Events set for incoming freshmen, transfers

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host two Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) sessions for incoming members of the 2016 freshman class Saturday and June 17.

A special Transfer Orientation and Registration (TOAR) session is set for June 10.

SOAR is mandatory for all incoming freshmen and students will not be permitted to register for fall classes outside of a SOAR session. There is no fee to attend and no tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester.

Registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register. Visit www.utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

Dr. Tommy Cates selected to serve as Hendrix chair

Dr. Tommy Cates of Martin has been selected to serve as the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at the University of Tennessee at Martin, effective Aug. 1.

Cates has been with the university since 1983 and has filled various roles, including professor of management; chair of what is now the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems; director of UT Online; and executive director of the Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies.

The Hendrix Chair of Excellence develops programs and curricula for public schools to promote and encourage free enterprise practices.

The position also works to expand entrepreneurial opportunities in the region. "We are delighted to have Dr. Cates taking the duties of the Hendrix Chair. His wealth of contacts in West Tennessee, and the entire state, along with his history of creating economically viable education opportu-

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Dyer County residents receive awards from UT Martin

Several Dyer County residents received college and department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2016 semester. The following students were recognized:

- Janet Adair, of Dyersburg, was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society;
- Kaitlyn Carlton, of Newbern, received the Faculty Women’s Club Scholarship Award and was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges;
- Jessica Kimbrell, of Dyersburg, received the Dr. Jerald Ogg Communications/Public Relations Endowment Award;
- Wesley Martin, of Dyersburg, received the Outstanding Mathematics Student Award;
- Maryanna McClure, of Dyersburg, received the Sam and Gladys Siegel Agricultural Award;
- Jared Peckenpaugh, of Finley, received the Pacer Award, the Nanney-Segeldahl Scholarship Communications Excellence Award;
- Jaclyn Stafford, of Dyersburg, received the Outstanding Psychology Student Award;
- Olivia Trasolini, of Newbern, received the Outstanding Freshman in Agriculture Award.

UT Martin is a four-year university located in northwest Tennessee and is part of the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit www.utm.edu.
UTM coach remembers

Coy Lutz

UT Martin rodeo coach John Luthi said he had a hard time believing the news he heard Saturday night when one of his riders, Coy Lutz, died in a competition in New Jersey. “It was like a dream that you hope to wake up from and find out it never happened,” Luthi said.

Luthi found out about 9:30 p.m. He talked to Lutz’s father and some of his close friends in the program. “This team is like any other team,” Luthi said. “He’d only been here a year, coached ever since. This is the first time he’s had a team member die in competition. Lutz’s horse bucked him off during a bareback bronc event.

“Thank God this isn’t something we have to deal with every week,” Luthi said. “It’s something that happens because it’s a dangerous sport, but it doesn’t happen often.”

“It probably happens as often as it does or any other sport by how hard they work when they’re not competing,” Luthi said. “And he was a hard worker, and I could tell already as a freshman he would be a good leader for our team.

“He did a good job at our home competition here in Martin in April, and he did well in his competition with his family here watching. So I see that as a blessing that he did so well in his final competition with us in that environment.”

Luthi said he hasn’t talked to everyone on the team yet since the students went home as soon as the semester was over. But the college national championships are next week, and the team will be together competing in that.

“I imagine we’ll have a conversation and talk about things when we get to that,” Luthi said. “But right now I think everybody is dealing with it in their own way.”

Luthi said Coy’s death is a reminder of how unpredictable life is.

“This just goes to show you need to be ready to leave this life, because you never know when your time will come,” Luthi said. “You never know what tomorrow holds, and I think that’s a good thing because sometimes tomorrow can be pretty scary.

“We’ll miss Coy. He was a great young man to be around, and he came from a great family that will miss him terribly.”

Reach Brandon Shields at (731) 425-9751. Follow him on Twitter: @JSEditorBrandon

but that was a year of practicing together, competing together, going to class, spending time, traveling, staying in hotels ... you get close to people pretty quickly when you spend that kind of time with someone.

“Our team had done that, and some of our people are taking this as hard as you might expect.”

Luthi said he’s seen riders die in the arena twice in his lifetime, and he competed in the pro circuit until 1990 and has

Continued from Page 3A

in other sports like football, which is full contact.”

Lutz’s sister, Laura, posted on Facebook about her brother after being contacted by a number of media outlets asking for information. The family is from Beech Creek, Pennsylvania.

Coy got into bull riding and made it to the national high school finals in Wyoming and broke his jaw. That’s when he got into bareback riding after working with former UTM rider Tyler Waltz and his dad, Dave. Tyler also helped coach at UTM.

“He was like a brother to Tyler,” Luthi said. “They became real close, and Tyler was the one who told me about Coy when he was still a freshman in high school.”

Laura said Coy had an enjoyable time at UTM.

“For the past year, he had the time of his life at UT Martin,” Laura said in the Facebook post. “He absolutely loved it there and made friends that became family.”

She described Coy as a fun-loving, energetic person who was easy to get along with.

Luthi described him similarly, complimenting his talent in the arena and his hard work outside it.

“You can tell who will be good at rodeo or any other sport by how hard they work when they’re not competing,” Luthi said. “And he was a hard worker, and I could tell already as a freshman he would be a good leader for our team.

“He did a good job at our home competition here in Martin in April, and he did well in his competition with his family here watching. So I see that as a blessing that he did so well in his final competition with us in that environment.”

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“We’ll miss Coy. He was a great young man to be around, and he came from a great family that will miss him terribly.”

Reach Brandon Shields at (731) 425-9751. Follow him on Twitter: @JSEditorBrandon
Coy Lutz, shown here during the UTM rodeo competition, just finished his freshman year with the university. He died in a competition Saturday night.

Area students recipients of UT Martin awards

Several Gibson County residents received college and department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2016 semester.

Among those recognized are:

- Morgan Conder, of Humboldt, received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Sciences Award.
- Morgan Conder, of Humboldt, received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Sciences Award.
- Grady Potts, of Humboldt, received the BG G. H. Weems Memorial ROTC Scholarship Award.
- Anna Santaniello, of Medina, received the Outstanding Special Education P-12 Student Award.

Hall attends Preview Day - Andrew Hall (right), of Medina, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 14 during Spring Preview Day. Interested high school students were able to tour the campus, meet with faculty and learn more about financial aid opportunities, campus housing, dining services, and academic and student affairs. Hall is a junior at South Gibson High School. He is pictured with Bud Grimes, UT Martin director of university relations.
LOCAL STUDENT RECEIVES PAUL AND MARTHA MEEK LEADERSHIP AWARD DURING UTM MARTIN SPRING COMMENCEMENT — Casey Dowty of Fulton, received one of two Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring commencement exercises May 7. (Photo submitted)

UTM rodeo’s Lutz dies in accident

The University of Tennessee at Martin athletics department is saddened to announce that Coy Lutz, who recently completed his freshman season on the UTM Martin rodeo team, passed away on Saturday evening.

Lutz, 19, was fatally injured while competing at the Cowtown Rodeo in Pilesgrove, NJ — a little over 200 miles from his hometown in Howard, Pa. He was majoring in criminal justice at UTM Martin, where he registered points in seven different rodeos in 2015-16.

He set career-highs across the board in bareback riding at the 48th Annual UTM Martin Spring College Rodeo on April 14-16, tallying 78 points in the first round and 76 points in the short go for a 154 average. His opening round total was best in

the field while his average score was tied for the top total in the event.

“Coy was just an outstanding kid who had a real bright future,” UTM Martin head coach John Luthi said. “He was a good student and he came from a great family.

Even though he was only here for one year, his impact will always be felt here at UTM Martin. He was a super human being who always took care of his business. It’s hard to imagine why something like this had to happen but we have faith that God is in control.”

The Cowtown Rodeo posted the following message on Sunday morning on its Facebook page: “Cowtown Rodeo and The Harris Family extend our heartfelt and sincere condolences to the Lutz Family for the tragic loss of their son, Coy. During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with all who knew and loved him.”

Before attending UTM Martin, Lutz graduated from Bald Eagle Senior High School in Bellefonte, Pa.
Locals Receive Awards From UT Martin

Several Weakley County residents received college and department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2016 semester. The following students were recognized (students are from Martin unless otherwise noted):

Matthew Adams received a Best Student Teaching Award for his work with introductory geology;

Erin Bell received an award for Academic Promise in Geology;

Ednesha Brasher received the Chi Omega Sorority Award;

William Bratton received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;

Georgia Brown received the Ernest and Wilma Newby Scholarship and was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges;

Grace Bruner received the Outstanding Integrated Studies K-6 Student Award, the Gallian Award and the UT Martin STEA Leadership Award;

Brooklyn Burrell received the Darrin Devault Public Relations Scholarship;

Amelia Coaler received the W. A. Tarr Award and a Best Student Teaching Award for her work with introductory geology, and was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges;

Bethany Cole, of Greenefield, was inducted into the business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma;

James Copeland received the Lt. Gen. John G. “Glad” Castellaw Award;

Timothy Corcoran received a Faculty Scholar Award from the College of Business and Global Affairs;

Adrian De Sagon received the Japanese Outstanding Minor Award;

Heather Dunn received the Outstanding Gerontology Student Award;

Mercy Eubank, of Greenefield, received the Col. Tom Elam Alumni Scholarship Award and the Daughters of the American Revolution Award;

Elizabeth Francisco, of Gleason, was inducted into the business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma;

Preston Frazier, of Gleason, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the College of Business and Global Affairs;

Gian Garma received the Harry Neal Memorial Award;

Matthew Granner received the Outstanding Agricultural Engineering Technology Student Award and was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges;

Chuck Hammer received the Dr. Gary Steinke WUTM Broadcasting Excellence Award and the Chairman’s Outstanding Senior Award in broadcasting from the Department of Communications;

Joy Hazelwood received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;

Hunter Herring received the Geology Student Leadership Award;

Bruce Hicks received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;

Logan Hunt was inducted into the business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma;

Billy Killebrew was inducted into the business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma;

Jacob Last was inducted into the business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma;

Jordan Long received the Outstanding Lower Division Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science Student Award;

Rebecca Lund received the Outstanding Upper Division Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science Student Award, Dean’s Scholar Awards in both finance and accounting, and a Faculty Scholar Award from the College of Business and Global Affairs;

Christopher Mayo, of Gleason, received the Robert G. Cowser Literary Award in Poetry;

Michael McGrath received the Marvin L. Downing History Lower Division Award;

Justin Morgan received a Faculty Scholar Award from the College of Business and Global Affairs;

Katelyn Morris, of Gleason, was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society;

Orren Ogg received the Outstanding Agricultural Business Student Award;

Patricia Ramos received the Spanish Outstanding Minor Award;

Mary Schommer received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;

Kait Scott received the Swafford Public Relations Scholarship;

Lauren Simmons, of Dresden, received the Outstanding Freshman in Agriculture Award;

Makala Sitzes, of Greenefield, received the Nancy Hinds Service Award;

Colten Snider, of Dresden, was inducted into the business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma;

Brandon Stacks, of Sharon, received the Outstanding Freshman Engineering Award;

John Sterrett received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;

Zoe Stringer received the Outstanding Undergraduate Family and Consumer Sciences Student Award, the Outstanding Fashion Merchandising Student Award and the Martin Lions Club H.B. Smith Award;

Collin Sutton received a Best Student Teaching Award for his work with introductory geology;

Haley Swafford, of Gleason, was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges;

Chase Thweat received a Faculty Scholar Award from the College of Business and Global Affairs;

Nathan Williamson received the Allison Nelson Award;

Amanda Young-Bechard, of Dresden, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the College of Business and Global Affairs.
The true meaning of Memorial Day is not lost on David Rinks who appreciates the sacrifices that members of the military have made to protect America's freedom. In 2001, the U.S. Army veteran and HVAC supervisor for the University of Tennessee at Martin helped to establish a Memorial Day commemoration event that was held for the 15th year at 9 a.m., May 27, on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Dr. Nick Dunagan, university chancellor emeritus, served as keynote speaker for the event that began during his first year as UT Martin's chief executive officer.

