Local residents attend WestStar graduation

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program graduated its class of 2018 on June 21 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Current and previous class members as well as their families and other West Tennessee influencers were in attendance. Pictured representing Dyer County is Sandy Tarkington (left), WestStar class of 2017, along with Nicole Kincaide (2017) and Charlene Burpo (2017) both of Obion County. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program director, at 731-881-7298.

Also in attendance were WestStar class members of 2013 including Dyer County's (L to R) LeAnn Childress; Gem Bell, Haywood County; Shelby Matthls, Madison County; Jack Mathlis, Madison County; Jake Bynum, Weakley County.

Space still available for Vanguard Children's Theatre

Space is still available for students in grades 3-8 to participate in children's summer theater sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre.

Camp will meet July 9-20 in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. Students who have completed grades 3-5 will meet from 9 a.m.-noon, and those who have completed grades 6-8 will meet from 1-4 p.m. each weekday.

The 2018 children's camp will focus on "Fabulous Fables," and each class will present an original production for friends and family during the final day of camp.

Registration is $150 per child, and a $50 rebate will be credited for two siblings enrolling together.

Theater performance allows children to learn skills such as critical thinking, physical exercise, concentration, observation and imagination in a creative, controlled environment. Participating children will explore basic principles of acting and theater as well as character development, creative writing and the creation of sets, props and costumes.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/childrenstheatre.

For more information or registration assistance, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.
Candidate forum scheduled for July 12

Individuals seeking elected office in Weakley County will participate in a candidate forum at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 12, in the UT Martin Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The forum is open to the public and is being sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program’s Weakley County alumni group.

A community reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Boling University Welcome Center located behind the information desk in the Watkins Auditorium lobby. Candidates and forum attendees will then move to the auditorium at 6:20, and candidate introductions will begin at 6:30.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome the candidates and forum attendees, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will add his welcome and explain the format. Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor in the university’s Department of Communications and faculty adviser to WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” will moderate the forum.

Countywide office candidates will introduce themselves, tell why they are seeking office and offer additional information for up to three minutes each. Afterward, candidates for Weakley County mayor will be introduced and asked a series of questions, followed by the candidates closing remarks. Questions were developed by a committee that included a Republican, a Democrat and an independent.

WestStar alumni groups in other counties have sponsored similar forums for local candidates during the current election year. In February, WestStar partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and others to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention in Nashville.

In May, the 2018 WestStar class organized and sponsored a Tennessee gubernatorial forum that featured six candidates who are seeking the governor’s office.

Additional information about the forum is available by calling the WestStar office at 731-881-7298.

UTM to increase tuition by 3 percent

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a 3 percent tuition increase for students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin during its annual meeting June 22 at the UT Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville. The increase is effective for the 2018 fall semester. The in-state tuition increase is the maximum allowed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UT Martin in-state tuition and mandatory fees will now cost undergraduate students an additional $258 annually for students with 90 or more credit hours and an additional $276 annually for students with fewer than 90 credit hours. New tuition and fees will be $4,438 (for students with more than 90 completed hours) or $4,756 (for students with fewer than 90 completed hours) per semester or $8,876 (for students with more than 90 completed hours 90 hours) or $9,512 (students with fewer than 90 completed hours) for a full academic year. Full-time undergraduate students enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Tuition is based on the "Soar in Four" program, which is designed to speed progress toward degree completion and was approved by the UT Board of Trustees in June 2016 for UT Martin. The program encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The 2018-19 academic year will be the third year of the "Soar in Four" program.

Tuition and mandatory fees for in-state graduate students will increase $151 per semester for a total of $5,512 per semester or $10,364 per academic year starting this fall. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.

The newly approved tuition schedule is available at utm.edu/tuition.

For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, final summer orientation and registration sessions are set for July 13 and July 23, both at the main campus. A final transfer and adult orientation session is set for July 20, also at the main campus. Call the office of undergraduate admissions at 731-881-7020 for information.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2018 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Weakley County residents recognized were:

**Dresden** — Sarah E. Alford, high honors; Allison J. Baggett, honors; Lindsey V. Barnes, honors; Aleya M. Brent, high honors; Alexis K. Cashion, honors; Christina M. Chain, highest honors; Nickolas W. Cobb, highest honors; Kaitlyn E. Courtney, highest honors; Thomas W. Doster, high honors; Erin A. Evans, honors; Autumn A. Faulkner, highest honors; Jennifer L. Grant, honors; Joshum A. Grant, honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, high honors; Bryan C. Martindale, high honors; Jennifer M. McGehee, honors; Hayden B. Nanney, high honors; Kirsti S. Nordstrom, highest honors; Olivia D. Reagan, highest honors; Madison E. Rigs, high honors; Brooklyn H. Snider, highest honors; Colten W. Snider, honors; Lauren Troutt, high honors; Khalista R. Wales, high honors; Joshua T. Walker, honors; Asa C. Woodward, honors.

**Dukedsom** — Jennifer R. Hasstis, honors; Enrico Zoboli, highest honors.

**Greenfield** — Blake A. Brauer, honors; Brock A. Brauer, honors; Kendal M. Cook, high honors; Brittany M. Evans, high honors; Logan A. Galey, highest honors; Victoria D. Galey, honors; Rachel L. Graves, high honors; Austin R. Gullett, honors; William J. Harrison, honors; Michael Johnson, highest honors; Katie M. Kail, honors; Ashley K. Mitchell, highest honors; Sara Ann E. Pope, highest honors; Savannah B. Rickets, honors; Kaitlyn L. Sanders, highest honors; Jamion S. Shethon, high honors; Morgan E. Simmons, high honors; Scott N. Stout, high honors; Taylor M. Stout, high honors; Brenna G. Taylor, highest honors; Chelsea J. Willis, highest honors; Richard M. Willis, high honors; Cassidy M. Wren, highest honors.

**Martin** — Christopher T. Ables, honors; Ammar Albash, high honors; Parker E. Albright, highest honors; Chyrese J. Alexander, highest honors; Beth A. Allmon, high honors; Terr B. Allred, honors; Mason B. Arant, honors; Danyel R. Arnold, honors; Gabrielle L. Arwood, highest honors; Anna D. Barnes, highest honors; Reagan W. Barnhart, highest honors; Angela O. Barr, honors; Christopher C. Bass, high honors; Ryan T. Bearden, honors; Jessica S. Bearse, highest honors; Chandler N. Beasley, highest honors; Lakyn M. Bell, highest honors; Lewis T. Bell, high honors; Barrett J. Belote, honors; Ali E. Beverly, honors; Aalia S. Bivens, highest honors; Avery N. Blanchard, highest honors; Tyler A. Bolton, high honors; Zachary J. Bondurant, highest honors; Ashlyn C. Bonner, honors; Brandon L. Bookout, highest honors; Gwendalyn M. Bracey, highest honors; William D. Bratton, high honors; Richard C. Brawley, high honors; Christopher T. Brown, high honors; Starla D. Brown, honors; Emma R. Brum, highest honors; Tony B. Bufford, high honors; Jesse Burks, highest honors; Hallie B. Butler, high honors; Kaleb P. Byars, highest honors; Laken R. Callahan, highest honors; Allie M. Cantrell, highest honors; Mikeah V. Capps, highest honors; Katherine N. Capua, high honors; John A. Carr, highest honors; Seth A. Carr, high honors; Matthew K. Castelman, high honors; Tierra S. Chappel, highest honors; Samantha I. Clayton, highest honors; Forrest N. Coleman, high honors; Seth L. Coleman, highest honors; Jennie K. Conley, honors; Nicholas B. Cottingham, high honors; Gregory S. Coward, honors; Shawn L. Cox, honors; Denver C. Crittenden, highest honors; Travis L. Cumm, honors; McKayla M. Cunningham, high honors; Morgan E. Curlin, highest honors; Melissa E. Curtis, honors; Reed C. Daniels, highest honors; Cody L. Diebold, highest honors; Stephen L. Downing, highest honors; Kyle G. Doyle, honors; Elyssa L. Duke, highest honors; Brett N. Evans, high honors; Emma M. Fieser, highest honors; Michelle L. Fieser, highest honors; Bianca E. Fondon, honors; Madison E. Ford, honors; Lexie D. Forrestor, highest honors; Peyton T. Forrestor, honors; Abigail L.Fraizer, high honors; Lucian P. Freeze, high honors; Giam M. Garma, honors; Allison M. Garner, highest honors; Jessica L. Garriga, highest honors; Jessica R. Gatting, highest honors; Randy Z. Gillespie, honors; Sarah J. Gillespie, high honors; Kamryn L. Gitchell, honors; Timothy A. Grisson, high honors; Jillian P. Gunter, high honors; Jonathan C. Hahn, high honors; Katey M. Hargrove, high honors; Tracey C. Harrell, highest honors; Nicholas R. Hart, high honors; Brandon L. Hauhe, highest honors; Garrett L. Hay, highest honors; Addison N. Hazlewood, highest honors; Sara E. Hibbard, highest honors; Mary E. Higgs, high honors; Makenzie P. Hinshaw, highest honors; Christina F. Hobson, highest honors; Joshua K. Hollowell, highest honors; Jake A. Hollows, high honors; Kianna Hope, honors; Haley J. Horner, high honors; Hannah R. Houck, honors; Miranda C. Howard, honors; Katelyn M. Huggins, highest honors; Shelby S. Jacobs-Johnston, high honors; James R. Jarboe, high honors; Tom E. Jehnzen, honors; Dequad G. Jimmerson, honors; Brittnie C. Johnson, honors; Deonte M. Johnson, honors; Emily Z. Johnson, high honors; Larry J. Johnson, high honors; Michaela C. Johnson, high honors; Jason R. Kail, highest honors; Morgan G. Kent, honors; Mindy E. King, high honors; Jonathan D. Kirkland, high honors; Jacob R. Last, honors; Alyssa M. Lee, high honors; Rebbecca C. Leonard, honors; Brittanie D. Lewis, high honors; Macy K. Leyhue, highest honors; Samantha R. Liles, highest honors; Sydney F. Lintner, honors; Junxiang Liu, high honors; Elizabeth J. Longwell, highest honors; Abigail R. Lovell, highest honors; Katey E. Lowry, highest honors; Amanda K. Lund, highest honors; Andrei V. Malacapay, high honors; Andrew V. Malacapay, honors; Rebekah J. Mansfield, highest honors; Kaylie B. Martin, honors; Brianna K. Mayo, high honors; Amanda K. Mayo, highest honors; Robert J. Mehliorn, highest honors; Shanelle R. Meza, highest honors; McKenzie L. Milburn, highest honors; Kaitlyn P. Monsue, honors; Rachel A. Moore, highest honors; Ezra F. Nance, high honors; Nathaniel T. Newlin, honors; Madelyn V. Newman, honors; Amber F. Owensby, honors; Brendan T. Page, honors; Mason S. Parker, honors; Mary E. Pate, high honors; Marshall W. Pearson, high honors;
high honors; Cy A. Pemberton, highest honors; Ashton B. Pence, high honors; Keaton N. Penick, high honors; Kristen M. Perkins, highest honors; Ivie M. Pfening, highest honors;

Abigale L. Plunk, high honors; Hohnor. K. Porter, high honors; Christopher Z. Postel, high honors; Tyler J. Postel, high honors; Alisa M. Quayle, highest honors; Patricia A. Ramos, highest honors; Cheyanne J. Rebollar-Espinoza, high honors; Allison K. Reda, honors; Kathryn J. Reece, high honors; Alycia N. Reed, highest honors; Ryne J. Reynolds, high honors; Anna L. Rice, honors; Paul E. Richards, highest honors; Stephen A. Richardson, honors; Aubrey L. Riggs, high honors; Connor D. Rinker, highest honors; Madison B. Robbins, honors; Sydney S. Robbins, highest honors; Britney A. Rose, highest honors; Kierra C. Rudd, highest honors; Meghan N. Sands, highest honors; Kimberly D. Schwartz, high honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, highest honors; Sylisa L. Scott, highest honors; Hailey M. Segura, high honors; Meagan A. Severs, highest honors; Megan L. Shetton, highest honors; Ashley K. Shores, high honors; Catherine R. Skeen, honors; Breanna S. Slater, high honors; Alex A. Smith, highest honors; Katherine L. Smith, honors; Haley J. Standridge, honors; Trey A. Standridge, high honors; Catherine E. Stanford, honors; Alyssa J. Stegall, highest honors; Charles B. Stevens, high honors; Brooklyn N. Stevens, highest honors; Anthony C. Steward, honors; Madeline M. Stokes, honors; Collin L. Stricklin, honors; Ashley N. Taylor, highest honors; Darius T. Taylor, high honors; Nicolas A. Taylor, high honors; Stephanie L. Taylor, highest honors; Jessica G. Tejeda, high honors; Chelsea A. Thweatt, highest honors; Katherine N. Tomlin, highest honors; Joshua I. Torres, high honors; Evelyn F. Turner, high honors; Maryann H. Upchurch, highest honors; Anthony M. Vandusen, high honors; Zachary J. Vanlancker, highest honors; Madison N. Vaughn, high honors; John L. Vincent, highest honors; Carley E. Warlick, high honors; Charles R. Walton, honors; Caylon A. Weathers, honors; Sarah J. Webb, highest honors; Sesley A. Welch, highest honors; Emery L. Whaley, honors; Bryelle White, highest honors; Jeremiah A. Whiteman, highest honors; Matthew D. Wicker, high honors; Madeline J. Williams, high honors; Caleb D. Williamson, honors; Nathan E. Williamson, highest honors; Luke A. Winters, high honors; Sloan C. Winters, honors; Brince L. Woods, honors; Jared F. Wortham, high honors; Travis D. Wright, honors.

