civic participation, and educating Tennessee’s college students.

During his time in college, Long served as the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate, only the second ever from UT Martin, and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives.

Long was the 2017-2018 Student Government Association President at UT Martin. He served on the Athletics Board, Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Search Committee, and the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the UT Board of Trustees.

Currently, Long works for Senator John Stevens (R-Huntingdon), the Chairman of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Appropriations Subcommittee.

Find more info online at: Tislonline.org

SHOWDOG AT UTM — Fans of UT Martin basketball were given a special treat Saturday afternoon as shelter dogs that are a part of Stunt Dog Productions showcased their skills on the court. All of the animals featured in the program are rescues from pounds and shelters from across the country. More photos from the event can be found on Page 11 of today’s edition of The Press.

Photo by Sports Editor Randy Cavin
Drew Hendren (center), a senior music major from Newbern, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Hendren, who received the Dee Pritchett Music Endowed Scholarship and the Andrew Hart Music Leadership Scholarship is pictured with Pritchett (left), of Martin, and Hart, of Knoxville, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.

Olivia Lock (center), a freshman agriculture major from Dyersburg, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Lock, who received the Dr. Jimmy Keeton Endowed Scholarship, is pictured with donors Jimmy and Jo Keeton, of Newbern, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.

Macy Slaughter (center, right), a senior accounting major from Dyersburg, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Slaughter, who received the Brown/Hill Family Accounting Scholarship, is pictured with donor, Reggie Hill (right), of Nashville, and her parents, (from left) Mike and Elaine Slaughter, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Development at 731-881-7620.
Photoshop course set

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a digital Photoshop course for community members and aspiring photographers from 6-9 p.m. Mondays from Jan. 27 through March 2 on the main campus.

Dr. Tom Gallien, local photographer, will instruct the course.

The registration fee is $145 per person.

Students will learn to use a wide range of features in Adobe Photoshop — the standard photo manipulation software for photographers of all levels. Each week's assignment will build on work from the previous class, so participants are advised to attend all scheduled sessions.

This course is offered once each year and is one of the most requested non-degree classes offered at UT Martin. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and seats will fill quickly.

Online registration and payment are available at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/mlmartin.php by choosing "photography and photoshop" from the course list.

For assistance, contact the UT Martin outreach at (731) 881-7104.

‘The Defamation Experience’ slated for late this month

"The Defamation Experience," an interactive theatrical production based on a play by Todd Logan, will be performed at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Watkins Auditorium.

There is no fee to attend, and both campus and community members are welcome.

This nationally-touring production highlights a legal case involving such social issues as race, class, gender and religion — and the audience serves as the jury.

Those in attendance participate in both jury deliberations and post-show discussions as part of the performance.

Since its premier in 2010, this production has been performed at universities, law schools, bar associations, high schools, theaters and for civic and religious organizations across the country.

On the production website, playwright Logan said, "Whether we like it or not, we still have major divides in this country. Most of us still go to bed at night in cities, communities and neighborhoods that are segregated by race, religion, ethnicity and/or class. I wanted to write a play that encourages open, honest conversation that leads to greater understanding and empathy to combat today's prevailing trends."

Additional production information is available online at defamationtheplay.com.

"Bringing ‘The Defamation Experience’ to campus is a way for people within the UTM community to get a dialogue started around race, class, religion, gender and the law. I believe that everyone from the campus community can learn something from the play, no matter where they are on the spectrum of cultural competence," said John Blue, director of the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs.

For additional information, contact Blue at (731) 881-7755 or jblue9@utm.edu.
SHOW GRATITUDE — University of Tennessee at Martin junior agriculture students (from left) Ashton McCage of Martin, Kera Corum of Union City and Erika Brown of McEwen attended the college's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude recently. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor. The UT Martin experience would not be possible for some students without the generosity of independent supporters.

STUDENT HONORS SUPPORTERS — Hunter Daniels (center), a junior finance major from Union City, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude recently. Daniels, who received the James Duncan Wingett Scholarship Endowment, was joined by donors James and Barbara Wingett of Lakeland. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
BEING APPRECIATED — Madison Barker (second from left), a junior nursing major from McKenzie; Kaitlyn Martin (center), a senior nursing major from Medina; and Bethany Eddings (second from right), a junior nursing major from Kenton, recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude. The three, who all received Dr. Robert G. and Elizabeth Latimer Scholarships, were joined by donors Carol and Ron Kirkland of Union City. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

GENEROSITY NOTED — Klayton Hagan (second from right), a senior human health performance major from Union City, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude recently. Hagan, who received the Leigh Avery Hart Health and Human Performance Scholarship, was joined by donor Angie Hewett (second from left) of Dresden, as well as Dr. Todd Sherman, chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance, and Dr. Laura Brown, scholarship committee chair. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
SHOW OF SUPPORT — University of Tennessee at Martin students (from left, front row) Elizabeth Driver, a senior psychology major from Union City; Marli McMillin, a senior psychology major from Hornbeak; and Yi-An Jian, a freshman from Martin, recently attended the college’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude. Miss Driver, who received the Carey Counseling Scholarship, and Mrs. McMillin and Ms. Jian, who both received the David Cooper Memorial Scholarship, were joined by donors (back row) Carolyn and Gary Brown, also of Martin, and psychology department chair Dr. Joseph Ostenson. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

TIME OF THANKS — Will Erwin (second from left), a senior agriculture business major from Sharon, and Deni Lackey (center), a freshman fine and performing arts major from Sharon, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude, Erwin and Ms. Lackey, who both received Charles and Bettye Moore Scholarships, were joined by donors Charles (left) and Bettye Moore and Bill Blankenship, all of Union City. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
SUPPORT SYSTEM — Mayralin Ponce (far left), a sophomore biology major from Memphis; Magdalena Martinez (second from left), a junior music major from Medina; and Sinahi Carrizales (far right), a sophomore communications major from Somerville, recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude. The three, who all received the Coleman Opportunity Scholarship, were joined by donor Martha Edinger of Union City. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

SAYING THANKS — Mary Gean (left), a senior family and consumer science major from Monroe, and Leandra Moore (right), a senior family and consumer science major from Troy, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude. Ms. Gean and Ms. Moore, who received the Faculty Women’s Club Scholarship Endowment, were joined by club representative Penny Moser. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
Breakfast

...From Front Page

Award, and The City of Martin Harold Connor Award.
Registration is required. This event is free but all attendees must register for a ticket to attend the event. Registration is limited to the first 300 people.
Please follow these steps to register:
1. Attending parties must register for the number of tickets needed on Eventbrite.
2. Attendees should print their tickets or bring a copy of their tickets on their smartphones.
3. Present either type of ticket at the check-in table in the lobby upon arrival.
The Eventbrite Link is as follows: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-martin-luther-king-jr-celebration-and-breakfast-tickets-84986020475
Anyone who needs help getting registered to attend the event is asked to come to Martin City Hall for assistance.
In the event of inclement weather, including heavy snow or ice, the event will be canceled. Information regarding cancellation will be posted on the City of Martin website and social media accounts.
UT Martin to Host ‘The Defamation Experience’

MARTIN — “The Defamation Experience,” an interactive theatrical production based on a play by Todd Logan, will be performed at 7 p.m., Jan. 29, in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Watkins Auditorium. There is no fee to attend and both campus and community members are welcome.

This nationally touring production highlights a legal case involving such social issues as race, class, gender and religion. The audience serves as the jury. Those in attendance participate in both jury deliberations and post-show discussions as part of the performance. Since its premiere in 2010, this production has been performed at universities, law schools, bar associations, high schools, theaters and for civic and religious organizations across the country. Additional production information is available at defamationtheplay.com.

“Bringing ‘The Defamation Experience’ to campus is a way for people within the UTM community to get a dialogue started around race, class, religion, gender and the law. I believe that everyone from the campus community can learn something from the play, no matter where they are on the spectrum of cultural competence,” said John Blue, director of the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs.

For additional information, contact Blue at 731-881-7755 or jblue9@utm.edu.

http://www.wenkwtpr.com

8th Annual MLK Day Program Set For UTM

JANUARY 16, 2020 AT 9:06 AM • POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN
MARTIN, Tenn. - The eighth-annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast will be held at 8:45 a.m., Jan. 20, in the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. Dr. Mark McCloud, UT Martin director of career planning and development, will serve as keynote speaker.

McCloud has more than 25 years of experience in the fields of financial services, K-12 education, mental health, non-profits and higher education with 14 years specifically in career services. He currently oversees programming, strategic planning, recruiting and overall operations for the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development, which helps UT Martin students find careers for which they are well-suited, prepare portfolio materials, practice interview skills and build a professional network.

McCloud holds a bachelor's degree in economics from UT Martin and both a master's degree and a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Mississippi. He is currently vice-president of the Martin Rotary Club and the Northwest Tennessee liaison for the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Employers.

All community members are invited. There is no charge to attend the event, but pre-registration is required at Eventbrite.com by searching for “Martin Luther King” in Martin. All attendees should bring their digital or printed tickets to the event, and tickets will be checked at the door.

The 2020 event is co-hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, the city of Martin and the UT Martin Black Student Association.

For more information or assistance, call Martin City Hall at 731-587-3126.
STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS — Pictured (front row, from left) are Elizabeth Driver, a senior psychology major from Union City; Marli McMillin, a senior psychology major from Hornbeak; and Yi-An Jian, a freshman from Martin, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Driver, who received the Carey Counseling Scholarship, and McMillin and Jian, who received the David Cooper Memorial Scholarship, are pictured with donors (back row) Carolyn and Gary Brown of Martin, and psychology department chair Dr. Joseph Ostenson at the reception.

GOLIGHTLY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP — Students (front row, from left) Zaria Cast, Victoria Redlund, Sharon Briggs, (back row) Preasley Yates, Zach Mills, Garrett Mills and Joseph Pelren attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. They are pictured with foundation representative Ernie Williams (back row, second from right), who sponsors the Golightly Foundation Scholarship. Also pictured is Williams' friend Lisa Patel (back row, third from left). This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
SCHOLARS ENDOWMENT — Erika Brown (right), a junior agriculture major from McEwen, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Brown, who received the Dr. Harold J. Smith ANR Scholars Endowment, is pictured with donor Claudia Nanney of Martin at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

ROBINSON AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP — Will Erwin (center), a senior agriculture business major from Sharon, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Erwin, who received the RD and Dianne Robinson Agriculture Scholarship, is pictured with donors Dianne Robinson and Linda Fowler, also of Sharon, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

FOOTE MATH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP — Angel Green (center), a senior educational studies major from Big Sandy, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Green, who received the Paul and Sue Foote Math Education Scholarship, is pictured with donors John and Liz Foote, of Martin, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

MANESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Bentley Gordon (center), a sophomore communications major from Greenfield, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Gordon, who received the Michael Maness Memorial Scholarship Endowment, is pictured with donors Rita and Mike Maness, also of Greenfield, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
SWAFFORD SCHOLARSHIP — Emma Bruner (left), a senior communications major from Martin, and Brooke Boshers (right), a senior communications major from Mt. Pleasant, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Bruner and Boshers, who both received the Swafford Public Relations Scholarship, are pictured with donor Jeanna Swafford of Dresden, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED — Charity Candler (right), a sophomore educational studies major from Parsons, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Candler, who received the Maurice Houston Field Integrated Studies (4-8) Science Scholarship Endowment, is pictured with donor Carla Field of Martin at the reception.

ALPHA DELTA KAPPA OMICRON CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP — Kinlee Moore (front row, center), of Sharon, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Moore, who received the Alpha Delta Kappa Omicron Chapter Scholarship, is pictured with scholarship sponsors (front row, l-r) Linda Fowler, Shirley Callis, Katana Hawks, Betty Nan Carroll, (back row) Donna Hunt, Barbara Barber, Judy Todd and Brenda Lackey at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
CHARLES AND BETTYE MOORE SCHOLARSHIP — Will Erwin (second from left), a senior agriculture business major from Sharon, and Demi Lackey (center), a freshman fine and performing arts major also from Sharon, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Erwin and Lackey, both received the Charles and Bettye Moore Scholarship and are pictured with donors (from left) Charles and Bettye Moore and Bill Blankenship, all of Union City, at the reception. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.

RECEIVES HEALTH PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS — Klayton Hagan (center, right), a senior Human Health Performance major from Union City, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Hagan, who received the Leigh Avery Hart Health and Human Performance scholarship, is pictured with donor Angie Hewett (center, left), of Dresden, at the reception. Also pictured are Dr. Todd Sherman (far left), chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance, and Dr. Laura Brown (far right), scholarship committee chair. This event is held to connect scholarship donors with the students they help sponsor.
Student affairs, response focus of meeting

The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met Friday to hear presentations from university officials on student affairs, student crisis response, UT Promise applications and student transfer procedures.

Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, updated the board on activities in the various student affairs units, including housing, student life and multicultural affairs, campus recreation, disability and testing services, career planning and development, and student conduct. The highlight of Lewter’s presentation was a discussion of the UT Martin Crime Team and its crisis response procedures. A staff panel consisting of John Abel, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs; Shannon Perry, student conduct officer; Ryan Martin, director of housing; and Carly Jo Archie, crisis case manager, explained the process.