Dunagan recognized Rinks for helping to create the event that is held by the university on the Friday before Memorial Day. Rinks served two years in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War era and remains grateful for those who served and sacrificed for the nation's freedom. "I'm so thankful for those people that my children don't have to go and do those things that they had to do for their nation," Rinks said. "We've got a wonderful nation, and we need to do everything we can to protect our nation and stand up for those that did that.

Jimmy Kelly, of Martin, served in the Air Force from 1962-66 and joined the Tennessee National Guard nine years later where he served for a little more than 21 years. He also worked 34 years at the Milan Arsenal. This event reminds him of the American flag and that "people served and died for this country for the freedom we have." He described the U.S. as the "best country in the world, and we don't appreciate it enough for the people who served for us and died.

Joe Walker, World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1943-46, understands the sacrifices made for freedom. "I went from Normal-
UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan was the speaker for UT Martin's 16th Memorial Day commemoration event held May 27 on the lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Dunagan was the university's chancellor from April 2001 until June 2007 when he retired from the position. He is also a retired colonel in the Tennessee National Guard.


Pembroke student finishes program at University of Tennessee at Martin

Alyson Fraser, of Pembroke, participated in a ceremony May 7 to honor her completion of the veterinary health technology program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Participating students were pinned to indicate they are qualified to enter the professional world of veterinary health technology.
McNairy County residents receive awards from UT Martin

Several McNairy County residents received college and department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2016 semester. The following students were recognized:

- Carianna Morris, of Selmer, received the Media Design Award and the Chairman's Outstanding Senior Award in media design from the Department of Communications.
- Chloe Mullis, of Adamsville, received the Outstanding Nursing Student Award and was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.
- Jennifer Naillon, of Bethel Springs, received the Outstanding Meteorology Student Award.
- Brandon White, of Adamsville, was inducted into the business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma.

MCHS graduates visit UT Martin for student orientation - Peyton Wolfe (center, left) and Cross Smith (center, right), both graduates of McNairy Central High School, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Student Orientation and Registration on April 23. Students were able to meet with faculty in their chosen areas of study and hear presentations on student housing, meal plans, financial aid and social activities. The students are pictured with Patty Fowler (left) and Becky Holcombe (right).
AHS' Ben Chrestman (center, left), visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Student Orientation and Registration on April 23. Students were able to meet with faculty in their chosen areas of study and hear presentations on student housing, meal plans, financial aid and social activities. Chrestman, a graduate of Adamsville High School, is pictured with family members (l-r) Craig, Sarah and Tammy Chrestman.

UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer Will Host Annual Kid College June 20-24

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Kid College from 8:30 a.m.-11:45 p.m., June 20-24, at the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. Children who will attend kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2016 are invited to participate in this interactive four-day program.

This year’s courses include “Bodies in Motion,” featuring a “ninja warrior challenge;” “Kids in the Kitchen,” where children will learn about simple cooking procedures; and “Science Sampler,” where students will encounter solar hotdog cookers, edible rocks and marshmallow launchers.

Children must be registered in advance. The participation fee is $85 per child, which includes a Kid College T-shirt and all supplies.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2016 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

**Adamsville**
- Andrew J. Alexander, High Honors
- Christopher D. Gattis, High Honors
- Pierce A. Grandi, High Honors
- Caroline H. Gray, Highest Honors
- Sarah M. Johnson, Highest Honors
- Tammy R. Moraga, High Honors
- Chloe G. Mullis, Adamsville, High Honors
- Erika M. Murray, Adamsville, High Honors
- Madison B. Pickens, Adamsville, Highest Honors
- David S. Prince, Adamsville, High Honors
- DJM. Sheets, Adamsville, Highest Honors
- Eric T. Stanford, Adamsville, Honors
- Megan E. Thomas, Adamsville, Honors
- Benjamin T. White, Adamsville, High Honors
- Brandon L. White, Adamsville, Highest Honors
- Nathan H. White, Adamsville, Highest Honors
- William A. White, Adamsville, Highest Honors
- Colton L. Williams, Adamsville, Highest Honors
- Brandy N. Willingham, High Honors
- Madeline G. Wilson, Honors
- Amber N. Powell, Honors
- Elizabeth B. Redmond, Highest Honors
- Darryl W. Weatherford, High Honors

**Bethel Springs**
- Courtney B. Barnes, High Honors
- Kaitlyn B. Boggs, Highest Honors
- Devin R. Holt, High Honors
- Bryanna M. Huggins, Highest Honors
- Ashley C. Jolly, Honors
- Christopher A. Lambert, High Honors
- Jennifer S. Naillon, Highest Honors
- Britney J. Curtis, Honors
- China L. Horton, Highest Honors
- Sarah A. Howard, Honors
- Barbara M. Signorelli, Highest Honors

**Selmer**
- Cassidy L. Ashe, High Honors
- Zachary P. Blakely, High Honors
- Hannah L. Carroll, High Honors
- Brady H. Dancer, Highest Honors
- Katelyn Felker, High Honors
- Christina K. Gray, Highest Honors
- Makayla J. Hill, Honors
- Brooklyn P. Holland, High Honors
- Candace D. Kirby, Highest Honors
- Carlianna S. Morris, Highest Honors
- Amber S. Nixon, Highest Honors
- Cassidy B. Shambeau, Highest Honors
- Ty C. Smith, Highest Honors
- Hunter J. Steele, Highest Honors
- Andrew T. Wheeler, Honors
- Ana M. Whitten, High Honors
- Kimberly N. Williams, High Honors
- Grant B. Saum, Honors

**Pocahontas**
- Rebecca L. Bodiford, High Honors
- Michael W. Epperson, High Honors
- Emily L. Haendel, Highest Honors
- Audrey D. Roy, High Honors
- Mr. K. Hill, Honors

**Ramer**
- Selma L. Andrews, High Honors
- Whitney B. Arnold, High Honors
- Darrell L. Bossier, High Honors
- Seth B. Bouchard, High Honors
- Jennifer R. Boyd, High Honors
- Caterina M. Bryan, High Honors
- Bethany L. Clemons, High Honors
- Kaitlyn K. Cobb, High Honors
- Chalyse M. Collins, High Honors
- Morgan L. Cornett, High Honors
- Anna J. Davis, High Honors
- Adison S. Davis, High Honors
- Katelyn S. Dennis, High Honors
- Dakota L. Denning, High Honors
- Elizabeth A. Denning, Honors
- Garrett A. Dilworth, High Honors
- Kayla M. Doss, High Honors
- Dyllan L. Drake, High Honors
- Patricia L. Dukett, High Honors
- Hannah S. Elleman, High Honors
- Natalie M. Elleman, High Honors
- Lacie R. Ellis, High Honors
- Curran P. Ellis, High Honors
- Maria D. Elrod, High Honors
- Taylor M. Essick, High Honors
- Keene M. Fairman, High Honors
- Stephanie L. Farnsworth, High Honors
- Kaitlin E. Fassett, High Honors
- Samantha M. Fisher, High Honors
- Kayla K. Fitts, High Honors
- Cameron N. Fox, High Honors
- Rachel L. France, High Honors
- Katelyn M. Franks, High Honors
- Morgan L. Frady, High Honors
- Theodora R. Frailey, High Honors
- Elizabeth P. Fine, High Honors
- Hailey R. Finley, High Honors
- Sarah B. Finley, High Honors
- Mary K. Forester, High Honors
- Victoria L. Forte, High Honors
- Mary J. Fortner, High Honors
- Emily L. France, High Honors
- McKenna L. Francis, High Honors
- Cameron L. Franklin, High Honors
- Mary K. Franklin, High Honors
- Allison M. Frazier, High Honors
- Katelyn A. Frey, High Honors

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
SHOW OF SUPPORT – Brittany Maiden’s friends and family were there to observe her receive a B.S. in animal science at her UTM graduation. Front row, from left: Katelin Maiden, Brittany, Michele Maiden, and Jay Maiden, Jr. Back row, from left: Cody Hassell, Helena Nicholas, Tommy Nicholas, Jay Maiden, Sr., and Lee Hassell.

UTM graduation boasts record numbers

Fifteen Benton County residents received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) during the Saturday, May 7, spring commencement held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UTM campus. More than 825 graduates received degrees during the largest graduation ceremony in university history. Dr. Paul Blaylock, class of 1968, delivered the commencement address.

Big Sandy students receiving undergraduate degrees were Amanda Phifer, Zachary Phifer, and Justin Weed. Students from Camden included Allyson Bell, Allyson Branch, Demetric Dunlap, Jordan Kee, James Kesse, Landon Lockridge, Brittany Maiden, Melanie Patterson, Brancy Patton, and Amy Jo Wilkinson. Deven Wilson, of Eva, and Holly Cannady, of Holladay, also completed bachelor’s degrees.

NEW NURSE - Allyson Bell took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during a pinning ceremony May 6 at the UTM, before receiving her B.S. in nursing at graduation on May 7. The pledge is taken by new nurses and holds each candidate to a high standard as a health care professional.

NEW GRADUATE - Demetric Dunlap graduated from UTM on May 7 with a B.S. in health and human performance.
UTM offers free special education seminar for teachers

The University of Tennessee at Martin College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences will host the 2016 Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar on Tuesday, June 7, from 8:15 a.m.-noon, in room 230 of the UTM Boling University Center.

The seminar will feature “make it and take it” workshops on the TouchMath program and low-tech assistive technology. Seminar participants will use the Boardmaker software to create low-tech assistive technology items for use in the classroom.

Area teachers and interested students are welcome to attend, although space is limited to the first 50 people. Three hours of professional development will be offered for participation. Dr. Clinton Smith, UT Martin assistant professor of special education, and Dr. Beth Stratton, instructor of special education, will direct the seminar.

The Bettie Graham Seminar Series at UTM is sponsored by Newell and Bettie Graham. To register, visit 2016bettiegrahamspecialeducationseminar.eventbrite.com. For more information, call 731-881-7167 or email csmit279@utm.edu.
UTM faculty ‘blindsided’ by academic probation

TYLER WHETSTONE
TWHETSTONE@JACKSONSUN.COM

Four days after he learned the University of Tennessee at Martin was placed on academic probation, Interim Chancellor Robert Smith told UTM Chancellor Emeritus Margaret Perry in an email that faculty members were “in complete denial of their responsibilities” in the accreditation process.

Smith described it as something that held the university back.

But several UTM faculty have since told The Jackson Sun that they knew little to nothing about their responsibilities in the accrediting process or the seriousness of UTM’s accrediting problems with the South Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS).

David Barber is an associate professor of history at UTM. He said faculty members were “blindsided” by the announcement in December that UTM would be placed on probation by SACS.

“I’m sure there are people who resent having to do this assessment kind of work, but I’m not aware of anyone who refuses to do it,” Barber said. “The problem wasn’t that anyone refused but that...”

See UTM, Page 5A

UTM

Continued from Page 1A

...there was no campus-wide alarm.

“We weren’t dragging our feet because nobody told us that there was any problem,” he said. “I didn’t know.”

Joe Ostenson is an assistant professor of psychology. He said communication between the administration to professors was poor at best regarding accreditation issues with SACS.

“We were led to believe that we were OK,” he said. “Our job is to do teaching and committee work ... [It’s] hard to do that when things aren’t being communicated.”

Associate professor of psychology Angie MacKewn said there was talk of new standards, but it was always talked about in future tense and wasn’t something required.

“They said, ‘We’ll take care of it. Don’t you worry about it. It’ll be fine,’” she said. “And it ended up not being fine, and it puts us in this really bad place.

“Then when it was to the point where we were put on probation it was like, ‘How the hell did we get here?’” she said. “What did we do wrong? It was the biggest kick in the teeth ... We thought we were doing what was required, and we thought we were doing fine.”

Smith, the interim chancellor, and UT System President Joe DiPietro were asked about the faculty sentiments during a meeting with The Jackson Sun’s editorial board May 19. They each said the concerns raised by faculty were valid.