- Palermville — Shannon M. Merrell, highest honors.
- Sharon — Kristin L. Bates, highest honors; Amanda R. Bombela, highest honors; Gregory M. Davis, honors; Jordan R. Fischer, high honors; Ashley V. Mendez Garcia, highest honors; Rachel B. Melton, highest honors; Kinlee D. Moore, highest honors; Zachary M. Morgan, high honors; Emily L. Plunk, high honors; Shawna R. Sampson, highest honors; Brandon K. Stacks, highest honors; Jonathan D. Yoesel, highest honors.

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 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 comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
2018 WestStar Leadership class graduates

Members of the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018 graduated Thursday, June 21, during WestStar’s closing event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

This marked the program’s 29th class and brings the total to 827 graduates since WestStar was established in 1989. The 2018 class included 30 members who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on individual leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. The class members, selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement, complete eight sessions covering topics including agriculture and transportation, public policy issues, education and tourism.

Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, welcomed more than 150 class members, alumni and guests to the graduation ceremony. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, reviewed WestStar-sponsored conferences and activities since the start of the year and joined the program’s board of trustees to congratulate graduates and present graduation plaques.

Deal also announced WestStar’s most recent scholarship recipients, as well as three major awards presented annually during the program’s graduation.

- Ashley Dennis of Savannah, chief financial officer of Hardin County Bank, received the 2018 Class Representative Award. Dennis was selected by current class members to represent the class in future WestStar activities.
- Brett Lashlee of Camden, an accountant and business process coordinator for Culp Financial Insurance Services, received the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award. The award, named for the late Haywood County community leader and educator Dr. C.P. Boyd, recognizes the person who best reflects compassion and leadership for West Tennessee, as selected by his or her classmates.
- Dr. Lisa Piercey of Medina executive vice president for West Tennessee Healthcare and a board-certified child-abuse pediatrician, received the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, a 1990 WestStar graduate, founding program trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration. Recipients must be WestStar graduates who have had positive impacts in their city or county during the past five years and possess strong records of leadership in West Tennessee. Piercey graduated from the program in 2015.
- Seth Bowers of Gleason and Ray Washington IV of Ripley both received RisingStar Leadership Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students who attended WestStar’s RisingStar Leadership Program held for selected high school juniors and seniors each fall and who plan to attend UT Martin. Selections are made by a university committee.
- Luke Winters of Martin and Jenna Watson of Friendship received Nick Dunagan Leadership Scholarships. Both students attend UT Martin and are the children of WestStar graduates. These scholarships are named for Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus and former WestStar executive director. Recipients are chosen by the WestStar Board of Trustees.

Following recognition of the graduates, Deal closed the event by reminding the audience that leadership is about impact, influence and inspiration. “Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion that you have for your work, and you have to be able to inspire those around you,” he said. “Let us all leave here tonight committed to making a positive impact in our community, influencing positive changes in West Tennessee and inspiring the next generation of leaders to commit to making our state even better than it is today.”

The 2018 WestStar graduating class members and their hometowns are: Tommy Allmon, Dyersburg; B.W. Beasley, Milan; Leigh Anne Bentley, Jackson; Yvette Blue, Brownsville; Rico Bryson, Jackson; Joseph Butler, Huntingdon; Alex Bynum, Dresden; Tony Childress, Dyersburg; Michael Creasy, Decaturville; Ashley Dennis, Savannah; Brett Dillahunty, Huntingdon; Stephanie Fowler, Jackson; Richard Griggs, Covington; John Hughey, Trenton; Brett Lashlee, Camden; Andrew Long, Jackson; Julian McTizic, Bolivar; Charlie Moore, Alamo; Jeff Parham, Martin; Theresa Powell, Alamo; Rodney Reynolds, Lexington; John Rountree, Millington; Heidi Shafer, Memphis; Brandy Stutsman, Jackson; Portis Tanner, Union City; Kara Tapp, Somerville; Frank Tate, McKenzie; Bob Turner, Somerville; Katie Weatherford, Selmer; and Charles West, Paris.

Applications for the 2019 WestStar class are being accepted after Sept. 1, and members of the new class will be selected later this fall.
LOCAL RESIDENT ATTENDS WESTSTAR GRADUATION — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program graduated its class of 2018 on June 21 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Current and previous class members as well as their families and other West Tennessee influencers were in attendance. Pictured representing Weakley County is Audrey Roberts (far right), WestStar class of 2002. Also pictured are (from left) Molly McCarley (95), of Fayette County; Della Ligon (03) and Linda Jones (’12), both of Haywood County; and Suzie Tidwell (’13), of Fayette County. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
LOCAL RESIDENTS ATTEND WESTSTAR GRADUATION — The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program graduated its class of 2018 on June 21 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Current and previous class members as well as their families and other West Tennessee influencers were in attendance. Pictured are (l-r) LeAnn Childress, Dyer County; Gem Bell, Haywood County; Shelby Matthis, Madison County; Jack Matthis, Madison County; Jake Bynum, Weakley County. All are members of the WestStar class of 2013. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED — Luke Winters (center, right), of Martin, received one of two Nick Dunagan Leadership Scholarships from the WestStar Leadership Program during the program's 2018 graduation ceremony June 21 in Jackson. These scholarships are named for Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor emeritus of the University of Tennessee at Martin and former WestStar executive director. Recipients are chosen by the WestStar Board of Trustees. Winters is the son of Dr. Todd (WestStar '17) and Susan Winters, of Martin. He is pictured with (from left) Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator; fellow award-winner Jenna Watson, of Friendship; and Dr. Charley Deal, executive director. Both students attend UT Martin and are the children of WestStar graduates. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by UT Martin.
RISSING STAR AWARD — Seth Bowers (center), of Gleason, received one of two Rising Star Leadership Scholarships from the WestStar Leadership Program during the program's 2018 graduation ceremony June 21 in Jackson. These scholarships are awarded to students who attended WestStar’s Rising Star Leadership Program, held for selected high school juniors and seniors each fall, and who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. Selections are made by a university committee. Bowers is a graduate of Gleason High School and has spent time assisting the community and enhancing his leadership skills through Habitat for Humanity, Tennessee Boys State and the Weakley County Youth Leadership program, among others. Bowers is pictured with Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative assistant, and Dr. Charley Deal, executive director. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by UT Martin.

Students named to UT Martin honor roll

The University of Tennessee at Martin has announced 52 Henry county students made the spring 2018 chancellor’s honor roll. To be eligible, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. 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).

Those with highest honors are: Holly N. Potts and Molly J. Tosh, both of Henry; James D. Wilson of Puryear; Parker L. Hatcher, Shelby L. Susewitt and Anderson L. Taylor, all of Springville; and John T. Bomar, Amy J. Bonar, Alyssa Brown, Meredith B. Bullock, Evan R. Pugh, Mariah M. Purcell, Whitney J. Rawls, Allletress J. Shankle and Flynn R. Watson, all of Paris.


Those with honors are: Kate- lyn N. Caldwell of Buchanan; Lillie K. Akers, Clay T. Wyrick and Coltin D. Wyrick, all of Cottage Grove; Erica G. Wright of Henry; Allison M. Evans, Jacob R. McElroy and Justin L. McElroy, all of Puryear; Tyler A. Polanco of Springville; and Daniel R. Arnold, Kristen D. Chenoweth, Rebecca A. Dean, Jacey H. Guarino, Andrew K. Key, Alex J. Lancaster, Carly S. Milton, Bryan D. Thomas, Vincent L. Vine and Summer B. Wilson, all of Paris.
WESTSTAR HONORS DR. LISA PIERCEY – Dr. Lisa Piercey (second from right), of Medina, received the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award during the program's 2018 graduation ceremony June 21 in Jackson. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, a 1990 WestStar graduate, founding program trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration. Recipients must be WestStar graduates who have had positive impacts in their city or county during the past five years and possess strong records of leadership in West Tennessee. Piercey, executive vice president for West Tennessee Healthcare and a board-certified child-abuse pediatrician, completed the WestStar program in 2014. She is pictured with Daniel's family members (from left) Melanie Daniel Parrord, of Memphis; Mike Daniel, of Union City; Drew Daniel, of Memphis; and Peggy Daniel, of Selmer. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

LOCAL STUDENT CHOSES UT MARTIN – Hayden Fowler (center), of Milan, registered for classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin during a Summer Orientation and Registration session June 22. Fowler, a graduate of Milan High School, will be a freshman at UT Martin in the fall. He is pictured with family members Tabitha Bingham and Bryan Russell. All incoming freshmen at UT Martin are required to attend SOAR. Upcoming sessions will be held July 13 and 23. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
UT Martin’s strategic plan presented to UT trustees

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, presented the university’s strategic plan to the UT Board of Trustees Subcommittee on Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities during the board’s annual meeting recently in Knoxville.

The plan was later approved by the full board and became effective immediately.

"UT Martin is on an impressive trajectory," said Dr. Joe DiPietro, president of the UT System. "This new strategic plan will help keep the campus growing and strong. It sets concise and important goals and has the metrics to measure outcomes and achievement."

"We are grateful for the UT Board of Trustee’s endorsement of the UT Martin Strategic Plan. This five-year plan will be used to educate students, drive discovery and maximize our impact on the surrounding region," Carver said.

UT Martin’s strategic plan is intended to serve as a university blueprint and guide the institution through the year 2023. It was created with input and direction from both current and retired faculty and staff members, current students, alumni, donors, stakeholders and local community members.

"I think it’s wonderful that UT Martin has initiated a long-term plan that it has not had (previously). It is beneficial not only for the campus (and) for the students but also the West Tennessee economy," said Julia Wells, a UT trustee from Tennessee’s eighth district, following Carver’s presentation. "I see UT Martin on an upward trend, and I think this plan will enhance the movement that is occurring there. We’re excited about UT Martin and what it can offer to West Tennessee and the region."

The plan is based on five goals, each with individual objectives to help guide university decisions in that area.

First, UT Martin will prepare graduates to be responsible, informed and engaged citizens in their workplaces and larger communities. To this end, UT Martin is committed to providing top-tier academic programs with hands-on experiences both inside and outside of the classroom and will put a priority on helping students develop essential life skills.

Second, the university will recruit, retain and graduate students who are prepared for careers, professions and life. UT Martin will recruit and retain students with the potential to brilliantly contribute to the university community, their careers, and the region.

Third, UT Martin will enhance its educational experiences locally and globally by providing high-quality programs and services to UT Martin and UT Martin alumni.

Fourth, UT Martin will enhance and maintain a diverse and engaged faculty and staff. UT Martin will recruit high-caliber faculty and staff on the West Tennessee campus and improve the working and living conditions of all employees.

Fifth, UT Martin will enhance the prosperity of West Tennessee and the university’s visibility through service and advocacy in the region.

Moving forward, UT Martin will continue to promote civic engagement through service learning, internships, research and travel study, and coordinate outreach and community activities to support research and economic development.

plans to do this by implementing a strategic enrollment plan and encouraging student participation in co-curricular programs such as internships and mentorships.

The university intends to recruit high-caliber students and help them gain real-world experience in professions for which they are well-suited.

The third goal commits UT Martin to creating a campus that is open, accessible and welcoming to all. Increasing visibility for the Office of Multicultural Affairs is a key component in achieving this goal, as is recruiting a diverse pool of faculty and staff members.

UT Martin also plans to promote the responsible use of resources by enhancing revenue; implementing competitive salary and compensation plans; and prioritizing facilities growth and improvements.