Launched in Fall 2017, care.utm.edu provides an online reporting outlet for all types of concerns regarding student health, safety and wellbeing. A “Hawk Alert” can be submitted 24/7 by any individual — student, staff, faculty, parent, employer or community member — and immediately alerts the six-person crisis response team, which responds within minutes.

“Depending on what has happened, if it’s a student who is in severe distress and needs a welfare check, we’ll get public safety out there,” said Perry. “If a student needs to go to the hospital and have a crisis evaluation done, we will meet them at the hospital.”

In addition to the dedicated response team, members of the UT Martin residence life staff are always on call to assist when an alert arrives for an on-campus student.

“We are blessed to have an amazing group of student leaders, student staff and professional staff (in the residence halls). I’ve got somebody on call 24/7 — a professional staff and a student member. We have flexibility to send somebody out to do welfare checks immediately, so when I say we’re responding within minutes of the alert coming in, we really are,” said Martin. “All of our (residence life) staff is mental health first aid certified. … We are able to stay with the student from the time they are in crisis until after they get back to follow up with them.”

Martin says they receive hawk alerts throughout the semester for situations ranging from a student missing class, academic concerns, and mild illnesses all the way to serious mental health crisis and self-harm. However, since the creation of the crisis response team, students are being helped far faster than in previous years.

SEE UTM PAGE 14

UTM FROM PAGE 1

“We are reaching our students before they reach the pinnacle of crisis,” said Perry, who noted a 50 percent reduction in the number of students admitted to the hospital for suicide attempts in Fall 2019 as compared to previous years. While online referrals have jumped from 45 in Fall 2017, the website was launched, to 224 in Fall 2019, Perry says this increase is due to greater education about the signs of mental health crisis and the availability of the alert system.

“It’s not just for mental health concerns,” she said. “We’ve had some students who were involved in a very bad (car) accident, and one was airlifted to Memphis. They were international, and the international director was in Japan. So, there was a whole coordination that had to be done, and the crisis response team was able to do that in a meaningful way.”

Perry said the team often contacts emergency services when students are unable or unwilling to do so for themselves, and team members have even contacted law enforcement in other states when online students were in crisis. The 2019 addition of a part-time student intern, Carly Jo Archie, to the team has increased the team’s follow-up abilities as well. Archie is a graduate student at Union University earning her degree in social work, and she serves as case manager to make sure students have access to and are utilizing services such as counseling, tutoring, the food pantry or meal-swipe program, career services or other outlets after their time of initial crisis has passed.

In addition to the care team presentation, Lewter also noted increased occupancy in the campus residence halls (up six percent in fall 2019); increased fitness programming in the Student Recreation Center (up 22 percent in 2018-19); more than 13,000 hours of community service and $85,000 raised by UT Martin Greek life and student organizations; 763 meals provided by the Skyhawks Share meal donation program in fall 2019; and approximately 400 students served by the Office of Career Planning and Development. Lewter says these numbers show a positive impact on UT Martin students and are affecting student retention and success.

In other presentations, Destin Tucker, director of undergraduate admissions, gave an update on the UT Promise scholarship program set to launch in fall 2020. According to Tucker, the application deadlines for the program have already passed, but students hoping to take advantage of the last-dollar scholarship must complete their FAFSA applications online by Feb. 1.

Tucker said 51 new freshmen applied for the program for fall 2020, but all of those students will already have their tuition and mandatory fees covered by other sources and therefore will not need funds from the UT Promise program. Of the current students who have applied, 198 meet the eligibility criteria and will receive an average of $2,734 each, provided they meet the Feb. 1 FAFSA deadline. Information regarding this deadline has been sent to all currently enrolled students and posted in various formats through student portals.

The UT Promise program is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it will cover remaining tuition and mandatory fees after all other state, institution and private scholarship awards have been applied. Housing, books, specialized course fees and other expenses are not included under this program.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost, updated the advisory board on an effort underway to improve and simplify the credit transfer process for students who are moving between the four main University of Tennessee campuses. A team has been assembled with representatives from all four campuses to address this issue for future semesters.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver closed the board meeting with comments on the search for a permanent vice chancellor for university affairs. Dr. G. David Robinson, chair of the search committee, hopes to have finalists on campus in late February for interviews and to announce the position shortly thereafter. Carver also noted that the visitors’ stands at Hardy Graham Stadium have been cleared to begin renovations following damage from seismic activity on campus in recent semesters, and the demolition of the Grove Apartment complex on the corner of University Street and Moody Avenue has been requested for inclusion in the state budget appropriations. This area is anticipated to become a green space of some type.

The full webcast of the board meeting is available at utm.edu/abmeeting. The agenda and meeting materials, including all PowerPoint slides and handouts, are available at utm.edu/advis-oryboard. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
The greatest decade awaits

Randy Boyd
Interim President
The University of Tennessee System

While I may not be the first, let me be among the many to wish you a Happy New Year from the University of Tennessee. It is such an honor to serve the great state of Tennessee. I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments our team has made this past year. From providing more opportunities for students' success to new platforms for research and discovery, to our impact in the lives of Tennesseans in every community across the state, it was an exciting and transformative 2019.

I am convinced, more so than ever, that there is no better time in the University of Tennessee's history than now. As I look back on the last year, I am encouraged by all that has been accomplished and energized about what's to come. The next decade will be the greatest in the history of the University of Tennessee. All that has come before has provided the foundation, and we have the team in place to make it so.

• Increased enrollment. Across the UT System, total enrollment rose 1.5 percent to an all-time high of 51,582 across all campuses. Together, we are preparing the next generation through the combined force of education, research and outreach.

• Sizeable impact in our communities. Everywhere you look, we are making a sizeable impact in the communities we serve. Last year, we announced UT's estimated economic impact of $9.094 billion across the state.

• New Chancellor for UT Knoxville, Donde Plowman. After a national search, Donde Plowman was selected to serve as the ninth chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in April. In a short amount of time, Chancellor Plowman has already made tremendous strides in bringing the campus together and helping ensure our faculty, staff and students are working and learning in a welcoming environment.

• Created UT Promise. It is critically important that we do our part to be a ladder up for the middle and working classes. We announced UT Promise in March, and I traveled the state in September and October to promote the scholarships to students at 14 high schools. To date, UT Promise has more than 4,212 first-time, full-time freshman applicants and 1,414 applications from current UT students. An endowment was created to support this endeavor, and more than $21.5 million has been raised so far.

• Hosted Summit for Opioid Addiction and Response (SOAR): UT is uniquely positioned to identify the state's "grand challenges," such as the opioid addiction crisis, and convene the key stakeholders to work together to combat those challenges. More than 700 leaders from across the state and nation gathered in Knoxville to share ideas and information, make connections and make new plans to work together to combat this epidemic on our people, our state and the nation.

• Oak Ridge Institute at UT. The Oak Ridge Institute at the University of Tennessee (ORI@UT) forges a path of increased collaboration and alignment between UT and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and will enhance Tennessee's ability to provide talent to meet national needs. We expect it to result in 120 new faculty positions, nearly 400 new graduate students, and generate more than $150 million in annual research expenditures within seven years. In addition to enhancing Tennessee's ability to provide talent to meet national needs, it will catalyze UT into the top echelons of research institutions.

• Transparent UT. We launched Transparent UT in an effort to be more open regarding our information and data, which included the launch of the Transparent UT website and online portal for individuals to submit new ideas. We launched a "data dashboard" that will build on our commitment to providing greater and easier access to information for UT's faculty, staff, students and the communities they serve.

• UTIA and UTK Reunification. Of all the 1862 land grant institutions, UT was the only one with its flagship campus independent of the College of Agriculture, College of Veterinary Medicine, Experiment Stations and Extension. As a result, according to Fiscal Year 2017 National Science Foundation Higher Education Research and Development Survey data, UT Knoxville ranked 107th in research and UTIA ranked 170th among all universities. We were not structured in a way that allowed us to be competitive. This summer I asked the Board of Trustees to reunify these two critical campuses, which already shared the same faculty senate, faculty handbook, residence halls and facilities management. As a result, now together, the campuses rank among the top 50 public universities.

• Unleashing our best-kept secret. After my first two weeks on the job, I boasted that I had been to every campus: Memphis, Martin, Tullahoma, Chattanooga, Institute for Public Service, Institute of Agriculture, Knoxville and Oak Ridge National Lab. I was reminded that we have campuses in all 95 counties—our Extension offices. I promptly committed to visiting all 95. They share the same mission and passion, but are unique and inspiring in their own way. To date, I have visited 61 extension offices, and my goal is to have all 95 visits completed by early 2020. These are just a few of the many points of pride we have all contributed to during the past year. While these milestone achievements are important, I remain squarely focused on our students and ensuring we do our part to help them achieve their dream of successfully completing college. That means hiring and retaining the best faculty and staff, having a growth mindset at all times, and expanding access to our campuses and institutes to students across Tennessee and around the world. I can't wait to see what next year brings!

President's Column
Each month, the President's Column provides monthly updates to the community regarding the University of Tennessee, and spotlights key issues and topics affecting the UT system. As our media partners, you are welcome to use this column in your upcoming publications or broadcasts.
BIRTHDAY GIRL — The legendary Bettye Giles blows the UT Martin cheerleaders and crowd a big thank you kiss after they sang happy birthday to her last Saturday at the Elam Center as she turned 91 years old. Giles is a former director of women’s athletics at UTM and she started the women’s tennis program in 1952, while she has also served as the cheerleader sponsor.

FINISHES VET TECH PROGRAM — Dominique Scandrett of Greenfield recently finished academic requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program. He will complete a six-week internship at a veterinary hospital or research center this semester before graduating with his bachelor’s degree in May 2020. UTM has one of fewer than 30 four-year preparation programs for veterinary health technologists in the nation. For more information contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
UTM softball welcomes girl with cystic fibrosis as one of the team

Jada Watson laughs while waiting to sign her national letter of intent with UTM softball on Monday.

PHOTOS BY UTM SPORTS INFORMATION
The softball program at UT Martin signed a new player earlier this week, and this one is younger than the typical freshman.

Jada Watson is 12 years old and lives in Bardwell, Kentucky. She’s battling cystic fibrosis and was matched with the Skyhawk women through Team IMPACT, a national nonprofit organization that matches children battling serious or chronic illnesses with college sports teams.

“We were given the opportunity and jumped at it because I thought it would be good for our players to be reminded how blessed they are with their athletic abilities and talents and what other people might be struggling with,” said UTM head coach Brian Dunn. “I try to teach our athletes that there’s no greater priority than putting the team over self and sacrificing for another person like the Bible talks about in John 15:13.”

“This isn’t a sacrifice for us, but it is a lesson in giving back.”

Watson will be a member of the team, meaning she will be at games, practices and other events with the team.

“She won’t be at every game and every practice,” Dunn said. “She is 12 years old and in school.

“But she’s welcome to join us for everything she can. This week we’re having a team event for the basketball teams’ games with Murray State, and she’ll be here for that.”

Dunn credited his assistant coaches – Chelsea Farmer and Marlee Wilson – for getting the connection together.

“They and some of our players have really connected with Jada and made her a part of the team,” Dunn said. “The players were on board with it from the start, and we’re glad to have her around.”

Watson has her own locker in the team locker room and was treated to a signing ceremony and party with the team on Monday.

“Jada is a special young lady I’m glad to have around our team,” Dunn said.

Reach Brandon Shields at bjshields@jacksonsun.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorbrandon.

Locals named to UTM Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduates at UTM have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 Chancellor’s Honor Roll for the colleges of agriculture and applied sciences; business and global affairs; education, health, and behavioral sciences; engineering and natural sciences; and humanities and fine arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UTM, a student must take at least 12 hours and earn a “B” average, which is a GPA of 3.2 or higher. Students can make the honor roll with honors (3.2-3.49), high honors (3.5-3.79) or highest honors (3.8-4.0).

Numerous students from Benton County, with ties to the county, or from nearby communities were named to the fall honor roll. We celebrate the accomplishments of these dedicated students, named below:

**HONORS**

**Big Sandy:** Karlie Hudson, Hannah Morgan, Lori Oiler
**Bruceton/Hollow Rock:** Hunter McCaig, Alexis Reynolds, Kayla Woods
**Camden:** Faith Baker, Sydney Baker, Sara Florence, Lauren Glover, John Guy, Julia Jones, Mackenzie Markham, Steven McMackins, Lauren Medlin, Tiffani Miller, Averie Patterson, Hunter Rainwaters, Christina Stoner, Macy Wardlaw, Arthur Wright
**Holladay:** Kailey Duffy, Dylan Furr, Julianne Tarvin, Jessica Wheeler

**New Johnsonville:** Megan Mcllwain, Jacob Walker
**Other Area:** Baylee Pafford

**HIGH HONORS**

**Big Sandy:** Sarah Caruthers, Lindsay Moore, Rachael Wade
**Bruceton/Hollow Rock:** Anna Hopper, Jared Jordan, Matthew Katzmarek, Colin Roberts, Rachel Smith, Ashley Stockdale, Ana-Kate Welsh
**Camden:** Matt Blow, Kelsey Brozyna, Delaney Chappell, Kyleigh Hollingsworth, Blake Parker, Alii Phifer, Jacob Scott
**Eva:** Dylan Kelley
**Holladay:** Dustin Baker, Jessie Conrad, Madison Hodge, Shelby Wood
**New Johnsonville:** Benjamin Spencer, Campbell Spencer
**Other Areas:** Makenzi Brewer, Delilah Presson

**HIGHEST HONORS**

**Big Sandy:** Bentley Cunningham, Angel Green, Haley Mathews
**Bruceton/Hollow Rock:** Garrett Graves, Channa Ragsdale
**Camden:** Emily Berry, Olivia Frazee, Katelynn Lambdin, Allison Latimer, Eden Miller, Colin Myrick, Victoria Redlund, Hannah Sampson, Ally Stanford, Hayden Stanford, Savannah Urquijo
**Eva:** Samantha Grainger, Sara Hooten, Johnathan Wright
**Holladay:** Dalton Furr, Kayla Joyner, Briana Salyers, Emma Ulderich, Casey Wright
**New Johnsonville:** Alexander McNeal, Katelyn Proper, Jennifer Reynolds, Cassie Tidwell
**Other Areas:** Megan Bowden
Four local students selected for prestigious UTM Honor Band

By WILLOW HOWES
Special to The Messenger

An impressive four South Fulton High School students have been accepted into the 41st annual University of Tennessee at Martin honor band. They are Willow Howes, Kameryn Clark, Carl Anthony Lattus and Austin Reason.