When Smith was told faculty members said they were not informed about the importance of addressing accreditation issues, Smith said, “Honestly, I don’t disagree with it.”

DiPietro said the faculty’s concerns are not unusual for such a circumstance. “But the reality is administration needs to say, ‘Hey, look. It’s everybody’s issue and we need your help in getting it done,’” DiPietro said.

When asked if the administration would communicate differently with faculty if it had the opportunity to replay the scenario, DiPietro said, “Without a doubt.”

Smith said, “It’s sort of like, it takes a crisis to get your attention.”

UTM’s probation is focused on four related concerns identified by SACS regarding the college’s failure to develop traceable standards to gauge student learning campus wide. A fifth area of concern, focused on UTM’s lack of traceable data for general education courses.

The Jackson Sun published a story in April about UTM’s accreditation problems and what led SACS to place the university on probation. The story was based on emails obtained through a public records request and included Smith’s email in which he was critical of the faculty response to the accreditation process.

The Jackson Sun spoke with several faculty members after that story was published who were unhappy with Smith’s characterization of their attitude.

MacKewn, who has taught at UTM for more than 10 years, said she loves the campus and wants to see it succeed, but being placed on probation has negatively affected her relationship with her employer.

“I don’t really trust administration right now because of this,” she said. “Now I feel like my partner has a baby by someone else and nobody told me. It’s like, I trusted you. I can get through it, but you have to earn my trust back.”

Moving ahead

UTM has held numerous faculty seminars and conferences to address the accreditation problems, and both DiPietro and Smith say they are sure the university is on a track of compliance.

In early May, nearly 300 faculty members attended two accreditation workshops. DiPietro said faculty know accreditation is everyone’s business, not just the administration’s.

“I think instead of using a stick, what [Smith] has done with the faculty is he’s used a carrot,” DiPietro said. “He’s said this will make you better, it will make our students better and it’ll make our ability to produce an even higher-quality graduate student than we have in the past.”

Smith said the level of attendance at the workshops is proof that faculty members understand the importance of addressing the accreditation issues.
"We would have never had 162 faculty [show up to one session]," he said. "We maybe would have had the 20 department chairs who say, 'Well, this is an administrative thing.'"

Dan Pigg, professor of English and modern foreign language, said it is best to look ahead.

"Was the ball dropped? I think it probably was," Pigg said. "Who's responsible for it in an institution? There's not one person. There were some faculty and administration problems, but I think it is better to look towards the future."

Smith came to UTM as interim chancellor in May 2015. UTM announced in March that it began the search for a permanent chancellor, and Smith is expected to continue his duties until the end of the fall semester.

MacKewn, the assistant professor of psychology, said a new chancellor will be like a new beginning, and the university will "rise like a phoenix out of the ashes."

She said she'll take part of the blame for UTM's probation and will work hard to improve what she can control.

"If I step up, maybe someone else will step up," she said.

UTM will submit its third monitoring report regarding the accreditation problems to SACS this fall. SACS is expected to reevaluate UTM's accreditation status in December.

Reach Tyler at (731) 425-9629. Follow him on Twitter: @tyler_whetstone

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

Six things to know: June 6, 2016

The family of Coy Lutz wants loved ones to make contributions to UT Martin's rodeo scholarship fund in lieu of flowers. Coy is the UT Martin student killed during a rodeo in New Jersey last weekend. A visitation will be held today for Lutz. His funeral will be held tomorrow.

Locals named to UTM chancellor's honor roll

Several Wilson County area students were recently named to the chancellor's honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the spring 2016 semester: Robert Erie of Lebanon; Gina Beckman, Loren Campbell, Tyler Hayzlett, Kendall Oziminski, Barianne Taylor and Erin Walsh, all of Mt. Juliet; and William Singer of Hermitage.

To be eligible for chancellor's honor roll at UTM, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

http://wilsonpost.com/

Local students earn degrees from UT Martin

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

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Kelsey Gregory of Bethpage, Jonah L. Boggess, Christy Anadely Chicas and Samantha J. O'Neill of Hendersonville; Mary C. Zaradich of Portland; and Rachel E. Carter and Hailey Dawn Lambert of Westmoreland.

http://www.gallatinnews.com/
SGC's Price registers at UT Martin

LOCAL STUDENT VISITS UT MARTIN FOR ORIENTATION — Danielle Price (center), a graduate of South Gibson County High School, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Student Orientation and Registration on April 23. Students were able to meet with faculty in their chosen areas of study and hear presentations on student housing, meal plans, financial aid and social activities. Price is pictured with her parents, Damon and Kimberly Price.

Milan students to become UT Martin Skyhawks

COMMITTED TO UTM - Two MHS seniors have committed to furthering their education at UT Martin this fall. Callie Walker Hughes (top photo) and Julie Brasher (bottom photo) are pictured with their mothers, Amybeth Hughes (UTM 1991) and Joy Brasher. Brasher and Hughes registered for classes during SOAR on June 3.
VISIT UTM – Danielle Price (center), a graduate of South Gibson County High School, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Student Orientation and Registration. Students were able to meet with faculty in their chosen areas of study and hear presentations on student housing, meal plans, financial aid and social activities. Price is pictured with her parents, Damon and Kimberly Price.

ATTEND ORIENTATION – Katelyn Duncan (right), a graduate of Peabody High School, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Student Orientation and Registration. Students were able to meet with faculty in their chosen areas of study and hear presentations on student housing, meal plans, financial aid and social activities. Duncan is pictured with her mother, Rosalie Moore.
UT Martin names local students to Spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2015 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.

Dyersburg - Steven M. Alford, Honors; Louis T. Anderson, Highest Honors; Hayden M. Austin, Highest Honors; Taylor B. Burch, Highest Honors; Ashley B. Cherry, Honors; Kyle L. Childress, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Clark, Honors; Johnathan T. Cozort, Honors; Elizabeth M. Curtis, Highest Honors; Callie B. Elgin, Highest Honors; Janet V. Frederick, Honors; Jordan L. Galewski, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Harris, High Honors; Allison D. Hayes, High Honors; Brandon M. Hendren, Highest Honors; Melissa E. Hurst, High Honors; Jessica H. Kimbrell, Highest Honors; Ashton E. Maldonado, Highest Honors; Wesley Martin, High Honors; Maryanna W. McClure, High Honors; Connor R. McIntire, High Honors; Michaila D. McKenzie-Prohaska, Honors; John M. Moody, Highest Honors; Clair E. Newbill, Highest Honors; Lauran S. Olds, High Honors; Kyle E. Paschal, High Honors; Sarah B. Pike, Highest Honors; D’Anfernee M. Pugh, High Honors; Kelsey M. Slaughter, Highest Honors; Jaclyn V. Stafford, Highest Honors; Tucker L. Stroup, Highest Honors; Christopher R. Walker, Highest Honors; Samuel W. Webb, High Honors; Chloe J. West, Honors; Joye W. Williams, Highest Honors; Joshua D. Williams, High Honors; Kristen D. Williams, High Honors; and Whitney L. Young, Highest Honors

Finley - Emily A. Lacy, Highest Honors;

Friendship - Rachel A. Ketchum, Highest Honors; and Matthew T. Smith, Honors

Halls - Hannah N. Langley, Highest Honors

Newbern - Amber N. Alsup, Highest Honors; Forrest N. Coleman, Highest Honors; Lillian B. Murray, Highest Honors; Tyler J. Orr, High Honors; Zackary W. Reed, High Honors; Aeron D. Smith, Honors; John D. Stallings, Honors; Katelynn Summerset, Highest Honors; Olivia C. Trasolini, High Honors; and Mackenzie L. Walker, Honors

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

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
UTM-P Center to host Kid College

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Kid College from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., June 27-30, at the UT Martin Parsons Center. Children who will attend kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2016 are invited to participate in the four-day program.

This year's courses include "How to be a Superhero 101," which will focus on character traits such as kindness and teamwork; "Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Oh My!" which includes experiments and weather predictions; and "Theatre Games," where students will learn about acting and communication. A special class for third through fifth-graders will also discuss topics such as peer pressure, goal setting, good decisions and problem-solving.

Children must be registered in advance. The participation fee is $85 per child, which includes a Kid College T-shirt and all supplies. An open house will be held from noon-1 p.m., June 30, where parents, family and friends are invited to meet the Kid College staff, view displays and watch demonstrations.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.

UT-Martin names honor roll students

The University of Tennessee at Martin announced local students to the spring semester Chancellor's Honor Roll. The Chancellor's Honor Roll includes honors (3.2-3.49), high honors (3.4-3.79) and highest honors (3.8-4.0).

From Gates, Madison Mountjoy made honors; Eunice Delph and Chad Lewis made high honors; Austin Kissell and Mary G. Moore received highest honors.

From Halls, Trevor Belton, Taylor Brasfield, and James Crews made honors; Hayley Gillion, Cameron Moore, and Chris Rogers made high honors; Shelbi Fowler, Jameson Smith, and Jailey Watts received highest honors.

From Henning, Jennifer Harris made honors; and Caren King received high honors.

From Ripley, students receiving high honors include Jeanetta Bates, Dana Beard, Charneshia Brown, Blake Conrad, Hailey Holcomb, Stacy Maclin, Jeffery Manns, Chelsea Maynard, Alan Mays, Bethany McCaslin, Amy Medford, Kaitlin Mooney, Nathaniel Newlin, Janet Oates, Summer Scott, Dian Simmons, Brittany Smith, and Britney Watkins; students with high honors are Kasie Barnett, Tammy Barron, Jessica Carver, Gared Colvin, Rose Freeman, Shundetria Haley, Marquita Nelson, Ashton Tatum, Tara Williams, and Tammi Winbush; students receiving highest honors include Rachel Anderson, Alexis Bolden, Douglas Buckner, Courtney Johnson, Constance Mason, Brittany Simmons, Kala Smith, Ashley Vaughan, and Sheila Whitehorn.
RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP — John Alex Warner (back), a graduate of Union City High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Warner, is this year’s recipient of the ADK teacher’s sorority scholarship. A student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, his major is vocal music education. He also has an interest in teaching at the college level. “He works so hard and loves his major, University Scholars and UT Martin — all this while working at Discovery Park of America on the weekends,” said a spokesman for ADK. Recently, he represented UT Martin at UT Knoxville for a national voice competition and, last year, he was named Mid-South champion at this same competition in Memphis. Presenting the scholarship to Warner recently were (from left) Jessica Tuck, Jo Kathryn Maddox, Laura Kingrey, Winnie Logan and Trudi Collins.

Robotics camps planned

Children ages 5-14 can participate in a variety of robotics camps this summer at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WeDo Robotics Camp is open to children ages 5-7, while the NXT Extreme Games Camp and Advanced NXT Extreme Survival Challenge are for ages 8-14.

WeDo Robotics Camp will be offered from 9-11 a.m. June 20-24. Campers will design, build and control motorized robots. They will also program the robot, add sensors to complete challenges and work in teams. Students must have completed kindergarten to participate.

The NXT Extreme Games Camp will be held from 1-4 p.m. June 20-24. Competitors will learn to build basic robots and modify them to complete a variety of tasks, which may include greeting other robots, escaping from a cage, following a winding course, kicking a ball into a target, climbing a mountain or racing off-road.

Two-member teams will design, build and program robots for each challenge. The teams will test their designs and reprogram the robots to improve over time.

The Advanced NXT Extreme Survival Challenge is for students who have completed previous LEGO NXT or EV3 courses. Campers should have the ability to program the motors and sensors. The challenge will require teams to build and program robots to survive on an island. The camp will be held from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. June 27-28 and 9 a.m.-noon June 29. Students should bring lunch and a drink.

Two-member teams will design, build and program robots and modify them for each challenge.