Finally, UT Martin is committed to improving the prosperity of West Tennessee and increasing the university’s visibility through service and advocacy in the region.
ATTEND WORKSHOP — The Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently hosted the week-long West Tennessee Writing Project for regional educators. UT Martin serves as one of 200 sites for the National Writing Project and has hosted the workshop for 24 years. Participants included (from left) Addy Byars, Lakewood Middle School; Doug Billings, Ripley Middle School; Lana Warren, Obion County Central High School; Dr. Jenny Brandon, Ripley Middle School; Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin department chair, associate professor of English and workshop coordinator; Delta Newhouse, Lake County High School; and TeAnna Thomas, Union City Elementary.

COMPLETES PROJECT — TeAnna Thomas (left), a teacher at Union City Elementary, completed the West Tennessee Writing Project workshop for area educators recently. The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages has hosted the workshop for 24 years and the university serves as one of 200 sites for the National Writing Project. She was joined by Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin department chair, associate professor of English and workshop coordinator.
CHOOSES UTM — Rachel Ashley (right) of Obion registered for classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin during a Summer Orientation and Registration session recently. Miss Ashley, a graduate of Obion County Central High School, will be a freshman at UT Martin in the fall. She was joined by her mother, Melinda Ashley.

UTM BOUND — Sara Jane Kendall (right) of Troy recently registered for classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin during a Summer Orientation and Registration session. Miss Kendall, a graduate of Obion County Central High School, will be a UTM freshman in the fall. She was joined by her mother, Deana Kendall.

FUTURE SKYHAWK — Hannah Carlisle of South Fulton registered for classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin during a recent Summer Orientation and Registration session. Miss Carlisle, a graduate of South Fulton High School, will be a freshman at UT Martin in the fall. All incoming freshmen at UT Martin are required to attend SOAR. Upcoming sessions will be held July 13 and 23.

NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE — Among those who participated in a recent pinning ceremony for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Nursing were (from left) Abigail O’Neal of South Fulton, Lauren Culver and Stephanie Bing Morton, both of Union City, and Brittany Benjamin of South Fulton. Graduating nursing students took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which includes the promise to abstain from harmful substances, keep patient affairs confidential and remain devoted to excellent patient care. The students all received bachelor of science in nursing degrees.
Seats available for UTM orientation sessions

The University of Tennessee at Martin is still enrolling incoming freshman students for two upcoming Summer Orientation and Registration sessions, July 13 and 23, and transfer and adult students for a specialized session July 20.

Students must have received an official acceptance letter from UT Martin to attend orientation. Registration for SOAR is $45 per student and $20 per additional guest, including parents, guardians, siblings and friends. No tuition or fee payments are due until the first week of classes.

All incoming freshmen are required to attend a SOAR session to register for fall semester classes with the assistance of faculty members in their chosen fields of study. This ensures all students start their college experience on the right track to complete all required courses on time.

SOAR begins with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m., July 13 or 23. An official welcome will begin at 8:45. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, travel-study opportunities and the transition to college will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions in housing, dining options, academic success, choosing a major and purchasing textbooks will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty adviser to register for classes beginning at 1:15 p.m.
Tylon Rouser attends UTM session

Tylon Rouser, right, of Ripley, registered for classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin during a Summer Orientation and Registration session June 22. Rouser, a graduate of Ripley High School, will be a freshman at UT Martin in the fall. He is pictured with family members Latasha and Jaylon Rouser. All incoming freshmen at UT Martin are required to attend SOAR. Upcoming sessions will be held July 13 and 23. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Gas and Water presents check to UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center honored Ripley Gas and Water for their continued support. Dr. Simpfronia Taylor, Director for the Ripley Center, and Jason Holloway, Assistant Director for the Ripley Center, spoke at the June 21 meeting regarding the importance of community support and how scholarships help students in the community. Pictured are, from left, Barry Bates, Burnie Norman, Tonia Estes, Jason Holloway, Dr. Simpfronia Taylor, Terri Bishop, UTM Ripley student, Scott Nelson, Superintendent, Tequilla Cole, UTM Ripley student, and Bill Davis, liaison for the Board of Aldermen. Gwen Blackman was not present at the meeting. Ripley Gas and Water presented Dr. Taylor with a $15,000 scholarship check for the 2018-19 school year.
Washington receives RisingStar scholarship

Ray Washington, IV, center, of Ripley, received one of two RisingStar Leadership Scholarships from the WestStar Leadership Program during the program's 2018 graduation ceremony June 21 in Jackson. These scholarships are awarded to students who attended WestStar's RisingStar Leadership Program, held for selected high school juniors and seniors each fall, and who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. Selections are made by a university committee. Washington is a graduate of Ripley High School and, while enrolled there, was involved in student council, varsity football and the Leadership Lauderdale program, among others. He is pictured with Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative assistant, and Dr. Charley Deal, Executive Director. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by UT Martin.

Pair from RMS attend writing project

The Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages hosted the weeklong West Tennessee Writing Project for regional educators June 25-29. UT Martin serves as one of 200 sites for the National Writing Project and has hosted the workshop for 24 years. Participating educators can earn up to 30 hours of professional development by completing the workshop. Pictured are, from left, Addy Byars, Lakewood Middle School; Doug Billings, Ripley Middle School; Lana Warren, Obion County Central High School; Dr. Jenny Brandon, Ripley Middle School; Dr. David Carithers, UT Martin department chair, associate professor of English and workshop coordinator; Delta Newhouse, Lake County High School; and TeAnna Thomas, Union City Elementary.
RisingStar Award

RAY WASHINGTON IV, center, of Ripley, received a RisingStar Leadership scholarships from the WestStar Leadership Program during the program's 2018 graduation ceremony June 21st in Jackson. Washington is a graduate of Ripley High School and, while enrolled there, was involved in student council, varsity football and the Leadership Lauderdale program, among others. He is pictured with Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative assistant, and Dr. Charley Deal, executive director. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by UT Martin.

Writing Workshop

TEACHERS, Dr. Jenny Brandon, left, and Doug Billings, right; both of Ripley Middle School, attended the week-long West Tennessee Writing Project for regional educators June 25th through the 29th, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. UT Martin serves as one of 200 sites for the National Writing Project and has hosted the workshop for 24 years. Participating educators can earn up to 30 hours of professional development by completing the workshop.

Donation Presented

MEMBERS of the board of the Ripley Gas, Water and Wastewater presented a $15,000 check to the UTM Ripley Center for scholarships for the 2018-2019. Dr. Simpronia Taylor, director, and Jason Holloway, assistant director, of the Ripley Center, spoke at the June 21st meeting regarding the importance of community support and how scholarships help students in the community. On hand for the presentation were, from left, Barry Bates, Burnie Norman, Tonia Estes, Jason Holloway, Dr. Simpronia Taylor, Terri Bishop, UTM Ripley student; Scott Nelson, superintendent; Tequilla Cole, UTM Ripley student; and Bill Davis, liaison for the Ripley Board of Aldermen. Board member Gwen Blackman was unable to attend the meeting.
TYLON ROUSER, right, of Ripley, registered for classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin during a Summer Orientation and Registration session June 22nd. Rouser, a graduate of Ripley High School, will be a freshman at UT Martin in the fall. He is pictured with family members, Latasha and Jaylon Rouser. All incoming freshmen at UT Martin are required to attend SOAR. Upcoming sessions will be held July 13th and 23rd. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

WEST TENNESSEE WRITING PROJECT - The Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages hosted the weeklong West Tennessee Writing Project for regional educators June 25-29. UT Martin serves as one of 200 sites for the National Writing Project and has hosted the workshop for 24 years. Participating educators can earn up to 30 hours of professional development by completing the workshop. Pictured are (l-r) Addy Byars, Lakewood Middle School; Doug Billings, Ripley Middle School; Lana Warren, Obion County Central High School; Dr. Jenny Brandon, Ripley Middle School; Dr. David Garithers, UT Martin department chair, associate professor of English and workshop coordinator; Delta Newhouse; Lake County High School; and TeAnna Thomas, Union City Elementary.
UTM offers Orientation Sessions for Incoming Students

The University of Tennessee at Martin is still enrolling incoming freshman students for upcoming Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) sessions on July 13 or 23, and transfer and adult students for a specialized session on July 20.

Incoming Freshmen
All incoming freshmen are required to attend a SOAR session to register for fall semester classes with the assistance of faculty members in their chosen fields of study. This ensures all students start their college experience on the right track to complete all required courses on time.

Freshmen must have received an official acceptance letter from UTM to attend orientation. Registration for SOAR is $45 per student and $20 per additional guest, including parents, guardians, siblings, and friends. No tuition or fee payments are due until the first week of classes.

SOAR begins with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m., July 13 or 23. An official welcome will begin at 8:45 a.m. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, travel-study opportunities and the transition to college will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions in housing, dining options, academic success, choosing a major, and purchasing textbooks will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty adviser to register for classes beginning at 1:15 p.m.

Special sessions for parents will help families learn more about college life at UTM and the expectations students will experience both from the campus community and the academic faculty. A departmental panel will host representatives from the offices of public safety, student life, disability services, student success, First-Year Initiative, and career planning and development to discuss their respective areas.

Incoming freshmen can visit utm.edu/soar to register for a preferred date. Freshmen unable to attend either session should contact Mary Wiggins, assistant director of admissions, at 731-881-7740 or munger@utm.edu as soon as possible to arrange for alternate registration accommodations.

Transfer/Adult Students
An orientation session will be held July 20 for transfer and non-traditional students. This session begins at 8:30 a.m. and will host sessions in career planning and development, financial planning, student life, veteran services, student success, and campus technology. Students will register beginning at 10:45 a.m. with the assistance of a faculty adviser, and campus tours are optional after lunch.

Attendance at orientation is not mandatory for transfer or adult students, and individuals may choose to register for classes online if they prefer. There is no charge to attend for transfer or adult students. Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. For more information or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
NEW WESTSTAR GRADUATES — Members of the 2018 WestStar Leadership Class graduated recently at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. UT Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program. Members of the 2018 WestStar graduating class included (seated, from left) Tony Childress, Dyersburg; Ashley Dennis, Savannah; Charlie Moore, Alamo; Kara Tapp, Somerville; Heidi Shafer, Memphis; Stephanie Fowler, Jackson; Theresa Powell, Alamo; Michael Creasy, Decaturville; Jeff Parham, Martin; Rodney Reynolds, Lexington; (standing) Frank Tate, McKenzie; Brandy Stutsman, Jackson; Andrew Long, Jackson; Richard Griggs, Covington; Brent Dillahunt, Huntingdon; John Rountree, Millington; Joseph Butler, Huntingdon; Rico Bryson, Jackson; Bob Turner, Somerville; John Hughey, Trenton; Brett Lashlee, Camden; Portis Tanner, Union City; Alex Bynum, Dresden; Charles West, Paris; Leigh Anne Bentley, Jackson; Julian McTizic, Bolivar; Katie Weatherford, Selmer; Yvette C. Blue, Brownsville; and B.W. Beasley, Milan.

WestStar Leadership Program holds graduation

Members of the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018 graduated recently during WestStar’s closing event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

This marked the program’s 29th class and brings the total to 827 graduates since WestStar was established in 1989. The 2018 class included 30 members who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on individual leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development.

The class members, selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement, complete eight sessions covering topics including agriculture and transportation, public policy issues, education and tourism.

Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, welcomed more than 150 class members, alumni and guests to the graduation ceremony. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, reviewed WestStar-sponsored conferences and activities since the start of the year and joined the program’s board of trustees to congratulate graduates and present graduation plaques.

Following recognition of the graduates, Deal closed the event by reminding the audience that leadership is about impact, influence and inspiration. “Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion that you have for your work, and you have to be able to inspire those around you,” he said. “Let us all leave here tonight committed to making a positive impact in our community, influencing positive changes in West Tennessee and inspiring the next generation of leaders to commit to making our state even better than it is today.”

Applications for the 2019 WestStar class are being accepted after Sept. 1, and members of the new class will be selected later this fall.