The dates for the highly respected event have been set for Jan. 23-25 and the students selected will be busy each day. Rehearsals will begin at 1 p.m. and will continue until 5 the first day. After a two-hour break the student-musicians will have rehearsal again from 7-9 p.m.

The next day will be much like the day before, the students will report to the same location where they had rehearsals the night before. They will practice from 8:30 a.m. until noon, with a one-hour lunch break.

Then, they will continue rehearsals until 5:30 p.m.

On the Jan. 25, the students will perform in concert for their families, friends and music enthusiasts. The concerts will begin at 1 p.m. and will last until 3.

With a full day of rehearsals each day and the number of talented musicians chosen, the concerts will be of high quality. SFHS is proud of the number of its band students who have been selected for this honor.

It will be a fun opportunity to make memories, showcase their talent and learn among many high quality musicians.

BEST OF THE BAND — Four students from the South Fulton High School band have been named to the prestigious University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band this year. The students chosen for this honor are (from left) Willow Howes, Kameryn Clark, Carl Anthony Lattus and Austin Reason. Rehearsals will be Jan. 23-25, with concerts set to start at 1 p.m. on Jan. 25.
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Henry be hours 4.0 scale.
Alyssa Cottage Grove Sidney M.
Buchanan Mason High Honors; Ngernwathana, High Honors; Julian Henry High Honors. Susewitt, High Honors.
Springville Highest Honors; Bryan H. College of Tennessee - The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

- Buchanan - Olivia G. Boyd, Highest Honors; Kaitlin N. Moran, Highest Honors; Sarah N. Ngernwathana, High Honors; Julian C. Sacks, Honors; Elaina R. Wood, High Honors.
- Cottage Grove - Tiffany C. Clark, High Honors; Kailey N. Schmidt, Honors; Chase D. Wyrick, High Honors.
- Henry - Jasmine L. Al-Ahmad, High Honors; Graci B. Ellis, Highest Honors; Abbey N. Prosser, High Honors; Luke E. Prosser, High Honors; Molly J. Tosh, Highest Honors.
- Mansfield - Kyla D. Parker, High Honors; Allie M. Watson, High Honors.
- Paris - Faelicia N. Anderson, Honors; Lauren E. Anderson, Honors; Daniel R. Arnold, Honors; Sarah A. Backer, High Honors; Amy J. Bonar, Highest Honors; Makenzi B. Brewer, High Honors; Alyssa Brown, Highest Honors; Mary L. Buie, Honors; Andrea A. Campofiore, High Honors; Mason B. Cresser, Highest Honors; Angelina S. Culley, High Honors; Coleman T. Davis, Honors; Julie R. French, Highest Honors; James H. Guarino, Highest Honors; Caroline E. Gurton, Highest Honors; Hannah G. Gwaltney, High Honors; Charles A. Haney, Honors; Brady R. Heath, Honors; Sidney M. Heath, Honors; Kane T. Henderson, Honors; Courtland N. Hester, Highest Honors; Cason L. Hight, High Honors; Larissa M. Houle, Honors; Emily A. Hudgens, High Honors; Hannah J. Hughes, Highest Honors; Kimberly B. Marr, Honors; Keaton J. McFarland, High Honors; William H. McKenzie, Honors; Jessica D. Olivera, Honors; Victoria L. Page, High Honors; Kelsey L. Peoples, High Honors; Autumn R. Price, High Honors; Jared M. Pugh, High Honors; Mariah M. Purcell, High Honors; Adam R. Rogers, Highest Honors; Jesse A. Shields, Honors; Ashley N. Smith, Highest Honors; Lon H. Sowell, Honors; John E. Taylor, High Honors; Makayla R. Thorpe, Highest Honors; Bryan D. Thomas, High Honors; Krista M. Tuning, Honors; Summer B. Wilson, Highest Honors; Brooks W. Wimberly, Honors.
- Puryear - Samantha J. Carpenter, Highest Honors; Jessie A. Evans, High Honors; Justin L. McElroy, High Honors; Kayla R. Ostron, High Honors; Baylee D. Pafford, Honors; Bryan E. Parkhill, Honors; Francis V. Pullen, Honors; Julie T. Shankle, Highest Honors.
- Springville - Joshua R. Eaton, Highest Honors; Delilah H. Presson, High Honors; Shelby L. Susewitt, High Honors.

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

- Jackson - Jesse W. Nolan, High Honors.
- Martin - DaeShuana M. Alyndrige, High Honors; Brady C. Mustain, Honors.
Capacity crowd inspired at annual MLK Breakfast and Celebration in Martin

Posted on January 20, 2020 by Steve James

About 300 guests were inspired to "Dream with a Vision and Live with a Purpose" during Monday's 8th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and Celebration at UT Martin.

One of the keynote speakers this year was UT Martin Criminal Justice Major Gerrard Cox.

The morning's other keynote speaker was UTM Career Planning and Development Director, Dr. Mark McCloud.

Several awards were also presented during the celebration to those helping to keep Dr. King's vision alive.

Dr. McCloud, Courtney Price, and Kayla Gooden were recognized with the Alpha Awards. UTM Director of Student Affairs and Multicultural Affairs John W. Blue was awarded the Torch Award, and the City of Martin Harold Conner Award was presented to Hoover Nunley.

The annual event is sponsored by the City of Martin, UT Martin, and the UTM Black Student Association.
City Of Martin, UTM Celebrate King’s Life

JANUARY 21, 2020 AT 8:39 AM | POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn. — The city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated the life of slain Civil Rights Movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Monday, Jan. 20, in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin's Boling University Center.

The event, first held in January 2013, is sponsored by the city and the university’s Black Student Association and welcomed business leaders, community members, elected officials and university faculty, staff and students. The celebration’s theme was “Dream With a Vision. Live With a Purpose.”

Martin Alderman and long-time UTM Administrator David Belote emceed the event that included welcoming remarks from Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and Kaylyn Bailey, of Memphis, UT Martin Black Student Association president. Pastor Orrin Cowley, McCabe United Methodist Church, offered the invocation. Following the meal, UT Martin student Gerrard Cox and Dr. Mark McCloud, director of the university's Office of Career Planning and Development, served as keynote speakers. Both honored King's memory by focusing on pursuing and achieving dreams and assuming responsibility in order to make the world a better place in which to live.

Cox is a senior criminal justice major from Humboldt. He credited his community and family support system for supporting him through different challenges. "Throughout my life, I've always had the problem thinking, 'I don't know if I'm good enough to do something, or maybe I just don't have what it takes,'" he said. "And many times, throughout my life, when I'll be willing to settle for mediocrity, it seems like these were the times when my support system pushed me the most." Cox struggled in school early but said that his mother and teachers worked with him to turn his grades in a different direction by the fifth grade and, since then, he has achieved academically. Cox expects to graduate from UT Martin with honors this spring.
In addition to his classroom achievements, Cox has also grown as a leader, first as a football player at Humboldt High School and then through his association with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., which elected him chapter president. "Being placed in this leadership role has forced me to grow," he said. "It was one of the best things that could have happened to me because it taught me I could lead, and I could be an effective leader because leadership is something I tend to shy away from." Cox is also involved in the Student Government Association and was elected a senator during the last SGA election and then speaker of the senate by his fellow senators. "I'm not certain what my future may hold, but I know I'll be successful at whatever I choose to do," Cox said as he closed. "After going through so many trials and tribulations in my life, I have obtained the tools that I need to go forward, and now my life is in my own hands."

McCloud continued the celebration's inspirational theme by offering his ideas on how the community can help people achieve their own dreams through respect, responsibility and right choices. Speaking about the importance of respect, he told the audience about attending a conference last summer where he noticed an older man who was wearing a veteran's cap. He thanked the man for his military service, and the man responded by saying, "You were worth it." The response was not what McCloud expected and made him realize that this man fought in a war so that he could someday realize his own dreams. "So, we have to have respect for those who came before us because we stand on their shoulders," McCloud said. "And we have to have respect for future generations because they will stand on ours."

He told the audience that many of us hold titles, but our responsibility is "to leave those organizations (in which we lead and work) better than the way we found them" and to change things for the better with the responsibility that we have. He recalled as a parent the first time that he had to gather supplies for a school list and questioned why he had to purchase all of those items. He later realized that all parents couldn't purchase the supplies, and if other parents did not purchase what was on the list, some children would do without. "So, I had no problem with that because we are our brother's keeper," he said. "No one man is an island. No one stands alone. Each man is my brother. ... We need to live a life that's driven by purpose."

Music and award presentations were also featured in the program. UT Martin music major Nyila Barr, of Memphis, performed Bill Withers' classic song "Lean on Me" and was accompanied on the piano by Dr. Danny Donaldson, Martin optometrist and a UT Martin graduate, who also provided music throughout the event.

Individual Awards included the Alpha Awards of Merit, presented in memory of King who was an Alpha Phi Alpha member. The award recognizes those who have demonstrated leadership on campus in the area of civil rights. In addition, the Torch Award is given by the Black Student Association and honors individuals who are symbolically "carrying the torch" as leaders in civil rights. Alpha Awards were presented to Courtney Price, a senior health and human performance from Memphis; Kayla Gooden, a sophomore psychology major, also from Memphis; and event speaker Mark McCloud. The Black Student Association Torch Award was presented to John Blue, the university's director of student life and multicultural affairs.

The final award, the Harold Conner City of Martin Award, was presented by Mayor Brundige to Martin resident Hoover Nunley. The award recognizes longtime leadership, 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. Nunley's daughter, JoAnn Collins, received the award on behalf of her father. Before announcing the Conner award, Brundige presented a proclamation for community service and support to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. UT Martin faculty member Tara Tansil accepted the proclamation on behalf of the sorority.
Chancellor’s Honor Roll announced

Jan 21, 2020

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Mary R. Gean, of Monroe, received High Honors.

In addition, Chancellor's Honor Roll honorees with ties to Overton County include Martin - Brittany D. Dyer, of Martin, with Honors.

UT Martin is a public 4-year university offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information visit utm.edu.
FORGING A FUTURE
— UT Martin Student Government Association president Devin Majors (on stage, left) joined keynote speaker Gerrard Cox (right) after Monday’s celebration “Dream With a Vision. Live With a Purpose,” on the UT Martin campus. The breakfast event celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as local campus and community leaders. Cox is a criminal justice major from Humboldt. He spoke of his elders who helped guide and encourage him to pursue his dreams. This is an annual breakfast event.

Living a life driven by purpose

By BUD GRIMES
UTM University Relations

The City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated the life of slain Civil Rights Movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Monday in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin’s Boling University Center.

The event, first held in January 2013, is sponsored by the city and the university’s Black Student Association and welcomed business leaders, community members, elected officials and university faculty, staff and students. The celebration’s theme is “Dream With a Vision. Live With a Purpose.”

Martin alderman and long-time university administrator David Belote emceed the event that included welcoming remarks from Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and Kaylyn Bailey, UT Martin Black Student Association president. Pastor Orrin Cowley, McCabe United Methodist Church, offered the invocation.

Following the meal, UT Martin student Gerrard Cox and Dr. Mark McCoury, director of the university’s Office of Career Planning and Development, served as keynote speakers. Both honored King’s memory by focusing on pursuing and achieving dreams and assuming responsibility in order to make the world a better place in which to live.

Cox is a senior criminal justice major from Humboldt. He credited his community and family support system for supporting him through challenges. “Throughout my life, I’ve always had the problem thinking, ‘I don’t know if I’m good enough to do something, or maybe I just don’t have what it takes,’” he said.

“And many times, throughout my life, when I’ll be willing to settle for mediocrity, it seems like these were the times when my support system

SEE PURPOSE
Page 10
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from page 1

pushed me the most." Cox struggled in school early but said that his mother and teachers worked with him to turn his grades in a different direction by the fifth grade and, since then, he has achieved academically. Cox expects to graduate from UT Martin with honors this spring.

Cox has an older brother and two younger sisters, and his father wasn't around much after his parents divorced when he was four. He described his mother, Danita, as "my superhero" and his grandfather, Eugene, as a father figure. He also credited his grandmother, who died during his first week of classes at UT Martin, as the person who inspired his entire family, and he will honor her memory when he receives his diploma in May.

In addition to his classroom achievements, Cox has also grown as a leader, first as a football player at Humboldt High School and then through his association with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., which elected him chapter president.