The registration fee for both camps is $155 per person, which includes the camp T-shirt. Robotics kits will be provided for use during camp and will be available for purchase by those who are interested. Laura Sterrett, lecturer at UT Martin, will instruct the course.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/robotics.php.
UTM professor chosen to conduct

Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named associate conductor of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

"I am very excited to be part of this dynamic and growing cultural gem in West Tennessee," Simmons said. "Under Maestro (Peter) Shannon's leadership, the organization is making incredible artistic strides, and I am thrilled to have an opportunity to support him, the staff at the JSO and the mission of the orchestra as it moves into the 2016-17 concert season. Working with musicians of this caliber is an honor, and I am deeply grateful for this opportunity."

Simmons has taught at UT Martin since 2004 and manages all aspects of the university's choral program. He has led UT Martin's elite auditioned group, the New Pacer Singers, in state, domestic and international tours, including full-length concerts in such notable venues as the Baltimore Basilica; St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City; the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif.; and the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

The New Pacers ensemble has also performed previously in Christchurch and Dunedin, New Zealand, and has returned for an additional tour this summer under Simmons' direction.

Prior to his work at UT Martin, Simmons held positions at Ithaca College in New York, Briar Cliff University in lowa and the University of Evansville in Indiana.

"I am delighted to welcome Mark as associate conductor of the Jackson Symphony... Dr. Simmons is an excellent musician and I'm excited to share my European background as a conductor with him," Shannon said.

Kid College set, enrolling now

Enrollment is now open for the annual Kid College hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

This five-day interactive learning camp will take place Monday through June 17 on the UT Martin main campus. Children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2016 are eligible to participate.

Registration is first-come, first-served and must be paid in full prior to the first day of camp. Children may be enrolled in up to five courses.

Registration is $30 for the first course and $25 for each additional class, which includes a camp T-shirt. Some courses also include supply fees which must be paid to the course instructor on the first day of camp.

Course options for students in kindergarten through second grade include cheerleading, French, simple machines, Spanish, dinosaurs and woodworking. Students in grades three through five can learn about chemical reactions, space, Spanish, computers and simple and powered machines, among many other topics.

June 15 will be picture day and all students are encouraged to wear their Kid College T-shirts. Parents should pack a lunch and drink each day. Additional information will be sent to parents via email the week before camp begins.

An open house will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. June 17. Parents, family and friends are welcome to meet the Kid College instructors, view displays and watch demonstrations during this time.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at www.utm.edu/departments/ecs/courses/children/kidcollege.php.
UT Martin announces honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the spring 2015 chancellor's honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

From Humboldt are: Haley B. Branum, Humboldt, TN 38343-5521, high honors
Morgan N. Conder, high honors; Mercedes C. Floyd, highest honors; Travis E. Hazlewood, highest honors; Jonathan H. Hefley, highest honors; Austin S. Koffman, highest honors; Tanner R. Petty, highest honors; Grady L. Potts, highest honors; Shelby G. Vasquez, highest honors

From Medina are:
Noah S. Allen, honors; Connor J. Alley, high honors; Summer A. Bradley, high honors; Jason R. Kail, high honors; Shelby D. McMinn, honors; Madeline G. Moore, honors; Benjamin M. Ort, highest honors; Marshall W. Pearson, honors; Emily M. Poole, Medina, highest honors Hayden M. Presson, honors; Sara J. Ragain, high honors; Emily A. Rice, high honors; Anna B. Santanilello, highest honors; Kathryn L. Woods, high honors

From Gibson are:
Hannah R. Houck, high honors; Jessica L. Newell, high honors

STUDENT ORIENTATION - Danielle Price (center), a graduate of South Gibson County High School, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Student Orientation and Registration on April 23. Students were able to meet with faculty in their chosen areas of study and hear presentations on student housing, meal plans, financial aid and social activities. Price is joined by her parents, Damon and Kimberly Price.
County students attend UTM Orientation

UT Martin names local students to Spring Semester Chancellor's Honor Roll

By Nathan Morgan
UTM University Relations

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

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Andrew J. Alexander, Adamsville, TN 38310-3719, High Honors
Christopher D. Gattis, Adamsville, TN 38310-4334, High Honors
Pierce A. Grandi, Adamsville, TN 38310-4614, High Honors
Caroline H. Gray, Adamsville, TN 38310-3011, Highest Honors
Sarah M. Johnson, Adamsville, TN 38310-4260, Highest Honors
Tammy R. Moraga, Adamsville, TN 38310-1918, High Honors
Chloe G. Mullis, Adamsville, TN 38310-3357, High Honors
Erika M. Murray, Adamsville, TN 38310-1829, High Honors
Honors
Madison B. Pickens, Adamsville, TN 38310-5835, Highest Honors
David S. Prince, Adamsville, TN 38310-4313, Highest Honors
DJ M. Sheets, Adamsville, TN 38310-1847, Highest Honors
Erick T. Stanford, Adamsville, TN 38310-3720, Honors
Megan E. Thomas, Adamsville, TN 38310-1627, Honors
Benjamin T. White, Adamsville, TN 38310-4795, High Honors
Brandon L. White, Adamsville, TN 38310-3623, Highest Honors
Nathan H. White, Adamsville, TN 38310-4795, Highest Honors
William A. White, Adamsville, TN 38310-4795, Highest Honors
Colton L. Williams, Adamsville, TN 38310-3001, Highest Honors
Brandy N. Willingham, Adamsville, TN 38310-1828, Highest Honors
Madeline G. Wilson, Adamsville, TN 38310-2304, Honors
Courtney B. Barnes, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4604, High Honors
Kaitlyn B. Boggs, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4427, Highest Honors
Devin R. Holt, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4315, High Honors
Bryanna M. Huggins, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4119, Highest Honors
Ashley C. Jolly, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4353, Honors
Christopher A. Lambert, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-3524, High Honors
Jennifer S. Naillon, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4325, Highest Honors
Amber N. Powell, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4243, Honors
Elizabeth B. Redmon, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4000, Highest Honors

Darryl W. Weatherford, Bethel Springs, TN 38315-4200, High Honors
Helen Y. Hart, Jackson, TN 38301-4015, Highest Honors
Benjamin J. Sinclair, Martin, TN 38237-2039, High Honors
Brittany J. Curtis, Michie, TN 38357-4090, Honors
China L. Horton, Michie, TN 38357-5397, Highest Honors
Sarah A. Howard, Michie, TN 38357-5056, Honors
Barbara M. Signorelli, Michie, TN 38357-5049, Highest Honors
Rebecca L. Bodiford, Pocahontas, TN 38061-4636, High Honors
Michale W. Epperson, Ramer, TN 38367-5254, High Honors
Emily L. Haendel, Ramer, TN 38367-6155, Highest Honors
Audrey D. Roy, Ramer, TN 38367-5156, High Honors
Grant B. Saum, Ramer, TN 38367-6271, Honors
Cassidy L. Ashe, Selmer, TN 38375-6121, High Honors
Zachary P. Blakely, Selmer, TN 38375-1548, Honors
Hannah L. Carroll, Selmer, TN 38375-6381, Honors
Brady H. Dancer, Selmer, TN 38375-5157, Highest Honors
Katelyn Felker, Selmer, TN 38375-5440, High Honors
Christina K. Gray, Selmer, TN 38375-6671, Highest Honors
Makayla J. Hill, Selmer, TN 38375-6233, Honors
Brooklyn P. Holland, Selmer, TN 38375-5102, High Honors
Candace D. Kirby, Selmer, TN 38375-1873, Highest Honors
Carianna S. Morris, Selmer, TN 38375-1502, Highest Honors
Amber S. Nixon, Selmer, TN 38375-1321, Highest Honors
Cassidy B. Shambeau, Selmer, TN 38375-6040, Highest Honors
Ty C. Smith, Selmer, TN 38375-6108, Highest Honors
Hunter J. Steele, Selmer, TN 38375-5324, Highest Honors
Andrew T. Wheeler, Selmer, TN 38375-2411, Honors
Ana M. Whitten, Selmer, TN 38375-5104, High Honors
Kimberly N. Williams, Selmer, TN 38375-2293, High Honors

Congratulations to all of you for your accomplishments - we are proud of you.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC - Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is shown conducting a performance of the Jackson Symphony orchestra.

Jackson Symphony Orchestra
Simmons Named Associate Conductor

MARTIN, Tenn. – Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been named associate conductor of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

“I am very excited to be part of this dynamic and growing cultural gem in West Tennessee,” said Simmons. “Under Maestro (Peter) Shannon’s leadership, the organization is making incredible artistic strides, and I am thrilled to have an opportunity to support him, the staff at the JSO and the mission of the orchestra as it moves into the 2016-17 concert season. Working with musicians of this caliber is an honor, and I am deeply grateful for this opportunity.”

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The New Pacers ensemble has also performed previously in Christchurch and Dunedin, New Zealand, and has returned for an additional tour this summer under Simmons’ direction.

Prior to his work at UT Martin, Simmons held positions at Ithaca College in New York, Briar Cliff University in Iowa and the University of Evansville in Indiana.

“I am delighted to welcome Mark as associate conductor of the Jackson Symphony. ... Dr. Simmons is an excellent musician, and I’m excited to share my European background as a conductor with him,” said Shannon. “The Jackson symphony is always on the lookout for an opportunity to collaborate with valuable organizations or individuals, and we have both in Dr. Simmons and UT Martin.”

For more information, contact Simmons at marks@utm.edu or learn more about the Jackson Symphony at thejacksonsymphony.org.
Family asks for prayers for legendary Tennessee coach Pat Summitt

WKRN Staff Published June 26, 2016, 12:22 pm Updated June 26, 2016, 2:32 pm

In this April 25, 2012 file photo, former Tennessee women’s basketball coach Pat Summitt speaks in Atlanta.

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will honor a diverse cross-section of political and cultural icons — including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, astronaut John Glenn, basketball coach Pat Summitt and rock legend Bob Dylan — with the Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony Tuesday. The Medal of Freedom is the nation’s highest civilian honor. It’s presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the national interests of the United States, to world peace or to other significant endeavors. (AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)

NASHVILLE, TN (WKRN) — Tennessee Head Coach Emeritus Pat Summitt is at the center of many prayers going up around Knoxville and the nation.

A spokesperson for the Summitt family released a statement addressing Summit’s condition:

“On behalf of Pat Summitt’s family, we acknowledge the past few days have been difficult for Pat as her early onset dementia, ‘Alzheimer’s Type,’ progresses. She is surrounded by those who mean the most to her and during this time, we ask for prayers for Pat and her family and friends, as well as your utmost respect and privacy. Thank you.”

ESPN reporter Mechelle Voepel reported that Los Angeles Sparks player and former Lady Vol Candace Parker left after the Sparks win Friday in Minnesota to go to Knoxville to see an ailing Pat Summit.

Parker retweeted a tweet by Good Morning America anchor Robin Roberts asking for prayers for a dear friend.

Summitt announced in August 2011 she had been diagnosed with early-onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type.

She completed the season with a reduced role as her assistant Holly Warlick took on much of the coaching duties, before announcing the season would be her last. Warlick would be named head coach the following season.

Others tweeting to #PrayForPat include Tennessee head football coach Butch Jones, Tennessee quarterback Joshua Dobbs, former Tennessee assistant football coach and Duke University head football coach David Cutcliffe and former Lady Vol Meighan Simmons.

Summitt’s 38 seasons of success

Legendary Lady Vols Head Coach Emeritus Pat Summitt’s career as the winningest coach in college basketball history spanned nearly four decades and earned her a reputation as one of the toughest coaches of either a men’s or women’s team.

Summitt was born Patricia Sue Head in 1952 in Clarksville, Tennessee. Her family moved to nearby Henrietta when she was in high school so she could play basketball. The school in Clarksville did not have a girls’ team. She then attended University of Tennessee-Martin, where she played for the school’s first women’s basketball coach.
University of Tennessee head women’s basketball coach

PAT SUMMITT STATISTICS
Coaching career:

- 1974-2012 – University of Tennessee Head Coach
- 1977 – U.S. Junior National Team
- 1979 – Pan American Games Team
- 1979, 1983 – World Championships Team
- 1980 – U.S. Olympic Basketball Assistant
- 1984 – U.S. Olympic Basketball Head Coach

Playing career:

- 1970-74 – UT Martin
- 1973 – U.S. World University Games Team
- 1975 – Pan American Games Team
- 1975 – World Championship Team
- 1976 – U.S. Olympic Team (co-captain)

Summitt was hired as a graduate assistant at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville just before the 1974-75 season at the age of 21. She was then named head coach when the previous head coach suddenly resigned. Some of her players were only a year younger than she. Her first win came about a month into her coaching career against Middle Tennessee State.