FORMER GRADUATES — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program recently graduated its class of 2018 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. Current and previous class members as well as their families and other West Tennessee influencers were in attendance. Among those representing Obion County were Nicole Kincade (left) and Charlene Burpo, both members of the WestStar class of 2017.
RISING STAR — Dick and Renee Dillon and Megan Hines, owners of the Hops and Barley restaurant on South Ury Street in Union City, received a Rising Star Award from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center and University of Tennessee at Martin’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center during a Salute to the Stars reception. The businesses selected are also engaged in their communities to create positive impacts in the area. Hops and Barley opened in 2014 and now employs 16 individuals in a family-friendly environment. The staff also participate in Habitat for Humanity, Chimes for Charity, Obion County Hometown Walk of Hope and other local causes. Among those taking part in the reception were (from left) Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Megan Hines; the Dillons; Landy Fuqua, TSBDC/REED Center director; and Dr. Ross Dickens, dean, UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs.
UTM recognizes international students for chancellor’s honor roll

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

Those recognized were Talal Alahmadi, highest honors; Nofa Alanazi, high honors; Mohammed Alhalal, high honors; Mouied Alhalal, high honors; Manal Alruwaili, highest honors; Wardah Alshaikhhussain, highest honors; Haidar A. Alshawaikhat, honors; Mohammad Alshwaikhat, honors; Mazen Alsuleiman, honors; Benjamin Aslett, high honors; Kyoungun Baek, high honors; Danue Kaldaridou, highest honors; Sara Ketis, high honors; Salam Khuraidah, high honors; Wed Khuraidah, honors; Kelly Lean, highest honors; Amy McGivern, high honors; Andrea Plantada, highest honors; Divya Rajan, honors; Jule Streif, highest honors.

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

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

Peery named WLJT’s new General Manager

The Management and Staff of WLJT welcome Mike Peery, WLJT’s new General Manager and CEO. Rodney Freed, Chairman of the West Tennessee Public Television Council, stated “We are excited that Mr. Peery will be joining the WLJT-DT staff as General Manager. The Board is looking forward to working with Mike to continue bringing great programming and educational opportunities to everyone in West Tennessee.”

“I am honored to serve West Tennessee at WLJT,” stated Peery. “Everyone in this institution is committed to serving the public through educational, informative and entertaining programming. WLJT is the lifeblood of education for our small children and the heart of our local community. WLJT teaches, entertains and informs in a very unique way. We are all looking forward to a bright, prosperous future in West Tennessee.”

Mike is a graduate of Westview High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin. He comes to us with work experience at Deloitte and Touche and RCO Holding Company. Most recently he has served as the General Manager and CEO of the West Tennessee State Fair.

Mike has worked in accounting, politics and music. He currently serves on the Parks and Rec Board for Madison County; serves in charity work for RIFA and is a Trustee, Finance Chair and Music Director for the Lambuth Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson. Mike was recently named the recipient of the 2018 Statesman of the Year Award for the 8th District. Mike is married to Denise who is originally from Union City.

UTM to hold End of Summer Bash

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 27, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2018 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 and campus tours at 2.

Students who have already taken a campus tour are invited to join the group for Recreation Rumpage from 3-5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreational activities.

Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UT Martin or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
NEW WESTSTAR GRADUATES — Members of the 2018 WestStar Leadership Class graduated on June 21, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. UT Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program. Members of the 2018 WestStar graduating class are (seated, l to r) Tony Childress, Dyersburg; Ashley Dennis, Savannah; Charlie Moore, Alamo; Kara Tapp, Somerville; Heidi Shafer, Memphis; Stephanie Fowler, Jackson; Theresa Powell, Alamo; Michael Creasy, Decaturville; Jeff Parham, Martin; and Rodney Reynolds, Lexington; (standing, l to r) Frank Tate, McKenzie; Brandy Stutsman, Jackson; Andrew Long, Jackson; Richard Griggs, Covington; Brent Dillahunty, Huntingdon; John Rountree, Millington; Joseph Butler, Huntingdon; Rico Bryson, Jackson; Bob Turner, Somerville; John Hughey, Trenton; Brett Lashlee, Camden; Portis Tanner, Union City; Alex Bynum, Dresden; Charles West, Paris; Leigh Anne Bentley, Jackson; Julian McTizic, Bolivar; Katie Weatherford, Selmer; Yvette C. Blue, Brownsville; and B.W. Beasley, Milan. Not pictured is Tommy Allmon of Dyersburg.

2018 WestStar Leadership class graduates

Members of the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018 graduated Thursday, June 21, during WestStar’s closing event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

This marked the program’s 29th class and brings the total to 827 graduates since WestStar was established in 1989. The 2018 class included 30 members.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on individual leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. The class members, selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement, complete eight sessions covering topics including agriculture and transportation, public policy issues, education and tourism.

Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, welcomed more than 150 class members, alumni and guests to the graduation ceremony. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, reviewed WestStar-sponsored conferences and activities since the start of the year and joined the program’s board of trustees to congratulate graduates and present graduation plaques.

Deal also announced WestStar’s most recent scholarship recipients, as well as three major awards presented annually during the program’s graduation.

• Ashley Dennis of Savannah chief financial officer of Hardin County Bank, received the 2018 Class Representative Award.
• Brett Lashlee of Camden an accountant and business process coordinator for Caterpillar Financial Insurance Services, received the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award.
• Dr. Lisa Piercey of Medina executive vice president for West Tennessee Healthcare and a board-certified child-abuse pediatrician, received the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award. Recipients must be WestStar graduates who have had positive impacts in their city or county during the past five years and possess strong records of leadership in West Tennessee. Piercey graduated from the program in 2015.
• Seth Bowers of Gleason and Ray Washington IV of Ripley received Rising-Star Leadership Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students who attended WestStar’s RisingStar Leadership Program held for selected high school juniors and seniors each fall and who plan to attend UT Martin. Selections are made by a university committee.
• Luke Winters of Martin and Jenna Watson of Friendship received Nick Dunagan Leadership Scholarships. Both students attended UTM and are the children of WestStar graduates. These scholarships are named for Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus and former WestStar executive director.

Following recognition of the graduates, Deal closed the event by reminding the audience that leadership is about impact, influence and inspiration. “Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion that you have for your work, and you have to be able to inspire those around you,” he said. “Let us all leave here tonight committed to making a positive impact in our community, influencing positive changes in West Tennessee and inspiring the next generation of leaders to commit to making our state even better than it is today.”

Applications for the 2019 WestStar class are being accepted after Sept. 1, and members of the new class will be selected later this fall.
Candidate forum scheduled for July 12

Individuals seeking elected office in Weakley County will participate in a candidate forum at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 12, in the UT Martin Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The forum is open to the public and is being sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program’s Weakley County alumni group.

A community reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Boling University Welcome Center located behind the information desk in the Watkins Auditorium lobby. Candidates and forum attendees will then move to the auditorium at 6:20, and candidate introductions will begin at 6:30.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome the candidates and forum attendees, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will add his welcome and explain the format. Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor in the university’s Department of Communications and faculty adviser to WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” will moderate the forum.

Countywide office candidates will introduce themselves, tell why they are seeking office and offer additional information for up to three minutes each. Afterward, candidates for Weakley County mayor will be introduced and asked a series of questions, followed by the candidates’ closing remarks. Questions were developed by a committee that included a Republican, a Democrat and an independent.

WestStar alumni groups in other counties have sponsored similar forums for local candidates during the current election year. In February, WestStar partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and others to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention in Nashville.

In May, the 2018 WestStar class organized and sponsored a Tennessee gubernatorial forum that featured six candidates who are seeking the governor’s office.

Additional information about the forum is available by calling the WestStar office at 731-881-7298.

The Lauderdale Voice, Wednesday, July 11, 2018

UT-Martin sets End of Summer event

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 27, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2018 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 and campus tours at 2.

Students who have already taken a campus tour are invited to join the group for Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study, meet faculty, staff and current students, and participate in a variety of recreational activities.

Students can register at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UT Martin or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
IN ONLY ONE YEAR, UT Martin has paid off almost half of the Town of Somerville's loan for renovation of the UT Martin Somerville Center. From July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, UT Martin paid the Town of Somerville $250,000 in rent payments of which $50,000 went directly into the town's General Fund budget to maintain the building. The other $200,000 went to paying down the loan.

Additionally, the University of Tennessee Foundation collected $81,391 in private donations which were donated specifically in the name of the UT Martin Somerville Center. UT Foundation sent the designated funds to Somerville in June 2018. The Fayette County Government also paid the agreed funding of $50,000, which will also went to paying down the loan from renovations.

The UT Martin Somerville Center's enrollment has grown from a total student population of 114 in the fall of 2017 to almost 200 expected in the fall of 2018.

Due the overwhelming success of the center in such a short period of time, other educational institutions have expressed interest in leasing space in the Center from UT Martin which includes Hope Works, Fayette Literacy, the National Guard and Southwest Community College. High schools working with UT Martin to provide educational opportunities for their students include Arlington, Fayette Academy, Fayette-Ware, Hardeman County and Haywood County. After only one semester of taking "Dual Enrollment" classes at the UT Martin Somerville Center, ACT scores for most students have substantially increased. Three individuals in particular have shown dramatic improvement. Student 1 increased their comprehensive score from 30 to 33 while their Math score increased from 23 to 29. That's a 26% increase after taking one math class.

Student 2 increased their comprehensive score from 25 to 29 while their reading score increased from 26 to 31. That's an increase of 19% after taking one reading class.

Student 3 increased their comprehensive score from 23 to 27 while their Math score increased from 18 to 26. That's a 44% increase after taking one math class.

The UT Martin Somerville Center is changing the lives of students all around us by giving them the gift of education. Higher ACT Scores open doors to scholarships that would not have been available to them. Hope Scholarships, Pell Grants and other funding opportunities allow them to take classes at the Center for free or virtually free. Students taking Dual Enrollment courses while still in High School could enter college as Sophomores, reducing the time and expense required to achieve a Bachelor's Degree.

For information about classes available to you or your children, call UT Martin Somerville Center's Director, Kara Tapp at (901) 465-7313 or stop by and talk to her in person at 214 Lakeview Road, Somerville, Tennessee.
Weststar Alumni to Sponsor Weakley County Candidate Forum

Individuals seeking elected office in Weakley County will participate in a candidate forum at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 12, in the UT Martin Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The forum is open to the public and is being sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program’s Weakley County alumni group.

A community reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Boling University Welcome Center located behind the information desk in the Watkins Auditorium lobby. Candidates and forum attendees will then move to the auditorium at 6:20, and candidate introductions will begin at 6:30.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome the candidates and forum attendees, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will add his welcome and explain the format. Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor in the university’s Department of Communications and faculty adviser to WUTM-FM 90.3 "The Hawk," will moderate the forum.

Countywide office candidates will introduce themselves, tell why they are seeking office and offer additional information for up to three minutes each. Afterward, candidates for Weakley County mayor will be introduced and asked a series of questions, followed by the candidates’ closing remarks. Questions were developed by a committee that included a Republican, a Democrat and an Independent.

WestStar alumni groups in other counties have sponsored similar forums for local candidates during the current election year. In February, WestStar partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and others to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention in Nashville. In May, the 2018 WestStar class organized and sponsored a Tennessee gubernatorial forum that featured six candidates who are seeking the governor's office.

Additional information about the forum is available by calling the WestStar office at 731-881-7298.

Early voting for the Aug. 2 election runs July 13-28. Election days are Aug. 2 for the federal and state primary election and general county election, and Nov. 6 for the federal and state general election.

High school students invited to event

The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 27, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2018 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 and campus tours at 2. Students who have already taken a campus tour are invited to join the group for Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreational activities.

Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
UTM Chancellor’s Honor Roll includes Obion County students

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2018 Chancellor’s Honor Roll.

Several students from Obion County, or those with county ties, are among the honorees from UT Martin’s various specialized colleges.