“Being placed in this leadership role has forced me to grow,” he said. “It was one of the best things that could have happened to me because it taught me I could lead, and I could be an effective leader because leadership is something I tend to shy away from.”

Cox is also involved in the Student Government Association and was elected a senator during the last SGA election and then speaker of the senate by his fellow senators.

“I’m not certain what my future may hold, but I know I’ll be successful at whatever I choose to do,” Cox said as he closed. “After going through so many trials and tribulations in my life, I have obtained the tools that I need to go forward, and now my life is in my own hands.”

McCloud continued the celebration’s inspirational theme by offering his ideas on how the community can help people achieve their own dreams through respect, responsibility and right choices.

Speaking about the importance of respect, he told the audience about attending a conference last summer where he noticed an older man who was wearing a veteran’s cap. He thanked the man for his military service, and the man responded by saying, “You were worth it.”

The response was not what he expected and made him realize that the man fought in war so that he could someday realize his own dreams.

“So, we have to have respect for those who came before us because we stand
on their shoulders," McCLOUD said. "And we have to have respect for future generations because they will stand on ours."

He told the audience that many of us hold titles, but our responsibility is "to leave those organizations (in which we lead and work) better than the way we found them" and to change things for the better with the responsibility that we have.

He recalled as a parent the first time that he had to gather supplies for a school list and questioned why he had to purchase all of those items. He later realized that all parents couldn’t purchase the supplies, and if other parents did not purchase what was on the list, some children would do without.

"So, I had no problem with that because we are our brother’s keeper," he said. "No one man is an island. No one stands alone. Each man is my brother. . . . We need to live a life that’s driven by purpose."

He closed by saying that too much is made of differences between people. "But guess what? The real issue is right versus wrong, and if it’s not right, it’s probably wrong," McCLOUD said.

"And there’s no wrong time to do the right thing. Loving thy neighbor as thyself is right . . . Being able to be an advocate for those who don’t have a voice is right."

He said that we can all make a difference by doing the right thing and by reaching out to encourage those who are having a difficult time.

Music and award presentations were also featured in the program. UT Martin music major Nylain Barr performed Bill Withers’ classic song “Lean on Me” and was accompanied on the piano by Dr. Danny Donaldson, local optometrist and a UT Martin graduate, who also provided music throughout the event.

Individual Awards included the Alpha Awards of Merit, presented in memory of King who was an Alpha Phi Alpha member. The award recognizes those who have demonstrated leadership on campus in the area of civil rights.

In addition, the Torch Award is given by the Black Student Association and honors individuals who are symbolically “carrying the torch” as leaders in civil rights.

Alpha Awards were presented to Courtney Price, a senior health and human performance from Memphis; Kayla Gooden, a sophomore psychology major, also from Memphis; and event speaker Mark McCLOUD.

The Black Student Association Torch Award was presented to John Blue, the university’s director of student life and multicultural affairs.

The final award, the Harold Conner City of Martin Award, was presented by Mayor Brundige to Martin resident Hoover Nunley. The award recognizes long-time leadership, 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.

Nunley’s daughter, Joann Collins, received the award for her father.

Brad Thompson, Martin economic and community development director, saw the event as a success and an inspiration to the nearly 300 persons who attended.

"It was a great, great event . . . all of it just exactly what we need to be doing this day in celebration and remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King’s life."

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, RIGHT CHOICES — Dr. Mark McCLOUD, director of UTM Career Planning and Development, served as keynote speaker for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Monday morning in the ballroom of the Boling University Center. Dr. McCLOUD told the audience the dreams of the nation are in their hands. Photo By Nathan Morgan, UTM University Relations.
HAROLD CONNER AWARD — Martin Mayor Randy Brundige (right) presented the Harold Conner Award during Monday’s annual breakfast held at UTM. Hoover Nunley was recipient of the distinguished award. He was unable to attend and his daughter, Joann Collins, accepted the award on his behalf.

CARRYING THE TORCH — John Blue was the recipient of the Torch Award, presented by Kaylyn Bailey. She is president of the UTM Black Student Association. The award was presented at the annual MLK Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Monday on campus.

Photos by Nathan Morgan, UTM University Relations

ALPHA MERIT HONOREES — UT Martin Student Government Association president Devin Majors (from left) presented the annual Alpha Awards of Merit during the annual MLK Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held on campus Monday morning. Receiving the distinguished Alpha awards were Dr. Mark McCloud, Kayla Gooden and Courtney Price. The Alpha awards are presented in honor of Dr. King, who was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Photo by Nathan Morgan, UTM University Relations
UT Martin Names Fall 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 2019 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must meet 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).

Blackburn, Highest Honors; Savanah L. Crone, Honors; Abigail M. Dedmon, High Honors; Samuel B. Fagin, Highest Honors; Karen M. Gantt, Honors; James E. Hatfield, Honors; Michael J. Himnant, High Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, High Honors; Kelton K. Johnson, Honors; Abigail M. Lewis, Honors; Madison B. Miller, Honors; Kelsey B. Morris, Honors; Olivia J. Patrick, Highest Honors; Jonathan C. Prescott, High Honors; Tori B. Riggs, Highest Honors; Caitlin N. Rossman, Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Staley, Highest Honors; Jaxon D. Stringer, Highest Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, Honors; Samuel M. Walgren, Highest Honors; Austin H. White, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Higher Honors; Elizabeth A. Wilson, Highest Honors.

To see more, visit utm.edu.

Trenton — Abigail B. Allen, Highest Honors; Brant M. Allen, Highest Honors; Hannah G. Ball, Highest Honors; Hayden P. Barnett, High Honors; Tyson I. Bartholomew, Honors; Desiree B. Brooks, Honors; Emily M. Campbell, Highest Honors; Sable L. Estes, Honors; Jouanna C. Ferguson, High Honors; Allyson M. Ingram, Honors; Eli J. King, High Honors; John K. Lester, Highest Honors; Cade E. Milligan, Honors; Logan W. Morris, Honors; Carl R. Nowell, Honors; Chesley C. Ratliff, Honors; Adrian M. Rodriguez, Highest Honors; Allison R. Skaggs, High Honors; Jessica D. Smith, High Honors; Makayla N. Walters, High Honors.

In addition, Chancellor's Honor Roll honorees with ties to Gibson County include: Jackson – Grace N. Abbott, Honors; Martin – Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Chandler H. Carey, High Honors; Holly K. Faulkner, Highest Honors; Taylor J. Pannell, High Honors; Leah B. Pybas, Honors; Eli M. Todd, High Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, Honors; Matthew D. Wicker, Honors; James L. Wren, Honors.

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UT Martin Names Local Students to Honor Roll

MARTIN — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored with publication of the Fall 2019 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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Bruceton — Anna M. Hopfer, High Honors; Jared A. Jordan, High Honors; Matthew R. Katzmarek, High Honors; Hunter H. McCaig, Honors; Alexis M. Reynolds, Honors; Colin M. Roberts, High Honors; Rachel A. Smith, High Honors.

Buena Vista — Garrett T. Graves, Highest Honors.

Cedar Grove — Mackenzie J. Clark, Honors; Jadia D. Harris, High Honors; Gracie L. Renfroe, Highest Honors; Noah W. Rogers, Highest Honors; Jace W. Williams, High Honors; Christopher W. Wood, High Honors.

Hollow Rock — Channa L. Ragsdale, Highest Honors; Ashley C. Stockdale, High Honors; Ana-Kate M. Welsh, Highest Honors; Kayla M. Woods, Honors.

Huntingdon — Trent J. Boyd, Honors; Anna E. Burden, High Honors; Kody L. Byrd, Honors; Morgan E. Cagle, Highest Honors; Bryaden A. Campbell, Highest Honors; Katie L. Chase, High Honors; Emily D. Coleman, High Honors; Carson E. Enesley, Honors; Emily B. Garner, High Honors; Michael B. Gibson, Honors; DAWSON B. GREMMELS, Highest Honors; Austin K. Hill, High Honors; Lydlea K. Jones, Honors; Caitlin E. Kreuziger, Honors; William A. Lee, High Honors; AURIA B. MCLERKING, Highest Honors; Mary K. McGee, Honors; Hayden B. Mclemore, High Honors; John K. Pearson, Honors; Joseph T. Richardson, Highest Honors; Emily A. Sanford, High Honors; Wyatt C. Stokes, Highest Honors; Molly B. Sturgis, High Honors; Olivia B. Thompson, Honors; Jessica J. Warren, High Honors; Jimari D. Weather, Honors; Kaitlyn E. Williams, High Honors.

Lavinia — Victoria M. Gallegos, Highest Honors; Ashleigh T. Todd, Highest Honors; Trinity D. Ward, Highest Honors.

McKenzie — Christine G. Aden, Highest Honors; Lexie N. Bolin, High Honors; Mikayla E. Boucher, High Honors; Nathan S. Brown, Highest Honors; Jake M. Chappell, Honors; Anna C. Corner, Highest Honors; Gabriele S. Davis, High Honors; Julie A. French, Honors; Sarah P. Jackson, High Honors; Morgan A. Klinzing, Highest Honors; Mackenzie G. Matthews, Honors; William T. McBride, High Honors; Nicole R. Mercer, Honors; Mitchell L. Moore, Highest Honors; Logan Priestley, High Honors; Zack D. Sadler, Honors; Nathan D. Smith, High Honors; Morgan R. Spring, Highest Honors; Stuart T. Spring, Honors; Kayla B. Strickland, High Honors; Molley K. Tippitt, Highest Honors; Lucas P. Waddell, High Honors; Chloe J. Williams, High Honors; Alejandro Zaragoza, High Honors.

Trezevant — Katelyn F. Collins, Honors.

Yuma — Madison L. McClure, Highest Honors; Ryan K. McDaniel, Honors; Sydney M. Roney, High Honors.

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

Camden — Steven E. McMackins, Honors.

Martin — Kaitlin A. Belew, Highest Honors; Devon W. Coble, High Honors; Jillianne D. Monroe, High Honors; Amanda J. Padilla, Highest Honors; Rebecca L. Roberts, High Honors; Courtney D. Seydel, Honors.

Saint Francisville, Louisiana — Joshua D. Gentry, High Honors.
For the seventh consecutive year, UT Martin will be represented at America's biggest sporting event, Super Bowl LIV (that's Super Bowl 54 for those of you not good with Roman numerals).

Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, will take 11 students this year, including three international student-athletes and two graduate students, to work hospitality at the big game and gain the kind of hands-on, real-world experience that can be found nowhere else.

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

The group will leave Tennessee on Jan. 24 and spend that afternoon touring Roger Dean Stadium and FITTEAM Ballpark – the annual spring training site for the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals Major League Baseball teams. The group will also work the 2020 Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida, on Jan. 25 before returning to Miami to work the Super Bowl Experience, Super Bowl LIVE and associated media events leading up to the big game.

Davis and his students will also attend the University of Miami's Sport Industry Conference on Jan. 30, a unique opportunity for them to hear presentations on a variety of industry issues and network with students, faculty and professionals from schools and networks across the country.
On game day, students will work with On Location Experiences, the National Football League's premium hospitality business, serving as talent concierges. This role includes coordinating player appearances, escorting players between venues and helping with on-field activities. Davis is annually involved with player coordination and aspects of the halftime show, and this is his 15th Super Bowl.

Students attending this year are Leighton Chappell, of Flushing, Michigan; Jodie Duncan, of Munford; Mary Harmon, of Dickson; Lauren Hutchinson, of McEwen; Lucas Istre, of Centerville; Chase Prescott, of Milan; Jon Ward, of Centerville; Peyton Wolfe, of Ramer; and international students Amelia Campbell (Great Britain); Mizuki Sakurai (Great Britain) and Jule Streif (Germany). Chappell, Duncan, Harmon and Wolfe have all attended the event in previous years.

For more information on the trip or the UT Martin sport business program, housed in the College of Business and Global Affairs, contact Davis at davis78@utm.edu.

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Chappell, Duncan, Harmon, and Wolfe have all attended the event in previous years.

http://newsprogress.com/

**Bethany Student Makes UT Martin Chancellor’s Roll**

*January 22, 2020*

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.
Several students from Obion County have been named to the fall semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Chancellor’s Honor Rolls honor the outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students in 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 College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for the 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).

Among the Obion County students who earned the recognition, listed by hometown, are:

Hornbeak — Trinity E. Baker, high honors; Mckinleigh R. Bell, high honors; Shelby D. Burket, high honors; Brianna M. Hinton, honors; Parker W. Kendall, high honors; Marli M. McClimon, highest honors; Kyler W. Shirley, honors; and Madison L. Winchester, high honors.

Linden City — Makenzie T. Chandler, honors; Taylor M. Gansert, high honors; and Cody G. Little, honors.

Obion — Carigan L. Grimes, high honors; Kellie L. Henson, honors; Alexandria N. Holt, honors; Madison S. Pitts, high honors; Axli D. Powers, honors; Brycen G. Rainey, high honors; Lauren M. Shaw, honors; and Bethany L. Walsh, high honors.

Rives — Dylan M. Armstrong, high honors; Sheridan B. Bugg, honors; Carson H. Cary, high honors; Kathryn G. Crockett, high honors; Wesley P. Sisco, highest honors; William S. Sisco, highest honors; Bailey B. Wisener, highest honors; and Claire E. Wisener, highest honors.