In her second season, Summitt led the Lady Vols to a 16-11 record while at the same time earning her master’s degree in physical education and training as co-captain of the first United States women’s national basketball team at the 1976 Olympics as a player. The team won the silver medal.

The wins started piling up as team got better with each passing season. The Lady Vols closed the 1970s by winning the first-ever SEC tournament and competing in back-to-back Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Woman Final Fours.

The 1981-82 season had the first-ever NCAA Women’s basketball tournament. The Lady Vols were one of 32 teams invited and named a number two seed. The team upset top seeded USC to advance to the Final Four, where they lost to eventual tournament winner Louisiana Tech.

Summitt won her 300th game in December 1982. Summit was named head coach of the team that eventually represented the USA at the 1984 Olympics. The team won all eight of its games and the gold medal.

The Lady Vols’ first national title came in 1987 when they defeated Louisiana Tech. The 500th win for Summit came early in the 1993-94 season.

The 1997-98 season is generally considered Summit’s best, with a top-ranking recruiting class and star player Chamique Holdsclaw. The team went undefeated with a 39-0 season and only three teams came within 10 points of beating the team. The Lady Vols defeated Louisiana Tech for a third straight national title.

The Lady Vols was named co-team of the decade at the 2000 ESPY Awards along with the Florida State Seminoles football team.

Summitt’s team continued powering through the 2000s, with such highly regarded players as Candace Parker and her 880th win, making her the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history.
Retirement and ‘We Back Pat’

After retiring, Summitt was named head coach emeritus. Summitt ended her 38-year coaching career with 1,098 wins.

Summitt won the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the 2012 ESPYs and the Presidential Medal of Freedom that same year for her courageous announcement and the amount of awareness she was helping to bring to dementia-related illnesses.

The “We Back Pat” campaign sprung up overnight upon Summitt’s retirement announcement, going viral worldwide. In her retirement, her Pat Summitt Foundation worked tirelessly to raise funds for cutting-edge research for Alzheimer’s and other similar diseases. The Pat Summitt Alzheimer’s Clinic at the University of Tennessee Medical Center is set to open this December.

Her son Tyler followed in her coaching footsteps, coaching the Louisiana Tech Techsters from 2014-16.

Pat Head Summitt Drive on the UT-Martin campus and Pat Head Summitt Street on the UTK campus are named in her honor. The basketball court at Thompson-Boling Arena was named “The Summitt” in her honor in 2005. UT-Martin also named its basketball court the Pat Head Summitt Court for the former star player.
MARTIN, Tenn. — Members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class graduated Tuesday, June 21, in an event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A 5:30 p.m. 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 27th class and brings the total to 769 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990. The 2016 class included 30 participants 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 leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee's development. Participants are chosen from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement. Among those attending the event was UT Martin interim Chancellor Bob Smith, a WestStar co-founder and former executive director for the program, who thanked the 2016 class for their commitment to improving West Tennessee.

Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and WestStar activities and presented graduation plaques along with the program's board of trustees. Deal also announced several WestStar awards, including the program's two major recognitions:

- C.P. Boyd Leadership Award — Carrie Ann Knox, of Jackson, Kirkland Cancer Center. The award, named for Haywood County community leader and educator C.P. Boyd, is the person selected by the class who best reflects compassion and leadership for West Tennessee.
- Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award — James Ross, of Jackson, WestStar Class of 2004, interim president and CEO, West Tennessee Healthcare. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, 1990 WestStar graduate, founding trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration. Selection criteria include a WestStar graduate who has had a positive impact in the recipient's city or county during the past five years and a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee.
Summitt's problems with health get worse

By STEVE MEGARGEE
AP Sports Writer
KNOXVILLE (AP) — Pat Summitt’s family said Sunday that the last few days have been difficult for the former Tennessee women’s basketball coach as her Alzheimer’s disease progresses.

Amid reports of Summitt’s failing health, her family issued a statement asking for prayers and saying that the 64-year-old Summitt is surrounded by the people who mean the most to her. It also asked for privacy.

The statement was posted on the Pat Summitt Foundation’s website and was issued by Erin Freeman, a spokeswoman for the Summitt family.

Former Tennessee player Tamika Catchings was flying to Knoxville to visit the coach instead of returning to Indiana with the WNBA’s Fever. Other former players and those in the University of Tennessee and the women’s basketball communities were issuing support on Twitter through the “PrayForPat” hashtag.

Summitt stepped down as Tennessee’s coach in 2012, one year after announcing her diagnosis of early onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type. She went 1,098-208 with eight national titles. She has the most career wins of any Division I men’s or women’s basketball coach.

Since her diagnosis, Summitt has played a leading role in the fight against Alzheimer’s. She launched the Pat Summitt Foundation, which is dedicated to researching and educating people about the disease while also providing services to patients and caregivers. The Pat Summitt Alzheimer’s Clinic is scheduled to open at the University of Tennessee medical center in December.

“When she fights this disease, what she has taught all of us is how to do it with courage,” former Tennessee women’s athletic director Joan Cronan said at a 2015 charity event honoring Summitt. “She’s done that from Day One. It’s been about (how) we can find a cure for this disease, and she has done it facing it straight-on and she’s done it giving back as she always has.”

Summitt continues to hold a position as head coach emeritus of the Tennessee women’s basketball team.

She attended nearly every home game and many practices in the first year after stepped down as coach, though she had a less visible role in subsequent seasons. She cut back on public appearances in recent years.
**WestStar leadership program graduates 2016 class**

Members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class were honored recently in an 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 27th class and brings the total to 769 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990. The 2016 class included 30 participants 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 leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development.

Participants are chosen from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement. Among those attending the event was UT Martin interim chancellor Bob Smith, a WestStar co-founder and former executive director for the program, who thanked the 2016 class for their commitment to improving West Tennessee.

Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and WestStar executive director, presided over the event. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, offered a year in review of WestStar activities and presented graduation plaques, along with the program’s board of trustees.

Deal also announced several WestStar awards, including the program’s two major recognitions: C.P. Boyd Leadership Award — Carrie Ann Knox of Jackson, Kirkland Cancer Center. The award, named for Haywood County community leader and educator C.P. Boyd, is the person selected by the class who best reflects compassion and leadership for West Tennessee.

Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award — James Ross of Jackson, WestStar Class of 2004, interim president and CEO, West Tennessee Healthcare. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, 1990 WestStar graduate, founding trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration. Selection criteria include a WestStar graduate who has had a positive impact on the recipient’s city or county during the past five years and a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee.

The 2016 WestStar graduating class members and their hometowns are Whit Ashe, Savannah; Kelly Codega, Memphis; Donna Craig, Paris; Elizabeth Pritchett, Paris; Beth Parnell, Jackson; Achania Jarrett, Brownsville; Mary Ann Sharpe, Brownsville; Shelly Matthews, Henderson; and Shawn Francisco, Dresden; (back row) Joseph Crone, Memphis; Dr. Brock Martin, Huntington; Jason Griggs, Milan; Mayor Justin Hanson, Covington; Greg Dozier, Rives; Joel Howard, Covington; Mayor Maurice Gaines Jr., Ripley; Mayor Chris Young, Trimple; Erric Kellum, Jackson; Mayor John Holden, Dyersburg; Whit Ashe, Savannah; Ron Gant, Rossville; Michael Overbey, Jackson; Bobby Williams, Rossville; Art Sparks Jr., Union City; Brooks McDonald, Bartlett; Ross Mitchell, Selmer; Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, Martin; Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, Martin; and Mayor Carlton Gerrell, Paris.
UT Martin names local students to spring semester chancellor’s honor roll

MARTIN — The academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored with publication of the spring 2016 chancellor’s honor rolls.

Among those were local students with highest honors William M. Singer, of Hermitage; Robert A. Erie, of Lebanon; Gina F. Beckman, of Mt. Juliet; Kendall T. Oziminski, of Mt. Juliet; Barianne F. Taylor, of Mt. Juliet; and Erin A. Walsh, of Mt. Juliet. Those with high honors included Loren S. Campbell, of Mt. Juliet, and Tyler J. Hayzlett, of Mt. Juliet.

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

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains a reputation for its undergraduate programs, campus and professors.

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, JUNE 9, 2016

**UT Martin Honors County’s Students**

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been recognized by selecting them for the spring 2016 chancellor’s honor roll.

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

Local students include, from Gates, Madison E. Mountjoy, honors; Eunice L. Delph and Chad A. Lewis, high honors; and Austin D. Kissing and Mary G. Moore, highest honors.

Students from Halls include Trevor R. Belton, Taylor M. Brasfield, and James L. Crews, honors; Hayley L. Gillion, Cameron C. Moore, and Chris J. Rogers, high honors; and Shelbi K. Cress, Jameson R. Smith, and Hailey E. Watts, highest honors.

Students from Henning include Jennifer Harris, honors; and Caren A. King, high honors.

Local student to attend UT Martin

Jordan Nix jnix@covingtonleader.com

William Beller, right, will attend UT Martin this fall. He is pictured at orientation with his mother, Sara-Lee Beller.

William Beller, of Brighton, will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin starting in the fall 2016 semester. Beller began his Skyhawk experience by registering for classes June 3 and participating in student orientation and registration events. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen and introduces them to student housing, recreation and dining options, as well as a variety of tools they will need to transition to college life. Beller is pictured with his mother, Sara-Lee Beller. For more information about UT Martin and the remaining SOAR sessions on June 17 and July 15, visit www.utm.edu/advantage/
Locals named to UTM Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduates at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) have been honored by assignment to the Spring 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Roll. Twenty-nine students from Benton County made the list.

To be named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll, a student must complete at least 12 hours of coursework and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average (GPA). The Chancellor’s Honor Roll boasts three levels of distinction, including Honors (GPA=3.2-3.49), High Honors (GPA=3.5-3.79) or Highest Honors (GPA=3.8-4.0).

Area students who requested their accomplishment be published in The Camden Chronicle include:

**BENTON COUNTY**


**CAMDEN** - Highest Honors: Makensie Bawcum, Montana Bawcum, Brianna Berry, Shelby Hicks, Breydon Horton, Raegan Taylor, and Jonathan Williams. High Honors: Tienni Bell, Amanda Douglas, Demetric Dunlap, Resa Herndon, Brittany Maiden, Melanie Patterson, and Jacob Scott. Honors: Jacob French, James McGuire, Tanaya Phillips, and Ashby Reed.


**OTHER** - Highest Honors: Anna Tramel (Jackson). High Honors: Haley Baker (Huntingdon), Alyson Branch (Martin), and Meagan Walker (Martin). Honors: Kwinten Wassman (Martin).

UTM LANGUAGE AWARD - Deven Wilson (left) receives the Outstanding English and Modern Foreign Languages Student Award from Dr. David Carithers, Chair of the UTM Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Area UTM students receive awards

Several Benton County residents received college and department-level awards from UTM for the 2016 spring semester. Students from Big Sandy, Camden, and Eva were recognized.

Students named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges included Deven Wilson of Eva, Kristina Reed of Big Sandy, and Ashby Reed and Meagan Walker of Camden.

Deven Wilson also received the Outstanding English and Modern Foreign Languages Student Award from Dr. David Carithers, Chair of the UTM Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Breydon Horton, of Camden, received the Cunningham Outstanding Freshman Award from the UTM College of Business and Global Affairs.
UTM to host registration for new students

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) session for incoming members of the 2016 freshman class on June 17. A special Transfer Orientation and Registration (TOAR) session will be held June 10.