The honorees, listed by hometown, include:

- Hornbeck — Claudia A. Cheatham, high honors; Jordan L. Copeland, honors; Brianna M. Hinton, highest honors; and Leah A. Simmons, highest honors.
- Kenton — Mary B. Chandler, high honors; Mason T. Chandler, high honors; Keaton N. Cooper, highest honors; and Cody G. Little, honors.
- Obion — Juliane E. Albright, honors; Kiernan S. Coursey, highest honors; Kristin S. Hale, highest honors; Christina M. Hinton, honors; Axl D. Powers, highest honors; Allison M. Priest, highest honors; Ericka R. Reaves, highest honors; Timothy S. Runions, high honors; and Bethany L. Walsh, honors.
- Rives — Hayden G. Cary, high honors; Ethan W. Ellison, high honors; Marissa H. Howard, high honors; Taylor B. Morrow, honors; Shelly N. Pate, honors; Rebecca M. Wisdom, high honors; and Bailey B. Wisener, honors.
- Samburg — Dylan L. Riddle, highest honors.
- South Fulton — Taylor H. Allen, highest honors; Kevin W. Bartlett, highest honors; Brittany D. Benjamin, high honors; Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla, highest honors; James B. Hutchens, highest honors; Hayden W. Kelly, honors; Ariabella E. Kinney, high honors; Arianna M. Kinney, high honors; Destinee B. Mayo, high honors; Caitlyn A. McClain, highest honors; Slade C. Murray, highest honors; David B. Netherland, high honors; Brianna A. Rinker, high honors; Samantha M. Simbeck, honors; and Samantha St. John, highest honors.
- Troy — Dana L. Barnett, honors; Katelyn M. Barnett, high honors; George M. Carroll, high honors; Hailey M. Cook, highest honors; Daniel L. Finch, high honors; Kaleigh E. Flowers, honors; Mark D. Hawkins, high honors; Hanna L. Herren, honors; Mason N. Hoffman, high honors; J baye B. Jennings, highest honors; Kathryn G. Kerr, high honors; Anna D. Logan, honors; Leandra N. Moore, high honors; Jessica L. Parnell, highest honors; Rebecca L. Robb, highest honors; Laina L. Roberson, highest honors; Ashlyn R. Runions, highest honors; Alexandria E. Sharp, high honors; Matthew D. Vanwormer, highest honors; and James B. Warner, high honors.
- Union City — Audrey M. Adams, highest honors; Chelsea B. Anderson, highest honors; Levia H. Beard, high honors; Brianna N. Bell, highest honors; Mima J. Borrayas, honors; Brannon C. Bowling, highest honors; Ronda A. Brewer, highest honors; Abby C. Bruff, highest honors; Chambry L. Callcott, high honors; Elizabeth J. Carpenter, highest honors; Caroline J. Chism, honors; Kristen M. Cole, high honors; Olivia G. Davis, high honors; Megan L. Dunn, high honors; Macy S. Earley, high honors; Carington P. Fasolo, high honors; Brendan L. Galbraith, high honors; Dianna C. Gammons, highest honors; Jack S. Garrett, honors; Aubree A. Gues, high honors; Klayton J. Hagan, highest honors; John S. Harpold, honors; Lanzer E. Harris, honors; Taylor J. Heathcock, high honors; Andrew J. Horner, honors; James F. Hudspeth, honors; Darrell L. Huff, highest honors; Jonathan M. Hurtado, highest honors; Olivia B. James, hon- ors; Darcey J. Jones, highest honors; Angelique M. Kendall, high honors; Cruz M. Kepner, honors; Laken D. Kirk, highest honors; Sean J. Lanahan, highest honors; Steven I. Langford, high honors; Grant W. Larcom, honors; Makayla Lynn, highest honors; Kaycee L. Mathenia, highest honors; Guadalupe Mejia, highest honors; and Kathryn G. Moore, honors.
- Tatum — Jordan P. Murdock, high honors; Katy Parker, high honors; Zachary P. Parker, honors; Avery A. Partin, high honors; Tucker M. Pounds, high honors; Stella D. Preuett, high honors; Ashton E. Priest, high honors; Madison L. Quinn, high honors; Alyssa M. Ridenour, highest honors; Thea E. Riggs, honors; Payton A. Robertson, high honors; Santiago A. Ruiz, honors; Barbara P. Russell, highest honors; Holly A. Seng, highest honors; Hailey E. Slaughter, highest honors; Jenna M. Smith, honors; Whitney D. Smith, honors; Cory A. Sparks, honors; Julie E. Spencer, high honors; Katy B. Thompson, honors; Macy A. Thompson, highest honors; William D. Thralls, honors; Austen G. Walton, honors; Ariana G. Warner, high honors; John A. Warner, highest honors; Brenna M. Wilkins, highest honors; Zackary A. Williamson, honors; and Alexandra N. Wilson, highest honors.

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

- Martin — Parker E. Albright, highest honors; Anna D. Barnes, highest honors; Tyler A. Bolton, high honors; Kaleb P. Byars, highest honors; Denver C. Crittenden, highest honors; Travis L. Crum, honors; McKayla M. Cunningham, high honors; Elysia L. Duke, highest honors; Lucian P. Freeze, high honors; Garrett L. Hay, highest honors; Haley J. Horner, high honors; Mason S. Parker, honors; Connor D. Rinker, highest honors; Kimberly D. Schwartz, highest honors; Catherine E. Stanford, honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, highest honors; and Emery L. Whaley, honors.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is throwing a party July 27, and high school students from all areas are invited.

The 2018 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center followed by an official welcome at 1:30 p.m. and campus tours at 2 p.m. Students who have already taken a campus tour are invited to join the group for Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Students and their families are invited to learn more about UT Martin programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreational activities.

Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend.

For more information about UT Martin or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
CANDIDATES TO DISCUSS ISSUES — Individuals seeking elected office in Weakley County will participate in a candidate forum at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 12, in the UT Martin Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The forum is open to the public and is being sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program’s Weakley County alumni group. Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, is pictured speaking in May during WestStar’s gubernatorial forum held at the university. Deal will join UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcoming candidates and attendees to the July 12 forum.

Local candidate forum to be held tonight

Individuals seeking elected office in Weakley County will participate in a candidate forum at 6:30 p.m., Thursday in the UT Martin Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The forum is open to the public and is sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program’s Weakley County alumni group.

A community reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Boling University Welcome Center located behind the information desk in the Watkins Auditorium lobby. Candidates and forum attendees will then move to the auditorium at 6:20, and candidate introductions will begin at 6:30.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome the candidates and forum attendees, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, will add his welcome and explain the format. Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor in the university’s Department of Communications and faculty adviser to WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” will moderate the forum.

Countywide office candidates will introduce themselves, tell why they are seeking office and offer additional information for up to three minutes each. Afterward, candidates for Weakley County mayor will be introduced and asked a series of questions, followed by the candidates’ closing remarks. Questions were developed by a committee that included a Republican, a Democrat and an independent.

WestStar alumni groups in other counties have sponsored similar forums for local candidates during the current election year. In February, WestStar partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and others to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention in Nashville. In May, the 2018 WestStar class organized and sponsored a Tennessee gubernatorial forum that featured six candidates who are seeking the governor’s office.

Additional information about the forum is available by calling the WestStar office at 731-881-7298.

Early voting for the Aug. 2 election runs July 13-28. Election days are Aug. 2 for the federal and state primary election and general county election, and Nov. 6 for the federal and state general election.
Seats available for remaining UT Martin orientation sessions

The University of Tennessee at Martin is still enrolling incoming freshman students for two upcoming Summer Orientation and Registration sessions, July 13 and 23, and transfer and adult students for a specialized session July 20.

Students must have received an official acceptance letter from UT Martin to attend orientation. Registration for SOAR is $45 per student and $20 per additional guest, including parents, guardians, siblings and friends. No tuition or fee payments are due until the first week of classes.

All incoming freshmen are required to attend a SOAR session to register for fall semester classes with the assistance of faculty members in their chosen fields of study. This ensures all students start their college experience on the right track to complete all required courses on time.

SOAR begins with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m., July 13 or 23. An official welcome will begin at 8:45. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, travel-study opportunities and the transition to college will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions in housing, dining options, academic success, choosing a major and purchasing textbooks will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty adviser to register for classes beginning at 1:15 p.m.

Special sessions for parents will help families learn more about college life at UT Martin and the expectations students will experience both from the campus community and the academic faculty. A departmental panel will host representatives from the offices of public safety, student life, disability services, student success.

First-Year Initiative, and career planning and development to discuss their respective areas.

Visit utm.edu/soar to register for your preferred date. If you are unable to attend either session, contact Mary Wiggins, assistant director of admissions, at 731-881-7740 or munger@utm.edu as soon as possible to arrange for alternate registration accommodations.

A Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20 for transfer and non-traditional students. This session begins at 8:30 a.m. and will host classes in career planning and development, financial planning, student life, veteran services, student success and campus technology. Students will register beginning at 10:45 a.m. with the assistance of a faculty adviser, and campus tours are optional after lunch.

Attendance at orientation is not mandatory for transfer or adult students, and individuals may choose to register for classes online if they prefer. There is no charge to attend for transfer or adult students.

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register.

For more information or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
2 years after Trey Lindsey’s death, scholarship fund continues

Brandon Shields
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

It was two years ago on July 12, 2016, when Trey Lindsey died suddenly from a blood clot in his leg.

He’d just graduated from UT Martin with a degree in wildlife biology and had just started an internship in Nebraska.

But within hours of feeling the need to go to the emergency room, Trey had passed away.

Two years later, his family, spearheaded by his father John Lindsey, is working to fund a scholarship for UTM wildlife biology majors who are juniors or seniors.

Trey Lindsey had just graduated from UT Martin with a degree in wildlife biology and had just started an internship in Nebraska. But within hours of feeling the need to go to the emergency room, he had passed away.

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Scholarship

Continued from Page 3A

And on Sept. 15, the second major event to raise funds for that scholarship endowment will be when former Major League Baseball player Will Clark speaks at UTM. There will also be a silent auction set up with memorabilia from different genres of sports and entertainment.

“I’ve spoken with Will a couple times as we’re getting ready for this, and he seems to be pretty excited,” John Lindsey said. “Will loves the outdoors, and his family has a place down in Louisiana where they go hunting often.

“We’re planning on it being a Q&A session, and he’s an open book that’s willing to speak his mind on anything we want to talk about.”

Lindsey added that meant discussing the Steroid Era of baseball, which was a large portion of Clark’s career in the 1990s and early 2000s, playing on the 1984 Olympic team, the brawl Clark was involved in when he played for the San Francisco Giants with the St. Louis Cardinals, and anything else they might decide to discuss that night.

Lindsey said having a speaker from baseball is significant because Trey loved baseball. He played baseball and football at South Side High School.

“He loved being an athlete, but he loved the outdoors more,” Lindsey said.

There is plenty of signed merchandise from various times in MLB, including the 1970s through the past decade, with different teams represented, including the Atlanta Braves, L.A. Dodgers, New York Yankees, St. Louis Cardinals and more.

“We’ve got a Facebook page where people can see a lot of the stuff available, and we haven’t put everything on there yet,” Lindsey said. “It’s mostly baseball so far. There’s plenty of football items, too, and we’re hoping to lock down other things, like weekend getaways and more merchandise.”

Most tickets will be sold via eight-seat tables with a limited number of single tickets available. For table sponsorships or more information, log on to the Phillip Trey Lindsey Scholarship Endowment page on Facebook or call 731-217-7187. There is also a page for the event itself called “An Evening with Will Clark (Martin, TN).”

Reach Brandon Shields at bshields@jacksonsun.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorbrandon.
Seats available for UTM orientation sessions

The University of Tennessee at Martin is still enrolling incoming freshman students for two upcoming Summer Orientation and Registration sessions, July 13 and 23, and transfer and adult students for a specialized session July 20.

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Additional sessions in housing, dining options, academic success, choosing a major and purchasing textbooks will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty adviser to register for classes beginning at 1:15 p.m.

UTM counseling degree nationally ranked

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Master of Science in Education degree with a major in counseling has been nationally recognized for excellence and affordability from a variety of sources in the past few months.

CollegeChoice.net ranks the university 13th among the best online master's degrees in educational counseling in the nation. UT Martin is the second-ranked Tennessee institution on this particular list, with Vanderbilt University appearing at number three.

SR Education Group, an education research publisher founded in 2004, ranks the UT Martin program 20th nationally among the best online colleges for school counseling in 2018 and 23rd for affordability.

Overall, GuideToOnlineSchools.com ranks UT Martin's online programs fourth among the best online colleges in Tennessee for 2018.

Colleges release Deans' lists

Jul 14, 2018

University of Tennessee - Martin

Cocke County, Mallory H. Spisak, Newport; Greene County, Coty 0. Vannoy, Chuckey, Takeem H. Young, Greeneville; Hamblen County, Sydney E. Helton, Morristown, Chantal M. Wilson, Morristown Cherie R. Wilson, Morristown, Kinsley R. Graves, Whitesburg; Hawkins County, Kinsley R. Graves, Whitesburg; Jefferson County, Katlin J. Johnson
Seats available for UTM orientation sessions

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The Banner • McKenzie, Tennessee • Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Weststar Hosts Weakley County Candidate Forum

MARTIN — The WestStar Leadership Program’s Weakley County alumni group hosted a forum July 12 for candidates seeking political office in Weakley County. Nine candidates participated in the event, five running unopposed and four running in contested races for county sheriff and county mayor.

Candidates were given three minutes to introduce themselves and tell why they are seeking countywide office. Mayoral candidates Jake Bynum and Jason Plunk ended the event with a formal debate. Debate questions were developed by a committee that included a Republican, a Democrat and an independent.

“WestStar’s mission is to shape the future of West Tennessee, and that starts at the community and county level,” said Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. “Our role is to be as non-partisan as possible but to get education about the candidates and where they stand on issues out to the general public.”

An open reception held prior to the forum allowed community members to meet the candidates before they took the stage in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and faculty adviser to WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” served as forum moderator.

“I came because I’m familiar with the candidates, and I’ve always been interested in local government,” said Bennie Castelman. “I just wanted to hear what the candidates had to say, and

I think they all did a great job. ... I appreciate WestStar and the university having (this event).”