South Fulton — Kevin W. Bartholomew, highest honors; Riley K. Davis, highest honors; Sarah K. Hester, honors; Audri A. Hill, high honors; Taylor P. Holley, high honors; James B. Hutchens, highest honors; Blake A. Johnson, high honors; Ryanne B. Kessel, highest honors; Chandler B. Malroy, honors; Tannice B. Mayo, highest honors; Slade C. Murray, highest honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, highest honors; Kristen T. Roach, highest honors; Justin B. Sowell, high honors; Michaela L. St John, honors; and Zachary S. Vaughn, high honors.

Troy — Morgan L. Armstrong, high honors; Kaitlyn H. Caldwell, honors; Daniel L. Finch, honors; Carston L. Hutchison, highest honors; Javy B. Jennings, honors; Calli M. Johnson, high honors; Camille V. Kendall, highest honors; Helen E. Kendall, highest honors; Sara J. Kendall, highest honors; John I. Kennedy, highest honors; Kathryn G. Kerr, highest honors; Anna D. Logan, highest honors; Leandra N. Moore, highest honors; Cecilee A. Morris, highest honors; Jessica L. Parrell, highest honors; and Megan E. Winchester, honors.

Union City — Audrey M. Adams, highest honors; Chelsea B. Anderson, high honors; Austin C. Atwill, highest honors; Rebeca J. Beachum, honors; Benjamin H. Beard, highest honors; Brandon W. Beard, high honors; Levi H. Beard, highest honors; Breanna N. Bell, highest honors; Darionna A. Bishop, honors; Kayla D. Bryant, high honors; Morgan W. Burton, honors; Madison K. Butter, honors; Kaleigh B. Byrum, honors; Chambray L. Callcott, honors; Hannah M. Cavness, high honors; Caroline J. Chism, honors; Catherine A. Clancy, honors; Kerri J. Corum, highest honors; Rachel M. Crouch, highest honors; Olivia G. Davis, highest honors; Elizabeth J. Driver, highest honors; Aaron J. Dyer, highest honors; Macy S. Earley, high honors; Andrew M. Easley, high honors; Jakayla M. Fisk, high honors; Brendan L. Galbraith, highest honors; Jack S. Garrett, honors; Andrew B. Glover, high honors; Audrey B. Glover, honors; Klayton J. Hagan, honors; Tyson B. Heathcock, highest honors; Madison L. Hicks, highest honors; Macy M. Horner, honors; James F. Hudspeth, highest honors; Darrell L. Huff, highest honors; Jacob T. Hyde, honors; Brianna M. Johnson, honors; Justyn I. Johnson, highest honors; Kasidey S. Jones, honors; Cruz M. Kepner, honors; Halii L. Land, honors; Audrey E. Long, honors; Kendraya C. Maddox, highest honors; Mandy R. Mandujano, highest honors; Thomas P. Mathis, highest honors; Alexis V. Millsaps, highest honors; Shelby N. Mosley, high honors; Audrey M. Myers, honors; Kursten H. Osbourne, high honors; Karoline L. Parker, high honors; Katy Parker, highest honors; Avery A. Partin, highest honors; Tucker M. Pounds, high honors; Stella D. Preuet, highest honors; Taylor R. Pruet, honors; John A. Rizzo, high honors; Hillary R. Rousseau, highest honors; Santiago A. Ruiz, high honors; Samantha M. Schelband, honors; Leah A. Simmons, high honors; Hailey E. Slaughter, highest honors; Clayton R. Smith, honors; Jenna M. Smith, honors; Cory A. Sparks, honors; Reily J. Stanford, highest honors; Eric S. Stromblad, honors; William T. Stutter, high honors; Emily B. Taylor, honors; William D. Thralls, high honors; Ariana G. Warner, honors; Jacob T. Wheeles, high honors; and Jasmine M. Youngblood, highest honors.

Additionally, UT Martin Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognizes students who make various ties to Obion County include:

Fulton — Aaron M. Hollingsworth, honors.

Martin — Parker E. Albright, highest honors; Heather L. Baggett, honors; Anna D. Barnes, high honors; Alyssa M. Black, high honors; Taylor C. Bowling, highest honors; Hunter C. Burton, high honors; Garrett L. Hay, high honors; Grant W. Larcott, highest honors; Jordan P. Murdock, highest honors; Mason S. Parker, honors; and Samantha M. Simbeck, high honors.

Ridgely — Paxton T. Gordon, honors.

Ripley — Madison A. Preciado, honors.

Rutherford — Madison P. Ellis, highest honors.
Free ‘Healthy Steps’ offered at UTM

Diane Austin, assistant professor of nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and her daughter, Allica Austin, will sponsor a community “Healthy Steps” program Jan. 28-May 12.

The 16-week lifestyle change program will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays in Room 120 of UT Martin’s Gooch Hall, and there is no cost to participate.

The program’s goal is to help participants permanently lose 5 to 7 percent of their body weight by eating healthier and being more physically active.

The Austin duo use the Prevent T2 Program from the National Diabetes Prevention Program, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Group participants will have access to a lifestyle coach and nursing staff.

Diane Austin holds a bachelor of science in nursing degree from UT Martin and a master of science in nursing from Union University. She has more than 20 years of experience as a registered nurse specializing in critical care and medical-surgical nursing.

Allica Austin is a diabetes prevention program lifestyle coach and has spent more than 10 years helping people reach health and wellness goals. She holds a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance from UT Martin and a master’s degree from Liberty University.

Brian Carroll, UT Martin lecturer of dietetics, will assist the group in some sessions. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in food and nutrition from Southern Illinois University.

Anyone interested should email allica.austin@gmail.com or daustin@utm.edu. Registration emails should include a name, phone number and email address.

UT-Martin names local students on Honor Roll

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

To be eligible for the 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 (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Students on the list from Henning included Rebeka S. Medford, Honors; Tinika N. Pitts, Highest Honors; Alyssa L. Spencer, High Honors; and Erin N. Young, Highest Honors.

Students on the list from Ripley included Jason D. Adams, High Honors; Danyel R. Barnes, High Honors; Charles L. Brown, Highest Honors; Charnesia L. Brown, Highest Honors; Creg L. Claybrook, High Honors; Shannon A. Crawford, Highest Honors; Steven R. Dodson, Highest Honors; Maria A. Fulton, Honors; Madison A. Griggs, High Honors; Hanna M. Hardister, High Honors; Mahima J. Mahida, Highest Honors; Christina K. Mason, Honors; Bethany N. McCaslin, Highest Honors; Joshua C. Myrick, Honors; Candice N. Paris, Highest Honors; Anjalee S. Patel, Honors; Sherry S. Pearson, High Honors; Sarah M. Perry, High Honors; Madison A. Preciado, Honors; Sylvia Smith-Gholson, Highest Honors; Wade H. Wakefield, Honors; Allison P. Webb, Highest Honors; Linda D. West, Honors; Austin T. Whitaker, Honors; and Daphne E. Young, Highest Honors.

In addition, Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Lauderdale County include Dyersburg, Daniel J. Gates, Honors; Martin, Wesley A. Helton, Honors; Violet R. Scott, High Honors; and Medina, Logan S. Jones, Highest Honors.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2019 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Fulton residents include Aaron M. Hollingsworth, with ties to Fulton County earned High Honors. To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
UT Martin Skyhawk Athletics Unveils New Alternate Logo

The University of Tennessee at Martin and the Skyhawk Athletic Department has announced the addition of a new, alternate logo aimed to enhance the Skyhawks branding package that has represented the university since 1995. The new mark will not replace the existing primary Skyhawk mark but rather supplement the existing logo package. The new logo offers an alternate mark to the traditional Skyhawk head with a more dynamic and powerful side profile.

"The Skyhawk is unique throughout collegiate athletics," said Kurt McGuffin, UT Martin Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "With dozens of bird and hawk mascots nationwide, we boast the only Skyhawk in Division I and are proud to continue that tradition of excellence. Our goal with the new logo was to retain the original look and characteristics of the Skyhawk while giving it a sleeker, modern feel. There are exciting things happening within Skyhawk athletics and UT Martin as a whole. We hope the new alternate logo is symbolic of the progress we intend to make."

The Skyhawk logo and Captain Skyhawk caricature were created in 1995 by Dye Van Mol & Lawrence, now DVL Seigenthaler, the Nashville office of the global marketing communications firm Finn Partners. The package was updated internally in 2007, and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver charged a university committee earlier this year to add a new mark.

"This marks the twenty-fifth year since the Skyhawk name and logo were introduced, and the timing is right to add an alternate mark to the logo family," said Carver. "The Skyhawk logo is easily associated with UT Martin, so I see this as an opportunity to boost enthusiasm for our athletics identity. The design and communication of sports graphics have changed in the decades since the Skyhawk logo was first released, and we are proud to introduce this alternate mark as a way to bring our athletic brand into 2020."

FAQ

Who designed the new logo?

Finn Partners, a full-service advertising, marketing and public relations agency in Nashville, was chosen in a competitive bid process to lead the project. Finn Partners' successful logo projects include current logos for the Nashville Predators, Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders and Belmont Bruins.

What was the process and timeline for the redesign?

Chancellor Carver charged a university committee with coordinating the project, which included student, faculty, staff, alumni and community involvement. Focus groups and an online survey that received just under 4,000 responses were used to refine ideas for the new mark. The committee then worked with Finn Partners to finalize the design. The release of the new mark happens to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Skyhawk graphic identity, and the timing of the mark's release allows it to be used on new merchandise options before the start of the 2020 fall semester and a new academic year.

Why a new logo?

The last revision of the Skyhawk logo was introduced in 1995 and tweaked again in 2007. A more contemporary design displaying added action and movement will complement the popular Skyhawk logo and build more enthusiasm for the brand. The alternate mark will be used alone and with approved wordmark combinations using "UTM" and "Skyhawks."

Why release the new logo in-season?

Releasing the mark while teams are competing and students are in school will help build initial interest in the alternate mark before it is introduced on new merchandise. The alternate mark should be fully in use by the time classes start in fall 2020.

How quickly will the new logo be circulated?

Today's announcement clears the way for use of the new mark on uniforms, apparel and other merchandise. This is also a key time period for recruiting new students to the university, and interest in the new alternate logo should create additional excitement during spring recruitment activities.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honored By City of Martin, UT Martin

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honored By City of Martin, UT Martin

MARTIN (January 20) — The City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin joined hands to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held Monday in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin's Boling University Center. The event, first held in January 2013, is sponsored by the city and the university's Black Student Association and welcomed business leaders, community members, elected officials and university faculty, staff and students. The celebration's theme was "Dream With a Vision. Live With a Purpose."

Martin alderman and long-time university administrator David Belote emceed the event that included welcoming remarks from Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and Kaylyn Bailey of Memphis, UT Martin Black Student Association president. Pastor Orrin Cowley, McCabe United Methodist Church, offered the invocation. Following the meal, UT Martin student Gerrard Cox and Dr. Mark McCloud, director of the university's Office of Career Planning and Development, served as keynote speakers. Both honored King's memory by focusing on pursuing and achieving dreams and assuming responsibility in order to make the world a better place in which to live.

Cox has an older brother and two younger sisters, and his father wasn't around much after his parents divorced when he was four. Cox described his mother, Dantia, as "my superhero" and his grandfather, Eugene, as a father figure. He also credited his grandmother, who died during his first week of classes at UT Martin. The person who inspired his entire family, and he will honor her memory when he receives his diploma in May.

In addition to his classroom achievements, Cox has also grown as a leader, first as a football player at Humboldt High School and then through his association with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., which elected him chapter president. "Being placed in this leadership role has forced me to grow," he said. "It was one of the best things that could have happened to me because it taught me I could lead, and I could be an effective leader because leadership is something I tend to shy away from." Cox is also involved in the Student Government Association and was elected a senator during the last SGA election and then speaker of the senate by his fellow senators. "I'm not certain what my future may hold, but I know I'll be successful at whatever I choose to do," Cox said as he closed. "After going through so many trials and tribulations in my life, I have obtained the tools that I need to go forward, and now my life is in my own hands."

McCloud continued the celebration's inspirational theme by offering his ideas on how the community can help people achieve their own dreams through respect, responsibility and right choices. Speaking about the importance of respect, he told the audience about attending a conference last summer where he noticed an older man who was wearing a veteran's cap. He thanked the man for his military service, and the man responded by saying, "You were worth it." The response was not what McCloud expected and made him realize that this man was in a war so he could someday realize his own dreams. "So, we have to have respect for those who came before us because we stand on their shoulders," McCloud said. "And we have to have respect for future generations because they will stand on ours."

He told the audience that many of us hold titles, but our responsibility is "to leave those organizations (in which we work) better than when we found them" and to change things for the better with the responsibility that we have. He recalled as a parent the first time that he had to gather supplies for what he called the lead why he had to purchase all of those items. He later realized that all parents couldn't purchase the supplies, and if other parents did not purchase what was on the list, some children would be without. "So, I had no problem with that because we are our brother's keeper," he said. "No one man is an island. No one stands alone. Each man is my brother. Let's need to live a life that's driven by a purpose."

He closed by saying that too much is made of differences between people. "But guess what? The real issue is right versus wrong, and if it's not right, it's probably wrong," McCloud said. "And there's no wrong time to do the right thing. Loving thy neighbor as thyself is right. ... Being able to be an advocate for those who don't have a voice is right." He said that we can all make a difference by doing the right thing and by reaching out to encourage those who are experiencing difficult times.