SOAR is mandatory for all incoming freshmen, and students will not be permitted to register for fall classes outside of a SOAR session. There is no fee to attend, and no tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester.

Each SOAR session begins with check-in and an administrative fair from 7:30-8:30 a.m. At 9 a.m., students will meet with their orientation leaders and begin a rotation of informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life, and other important topics.

Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m., at which point parents and families can attend a parent panel session. Registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register. Visit www.utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

TOAR is specifically designed to meet the needs of transfer students and begins with check-in at 8 a.m. Concurrent sessions on campus technology, financial aid and scholarships, student life, and the student success center begin at 9 a.m. An administrative fair at 10:15 a.m. will highlight the bursar’s office, campus recreation, housing options, dining services, admissions, and minority affairs.

TOAR students will be advised by faculty members in their area of study and will begin registering for fall 2016 courses at approximately 10:45 a.m. Optional campus tours will be available after lunch for those who are interested. Visit www.utm.edu/toar for more information and for registration instructions.

For more information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UTM Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
Reflecting on role as spokesperson

KATHERINE BURGESS
KBURGESS@JACKSONSUN.COM

Children around the state find it hard to believe that Miss Tennessee trades in her crown and high heels for goggles and a lab coat at school. After a year of traveling the state visiting schools and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Hannah Robison hopes her message of responsibility and education has sunk in, and that she'll continue encouraging students to don their own science goggles.

"I hope they learned from my speeches and learned there's more to life than the way that you look," Robison said. "You have to get a good education if you want to be successful. Giving back to your community is important."

Although Robison will pass the Miss Tennessee crown to another woman after a week of competition, she has no plans to stop impacting the lives of Tennessee's children.

As Miss Tennessee, Robison spent the year working as Gov. Bill Haslam's official spokesperson for character education. She traveled the state, sometimes visiting three to six schools each day for 30-minute assemblies.

During the assemblies Robison spoke about the character trait "responsibility." She told the children they had a responsibility to graduate high school, consider further education, respect each other and give back to their community.

See Robison, Page 4C

Robison

Continued from Page 1C

munity.

Then, students would ask questions about everything from science to castles to what it takes to become a ninja.

"You definitely have to stay on your toes," Robison said. "Children will ask you anything."

The youngest in her family, Robison said she had never been around so many children until she became Miss Tennessee. Their excitement when Miss Tennessee came to visit surprised her, she said.

While many children initially assume that she lives in a castle and drives around in a limousine, they "really get excited and really understand" when they realize Miss Tennessee is a scholarship program that helped Robison further her education, she said.

Growing up, Robison only decided to start preparing to compete for the Miss Tennessee title after realizing herself that the contestants didn't have to be famous.

"I think when I realized it was just ordinary women competing that just had a servant's heart and took their education seriously, that's when I realized it was feasible," Robison said.

Some of the more "ordinary" requirements of the Miss Tennessee job included making her own travel arrangements and driving herself from event to event — another challenge that required keeping on her toes.

One day she pulled onto the interstate as it poured rain outside, only to find that all four of her tires had gone flat, Robison said.

She pulled over to a truck stop and aired up her tires "in a monsoon."

"I learned to be extra organized and make sure I was very independent," Robison said. "It's been a really good experience for me being able to be out on the road on my own."

Giving up the title that has taken her across the state will be "bittersweet," Robison said. While she is excited for the new Miss Tennessee, she said she will miss cheering up children in hospitals and taking science experiments into schools.

She plans to head back to the University of Tennessee Martin, where she will graduate May 2017 with a bachelor of science in chemistry and a minor in psychology.

She earned more than $46,000 from Miss Tennessee and Miss America, allowing her to graduate debt free with money remaining for graduate school.

Eventually, Robison wants to teach and continue promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

"My dream job, I think, would be to go into public schools, whether they're elementary, middle or high schools, and try to create more STEM programs across the state," Robison said.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathyburgess
Natalie King
Miss UT Martin
Talent: Instrumental / Oboe – Amazing Grace
Age: 22
Platform: The Fight for Music Education
Education: University of Tennessee at Martin / Communications & Music / Senior

Morgan Fitzgerald
Miss Jackson
Talent: Tap Dance – Hot Shoe Shuffle
Age: 22
Platform: You Can Be The KEY: Keys to Empowering Youth
Education: University of Tennessee at Martin / Political Science, Public Administration Concentration / Senior (Graduate)

Lexie Perry
Miss Scenic City
Talent: Violin – Orange Blossom Special
Age: 19
Platform: Hear Me Out – Advocating for those with Hearing Disabilities
Education: University of Tennessee at Martin / Social Work Major / Freshman

Hannah Robison, Miss Scenic City, is crowned Miss Tennessee 2015.
Kid College coming to PES

Kid College, a five-day learning experience for children who will be in kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2016, will be held June 20-24 at Paris Elementary School.

Hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin, Kid College allows children to register for up to five courses. Registration is $30 for the first class and $25 for each additional course, which includes a T-shirt.

Courses for those in kindergarten through second grade include bowling, Spanish, art, karate, space camp, storytelling and wildlife.

Topics for children in grades 3-5 include acting 101, French, wildlife, ocean animals, gardening and superheroes.

An open house will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. June 24. Parents, family and friends are welcome to meet the teachers, view displays and watch demonstrations during this time.

Students must be registered in advance and paid in full before the first day of camp. More information will be sent to parents via email the week before camp begins.

UT Martin names local students to honor roll

Several students from Sumner County have been named to the Spring 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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

Those earning highest honors were Kelsey Gregory (Bethpage), Laura E. Coker (Castalian Springs), Kristina M. Shaw (Cottontown), Christopher L. Hardin (Gallatin), Hannah M. Haynes (Gallatin), Jonah L. Boggess (Hendersonville), Samantha J. O’Neill (Hendersonville), Brendalynn G. Trippett (Hendersonville) and Rebekah J. Mansfield (White House).

Those earning High Honors were Michelle E. Stinson (Cottontown), Ashley C. Tuttle (Bethpage), Carli M. Daniels (Gallatin), Angela C. McCabe (Gallatin), Christy A. Chicas (Hendersonville), Michaela E. Short (Hendersonville), William T. Thurman (Hendersonville), Logan R. Keeble (Portland), Mary C. Zaradich (Portland) and Rachael E. Carter (Westmoreland).

Those earning honors were Kirsten S. Ford (Hendersonville), Matthew C. Sawyer (Cottontown) and Madelyn V. Newman (Hendersonville).

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
Several Sumner County residents received college and department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2016 semester. The following students were recognized:

* Alexandra Thompson, of Portland, was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

* Jonah Boggess, of Hendersonville, received the Bateman-Wyant History Award.

* Christy Chicas, of Hendersonville, was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

* Laura Coker, of Castalian Springs, received the Louise Knifley Memorial Scholarship Award and was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

* Kelsey Gregory, of Bethpage, received a Faculty Scholar Award from the College of Business and Global Affairs.

* Kristina Shaw, of Cottontown, received the Wayne Tansil Scholarship and the Women in Communications Award.

The Milan Mirror-Exchange, Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Kelso attends UTM Governor’s School

LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE HUMANITIES

- Ainsley Kelso, of Milan, is participating in Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life. Kelso is a student at South Gibson County High School. For more information about UT Martin or to set up a tour, visit www.utm.edu/advantage.
UTM Spring Chancellor’s Honor Roll

Allie E. Cunningham, Atwood, TN 38220-7203, High Honors
Madison K. Adams, Bradford, TN, Highest Honors
Colton D. Barber, Bradford, TN, Honors
Katherine L. Cardwell, Bradford, TN, Honors
Tanya Chapra, Bradford, TN, Honors
Daniel A. Cochran, Bradford, TN, Honors
Kendall P. Daniels, Bradford, TN, Highest Honors
Keeley A. Davis, Bradford, TN, Honors
Elisabeth C. Dowland, Bradford, TN, 38316-4711, High Honors
Grant D. Hampton, Bradford, TN, High Honors
Kristan H. McCrillis, Bradford, TN, High Honors
Hannah K. McCade, Bradford, TN, Honors
Jeremy B. Reynolds, Bradford, TN, Honors
Katherine L. Smith, Bradford, TN, Highest Honors
Holly J. Terry, Bradford, TN, High Honors
Andrew C. Walter, Bradford, TN, Highest Honors
Cate M. Walter, Bradford, TN, Honors
Lisa M. Warren, Bradford, TN, Honors
Catrina T. White, Bradford, TN 38316-8683, Honors

Faith L. Abbott, Dyer, TN, High Honors
Zach W. Bruketta, Dyer, TN, Highest Honors
Chelsea K. Joyce, Dyer, TN, Highest Honors
Sarah L. Mullins, Dyer, TN, Honors
Cory E. Oliver, Dyer, TN, Highest Honors
Jasmine D. Pitts, Dyer, TN, Honors
John P. Reed, Dyer, TN, High Honors
Danielle E. Rickman, Dyer, TN, High Honors
Kaitlyn A. Ritter, Dyer, TN, Highest Honors
Marilyn A. Vaughn, Dyer, TN, Honors
Hannah R. Houck, Gibson, TN, High Honors
Jessica L. Newell, Gibson, TN, High Honors

Haley B. Brumal, Humboldt, TN, High Honors
Morgan N. Conder, Humboldt, TN, High Honors
Mercedes C. Floyd, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors
Travis E. Hazlewood, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors
Jonathan H. Hefley, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors
Austin S. Koffman, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors
Tanner R. Petty, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors
Grady L. Potts, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors
Shebly G. Vasquez, Humboldt, TN, Highest Honors

Aja J. Francis, Kenton, TN, High Honors
Brian L. Hill, Kenton, TN, Highest Honors
Andrea L. Penn, Kenton, TN, High Honors
Lacey M. Petty, Kenton, TN, Honors
Kendal O. Walker, Kenton, TN, Highest Honors
Jakeb L. Wylie, Kenton, TN, Honors
Noah S. Allen, Medina, TN, Honors
Connor J. Alley, Medina, TN, High Honors
Summer A. Bradley, Medina, TN, High Honors
Jason R. Kail, Medina, TN, High Honors
Shebly D. McMinn, Medina, TN, Honors
Madeline G. Moore, Medina, TN, Honors
Benjamin M. Ort, Medina, TN, Highest Honors
Marshall W. Pearson, Medina, TN, Honors
Emily M. Poole, Medina, TN, Highest Honors
Hayden M. Presson, Medina, TN, Honors
Sara J. Ragain, Medina, TN, High Honors
Emily A. Rice, Medina, TN, High Honors
Anna B. Santaniello, Medina, TN, Highest Honors
Kathryn L. Woods, Medina, TN, High Honors

Melanie B. Allen, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Brooks A. Becton, Milan, TN, Honors
Caitlyn N. Brown, Milan, TN, Honors
Jessica M. Cheeks, Milan, TN, High Honors
Jeroeben J. Cole, Milan, TN, Honors
Victoria A. Collins, Milan, TN, High Honors
Kathryn L. Dunlap, Milan, TN, Honors
Joshua M. Fields, Milan, TN, Honors
Morgan C. Fitzgerald, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Kaitlyn M. Frandsen, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Ashly N. Glover, Milan, TN, Honors
Kyndal K. Hayes, Milan, TN, High Honors
Haleigh N. Hoke, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Lauren E. Hoke, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
John M. Horton, Milan, TN, Honors
Lauren N. Hughes, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Catherine D. Ing, Milan, TN, Honors
Daniel M. Irvine, Milan, TN, High Honors
Erin E. Kelley, Milan, TN, High Honors
Matthew H. Lauzermilk, Milan, TN, High Honors
Leigh A. Malanga, Milan, TN, High Honors
Destiny S. Meyer, Milan, TN, High Honors
Hope E. Renfroe, Milan, TN, Honors
Jenna M. Sellars, Milan, TN, High Honors
Mallory K. Staley, Milan, TN, Honors
James R. Stevenson, Milan, TN, Honors
Aubrey N. Walgren, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Chad A. Warden, Milan, TN, High Honors
Anna E. Warren, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Benjamin T. Webb, Milan, TN, Honors
Sara J. White, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Haley N. Wray, Milan, TN, Highest Honors
Eric A. Yates, Milan, TN, High Honors
Joshua M. Young, Milan, TN, Honors

Shelby N. Dotson, Rutherford, TN, Highest Honors
Taylor B. Fugua, Rutherford, TN, High Honors
Charles M. Morris, Rutherford, TN, Honors
Garner A. Perkins, Rutherford, TN, Honors
Logan C. Rahm, Rutherford, TN, Highest Honors
Lexi M. Whitley, Rutherford, TN, Honors
Diana C. Wright, Rutherford, TN, Highest Honors

Darian P. Matheny, Trezevant, TN, High Honors
Melody Pafford, Yorkville, TN, Highest Honors
WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

IN WITH THE NEW — The new four-story press box at UT Martin’s Graham Stadium has taken shape and is on schedule to be fully operational when the Skyhawks host Bacone College in their home opener on Sept. 17. More than double the size of the old press box (inset), the new building will house concessions and locker rooms for visiting teams and referees on the ground floor, classrooms on the second floor, premium seating on the third floor and a working area for print, radio and television media on the fourth floor.