Castelman and his wife, Barbara, are longtime resident of Weakley County and own two Shoe Shack locations in the area.

WestStar alumni groups in other counties have sponsored similar events for local candidates during the current election year. In February, WestStar partnered with the Tennessee Press Association and others to co-sponsor a gubernatorial candidate forum during the Tennessee Press Association Winter Convention in Nashville. In May, the 2018 WestStar class organized and sponsored a Tennessee gubernatorial forum that featured six candidates who are seeking the governor’s office.

The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Early voting for the Aug. 2 election runs July 13-28. Election days are Aug. 2 for the federal and state primary election and general county election, and Nov. 8 for the federal and state general election.

For more information on WestStar activities, contact the program office at 731-881-7298.
NOLA native takes in nephews, mother while working to achieve NFL dream

As a junior in college, Este took in his elementary-aged nephews, Zachary and Christopher, and eventually his mother who revealed she had been homeless for two years.

Author: Andrew Doak
Published: 10:08 PM CDT July 17, 2018
Updated: 12:26 PM CDT July 18, 2018

Joe Este, New Orleans native who Bonnabel High School, is battling more than just the sizzling temperatures of summer. He is a long-shot rookie, hoping to play on Sundays, but that’s merely a small part of his fight.

“I have never met anyone like Joe in my life until I met Joe,” Gary Scheffler, co-owner and operator of GLS Training in Marrero, said.

Last January, Scheffler got a call from Este’s mentor and former Bonnabel High School football coach, Don Cox. After finishing his career at University of Tennessee at Martin, Este needed somewhere to train before his Pro Day. Cox asked Scheffler if he could take him on, and of course he obliged.

However, the connection that followed between Este and Scheffler felt like fate.

Two weeks into training, Shefler innocently Googled Este’s name. His harmless hope was to find a photo of Este in a UT Martin jersey to promote on its social media page, but what Scheffler found was a story that stirred his soul.

“I get this story about him adopting his nephews,” he said.

During his first semester at UT Martin, Este received a call from his mother.
"One day she called me and she was like ‘Son, I can’t do this,’ and I’m like, ‘Do what?’ and she’s like ‘I can’t take care of the boys no more,’" Este said.

“It was a devastating moment for me because it was like, ‘Okay, now what?’ They don’t have anywhere else to go,” Este said.

His mother had been taking care of his sister’s children. His sister has not been a part of their lives since she struggled with substance abuse.

At 22 years old, Este was considering throwing in the towel on his football career. That’s when Cox, the man he calls ‘Pops,’ stepped in.

“Well his coach called me at first and was like ‘Joe is going through some problems. He’s thinking about quitting because of his nephews’ and I was like ‘No, Joe is not going to quit, we’re going to find a way,’” Cox said.

As a junior in college, Este took in his elementary-aged nephews, Zachary and Christopher.

“Probably one of the biggest challenges I faced in my life because (I was) not ready to be an adult, not looking to be an adult. Not looking to be able to take care of two little guys every day at a high level,” Este said.

That was just the first part of the heartbreaking news Este would receive from his mother.

“I got a phone call from a lady crying. I didn’t know who it was, but it was my mother and she was like, ‘I’m homeless.’ I was like wait this isn’t my mom, who is it,” Este said.

At the end of his first season with the Skyhawks, Este’s mother told him she had been homeless for two years. She was living out of her truck in Kenner and sleeping in the parking lot of Treasure Chest casino. Again, Este was forced to be the grown up and without hesitation, he took his mother in as well.

Fast forward to now, Este is providing inspiration to more than just his nephews and his mother, but also the personal trainer in Marrero, who was simply helping a friend who asked for a favor and wound up meeting Este.

“When I started reading into it and the situation and all, it really struck me in my heart because of my situation, because I’m in recovery also. And his sister
was going through some struggles and what he did for his nephews, I had family that helped out my daughter so, it almost felt like he was supposed to be here," Scheffler said.

Este wore number 2 at Tennessee Martin for the past two years, after two seasons at Copiah Lincoln Community College. In May, Este was just one of five tryout players at Titan's rookie mini-camp to earn an undrafted free-agent contract. It was handed to him personally by Tennessee General Manager John Robinson.

"Mr. John Robinson said, 'I don't know why you got all them bags with you. You ain't flying anywhere anytime soon, we're going to keep you in Nashville.' Right then and there, it was a life-changing moment," Este said.

Este just found out he and his girlfriend are set to welcome a son into the world and he is currently looking to gain legal custody of his two nephews.

Monroe student participates in Ag Sci School

Cassie Carter, of Monroe, spent the month of June as a student at Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, hosted by University of Tennessee at Martin.

Carter, a student at Livingston Academy, was chosen to participate after a rigorous application process.

Selected students earn six hours of college credit in the agricultural sciences and participate in hands-on, real-world learning opportunities both on and off campus to gain an in-depth look at the career fields available in agriculture.

UT-Martin is a four-year university located in Northwest Tennessee and is part of the University of Tennessee System. For more information visit utm.edu.
Survey: UTM students feel connected, confident, safe

According to a survey of almost 1,000 students enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester, students feel connected to and encouraged by their professors; are confident in the skills they learn in the classroom; and feel safe in the campus community.

These results were reported in the third and final phase of a two-year research project conducted by Gallup Inc. to determine how academic and social experiences at UT Martin impact both current students and alumni.

The phase-three survey gathered responses from 909 students who were enrolled during the spring 2018 semester.

UT Martin scored higher than the national average in a number of areas, the results reinforce the continuing message that UT Martin faculty and staff care about the long-term accomplishments of their students and want to help them succeed however possible.

Survey respondents show that UT Martin students are more likely than their national counterparts to seek the help and advice of faculty mentors. Sixty-seven percent of respondents say they meet with faculty members two or more times per year (compared to 59 percent nationally), and 61 percent of respondents say they talk to faculty and staff members about their career options often (compared to 45 percent nationally).

UT Martin faculty also make an effort to assist students with their career choices, and 79 percent of respondents say they have had a faculty-initiated conversation about their careers during their time at UT Martin. Only 63 percent of national respondents could say the same thing. Students also report having faculty mentors who encourage them, feeling important to their professors on a personal level, and having at least one faculty member who makes them excited about learning.

Eighty-eight percent of survey participants either agree or strongly agree that UT Martin is committed to academic excellence, and the same percentage feels academically challenged by their major coursework. Finally, 82 percent of respondents have someone at UT Martin they can count on to help plan their course to graduation, and 89 percent know where to go with questions about degree requirements.

UT Martin also surpassed national averages in areas where students were asked about the value, quality and relevance of their education both inside and outside of the classroom. Fifty-seven percent of respondents strongly agree they will graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the workplace, while only 36 percent of students nationally felt the same.

UT Martin’s results show almost double the number of positive responses to questions regarding whether the education received at UT Martin is worth the cost, as compared to the national average. In fact, 60 percent of survey respondents say they would still enroll at UT Martin if they could make the decision over again.

Finally, UT Martin students report feeling safe on campus (60 percent) and comfortable sharing unpopular ideas in class (33 percent). The national averages for the same questions are 39 and 22 percent, respectively. The survey also indicates that 54 percent of respondents feel that UT Martin would do the right thing if a student reported a sexual assault, as compared to only 56 percent of students nationally who are confident in their institutions.

Phase one of this project exclusively surveyed university alumni to discover how their UT Martin experiences impacted their lives after graduation. The results from 2,623 responses showed intense alumni pride and attachment to their alma mater. Phase two dealt with qualitative responses from 20 phone interviews with alumni who graduated between 2011 and 2016 and also yielded positive results.

For more information on this survey, or to see full demographic information for the response pools from this or any previous phase, contact the UT Martin Office of the Chancellor at (731) 881-7500.
No more marching band at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s athletic bands will be restructured starting in fall 2018. The ensemble known as “The Flock” will function as it has in the past, with the exception of providing on-the-field marching demonstrations during pregame and halftime of football games.

“We want to emphasize that the athletic bands will continue to play a vital role at UTM. The athletic band program is alive and well, and we feel that this exciting change will be a positive step in reimagining the ways athletic bands can serve the university and community,” said Dr. Julie Hill, music department chair. “The band will continue to be an integral part of home football games, homecoming, area parades, and other traditional events. Our goal is to deliver a product of which our current students, fans, and alumni may be proud.”

Per Hill, the decision not to march was made after discussions with faculty, current students, and alumni, as well as the consideration of other factors including curriculum, finances, and philosophy. The once per week rehearsals will focus on musical performance rather than being spent on learning marching drills. Non-traditional attire will replace formal marching band uniforms, while the students will focus on high-quality, energetic music that supports the team and fans.

Other marching band activities will continue, such as the Soybean Festival Parade and the annual West Tennessee Marching Championships for high school bands held each fall. Additionally, UTM will continue to provide a fully comprehensive education to all future instrumental music educators, including teaching how to structure and train a marching band.

“The restructured bands program will be a better fit for a university of our size,” said Dr. Lynn Alexander, College of Humanities and Fine Arts dean. “Athletic bands are not funded through intercollegiate athletics at UTM, but instead supported through the academic music operating budget, so this new direction better serves our music students while also providing a sustainable model.”

Prospective music students will not be affected by the change. Non-music majors are encouraged to participate, and current full-time music faculty positions will not be affected. Questions about the university’s music program can be directed to Hill at 731-881-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.

STOP THE MUSIC – The Skyhawk Marching Band will not take the field this fall, choosing to do away with traditional uniforms and perform no more marching drills. Instead the band will support athletes and fans from the stands only.

UTM to host End of Summer Bash

UTM is throwing a party on Friday, July 27, and high school students from all areas are welcome. Students and their families are invited to learn more about UTM programs of study; meet faculty, staff and current students; and participate in a variety of recreational activities.

The 2018 End of Summer Bash will begin with check-in at 1 p.m. in the Boling University Center, followed by an official welcome at 1:30 p.m. and campus tours at 2 p.m. Students who have already taken a campus tour are invited to join the group for Recreation Rampage from 3-5 p.m. in the UTM Student Recreation Center.

Join in the fun by registering at utm.edu/summerbash. There is no charge to attend. For more information about UTM or the admissions process, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Wilson County students named to UT Martin chancellor's honor roll

MARTIN – The academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored recently with publication of the spring chancellor's honor rolls.

To be eligible for the chancellor's honor roll recognition at the University of Tennessee at Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the chancellor's honor roll with honors for 3.2 through 3.49, high honors for 3.5 through 3.79 or highest honors for 3.8 through 4.0.

Lebanon students who made the chancellor's honor roll included Colton D. Dowell, honors; Amber B. Graves, high honors; Ashleigh G. Hester, high honors; Shelby S. Jacobs-Johnston, high honors; William D. Myers, high honors; Marcie C. O'Neal, honors; Kailey H. Orrand-Hill, highest honors; Kristen D. Rice, highest honors; Ashley K. Shores, high honors; and Daniel E. Smith, highest honors.

Mt. Juliet students who made the chancellor's honor roll included Joseph P. Baltz, honors; Loren S. Campbell, highest honors; Matthew K. Gunn, honors; Tyler J. Hayzlet, high honors; Hunter L. Palmer, highest honors; Kevin A. Robertson, highest honors; Kendall A. Spray, highest honors; Savannah R. Stanley, high honors; Erin A. Walsh, highest honors; and Hayley A. Wolfe, high honors.

Michael P. Singer, of Hermitage, also made the chancellor's honor roll with high honors.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains a reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, campus and professors.

Local student participates in Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences

Friday, July 20, 2018

MARTIN, Tenn. – Emma Strasser, of Chapel Hill, spent the month of June as a student at the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Strasser, a student at Forrest High School, was chosen to participate after a rigorous application process. Selected students earn six hours of college credit in the agricultural sciences and participate in hands-on, real-world learning opportunities both on and off campus to gain an in-depth look at the career fields available in agriculture. UT Martin is a four-year university located in Northwest Tennessee and is part of the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu/tgsas.

Photo submitted
New training building better nurses at Jackson General

Brandon Shields
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Chip Jowers gives a lecture about dealing with cardiac issues to a class of about 30 nursing residents at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

The group is filled with recent college graduates going through the process of learning the ins and outs of working in the hospital and completing rounds.

Megan Petty is one of those graduates. She grew up wanting to be a registered nurse, as her father has been the past 30 years at Jackson General.

"The training that we're doing now, my dad tells me it's a lot different from what he went through," Petty said.

The content of the training isn't much different than it was 30 years ago, other than the typical advances in medical technology, but the methods of the training and how much of it each nurse undergoes provides a different benefit for the nurse. That translates into a new experience for the patients, and ultimately the hospital.