Music and award presentations were also featured in the program. UT Martin music major Ny LAN Barr of Memphis, performed Bill Withers' classic song "Lean on Me" and was accompanied on the piano by Dr. Danny Donaldson, Martin optometrist and a UT Martin graduate, who also provided music throughout the event.

Individual awards included the Alpha Awards of Merit, presented in memory of King, who was an Alpha Phi Alpha member. The award recognizes those who have demonstrated leadership on campus in the area of civil rights. In addition, the Torcine Award is given by the Black Student Association to an individual who is symbolically "carrying the torch" as leaders in civil rights. Alpha Awards were presented to Courtney Price, a senior health and human performance major, from Memphis; Kayla Gooden, a sophomore psychology major, also from Memphis; and event speaker Mark McCloud. The Black Student Association Torque Award was presented to John Blue, the university's director of student life and multicultural affairs.
HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. — Dr. Mark McCloud was a keynote speaker for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast held January 20 in UT Martin's Duncan Ballroom. Speakers, music and award presentations highlighted the event that honors the memory of the slain civil rights leader. Photo courtesy UTM

UT Martin Faculty Hosts Community Healthy Steps Program

MARTIN — Diane Austin, assistant professor of nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and her daughter, Allica Austin, are sponsoring a community “Healthy Steps” program January 28 to May 12. The 16-week lifestyle change program meets 6 p.m. Tuesdays in room 120 of UT Martin’s Gooch Hall. There is no cost to participate.

The program’s goal is to help participants permanently lose 5-7 percent of their body weight by eating healthier and being more physically active. The Austin duo use the Prevent T2 Program from the National Diabetes Prevention Program, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the support-group style curriculum. All group participants will have access to a lifestyle coach and nursing staff to assist throughout the program.

Diane Austin holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from UT Martin and a Master of Science in Nursing from Union University. She has more than 20 years of experience as a registered nurse specializing in critical care and medical-surgical nursing. Allica Austin is a diabetes prevention program lifestyle coach, as recognized by the Centers for Disease Control, and has spent more than 10 years helping people reach health and wellness goals through diet and exercise. She holds a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance from UT Martin and a master’s degree from Liberty University.

Brian Carroll, UT Martin lecturer of dietetics, will assist the group in some sessions. Carroll holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in food and nutrition from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

Interested participants should email allica.austin@gmail.com or daustin@utm.edu to enroll in the program. Registration emails should include each individual’s name, phone number and email address. For more information, contact either Allica or Diane Austin at the email addresses above.
Diane Austin, assistant professor of nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and her daughter, Allica Austin, will sponsor a community "Healthy Steps" program from Jan. 28-May 12. The 16-week lifestyle change program will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesdays in room 120 of UT Martin’s Gooch Hall, and there is no cost to participate.

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**MES K-KIDS LEARN ABOUT MUSCLES AND BONES** — Laura Taylor, faculty member in the Department of Health and Human Performance at UTM, visited the Martin Elementary School K-Kids group on Jan. 16. She encouraged most of the 25 third, fourth, and fifth graders to get up from their seats with exercise and the bouncy burning of excess energy. Laura is pictured with MES students Brea McGuffin (left) and Kella Simmons. Laura and her two guests, Dr. Julie Floyd from Nursing and senior UTM HHP major Juliana O’Guin, directed students in the jumps, kicks, and stretches between each slide in the PowerPoint presentation about muscles and bones. Kiwanis member Anna Clark led the students in the K-Kids pledge, and introduced the guests.
UT System ignites action on mental health and wellness during summit

Nashville — According to a recent study by the American Council on Education, 74% of presidents at a public four-year institutions are more frequently hearing about students with mental health issues on their campuses, ranging from a few times a month to once a week or more. However, 50% of these same presidents stated they do not have the tools they need to address mental health concerns.

The University of Tennessee System responded to this mental health crisis by igniting action around the issue at the 2019 Academic and Student Affairs Summit: Building a Unified Mental Health Culture. The summit was held in Nashville.

More than 100 people from across the UT System as well as state higher education professionals gathered to discuss ways to improve mental health and wellness for all UT students and to share resources to help de-stigmatize mental illness.

"By coming together for events such as this, we hope to remove silos that exist between academic affairs and student life, develop new skills from mental health professionals within our system and learn from current students about their experiences accessing mental health resources. I hope we can all leave the meeting today with a greater sense of direction and purpose to help us address student well-being more effectively," Leigh Cherry, UT System coordinator for student success initiatives, said.

For David Arnold, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators assistant vice president for health, safety and well-being initiatives, addressing mental health begins by building a strong community of health and well-being at institutions of higher education.

Students turn to behavioral coping when dealing with mental health struggles, Arnold said. This way of coping can be comprised of high-risk alcohol use, prescription stimulant medication misuse, poor sleep, poor diet, lack of physical activity and social isolation.

Arnold stated that about one in five college students engage in frequent binge-drinking episodes while more than 60% of students report poor sleep, which directly affects their emotional and academic stress.

According to a Gallup comprehensive study of people in more than 150 countries, there are five essential elements in a person’s well-being. These are a purpose in achieving goals, managing a secure financial life, having good physical health, having supportive relationships and feeling safe in a community.

"Individuals are crafted by the community in which they are involved," Arnold said. "We need to pivot from how we can serve the individual to how the environment can serve the individual."

Leaders from each campus in the UT System touched on how their campus is striving towards creating this type of community as part of the Imperative for Prevention workshop, hosted by the UT Health Science Center’s Lori Gonzalez, vice chancellor for academic, faculty and student affairs and Kathy Gibbs, assistant vice chancellor for student academic support services and inclusion.

The UT Institute of Agriculture has established "VOLidays" events, which were created to help students "de-stress" before finals. These events include movie showings, holiday activities, food and more.

UT Chattanooga leaders highlighted its Case Assessment, Review and Evaluation (CARE) Team, which has a mission to
provide proactive and supportive prevention, assessment, intervention, and management for situations that would compromise the safety and well-being of its community.

A UTM faculty member also emphasized the importance of its CARE team; its team members attend all of the college’s meetings at the beginning of the academic year to share about mental health services available to students. “This helps me destigmatize mental health,” John Oelrich, UTM director of bands, said. “Just because you don’t physically see the symptoms of mental health struggles doesn’t mean it isn’t real. It’s important for faculty to model this to our students as they often look to us as how it should be.”

UT Health Science Center staff mentioned their event titled the “Warrior Within” allowed professionals and leaders in healthcare to share their lived experiences in handling the demands of health sciences while pursuing academic success. “As important as it is to care for those struggling with mental health issues, it is just as important to care for the frontline caregivers,” Gibbs said. “This event is just one of the ways in which we achieve that.”

Student representatives from each UT campus sat on a student panel and discussed mental health challenges that college students face.

Amelia Thompson, a second-year pharmacy student at the UT Health Science Center, spoke about the constant stress she is under in graduate school. “Every waking moment I’m studying something. There is a constant flow of information into my brain,” Thompson said. “I visit the Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion office weekly for counseling sessions. Mental health isn’t like a cold – you don’t just treat the symptoms and be done with it. It’s something that you need to constantly work on.”

Mary Carr, a senior at UT Knoxville, would like for adults on campus to switch to more of an empathy-focused model.

“Youth more professors were crisis-trained and showed how much they care about their students’ mental health,” Carr said. “Follow up with us and see how we’re doing.”

UT Martin sophomore Ray Washington continued the conversation by wanting adults on campus to understand that not everyone expresses their mental health struggles the same way.

“Students will try to get your attention in different ways. Some might come and talk a lot while others might just come to you and sit in silence,” Washington said. “No matter how they come, value when that student comes to you because it means that they trust you.”

Thompson also mentioned how much a professor can impact a student’s mental health.

“If we know our professors value their life; time and families, it gives this idea that we can do the same. We can live our life while still working hard in school. When I see from administrators that I can have both, it gives me hope,” Thompson said.

Other panelists included:
- Wesley Bolton, UT Chattanooga
- Michael Brunner, College of Medicine, UT Health Science Center
- Isaac Holt, UT Knoxville

“Our students well-being is why we do what we do. One person can make a difference,” Linda Martin, UT System vice president for academic affairs and student success, said. “Systematically it might seem too big, but it all starts with one person.”

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**WestStar to host annual working women’s conference**

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host the 22nd-annual Working Women’s Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Feb. 7, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the UT Martin main campus.

The deadline to register is Feb. 3, and the $50 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Aloha! Creating Paradise” and features sessions such as “Decorating your hut” and “Under your beach umbrella or in your office chair.” Keli McAlister, information officer for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in West Tennessee, will give the keynote address titled, “Let your burden down: Paradise is what you make it!”

Additional conference speakers include Chrystal Dickson, clinical nutrition manager at the Jackson Madison County General Hospital; Paige Fisher Espey, owner of Little Yellow Door in Huntingdon; Sarah Stone Smith, founder, and Courtney Goolsby, co-founder of Say it Southern podcast; Dr. Angie MacKenna, owner of TR yoga in Martin; Kerri Arnold, Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019; Karyn Adams, principal and creative director of HA Thirty One; Jason Wilker son and Amber Lawrence, TBI special agents for the Memphis Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin professor of communications and Dr. Lisa LeBloue, UT Martin professor of family and consumer sciences.

To register for the conference, visit utm.edu/weststar. Select the “conferences” tab under “conference & events” and go to “click here to register.”

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

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. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and community/public service endeavors.
RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIPS — Drew Hendren (center), a senior music major from Newbern attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Hendren, who received the Dee Pritchett Music Endowed Scholarship and the Andrew Hart Music Leadership Scholarship is pictured with Pritchett (left) of Martin, and Hart of Knoxville at the reception.

RECEIVES BORDEN SCHOLARSHIP — Dorothy Lester (left), a senior nursing major from Martin attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Lester, who received the Merlyn V. and Wendy L. Borden Scholarship Endowment, is pictured with donors Milo and Shirley Borden of Martin at the reception.

PENTECOST SCHOLARSHIP — Rachel Owen (center), a senior family and consumer science major from Martin, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Owen, who received the Bob and Kay Pentecost Endowed Scholarship, is pictured with donor Bob Pentecost (left) and her father, Morgan Owen, at the reception.

WESTBROOK SCHOLARSHIP — Mabry Lewellen (left), a freshman communications major from Dresden attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14. Lewellen, who received the James and Donna Westbrook Family Scholarship, is pictured with donor James Westbrook, also of Dresden, at the reception.
ATTENDS CELEBRATION — Pictured (from left) are Ashton McCage of Martin, Kera Corum of Union City, and Erika Brown of McEwen, all junior agriculture students, who attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2019 Celebration of Generosity and Gratitude on Nov. 14.

RECOGNIZED AT TISL ASSEMBLY — Ethan Bledsoe (left), a sophomore agriculture major from Jamestown; Hunter McCloud, a junior political science major from Portland; and Maryselle Lea, a sophomore agriculture major from Covington represented the University of Tennessee at Martin during the 50th Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature General Assembly, in Nashville. TISL is an annual forum that provides college students with real-world experience about the workings of the Tennessee General Assembly and the government. Students selected to attend participate in one of four programs: legislative (House and Senate), judicial, lobbying or media. McCloud, UT Martin Student Government Association president, was elected governor for the 2019-20 academic year, while Lea and Bledsoe received Outstanding Lobbyist Awards. For more information on TISL, contact Dr. Anderson Starling, assistant professor of political science, at 731-881-7305 or astarlin@utm.edu.

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SUPER JOB: A total of 11 students from UT Martin will work behind the scenes during Super Bowl LIV on Feb. 2 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. Included in the working trip are (from left) Lucas Istre of Centerville; Mary Lane Harmon of Dickson; Leighton Chappell of Flushing, Mich.; Jule Streif of Germany; Amelia Campbell of Great Britain; Jon Ward of Centerville; Dr. Dexter Davis, UT Martin associate professor of sport business; Mizuki Sakurai of Great Britain; Peyton Wolfe of Ramer; Jodie Duncan of Munford; Chase Prescott of Milan; and Lauren Hutchinson of McEwen. This marks the seventh consecutive year for UTM students to work the event.

UTM students preparing for ‘Super’ trip

MARTIN — For the seventh consecutive year, UT Martin will be represented at America’s biggest sporting event.

Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, will take 11 students, including three international student-athletes and two graduate students, to work hospitality at the Super Bowl and gain the kind of hands-on, real-world experience that can be found nowhere else.

“For many of these kids it’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Davis. “It’s also a powerful brand to have on your resume. They can legitimately say that they have worked for one of the most valuable brands in the world at the largest single-day sporting event in the world.”

The group will leave Tennessee on Friday and spend that afternoon touring Roger Dean Stadium and FITTEAM Ballpark — the annual spring training site for the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals Major League Baseball teams.

The group will also work the 2020 Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on Saturday before returning to Miami to work the Super Bowl Experience, Super Bowl LIVE and associated media events leading up to the game.

Davis and his students will also attend the University of Miami’s Sport Industry Conference on Jan. 30, a unique opportunity for them to hear presentations on a variety of industry issues and network with students, faculty and professionals from schools and networks across the country.

On game day, students will work with On Location Experiences, the National Football League’s premium hospitality business, serving as talent concierges.