MODERN LOOK — The new press box, still under construction, along with the Bob Carroll Football Building can be seen from above at UT Martin’s Graham Stadium. The four-story press box is slated to be ready for the Skyhawks’ home opener on Sept. 17 and, along with new chairback and bleacher seats for the grandstand, will be the latest in a string of upgrades to the stadium in recent years.
New UT Martin football press box point of pride for local builders

By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports

The new press box at UT Martin’s football stadium is already benefiting the school three months before it officially opens.

"I could not visualize the size of the building until the fourth floor and roof were complete," said Trudy Henderson, coordinator of external operations. "We immediately began to hear comments on how it could be seen coming in from both the west and east sides of town. It certainly adds to the skyline of the campus and will be an icon for the university."

The new four-story building, which will be much more than a working area for members of the media when it opens in September, is currently under construction.

The building is on schedule and expected to be fully operational when the Skyhawks host Bacone College in the home opener on Sept. 17.

Allen Searcy Builder-Contractor of Union City is the main contractor on the project. With several UTM alums on the project, there is an extra feeling of pride in seeing the press box going up.

"From a construction perspective, it’s enjoyable to see a project come to fruition," said DeWitt Day, the project manager and a baseball player at UTM in the early 1970s. "From an alumni perspective, I’m really proud of the project and how it relates to the community. It builds some excitement around the football program, which is on the rise.

"It’s been 40 years since I graduated, and I’ve seen the program go up, down and up again. I think this creates a buzz in the community and in the region that UTM sports are relevant. It’s something Martin can be proud of, as well as West Tennessee, western Kentucky, northeast Arkansas and northern Mississippi. I think it really builds that excitement."

Brian Searcy, who along with David Searcy and Rick Searcy — also a former UTM baseball player — is a UTM graduate, takes a great deal of pride in seeing the ASBC footprint all over the Martin campus, this being the latest and, perhaps, greatest.

"It’s a pride project," said Searcy, whose company also put up the Bob Carroll Football Building. "It’s great to drive down the road and say our company built this for this campus. We’re excited and proud of it."

The press box will be a fully functional, four-story building set behind the main grandstand at Graham Stadium that will connect to the top row, enabling those on the third floor to walk out into the stadium.

The ground floor will house the concession stand, visiting team and referee locker rooms, with showers.

The second level will be used by the College of Agriculture and Applied Science and will also serve as an academic support area, putting the building in use year-round rather than just a few Saturdays (and Fridays) in the fall.

The third floor will be premium seating for Skyhawk Club members with a chancellor’s box, and the fourth floor will be the media center with room for print, radio and television, including a box built to meet the specifications for ESPN.

"It’s a full four-story building with a Division I press box on top of it," Day said. "It’s as nice as you’ll see at any stadium. It’s a first-class, well-designed and well-thought-out project."

And, it’s coming together a lot faster than a project of its magnitude would usually be done.

Demolition of the previous press box, which included preserving portions of it to be donated to the Wounded Warriors Foundation, began after the final home game of the 2015 season. Then, tests were taken to make sure the soil could support a four-story building.

After that came the rains of late fall and the snows of early winter.

Work didn’t really begin until Jan. 6. Searcy noted that a tent city was rigged

Underneath, concrete will be put down with the vision being to turn that area into a plaza where vendors will be located. The removal of the old visitor locker room building has opened up a large area for fans to gather.

Sports reporter Kevin Weaks can be contacted by email at kweaks@ucmessenger.com.

(See Page 7, Col. 5)
BIRD’S-EYE VIEW — A camera-equipped drone was used to show the continuing work on the four-story press box at UT Martin’s Graham Stadium Monday as the massive facility gets closer to completion three months before the Skyhawks’ home opener. The building will house visitor and referee locker rooms and a concession stand on the first floor, classrooms for year-round use on the second floor, premium seating on the third floor and a fully functional press box for print, radio and television media on the top floor. (See related coverage, Page 6.)

Wilson locals participating in Governor’s School for the Humanities at UT Martin

From left, Ryan Ammenheuser and Caitlin Glover, both of Lebanon, and Elizabeth Hinton, of Mt. Juliet, are participating in Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life. Ammenheuser is a student at Wilson Central High School; Glover attends Lebanon High School; and Hinton is enrolled at Mt. Juliet High School. SUBMITTED
Palma, White inducted into Order of Engineers

Frank Palma

Frank Palma, of Parsons, participated in the Order of the Engineer ceremony at the University of Tennessee at Martin before commencement exercises May 7. The Order of the Engineer ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. He is pictured with Dr. Robert LeMaster (left), professor and chair, Department of Engineering, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, professor and dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Brice White

Brice White, of Parsons, participated in the Order of the Engineer ceremony at the University of Tennessee at Martin before commencement exercises May 7. The Order of the Engineer ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. He is pictured with Dr. Robert LeMaster (left), professor and chair, Department of Engineering, and Dr. Richard Helgeson, professor and dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Local Student Receives Degree from UT Martin

Oneshia C. Lester

Oneshia C. Lester, a graduate of Fayette Ware High School, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Human Performance from the University of Tennessee at Martin. The commencement ceremonies were held at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center of May 7, 2016. Her internship is in Cardiac Rehabilitation at Baptist Memorial Hospital on Walnut Grove.

Oneshia is the daughter of Larry and Oretha Lester of Oakland, TN.
STEMulation Camp
Local Students Place In Boomilever Competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted STEMulation Camp for students in grades six through eight from May 31-June 3. Thirty students participated in this year's event, which is designed to promote understanding in science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based areas. One competition required students to work in teams to build a boomilever, a device designed to hold a specified weight a given distance from a vertical surface.

Boomilever_thirdplace: (l-r) Anna Alley, Ellie Blackburn and Alyssa Brooks, all of Martin.

Boomilever_fourthplace: (l-r) Cole Belew, Austin Brent and Grayson Gilliam, all of Martin.

Boomilever_secondplace: (l-r) Curtis May, of Martin, and Jack Sykes, of Clarksville.

New “Miss Tennessee” To Be Crowned This Week

The “Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant” will begin with preliminary competition on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with the winner announced during pageant competition on Saturday night.

Thirty-six contestants from around the state will compete in categories of talent, evening wear, swimsuit, on-stage question and private interview. Competing this week will be “Miss UT-Martin” Natalie King and “Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival” Sarah Yarbrough.

The reigning “Miss Tennessee” is Hannah Robison, of Henry County, who will crown the winner at the pageant.

The new “Miss Tennessee” will then advance to the Miss America pageant on September 11th in Atlantic City, New Jersey.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2016 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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


Those in Martin included Ashleigh M. Burton, High Honors. From South Fulton, Austin L. Akers, Highest Honors; Taylor H. Allen, High Honors; Saralynn Eaves, Highest Honors; John P. Fowler, Honors; Mikaela M. Hardy, Highest Honors; Whitney H. Johnson, Highest Honors; Macy T. Maxwell, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Maxwell, Honors; Destinee B. Mayo, Honors; Caitlyn A. McClain, Honors; James R. Moore, Highest Honors; Brianna A. Rinker, Honors; Kimberly D. Schwartz, High Honors; Ali R. Taylor, Highest Honors; and Rachel J. White, High Honors.

Taylor S. Martin, Honors; Lydia A. Mudd, High Honors; Holly A. Seng, Highest Honors; and Victoria L. Seng, Highest Honors, all of Union City, Tenn.

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

LOCAL STUDENTS PLACE IN UT MARTIN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COMPETITION
- A team from South Fulton High School won second place in the Spanish language and culture quiz bowl competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Modern Foreign Language High School Day during the spring semester. High school students from across the region used their foreign language skills and cultural knowledge to compete in a variety of Spanish and French competitions, including cooking, poster and quiz bowl contests. Pictured left to right are Dr. Randy Garza, UT Martin professor of Spanish; Kimberly Jackson, South Fulton High School Spanish teacher; team members Carly Robertson, Breeanna Clark, Payton Allen and Owain Ballance; and Dr. Anton Garcia-Fernandez, UT Martin assistant professor of Spanish. (Photo submitted)
LOCAL STUDENTS PLACE IN UT MARTIN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COMPETITION

High school students from across the region attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Modern Foreign Language High School Day during the spring semester. Students used their foreign language skills and cultural knowledge to compete in a variety of Spanish and French competitions, including cooking, poster and quiz bowl contests. Pictured left to right are Spanish poster contest winners Emily Fowler, Westview High School, third place; Hannah Carlisle and Myah Jennings, both from South Fulton High School, and Colby Brooks, Westview High School, who tied for second place; Katie Capua, Westview High School, first place; and Drs. Daniel Nappo and Anton Garcia-Fernandez, professor and assistant professor of Spanish at UT Martin, respectively. (Photo submitted)
Hill named principal percussionist with Paducah Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Julie Hill of Union City, professor of music and director of percussion studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will serve as principal percussionist with the Paducah (Ky.) Symphony Orchestra beginning with the 2016-17 concert season.

Dr. Hill, who began her career with UT Martin in 2005, will occupy the orchestra's Bill Ford seat, named for one of the symphony's benefactors.

"My role is to help facilitate great music by the percussion section as a whole so we can continue to support the symphony to the best of our abilities," she said. "I'll be responsible for assigning parts to each section member and for maintaining our percussion instruments."

Dr. Hill received a bachelor's degree in music education from UT Martin before earning a master's degree from Arizona State University and a doctorate from the University of Kentucky. She is currently a member of several ensemble groups, including the Caixa Trio and X4 Percussion Quartet, both of which have performed across the country and internationally.

The Paducah Symphony Orchestra is directed by maestro Raffaele Ponti, who was named a "rising star" by The Chicago Courier. He works with several orchestras across the country and continues to appear with prominent ensembles around the United States and Europe.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, June 15, 2016

UTM Kid College to be held in Paris, Parsons

Kid College will be offered June 20-24 at Paris Elementary School and June 27-30 at the UTM Parsons Center. Any child who will attend grades K-5 in the fall is invited to participate.

Hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM), Kid College is an interactive program that allows children and parents to choose from a variety of course topics. Each child may register for up to five courses.

At the Parsons location, courses offered to all age groups include "How to be a Superhero 101", which will focus on character traits such as kindness and teamwork; "Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Oh My!", which includes experiments and weather predictions; and "Theatre Games", which will teach students about acting and communication skills. A special class for kids in grades 3-5 will discuss topics such as peer pressure, goal setting, good decisions, and problem solving.

Paris courses for children in grades K-2 include Spanish, bowling, art, karate, space camp, storytelling, and wildlife. Topics for students in grades 3-5 include French, acting, superheroes, wildlife, ocean animals, and gardening.

Each location will hold an open house during the last day of the event. Parents, family, and friends are welcome to meet the teachers, view displays, and watch demonstrations during this time.