Seeing a need

Teresa Freeman is the hospital's assistant chief nursing officer who saw the benefit of a higher quality of training for the nurses.

"When I was a new graduate, we went through an orientation program for 60 or 90 days, and then we were trusted with a full patient load," Freeman said. "It was adequate, but different studies showed other hospitals in the country were doing a more in-depth training that was actually doing a better job of training.

"We expect our doctors to go through three years of

See NURSING, Page 2A
Nursing
Continued from Page 1A

residency and then an additional three years if they get into a specialty. So, doubling the amount of time our nursing residents train didn’t seem like that great an investment, after we saw the benefits recorded in the studies we looked at.”

Conventional methods of hiring for the hospital recruited nurses for specific floors, and they would start work after two or three months of training in that one area.

Freeman said the research done, by herself and others, in nursing leadership suggested a deeper method of training that allowed residents to experience more than one area of care would not only change the training methods for the new hires, but also alter the process of hiring them.

“It meant a greater investment in this training on the hospital’s part, and we had to go before the board to explain this option and the projected return on that investment.”

The training process

The new training started in 2013 with a plan of two cohorts (the term for the group of nurses in training) a year, but it’s since expanded to three cohorts to help those nurses who may graduate at the end of their school’s summer term.

Four-year degree graduates come from the nursing programs at Union University, UT Martin, Bethel University, Freed-Hardeman University and the University of Memphis at Lambuth.

But the program also accepts associate degree graduates from Jackson State and Dyersburg State community colleges. Other schools outside West Tennessee also have nurses who are part of the training, but the overwhelming bulk of residents come from nearby schools.

“We’ve actually had some come through the program from Colorado and Delaware,” Freeman said. “The one from Delaware had a friend who was at UT Martin that was telling her about the program, and she looked into it and thought she’d be a good fit for it and it would work for her.”

“She went through the program, and she’s still here in Jackson helping in patient care at the hospital.”

There are typically about 40 residents in each cohort going through the program. They are screened through a process that checks their credentials.

“We could take 100 residents, but at the same time we want to make sure the nurses we accept meet a high standard before we bring them into our program, and hold them to our own high standards,” Freeman said.

The nurse residency program is now a six-month process that gives residents exposure to all areas of the hospital.

“Every applicant completes a rotation preference. They can choose from intensive care, progressive care, medical-surgical, emergency, or mother-baby,” said Laura Priddy, the nurse residency coordinator for the hospital. “Then we make their schedule based on their preferences. The experience gives..."
them a view of different areas of the hospital.”

Not only do they get an idea of different areas of the hospital, but the residents receive cross training so they can move between floors if needed.

Freeman said that not only helps the hospital, but it also helps the nurses because they’re not locked in to a specific area of care once they begin training.

“For instance, a lot of people have an expectation of what it’s like to be a nurse in the emergency department from watching TV,” Freeman said. “They may see a TV show and think it’s all trauma; that would make a good script in Hollywood, but in reality, there’s not a lot of time each week that’s like that, even though we have the busiest single emergency department in the state.

“With the rotations, nurses are able to experience certain areas before they commit to working there.”

Priddy said with the cross training, moving from one department to another has become a much simpler process for the nurses.

“We’ve had a few who said, ‘I’m on this one floor, but I don’t think it’s right for me. Can I try this other one out that I went through a few weeks of training in?’” Priddy said. “And the answer is, yes they can.”

The benefits

Freeman reported to the hospital board during its June meeting about the effects the program has had after three years.

Nurses who hire in are staying at the hospital at a higher rate — 93 percent after two years, which is up from 85 percent before the program started.

Jackson native Bree Buckholtz talked about how the training has helped her after wrapping up that cardiac session with Chip Jowers.

“It polishes us and prepares us to get ready to interact with the patients based on what we learned in nursing school,” Buckholtz said. “We get to see everything, and different aspects, and how it works with different staff members.

“It’s been helpful to get a perspective on that.”

Priddy said all the training helps each resident understand the relational aspects of the job.

“So much of this job is based on teamwork and the relationships we have with the patients and each other,” Priddy said. “I think exposing the residents to different areas allows them to see that patients look very different in different areas of the hospital, which allows them to see that no matter what floor we’re on, we’re all on one big team of providing quality health care to everyone that comes into our hospital.”

Reach Brandon Shields at bjshields@jacksonsun.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorBrandon.
Robotics camp students prepare for battle at UTM Jackson Center

July 23, 2018 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

JACKSON, Tenn. — A group of young students continue to learn about robotics with the help of classes through the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center.

Students worked on their robots Monday at the center located on the campus of Jackson State Community College.

Students took part in an advanced robotics class building on one they had in spring. They are focusing on a Mars rescue challenge.

The robotics instructor tells us why this is great for kids.

“When you’re just working on a computer, it’s theoretical,” James Swanger said. “When the kids actually build something and then the program actually makes something move physically, that gets them excited and liking technology, so they associate fun with technology.”

The public is welcome, free of charge, to watch the robots fight it out at 3 p.m. Friday at the UT Martin Jackson Center, located at the McWherter Center at Jackson State Community College.
University of Tennesse at Martin's counseling degree has been nationally ranked

kmorris  Jul 23, 2018

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Master of Science in Education degree with a major in counseling has been nationally recognized for excellence and affordability from a variety of sources in the past few months.

CollegeChoice.net ranks the university 13th among the best online master's degrees in educational counseling in the nation. UT Martin is the second-ranked Tennessee institution on this particular list, with Vanderbilt University appearing at number three.

SR Education Group, an education research publisher founded in 2004, ranks the UT Martin program 20th nationally among the best online colleges for school counseling in 2018 and 23rd for affordability.

Overall, GuideToOnlineSchools.com ranks UT Martin's online programs fourth among the best online colleges in Tennessee for 2018.

UT Martin Online is housed in the Office of Educational Outreach and offers undergraduate degree programs in philosophy; business administration with a major in management; agriculture with a majors in agribusiness or farm and ranch management; and interdisciplinary studies.

An RN-to-BSN degree-completion program is also available for registered nurses, as well as a degree-completion program in veterinary technology and management.

Online programs are also available for those seeking graduate degrees in business administration, agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer science, education, and strategic communications.

For more information, contact Dr. Adam Wilson, director of UT Martin Online, at 881-7021 or awilson9@utm.edu.
University of Tennessee Martin students feel connected, confident and safe according to survey

kmorris  Jul 23, 2018

According to a survey of almost 1,000 students enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2018 semester, students feel connected to and encouraged by their professors; are confident in the skills they learn in the classroom; and feel safe in the campus community.

These results were reported in the third and final phase of a two-year research project conducted by Gallup Inc. to determine how academic and social experiences at UT Martin impact both current students and alumni. The phase-three survey gathered responses from 909 students who were enrolled during the spring 2018 semester.

While UT Martin scored higher than the national average in a number of areas, the results reinforce the continuing message that UT Martin faculty and staff care about the long-term accomplishments of their students and want to help them succeed however possible.

Survey respondents show that UT Martin students are more likely than their national counterparts to seek the help and advice of faculty mentors. Sixty-seven percent of respondents say they meet with faculty members two or more times per year (compared to 59 percent nationally), and 61 percent of respondents say they talk to faculty and staff members about their career options often (compared to 45 percent nationally).

UT Martin faculty also makes an effort to assist students with their career choices, and 79 percent of respondents say they have had a faculty-initiated conversation about their careers during their time at UT Martin. Only 63 percent of national respondents could say the same thing. Students also report having faculty mentors who encourage them, feeling important to their professors on a personal level, and having at least one faculty member who makes them excited about learning.
Eighty-eight percent of survey participants either agree or strongly agree that UT Martin is committed to academic excellence, and the same percentage feels academically challenged by their major coursework. Finally, 82 percent of respondents have someone at UT Martin they can count on to help plan their course to graduation, and 89 percent know where to go with questions about degree requirements.

UT Martin also surpassed national averages in areas where students were asked about the value, quality and relevance of their education both inside and outside of the classroom. Fifty-seven percent of respondents strongly agree they will graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the workplace, while only 36 percent of students nationally felt the same.

UT Martin’s results show almost double the number of positive responses to questions regarding whether the education received at UT Martin is worth the cost, as compared to the national average. In fact, 60 percent of survey respondents say they would still enroll at UT Martin if they could make the decision over again.

Finally, UT Martin students report feeling safe on campus (60 percent) and comfortable sharing unpopular ideas in class (33 percent). The national averages for the same questions are 39 and 22 percent, respectively. The survey also indicates that 54 percent of respondents feel that UT Martin would do the right thing if a student reported a sexual assault, as compared to only 36 percent of students nationally who are confident in their institutions.

Phase one of this project exclusively surveyed university alumni to discover how their UT Martin experiences impacted their lives after graduation. The results from 2,623 responses showed intense alumni pride and attachment to their alma mater. Phase two dealt with qualitative responses from 20 phone interviews with alumni who graduated between 2011 and 2016 and also yielded positive results.

For more information on this survey, or to see full demographic information for the response pools from this or any previous phase, contact the UT Martin Office of the Chancellor at 881-7500.
Johnson earns college credit at Governor's School for Ag

Maegan Johnson, of South Fulton, spent the month of June as a student at the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Johnson, a student at South Fulton High School, was chosen to participate after a rigorous application process. Selected students earn six hours of college credit in the agricultural sciences and participate in hands-on, real-world learning opportunities both on and off campus to gain an in-depth look at the career fields available in agriculture.

For more information, visit utm.edu/tgsas.
This year, the Tennessee Soybean Festival to be staged in Martin, Tenn., will include a Makers Faire, beginning at noon Sept. 3.

Local artists may bring items to display, sell and demonstrate and a local DJ and sound engineer will provide friendly music, with performances also scheduled by an illusionist, mime and street performers.

Visual and performance artists, sculptors, quilters, jewelry makers, leather workers, bakers and inventors will be on hand, setting up displays, with all participants required to have created each item they sell or demonstrate.

Proceeds from booth rentals at this year's Faire will be used to purchase art supplies to benefit the art program at Westview High School, and assist a newly formed organization, The Makers Guild of Martin, with the creation of new events.

For more information, contact Sarah Skelton, event coordinator at themakersfaire@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/themakersfair.

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Online programs are also available for those seeking graduate degrees in business administration, agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer science, education and strategic communications.

For more information, contact Dr. Adam Wilson, director of UT Martin Online, by phone at (731) 881-7021 or by email at awilson9@utm.edu.
MILAN, Tenn — The University of Tennessee Agriculture Research and Education Center hosted its 30th No-Till Crop Production Field Day at their center in Milan.

Dr. Tyson Raper, a specialist in cotton and small grains, says he is researching ways to improve the soil in West Tennessee.

"The University of Tennessee is on the cutting edge. We’re pushing the envelope on weed control, on insect control, from a precision ag standpoint," he said.

The No-Till Field Day was originally created to teach farmers how to plant their crop without tilling the soil.

"There are some real benefits to cover crops, basically crops that we’re not going to harvest over winter to protect soil and help build soil quality," Raper said.

That’s just one of the techniques they are learning. Farmers say they are able to use what they learn here in their everyday lives. "We got some information on when some of the new technology is going to be released for our control and our cotton, and some of the technology that’s coming down the pike, you know," John Parrish, a farmer from Medina, said.

"It brings in a lot of information, it brings in people from different states to look and do," Don Parker, a farmer from Paris, said.

Farmers and producers were at the No-till Field Day to learn about the new technology in the industry. Students were also there making connections and building networks.

"I think it’s a great networking experience for anybody in school right now looking to go into the agricultural field," Samantha Barrow said. She is a senior soil and water conservation major at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

She says even though she is still in school, she will be able to use this information in her career. "It makes us more efficient as farmers and helps students to learn about the new technologies and varieties," she said.
4-H’ers compete for scholarships, trips to 4-H Congress

Tennessee 4-H members from around the state arrived July 23 at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference. The annual weeklong event that rotates between the Knoxville and Martin campuses recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members.

Approximately 375 4-Hers who have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology, and photography competed for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress. The theme for Roundup and for all 4-H programs in 2018 is “Tennessee 4-H: Branching from Our Roots.”

“4-H Roundup is one of our premier 4-H events that we have in the state of Tennessee. It’s an opportunity for young people to come together and really showcase their project work for the year,” said Dr. Dwight Loveday, interim 4-H assistant dean. “This is a time we come to recognize their accomplishments, honor those achievements, as well as have our All-Star Conference that really focuses on service and service to the community.”