This role includes coordinating player appearances, escorting players between venues and helping with on-field activities. Davis is annually involved with player coordination and aspects of the halftime show, and this is his 15th Super Bowl.

Students attending this year are: Leighton Chappell of Flushing, Mich.; Jodie Duncan of Munford; Mary Harmon of Dickson; Lauren Hutchinson of McEwen; Lucas Istre of Centerville; Chase Prescott of Milan, Jon Ward of Centerville; Peyton Wolfe of Ramer; and international students Amelia Campbell (Great Britain); Mizuki Sakurai (Great Britain) and Jule Streif (Germany). Chappell, Duncan, Harmon and Wolfe have all attended the event in previous years.
UTM HONOR ROLL

The outstanding academic achievements of local undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the fall 2019 chancellor's honor rolls.

To be eligible, a student must have 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 honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Local students include Keith A. Driscoll, honors of Gates; Callie E. Belton and Kayla R. Nash, both high honors of Halls; Tinika N. Pitts and Erin N. Young, highest honors, Alyssa L. Spencer, high honors, and Rebecca S. Medford, honors, all of Henning; and Jason D. Adams, High Honors; Danyel R. Barnes, High Honors; Charles L. Brown, High Honors; Charneshia L. Brown, Highest Honors; Greg L. Claybrook, High Honors; ShanTia A. Crawford, Highest Honors; Steven R. Dodson, Highest Honors; Mario A. Fulton, Honors; Madison A. Griggs, High Honors; Hanna M. Hardister, High Honors; Mahima J. Mahida, Highest Honors; Christina K. Mason, Honors; Bethany N. McCaslin, Highest Honors; Joshua C. Myrick, Honors; Candice N. Paris, Highest Honors; Anjalee S. Patel, Honors; Sherry S. Pearson, High Honors; Sarah M. Perry, High Honors; Madison A. Preciado, Honors; Sylvia Smith-Gholson, Highest Honors; Wade H. Wakefield, Honors; Allison P. Webb, Highest Honors; Linda D. West, Honors; Austin T. Whitaker, Honors; Daphne E. Young, High Honors, all of Ripley.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Friday, January 24, 2020

UT Martin schedules music programs

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Music has announced the following programs:

- UTM Showcase Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Fulton Theatre today.
- Honor Band Concerts will begin at 1 p.m. in the Fulton Theatre Saturday.
- Duo Cylinder, a guest flute and clarinet recital will be held 7:30 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall on Feb. 3;
- Brass Works Seminar will be held all day in the Fine Arts Building Feb. 8. Middle and high school students are encouraged to register.
- Blair String Quartet will be featured as part of the Sargent Series at 3 p.m. in the Fulton Theatre Feb. 9. Tickets are required.

For a full list of events, visit utm.edu/music events.
UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver expects 2020 to be a year of growth for the university, mentioning increased enrollment, new academic programs and new buildings on his radar for the coming months.

"Spring enrollment for 2020 is trending upward and says good things for this fall. Our graduate student enrollment has reached a record high, with 580 graduate students currently taking classes. That's a 60.2 percent increase, so 218 students total, compared to last spring," he said. "I am also proud to announce that our full-time equivalency totals are up by 143 students, which will be a factor in state funding for the 2020-21 academic year."

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

"We're working hard to secure new freshmen and transfer students and optimize retention efforts for our current students," he said. The chancellor also spoke of five new academic programs in the coming year, with four of those announced at the master's level. He says the university's strategic enrollment plan, in production with the help of national research firm Ruffalo Noel Levitz, will be finished this year and help to guide student recruitment and retention efforts for the next five years.

"I am most excited about the Latimer Engineering and Science Building. This will be the first new academic building developed at UT Martin in more than 40 years," he said. "We'll open construction bids later this month, and there will be lots of associated activity as a result of the design and building process. ... We're also working to make sure we have the most secure campus that we can possibly have, and we'll be installing approximately 200 new security cameras over the next year."
Carver is also excited to see renovations completed in Clement Hall, which will house a variety of student success units once finalized. The upgrades will make the building a "one-stop shop" for students taking care of university business.

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

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

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

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Smith makes Dean's List at UT Martin

Madison O. Smith of Elizabethton received Highest Honors on the Fall 2019 Dean's List at UT Martin.

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

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
Student affairs and student crisis response were at the forefront when the University of Tennessee at Martin advisory board met earlier this month.

The board — which is chaired by Art Sparks of Union City — heard presentations from university officials on student affairs, student crisis response, UT Promise applications and student transfer procedures.

Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, updated the board on activities in the various student affairs units, including housing, student life and multicultural affairs, campus recreation, disability and testing services, career planning and development, and student conduct.

The highlight of Lewter's presentation was a discussion of the UT Martin Care Team and its crisis response procedures. A staff panel consisting of John Abel, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs; Shannon Perry, student conduct officer; Ryan Martin, director of housing; and Carly Jo Archie, crisis case manager, explained the process.

Launched in fall 2017, care.utm.edu provides an online reporting outlet for all types of concerns regarding student health, safety and wellbeing. A "Hawk Alert" can be submitted 24/7 by any individual — student, staff, faculty, parent or community member — and immediately alerts the six-person crisis response team.

(See Page 8, Col. 4)

Martin says they receive hawk alerts throughout the semester for situations ranging from a student missing class, academic concerns and mild illnesses all the way to serious mental health crisis and self-harm. However, since the creation of the crisis response team, students are being helped far faster than in previous years.

"We are reaching our students before they reach the pinnacle of crisis," said Perry, who noted a 50 percent reduction in the number of students admitted to the hospital for suicide attempts in fall 2019 as compared to previous years. While online referrals have jumped from 45 in fall 2017, when the website was launched, to 224 in fall 2019, Perry says this increase is due to greater education about the signs of mental health crisis and the availability of the alert system.

"It's not just for mental health concerns," she said. "We've had some students who were involved in a very bad (car) accident, and one was airlifted to Memphis. They were international, and the international director was in Japan. So, there was a whole coordination that had to be done, and the crisis response team was able to do that in a meaningful way."

Perry said the team often contacts emergency services when students are unable or unwilling to do so for themselves, and team members have even contacted law enforcement in other states when online students were in crisis. The 2019 addition of a part-time student intern, Carly Jo Archie, to the team has increased the team's follow-up abilities as well. Archie is a graduate student at Union University in Jackson earning her degree in social work, and she serves as case manager to make sure students have access to and are utilizing services such as counseling, tutoring, the food pantry or meal-swipe program, career services or other outlets after their time of initial crisis has passed.

In addition to the care team presentation, Lewter also noted increased occupancy in the campus residence halls (up 6 percent in fall 2019); increased fitness programming in the Student Recreation Center (up 22 percent in 2018-19); more than 13,000 hours of community service and $85,000 raised by UT Martin Greek life and student organizations; 733 meals provided by the Skyhawks Share meal donation program in fall 2019; and about 400 students served by the Office of Career Planning and Development. Lewter says these numbers show a positive impact on UT Martin students and are affecting student retention and success.

In other presentations, Destin Tucker, director of undergraduate admissions, gave an update on the UT Promise scholarship program set to launch in fall 2020.

According to Tucker, the application deadlines for the program have already passed, but students hoping to take advantage of the last-dollar scholarship must complete their FAFSA applications online by Feb. 1.

Tucker said 51 new freshmen applied for the program for fall 2020, but all of those students will already have their tuition and mandatory fees covered by other sources and therefore will not need funds from the UT Promise program. Of the current students who have applied, 198 meet the eligibility criteria and will receive an average of $2,734 each, provided they meet the Feb. 1 FAFSA deadline. Information regarding this deadline has been sent to all currently enrolled students and posted in various formats through student portals.
The UT Promise program is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it will cover remaining tuition and mandatory fees after all other state, institution and private scholarship and grant funds have been applied. Housing, books, specialized course fees and other expenses are not included under this program.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost, updated the advisory board on efforts under way to improve and simplify the credit transfer process for students who are moving between the four main University of Tennessee campuses. A team has been assembled with representatives from all four campuses to address this issue for future semesters.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver closed the board meeting with comments on the search for a permanent vice chancellor for university advancement. Dr. Shadow Robinson, chair of the search committee, hopes to have finalists on campus in late February for interviews and to announce the position shortly thereafter.

Carver also noted that the visitors' stands at Hardy Graham Stadium have been cleared to begin renovations following damage from seismic activity on campus in recent semesters, and the demolition of the Grove Apartment complex on the corner of University Street and Moody Avenue has been requested for inclusion in the state budget appropriations. This area is anticipated to become some type of green space.

https://www.wkms.org/

**UT Martin Enrollment Increases For Spring Semester**

By DALTON YORK / PEOPLE/DALTON-YORK • 1/28/2020

The University of Tennessee at Martin is seeing increased enrollment for the spring semester.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver in a release said the university's enrollment is trending upward with positive indicators for the fall semester. Total enrollment of undergraduate and graduate students sits at 6,728. Graduate enrollment is at a record high with 580 total graduate students. That is an increase of 60.2 percent, or 218 students, from last year. Carver said the university is working diligently to attract more students to campus.

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

Recruitment efforts include construction projects on campus and the addition of new academic programs.

University enrollment is used to calculate a full-time equivalency, or FTE. The FTE is calculated by dividing the total number of enrolled course hours by 15, for undergraduate students, and 12, for graduate students. The FTE is used to determine funding levels from the state government.
MARTIN, Tenn. - The fourth annual Cups for the Cure event, co-hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and The Wesley Foundation, will be held from 2-4 p.m., Feb. 1, at the UT Martin Wesley Foundation building on Lovelace Avenue.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, and his students will be selling handmade ceramic cups and mugs for a $15 donation. One hundred percent of funds raised will be donated to cancer research foundations in the region.

McBeth created Cups for the Cure in 2017 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 financial assistance from Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates, a foundation at the cancer center where she was receiving treatment.

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

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Jan. 28, 2020

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

"Spring enrollment for 2020 is trending upward and says good things for this fall. Our graduate student enrollment has reached a record high, with 580 graduate students currently taking classes. That's a 60.2 percent increase, so 218 students total, compared to last spring," he said. "I am also proud to announce that our full-time equivalency totals are up by 143 students, which will be a factor in state funding for the 2020-21 academic year."

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

"We're working hard to secure new freshmen and transfer students and optimize retention efforts for our current students," he said. The chancellor also spoke of five new academic programs in the coming year, with four of those announced at the master's level. He says the university's strategic enrollment plan, in production with the help of national research firm Ruffalo Noel Levitz, will be finished this year and help to guide student recruitment and retention efforts for the next five years.

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
High school students invited for a Skyhawk ‘Test Flight’

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Test Flight Academic Preview Day at 8 a.m., Feb. 17 in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium with an official welcome at 8:45 a.m.

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

An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing, dining services and others will be open during the registration period.

Students will be introduced to the various academic departments at 9:45 a.m. and can attend a college course in their area of interest. Students will visit classrooms, meet with faculty and attend a question-and-answer discussion panel until lunch at noon and will return at 1 p.m. to tour the rest of the campus.

There is no charge to attend either event, but pre-registration is required.

Parents and families can join the “Prepare for Take-off” program from 9:45-11 a.m.

Visit utm.edu/testflight to register online, or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 for more information.

The Milan Mirror-Exchange Tuesday, January 28, 2020

SGC alum will work Super Bowl with UTM crew

For the seventh consecutive year, UT Martin will be represented at America’s biggest sporting event. Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, will take 11 students this year, including three international student-athletes and two graduate students, to work hospitality at the big game and gain the kind of hands-on, real-world experience that can be found nowhere else.

Locally, South Gibson graduate Chase Prescott will be one of the representatives for UTM.

“For many of these kids it’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Dr. Davis. “It’s also a powerful brand to have on your resume. They can legitimately say that they have worked for one of the most valuable brands in the world at the largest single-day sporting event in the world.”

The group left Tennessee on Jan. 24 and spent that afternoon touring Roger Dean Stadium and FITTEAM Ballpark – the annual spring training site for the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals Major League Baseball teams. The group also worked the 2020 Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida, on Jan. 25 before returning to Miami to work the Super Bowl Experience, Super Bowl LIVE and associated media events leading up to the big game.

Davis and his students will also attend the University of Miami’s Sport Industry Conference on Jan. 30, a unique opportunity for them to hear presentations on a variety of industry issues and network with professionals from schools and networks across the country.

On game day, students will work with On Location Experiences, the National Football League’s premium hospitality business, serving as talent concierges. This role includes coordinating player appearances, escorting players between venues and helping with on-field activities. Davis is annually involved with player coordination and aspects of the halftime show, and this is his 15th Super Bowl.

Eleven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin will work behind-the-scenes during Super Bowl LIV on Feb. 2 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. Pictured at left are Lucas Istre, of Centerville; Mary Lane Harmon, of Dickson; Leighton Chappell, of Flushing, Michigan; Jule Streif, of Germany; Amelia Campbell, of Great Britain; Jon Ward, of Centerville; Dr. Dexter Davis, UT Martin associate professor of sport business; Mizuki Sakurai, of Great Britain; Peyton Wolfe, of Ramer; Jodie Duncan, of Munford; Chase Prescott, of Milan; and Lauren Hutchinson, of McEwen.
MARTIN — For the seventh consecutive year, UT Martin is represented at America’s biggest sporting event, Super Bowl LIV (that’s Super Bowl 54 for those of you not good with Roman numerals).

Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, will take 11 students this year, including three international student-athletes and two graduate students, to work hospitality at the big game and gain the kind of hands-on, real-world experience that can be found nowhere else.

“For many of these kids it’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Davis. “It’s also a powerful brand to have on your resume. They can legitimately say that they have worked for one of the most valuable brands in the world.”

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Students attending this year are Leighton Chappell, of Flushing, Michigan; Jule Streif, of Germany; Amelia Campbell, of Great Britain; Jon Ward, of Centerville; Dr. Dexter Davis, UT Martin associate professor of sport business; Mizuki Sakurai, of Great Britain; Peyton Wolfe, of Ramer; Jodie Duncan, of Munford; Chase Prescott, of Milan; and Lauren Hutchinson, of McEwen.

Pictured from (L to R) are Lucas Istre, of Centerville; Mary Lane Harmon, of Dickson; Leighton Chappell, of Flushing, Michigan; Jule Streif, of Germany; Amelia Campbell, of Great Britain; Jon Ward, of Centerville; Dr. Dexter Davis, UT Martin associate professor of sport business; Mizuki Sakurai, of Great Britain; Peyton Wolfe, of Ramer; Jodie Duncan, of Munford; Chase Prescott, of Milan; and Lauren Hutchinson, of McEwen.

For more information on the trip or the UT Martin sport business program, housed in the College of Business and Global Affairs, contact Davis at davis78@utm.edu.
MARTIN — The Blair String Quartet, currently the string quartet-in-residence at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music, will perform at 3 p.m. Feb. 9 in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the Fine Arts Building.

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

In addition to their work at Vanderbilt University, the Blair String Quartet has performed at the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, New York’s 92nd Street Y and at Merkin Concert Hall. They have also served in residence at the Aspen Music Festival, the Meadowmount School of Music and the Sewanee Music Festival in the United States, as well as the first International Music Festival in Portillo and Santiago, Chile.

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

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

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

Cups for the Cure helps fight cancer

The fourth annual Cups for the Cure — co-hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and The Wesley Foundation — is set for Saturday.

The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. at the UT Martin Wesley Foundation building on Lovelace Avenue in Martin.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, and his students will be selling handmade ceramic cups and mugs for a $15 donation.

One hundred percent of funds raised will be donated to cancer research foundations in the region.

McBeth created Cups for the Cure in 2017 to support cancer patients and their families.

His mother was diagnosed with cancer on Feb. 4, 2014, and passed away just 21 days later. She received financial assistance from Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates, a foundation at the cancer center where she was receiving treatment at the time.

Saturday’s event is open to the public, with a variety of beverages and desserts to be available, according to organizers.
22nd Annual Weststar Working Women’s Conference is February 7

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program hosts the 22nd annual Working Women’s Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Friday, February 7, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the UT Martin main campus. The deadline to register is Monday, February 3, and the $50 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Aloha! Creating Paradise” and features sessions such as “Decorating your hut” and “Under your beach umbrella or in your office chair.” Kell McAllister, public information officer for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in West Tennessee, will give the keynote address titled, “Let your burden down: Paradise is what you make it.”

Additional conference speakers include Chrystal Dickson, clinical nutrition manager at the Jackson Madison County General Hospital; Paige Fish Espey, owner of Little Yellow Door in Huntingdon; Sarah Stone Smith, founder, and Courtney Gooldsby, co-founder, of Say it Southern podcast; Dr. Angie MacKewn, owner of TR yoga in Martin; Kerri Arnold, Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2018; Karyn Adams, principal and creative director of HA Thirty One; Jason Wilkerson and Amber Lawrence, TBI special agents for the Memphis Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin professor of communications; and Dr. Lisa LeBlanc, UT Martin professor of family and consumer sciences.

To register for the conference, visit utm.edu/weststar. Select the “conferences” tab under “conference & events” and go to “click here to register.” For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7288.

Korean, Culture Classes Now Offered at UT Martin

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer Korean language and culture classes on Mondays, February 3-May 11. Classes for beginners will be offered from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and intermediate classes will be offered from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration is $30, which includes all handouts and a textbook, and online registration is required.

Jisun Collier will teach the class. Collier has a master’s degree as a teacher of English to speakers of another language and has been teaching for seven years. During the class, students will learn and experience more about Korean culture and learn the Korean alphabet as well as basic elements for personal conversation. Students will also be invited to the annual Korean New Year party and Kimchi festival to experience the culture and food firsthand.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/general/korenlanguage. For more information, contact UT Martin Outreach at 731-881-7104.

THE CURRENT, JANUARY 29, 2020

UTM HONOR BAND — The following South Fulton students have been accepted to the 41st annual UT Martin honor band: Willow Howes, Kameryn Clark, Carl Anthony Lattus, and Austin Reason Jan. 23 - 25. On each of the following days, these events will happen: the rehearsals will begin at 1 p.m. and will continue until 5 p.m., then students will have rehearsal from 7-9 p.m. The next day students are to report to the same place they had rehearsal the night before, and they will practice from 8:30 a.m. - noon with an hour lunch break. Then, they will continue rehearsals until 5:30 p.m. On Jan. 25 the concerts will begin at 1 p.m. and will last until 3 p.m. with a full day of events in between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Photo submitted)
Jan. 30, 2020

MARTIN, Tenn. – The Pedrito Martinez Group, led by Grammy-nominated percussionist Pedrito Martinez, will perform at 7 p.m., Feb. 18, in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Harriet Fulton Theatre. This performance is free and open to the public, but tickets should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/musicevents.

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

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

A percussion masterclass is open to the campus community at 2 p.m., Feb. 18, following a noon question-and-answer session about Cuban culture in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building. A free Afro-Cuban buffet will be provided for attendees. More information about the group’s performance experience, including video and sound clips, is available at pedritomartinezmusic.com.

For more information about the UT Martin performance, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
TO WORK AT SUPER BOWL — Eleven students from the University of Tennessee at Martin will work behind-the-scenes during Super Bowl LIV Sunday at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. Pictured (from left) are: Lucas Istre of Centerville, Mary Lane Harmon of Dickson, Leighton Chappell of Flushing, Michigan, Jule Streif of Germany, Amelia Campbell of Great Britain, Jon Ward of Centerville, UTM Associate Professor of Sports Business Dr. Dexter Davis, Mizuki Sakurai of Great Britain, Peyton Wolfe of Ramer, Jodie Duncan of Munford, Chase Prescott of Milan, and Lauren Hutchinson of McEwen.

UT Martin students to work at Super Bowl Sunday

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The group left Tennessee on Jan. 24 and spent the afternoon touring Roger Dean Stadium and FITTEAM Ballpark, the annual spring training site for the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals Major League Baseball teams.

The group also worked the 2020 Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida, on Jan. 25 before returning to Miami to work the Super Bowl Experience, Super Bowl LIVE and associated media events leading up to the big game.

Davis and his students will also attend the University of Miami’s Sport Industry Conference on Jan. 30, a unique opportunity for them to hear presentations on a variety of industry issues and network with students, faculty and professionals from schools and networks across the country.

On game day, students will work with On Location Experiences, the National Football League’s premium hospitality business, serving as talent concierges. This role includes coordinating player appearances, escorting players between venues and helping with on-field activities.

Davis is annually involved with player coordination and aspects of the halftime show, and this is his 15th Super Bowl.

Students attending this year are Leighton Chappell of Flushing, Michigan; Jodie Duncan of Munford; Mary Harmon of Dickson; Lauren Hutchinson of McEwen; Lucas Istre of Centerville; Chase Prescott of Milan, Jon Ward of Centerville; Peyton Wolfe of Ramer; and international students Amelia Campbell of Great Britain; Mizuki Sakurai of Great Britain and Jule Streif of Germany. Chappell, Duncan, Harmon and Wolfe have all attended the event in previous years.

For more information on the trip or the UT Martin sport business program, housed in the College of Business and Global Affairs, contact Davis at ddavis78@utm.edu.
UTM beekeepers living the sweet life

By BRANDY COCHRAN
Special to The Press

Natural sweetener, face cleanser, sore throat ail-
ment, burn treatment and allergy cure: only one sub-
stance known to man can do all these things, and
humans don’t even have to produce it — honey.

As beekeeping reached popularity among county
residents with the large growth of Weakley County
Beekeepers Association; it was only a matter of
time until the honey craze reached UT Martin as well.

Mike Pierce of the agricul-
tural department at UTM
started his beekeeping pro-
ject on campus about four
years ago, allowing for his
students to get hands-on ex-
perience with keeping bees,
collecting honey and pack-
aging the final product in
order to create extra profit
for the department itself.

Once the UTM book-
store started selling their lo-
cally-sourced clover honey,
Pierce knew he had created
something big.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE — UT Martin students,
under the guidance of Mike Pierce, spend the spring tend-
ing bee hives and harvesting honey, which is sold on cam-
pus in the University Bookstore.

He and his students, quite
frankly, have had a hard
time keeping up with the
public demand.

Before they were selling
honey off the shelves, the
only beekeeping on campus
was done by the Beekeep-
ers Association, who, when
confronted by Pierce about
his expansion idea, grace-
fully gifted their existing
hives to Pierce’s program.

For all the support the
program has been receiving
from Chancellor Dr. Keith
Carver and other UT Mar-
tin directors, Pierce sees the
program eventually grow-

This has opened doors for
Pierce to share his knowl-
edge with the community
by speaking at local events,
inspiring future enthusiasts
and teaching students about
the importance of increas-
ing the bee population in
order to maintain Tennes-
see’s beautiful landscape.

“Like wine, the taste and
color of honey changes ev-
ery year dependent on what
the bees have been harvest-
ing on,” is just some of the
intermediate knowledge
Pierce shared with The
Press.

Right now, it is hiber-
nation season for the bee
population, but Pierce plans
on having up to 40 hives
active on campus by the
spring along with a grow-
ing population of interested
students and volunteers to
work them.

With all the support the
program has been receiving
from Chancellor Dr. Keith
Carver and other UT Mar-
tin directors, Pierce sees the
program eventually grow-

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ing into a class on campus.

For now, though, he and
his beekeepers-in-training
will focus on delivering clo-
ver honey to all who crave
the sweet stuff in town.

If locally-sourced and
harvested honey makes
your taste buds tingle, stop
by the Skyhawk bookstore
located on the first floor of
the Boling Student Center
and pick up a jar of UTM
Honey.

The differences between
the benefits of store-bought
honey and honey that liter-
ally comes from your back-
yard will change the way
anyone thinks about this
sweet, succulent substance.
Cups for a Cure event is Saturday

The fourth-annual Cups for the Cure event, co-hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and The Wesley Foundation, will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the UT Martin Wesley Foundation building on Lovelace Avenue.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, and his students will be selling handmade ceramic cups and mugs for a $15 donation. One hundred percent of funds raised will be donated to cancer research foundations in the region.

McBeth created Cups for the Cure in 2017 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 financial assistance from Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates, a foundation at the cancer center where she was receiving treatment.

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

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver expects 2020 to be a year of growth for the university, mentioning increased enrollment, new academic programs and new buildings on his radar for the coming months.

"Spring enrollment for 2020 is trending upward and says good things for this fall. Our graduate student enrollment has reached a record high, with 580 graduate students currently taking classes. That's a 60.2 percent increase, so 218 students total, compared to last spring," he said. "I am also proud to announce that our full-time equivalency totals are up by 143 students, which will be a factor in state funding for the 2020-21 academic year."

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

"We're working hard to secure new freshmen and transfer students and optimize retention efforts for our current students," he said. The chancellor also spoke of five new academic programs in the coming year, with four of those announced at the master’s level. He says the university’s strategic enrollment plan, in production with the help of national research firm Buffalo Noel Levitz, will be finished this year and help to guide student recruitment and retention efforts for the next five years.

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Belew, Gerrell, Tosh Selected For WestStar

MARTIN, Tenn. - Henry County Sheriff Monte Belew, Paris Special Schools District Director Dr. Norma Gerrell and Tosh Farms Owner Jamey Tosh of Henry were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

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

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

Tosh, owner and partner of Tosh Farms, is a recipient of the University of Tennessee Horizon Award. He currently serves on the board for the Henry County Medical Center and the UT President's Council.

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

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

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Obion County Supervisor of Secondary Instruction George Leake has been selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program class of 2020.

Leake serves on the board of directors for the Obion County Chamber of Commerce and on the UT Martin Educational Leadership Advisory Board. Leake is a graduate of both Leadership Obion County and the Complete Tennessee Leadership Institute. He is also a recipient of the Pioneer Award, which recognizes service in career and technical education.

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

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

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Pedrito Martinez Group brings Cuban music to UTM

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

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

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

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

A percussion masterclass is open to the campus community at 2 p.m., Feb. 18, following a noon question-and-answer session about Cuban culture in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building. A free Afro-Cuban buffet will be provided for attendees.

More information about the group’s performance experience, including video and sound clips, is available at pedritomartinezmusic.com.

FREE CONCERT SET — The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Cuban percussionist Pedrito Martinez and his ensemble for a free public performance Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. Martinez is a Grammy-nominated percussionist, and the group’s appearance is the second spring 2020 performance in the UT Martin Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series. A lunchtime question-and-answer session about Cuban culture is also open to the public. Tickets are required and should be reserved in advance at utm.edu/music/events.

A free Afro-Cuban buffet will be provided for attendees.

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