Even though Roundup includes plenty of competition and educational sessions, he added that the event also offers “lots of fun learning experiences for (the 4-Hers), as well as a chance to make new friends across the state.”

Other 4-H Roundup activities included the Vol State Ceremony, election of the 2018-19 State 4-H Council officers and participation in a service-learning project. Service-learning projects included 4-Hers working with children at the Martin Housing Authority and UT Martin’s Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center, as well as assembling more than 250 care packages for the homeless that will be distributed through RIFA in Jackson.

“Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program,” said Justin Crowe, UT Extension 4-H specialist. “Each year, 4-Hers statewide perform tens of thousands of hours of service at an estimated value of over $2 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-Hers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities.”

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro was also honored this week when he received a Friend of 4-H award, one of the organization’s highest honors. The presentation came during Tuesday evening’s project achievement banquet and reception in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

“It was great to see President DiPietro receive the Friend of 4-H award,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “He has supported 4-H in many ways, both during his years with the UT Institute of Agriculture and as UT System president. We all appreciate Tennessee 4-H and the leadership it provides to our youth across the Volunteer State.”

4-H is the youth development program for University of Tennessee Extension. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and service learning to more than 180,000 youth in the fourth through 12th grades. 4-H also has more than 5,000 adult volunteers. UT Extension is one of four units in the UT Institute of Agriculture.
4-H ROUNDUP — Tennessee 4-H members from around the state arrived July 23 at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference. The annual event rotates between the Knoxville and Martin campuses and recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. Approximately 375 4-Hers who have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography competed for statewide awards that include college scholarships and spots to the National 4-H Congress. The 4-H'ers, 4-H staff and volunteers are pictured during the first day of Roundup between the Paul Meek Library and Rocking University Center. See story on Page 2.

CLASSROOM LEARNING — 4-Hers participate in an educational session during State 4-H Roundup at UT Martin.

Photo by Nathan Morgan
ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates who are ready to enter critical technical fields in innovation and emerging technologies, and anticipate the welfare and safety needs of the public. A degree from an ABET-accredited engineering program is a requirement for state licensure.

Sought worldwide, ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines, where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance.

Developed by technical professionals from ABET's member societies, ABET criteria focus on what students experience and learn. ABET accreditation reviews look at program curricula, faculty, facilities, and institutional support and are conducted by teams of highly skilled professionals from industry, academia, and government with expertise in the ABET disciplines.

ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. It currently accredits 3,709 programs at more than 750 colleges and universities in 30 countries. More information about ABET can be found at www.abet.org.

UTM engineering program earns ABET re-accreditation

The UTM bachelor's program in engineering has been re-accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the global accreditor of university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. The UTM engineering program offers concentrations in civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical, and manufacturing engineering.

"This re-accreditation is a testament to our program and the dedication of our engineering faculty. We appreciate the institutional support we have received during this process," said Dr. Jennifer Greenwood, interim dean of the UTM College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. "Meeting the ABET requirements assures students that the program is recognized by external evaluators as having all the ingredients necessary to provide a quality engineering education."
Local students named to college honor rolls

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<tr>
<th>UT Martin</th>
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<tr>
<td>The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2018 chancellor's honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.</td>
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<td>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).</td>
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<td>Bradford – Madison K. Adams, Highest Honors; Colton D. Barber, Honors; Alexander H. Cantrell, Honors; Tanya Chopra, High Honors; Keeley A. Davis, Highest Honors; Elizabeth C. Dowland, Honors; Anna C. Eaton, Highest Honors; William C. Evans, Highest Honors; Barbara Guy, Highest Honors; Grant D. Hampton, High Honors; Hannah N. Moore, Honors; Bethany M. Morris, High Honors; Matthew B. Puckett, Honors; Jeremy B. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Jordan D. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Anna M. Sison, High Honors; Frederick J. Spain, Highest Honors; Mary E. Wollam, Highest Honors; Dyer – Addison L. Davidson, Honors; Chelsey B. Dodd, Honors; Cady M. Griffin, Highest Honors; Sydney D. Inman, Highest Honors; Grant H. Jones, Highest Honors; Sharita M. Jones, High Honors; Alyssa P. Kesterson, Highest Honors; Erin T. Lannom, High Honors; Rebecca L. Lee, Highest Honors; Hallie N. McCurdy, High Honors; Kaitlyn A. Ritter, Highest Honors; Riley A. Sweet, Honors.</td>
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<td>Kenton – Erin R. Chandler, Honors; Cole E. Davis, Highest Honors; Hillary D. Eddlemon, High Honors; Aja J. Francis, High Honors; Lacey M. Petty, High Honors; Cameron B. Spencer, Honors; McKenna H. Vinson, Honors.</td>
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<td>Rutherford – Corbin D. Ekberg, Honors; John A. Floersh, High Honors; Charles M. Morris, Highest Honors; Logan C. Rahm, Highest Honors; Jessica C. Rogers, High Honors.</td>
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<td>Trenton – Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Hayden P. Barnett, Honors; Teagan S. Barholomew, Highest Honors; Tyson I. Barholomew, High Honors; Desiree B. Brooks, Highest Honors; Remington L. Burch, Highest Honors; Emily M. Campbell, Highest Honors; Bethany L. Cobb, High Honors; Taylor L. Davis, High Honors; Sarah E. Dodd, Honors; Lillian M. Forster, Highest Honors; Kennedy E. Garner, Honors; Patrick D. Hill, Highest Honors; Hannah B. Hutchison, Highest Honors; John K. Lester, Honors; Cheyenne M. Mason, High Honors; Eli T. McGaughey, High Honors; Peyton Mee, Highest Honors; Eric H. Partee, High Honors; Hugh E. Pinckley, Honors; Robert C. Rayburn, Highest Honors; Ashlyn M. Robinson, Highest Honors; Adrian M. Rodriguez, Highest Honors; Jan M. Smith, High Honors; Candace L. Tucker, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Highest Honors.</td>
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<td>In addition, chancellor's honor roll honorees with ties to Gibson County include: Arlington – Noah S. Allen, Highest Honors; Beech Bluff – Connor J. Alley, Highest Honors; Hurricane Mills – Malory C. Wray, High Honors; Martin – Reagan W. Barnhart, Highest Honors; Hannah R. Houch, Honors; Jason R. Kail, Highest Honors; Marshall W. Pearson, High Honors; Cy A. Pemberton, Highest Honors; Hohner K. Porter, High Honors; Katherine L. Smith, Honors; Matthew D. Wicker, High Honors.</td>
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Shores honored by UT Martin communications

MARTIN -- The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications recently honored Ashley Shores, of Lebanon, on April 4 during an annual awards reception. She received the chairman's outstanding senior award for a broadcasting course sequence and a communications academic excellence award.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications is housed within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and offers concentrations in broadcasting, media design, news, editorial and public relations.

4-H Roundup offers competition, education and learning experiences

Tennessee 4-H members from around the state headed home July 27 following the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The annual week-long event rotates between the Knoxville and Martin campuses and recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. The 4-Hers, University of Tennessee Extension staff and 4-H volunteers arrived Monday, and activities concluded Thursday evening.

Approximately 375 4-Hers who have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology, and photography competed for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress. The theme for Roundup and for all 4-H programs in 2018 is "Tennessee 4-H: Branching from Our Roots."

"4-H Roundup is one of our premier 4-H events that we have in the state of Tennessee. It's an opportunity for young people to come together and really showcase their project work for the year," said Dr. Dwight Loveday, interim 4-H assistant dean. "This is a time when we come to recognize their accomplishments, honor those achievements, as well as have our All-Star Conference that really focuses on service and service to the community."

Even though Roundup includes plenty of competition and educational sessions, he added that the event also offers "lots of fun learning experiences for (the 4-Hers), as well as a chance to make new friends across the state."

Other 4-H Roundup activities included the Volunteer State Ceremony, election of the 2018-19 State 4-H Council officers and participation in a service-learning project. Service-learning projects included 4-Hers working with children at the Martin Housing Authority and UT Martin's Margaret N. Perry Children's Center, as well as assembling more than 250 care packages for the homeless that will be distributed through RIFA in Jackson.

"Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program," said Justin Crowe, UT Extension 4-H specialist. "Each year, 4-Hers statewide perform tens of thousands of hours of service at an estimated value of over $2 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-Hers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities."

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2018 4-H ROUNDUP — Dr. Jim Byford, a familiar face to generations of Tennessee 4-Hers, plays and sings for a group during the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference held the week of July 23 at UT Martin. Byford, who retired from the university in 2009 and is dean emeritus for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, has continued his involvement with 4-H following his retirement. Prior to his time at UT Martin, he spent 20 years as extension wildlife specialist in Georgia and Tennessee, giving hundreds of presentations and writing numerous articles on wildlife conservation. He received the Friend of 4-H award in 2011 from the Tennessee 4-H Foundation and was named in 2016 to the national 4-H Hall of Fame.
Tennessee 4-H Roundup concludes at UTM

MARTIN — Tennessee 4-H members from around the state headed home Friday following the 95th 4-H Roundup and All-Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The annual weekend event rotates between the Knoxville and Martin campuses and recognizes the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. The 4-Hers, University of Tennessee Extension staff and 4-H volunteers arrived July 23, and activities concluded Thursday evening.

Approximately 375 4-Hers who have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography competed for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress. Locally, Obion County 4-H'er Carson Stover won a Level II award in Nutrition, Health and Fitness.

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NEW WESTSTAR GRADUATES – Members of the 2018 WestStar Leadership Class graduated June 21 in Jackson. Members of the 2018 WestStar graduating class are: (seated, from left) Tony Childress, Ashley Denson, Charlie Moore, Kara Tapp, Heidi Shafer, Stephanie Fowler, Theresa Powell, Michael Creasy, Jeff Parham, Rodney Reynolds, (standing) Frank Tate, Brandy Stutsman, Andrew Long, Richard Griggs, Brent Dillahunty, John Rountree, Joseph Butler, Rico Bryson, Bob Turner, John Hughey, Brett Lasllee, Portis Tanner, Alex Bynum, Charles West, Leigh Anne Bentley, Julian McTizic, Katie Weatherford, Yvette C. Blue, and B.W. Beasley. Not pictured is Tommy Allmon.

WestStar Leadership graduates 30 members

Members of the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018 graduated recently during WestStar’s closing event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

This marked the program’s 29th class and brings the total to 827 graduates since WestStar was established in 1989. The 2018 class included 30 members who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on individual leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. The class members, selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement, complete eight sessions covering topics including agriculture and transportation, public policy issues, education and tourism.

Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, welcomed more than 150 class members, alumni and guests to the graduation ceremony. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, reviewed WestStar-sponsored conferences and activities since the start of the year and joined the program’s board of trustees to congratulate graduates and present graduation plaques.

Deal also announced WestStar’s most recent scholarship recipients, as well as three major awards presented annually during the program’s graduation.

Dr. Lisa Piercey, formerly of Trenton, executive vice president for West Tennessee Healthcare and a board-certified child-abuse pediatrician, received the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, a 1990 WestStar graduate, founding program trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration. Recipients must be WestStar graduates who have had positive impacts in their city or county during the past five years and possess strong records of leadership in West Tennessee. Piercey graduated from the program in 2015.

Following recognition of the graduates, Deal closed the event by reminding the audience that leadership is about impact, influence and inspiration.

“Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion that you have for your work, and you have to be able to inspire those around you,” he said. “Let us all leave here tonight committed to making a positive impact in our community, influencing positive changes in West Tennessee and inspiring the next generation of leaders to commit to making our state even better than it is today.”

The 2018 WestStar graduating class members and their hometowns are: Tommy Allmon, Dyersburg; B.W. Beasley, Milan; Leigh Anne Bentley, Jackson; Yvette Blue, Brownsville; Rico Bryson, Jackson; Joseph Butler, Huntingdon; Alex Bynum, Dresden; Tony Childress, Dyersburg; Michael Creasy, Decaturville; Ashley Dennis, Savannah; Brent Dillahunty, Huntington; Stephanie Fowler, Jackson; Richard Griggs, Covington; John Hughey, Trenton; Brett Lasllee, Camden;

Andrew Long, Jackson; Julian McTizic, Bolivar; Charlie Moore, Alamo; Jeff Parham, Martin; Theresa Powell, Alamo; Rodney Reynolds, Lexington; John Rountree, Millington; Heidi Shafer, Memphis; Brandy Stutsman, Jackson; Portis Tanner, Union City; Kara Tapp, Somerville; Frank Tate, McKenzie; Bob Turner, Somerville; Katie Weatherford, Selmer; and Charles West, Paris.

Applications for the 2019 WestStar class are being accepted after Sept. 1, and members of the new class will be selected later this fall.