Students must be registered in advance and pay in full before their selected camp begins. Depending on location and number of courses taken, registration fees range from $30 to $130, which includes a camp T-shirt. Some courses may include additional supply fees that must be paid on the first day of camp.

For more information or to register, contact the UTM Kid College Program at 731-881-7082 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/kidcollege.php.

The Camden Chronicle, Camden, TN 38320, Thursday, June 16, 2016
University of Tennessee unveils new campus guns policy

The University of Tennessee Police Department is preparing for a concealed handgun law that will go into effect in two weeks. June 16, 2016.
Adam Tamburin, The Tennessean, WBIR 4 58 PM EST June 16, 2016

The University of Tennessee on Wednesday published new policies that outline when and where employees can carry guns on campus in anticipation of a new law that takes effect this summer.

The law, which will generally allow all full-time state college employees with handgun-carry permits to carry guns on campus, will take effect July 1. UT President Joe DiPietro sent a message Wednesday discussing how the university system would handle the change.

"I understand strong feelings exist regarding guns on campus and want to assure you of our unwavering commitment to the safety of our faculty, staff and students as we implement this change," DiPietro said in the message.

DiPietro and other college leaders across the state were staunchly opposed to the law as it made its way through the General Assembly earlier this year. Gov. Bill Haslam also expressed opposition to the legislation, although he allowed it to become law without his signature.

Throughout the legislative process, lawmakers did amend the law to reflect some input from colleges and law enforcement. For instance, employees who want to carry a gun, which needs to be concealed, on campus will need to notify the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the campus, and could not bring a weapon into a stadium or gymnasium during school-sponsored events or in meetings regarding discipline or tenure. The legislation also was amended to place liability on the permit holder, not the college, if there is an accidental discharge.

UT's policy goes into more detail regarding the rules surrounding the law's implementation.

The policy says, for instance, that full-time employees could not carry a gun on campus if they also are enrolled in a campus course, unless that course was taught entirely online. The policy also forbids employees from intentionally showing another person their gun, but it allows lenience for employees who accidentally show their gun to someone else.

The policy DiPietro announced Wednesday will apply to UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis. Leaders and law enforcement at each campus will discuss their individual approaches to parts of the policy in coming days, DiPietro said.
State Rep. Andy Holt, R-Dresden, who sponsored the law in the House, has said he believes the "important next step" is to allow students to go armed on campus as well.

"My intention is to eliminate all gun-free zones, whether it's the legislature or a college campus," Holt said earlier this year.
Darian Matheny (third from left), of Trezevant, is pictured with friends and family members (front row, from left) Jeff Matheny, Wendy Matheny, Hunter Lindberg, Tiffany Palmer, Elliot Palmer and (back row) Tanner Matheny at the Spring 2016 UT Martin Commencement.

Demetric Dunlap, of Camden, at the Spring 2016 UT Martin Commencement.

Anna Santaniello, of Medina, at the Spring 2016 UT Martin Commencement.
Brittany Maiden (second from left), of Camden, is pictured with friends and family members (front row, from left) Katelin Maiden, Michele Maiden, Jay Maiden Jr., (back row) Cody Hassell, Helena Nicholas, Tommy Nicholas, Jay Maiden Sr. and Lee Hassell at the Spring 2016 UT Martin Commencement.

Makaya Workman (center), of Savannah, is pictured with friends and family members (from left) Jerry Austin, Sherry Workman, David Workman, Rheda Tidwell and Cathy Workman at the Spring 2016 UT Martin Commencement.
Building a Firm Foundation

Grant & Sain, PLLC
Attorneys at Law
731-256-7477
www.grantandsain.com

Top Photo: Blake Sain (left) and Noble Grant formed the law firm Grant & Sain in March at 2821 N. Highland Ave. Their sign is seen above.
Grant & Sain law firm opens on North Highland

DAVID THOMAS  DGTOMAS@JACKSONSUN.COM

The goal Noble Grant set for himself while he was attending law school created a joint venture when he and Blake Sain opened Grant & Sain PLLC, at 2821 N. Highland Ave., in March.

“It was something I wanted to do,” Grant said. “It was my goal when I went to law school to open my own practice. Some have aspirations of working for a major law firm in a major city, but mine was to return to my roots and open my own law office.”

A native of Trenton, Grant earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee at Martin and his law degree from the Nashville School of Law.

Grant and Sain were roommates in law school until Grant married.

Originally from Bolivar, Sain graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 2009, after completing his education at the University of Mississippi.

Sain practiced for six years in his hometown with Denton & Cary Law Offices, before he bought into the idea of joining forces with Grant.

“I was living in Jackson,” Sain said. “My wife, Melessa, and I bought a home here in 2010. My drive to Bolivar was about 45 minutes each way, and with two small children, I wanted to use my time a little more wisely.”

Sain said the biggest challenge he and Grant faced came from the business side of starting their own law firm.

“I’ve been practicing law since 2009,” Sain said. “But now, you’re doing things you never think of before you open your own business. You set up the business, you hire a secretary ... make sure all the bills are paid.”

At Denton & Cary, Sain said he practiced in real estate law and probate work.

“I had very good mentors at Denton & Cary, who taught me how to practice law,” Sain said. “In the seven years I was in Bolivar, I built up a good real estate practice, and I still go once or twice a week for loan closings in Hardeman County.”

Sain, whose parents live in Bolivar, said making his home in Jackson meant he would be able to close in other areas.

“Since opening this law office, I’ve had closings in Crockett, Chester, Carroll and Gibson counties, so Jackson is more centrally located,” Sain said.

“It has created opportunities for closings in other counties. With an office on North Highland Avenue, a busy street with good exposure, and it’s easy to find us, being directly across from George A. Smith & Sons Funeral Home.”

Grant is no stranger to the Jackson area — his father Jim has owned Jackson Motor Company, at 2625 N. Highland Ave., since 1986.

A 2000 graduate of Peabody High School in Trenton, Grant completed requirements for a bachelor of science in business administration with a concentration in finance from UTM four years later.

But there was something about practicing law that kept pulling at Grant.

“Law was something that always interested me,” Grant said.

“At the undergraduate level, that is what I wanted to do.

“One day I got out of college, I went to work for Dad, and it was while I was working for him I applied for law school,” Grant said.

Grant enrolled at Nashville School of Law in August 2005, graduated in 2009, passed his bar exam, and in the fall of the same year, he received his license.

“It was a grueling process,” Grant said. “I started working for a law firm in Nashville, but my wife and I are both from West Tennessee, and we wanted to get back home to start a family.”

Now Grant and his wife, Beth, live in Medina with their two daughters.

“My practice areas are divorce and family law, criminal defense, and personal injury,” Grant said.

“I practiced at Crocker & Carter in Milan from 2010

See Law, Page 2B

Law

Continued from Page 7B
Grant said there has been significant change in child custody laws since he graduated.

"You have to stay current with those changes through continuing education and review appellate court opinions," Grant said. "It is extremely important to stay on top of those changes to best serve your clients. The custody statute has changed substantially since I've been practicing."

"The courts are now attempting to fashion a parenting schedule that maximizes each parent's participation in the child's life."

Grant said during a difficult time in clients' lives they need an experienced litigator to help secure the best future possible for themselves and their family.

Grant and Sain may be the new kids on the block, but you sense momentum is building.

"We were really busy our first few months ... busier than we thought we would be, and we're really pleased," Sain said. "Both of us have clients from our former firms. That's because we built good relationships at our past practices that have carried over."

Sain said he knew competition would be keen when he and Grant opened their firm.

"There are several firms that have real estate attorneys," Sain said. "It will take us a while to get our name out there, and when you get a closing, you make sure you do a good job, because word of mouth will help get the word out there."

Grant said he felt the time was right when he decided to approach Sain with the possibility of opening the new firm.

"I'm confident in my ability to practice law," Grant said. "Now I'm learning the business end of it as well."

Reach David Thomas at (731) 425-9637. Follow him on Twitter: @dgthomasbiz

About Grant & Sain PLLC

Grant & Sain PLLC, 2821 N. Highland Ave., opened in March. Law partners Noble Grant and Blake Sain have been practicing law since 2009. Grant, a graduate of the University of Tennessee Martin, is originally from Trenton, and Sain, a graduate of the University of Mississippi, is from Bolivar. For more information, call (731) 256-7477 or visit www.grantandsain.com

"I started working for a law firm in Nashville, but my wife and I are both from West Tennessee, and we wanted to get back home to start a family."

Noble Grant
Attorney
NASHVILLE — University of Tennessee system President Joe DiPietro is recommending the board of trustees this week approve the lowest increases in student tuition "in more than 30 years."

"Shout it from the mountaintop," DiPietro quipped. "As always, action by the UT Board of Trustees is required for fee or tuition increases and, therefore, nothing is official until after the board meets."

That will come Wednesday and Thursday when first a committee and later the full UT board votes on a plan to cap tuition increases to 2.2 percent in most cases for the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year budget.

The system includes the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Under the overall proposal, some students at UT-Martin will participate in a restructured fee program called "Soar in Four," designed to reduce the cost of obtaining an undergraduate degree by incentivizing completion in four years.

And undergraduates in UT-Knoxville's "Take 15, Graduate in 4" program who were admitted in 2013-2014 will see a 3 percent tuition increase. Previous increases for the group have been capped at lower-than-average levels in previous years, resulting in average annual increases of 2.2 percent over the last four years, according to UT.

The 2.2 percent cap, dubbed the "maintenance fee," applies to most in-state and out-of-state undergraduates with the exception of those who would be
included in Martin's "Soar in Four" program.

Some graduate programs are not increasing tuition. Others are proposing increases from 2.2 percent to 5 percent.

UT also says the majority of fees will not increase. For fees where an increase is proposed, the net increase at each campus will range from nothing up to 3 percent.

Regents this week are expected to take final action on a budget that holds the line at 3 percent tuition increases. For students at Chattanooga State and Cleveland State, the overall increase for tuition and fees is 2.6 percent.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission, which coordinates both systems, told UT and board officials to hold the collective impact of tuition increases to 3 percent.

That came after Gov. Bill Haslam this year recommended and state lawmakers this spring approved an additional $72.2 million for salaries and inflation for the UT and Tennessee Board of Regents systems.

It was the first time in years the systems got anywhere near the state support they sought.

House freshman Rep. Kevin Dunlap, D-Sparta, said, "We need to continue to work to make our colleges and universities affordable for students. If there is to be a tuition increase, the lowest the better."

Higher education officials have previously said the state's lack of support has spurred soaring tuition increases in recent decades.

Tennessee is hardly alone. Many states in recent years have cut funding or pared back additional support for higher education as states' costs in programs like Medicaid have exploded, with the problem growing after the Great Recession struck in 2008 and dealt a blow to states' revenues.

Over the last 20 years, Tennessee's percentage share of public higher education has plummeted, prompting colleges and universities to rely on tuition and fees to cover the difference.

A decade ago, the cost share was 50/50. Two decades ago, student tuition covered just 30 percent of higher ed's budget in Tennessee.

Today, students pay about two-thirds of the cost to attend colleges while the state kicks in a third, then-TBR Chancellor John Morgan said earlier this year.


State appropriations per full-time student enrolled at a four-year school fell 27 percent during that period, and revenue from student tuition and fees soared nearly 56 percent. Students' percentage share of education costs increased from 51 percent to 68.9 percent.

At two-year colleges, state funding per full-time student dropped 21.5 percent over that 10-year span, while tuition and fees jumped 45.3 percent. Students' share of costs rose from 43 percent to 58 percent, according to the THEC.

Earlier this year, Tennessee Senate Republicans pushed legislation that sought to limit tuition increases, with senators saying problems had nothing to do with their end and seeking to lay blame for tuition hikes on what they charged was an out-of-control higher education system.

Their bill included a provision that froze tuition rates for students at four-year institutions from their freshman years through their senior year four years later. The GOP-run House balked.
Residents receive scholarships to UT Martin

Jordan Nix jnix@covingtonleader.com  Jun 20, 2016

Several Tipton County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Rebeca Breckenridge, daughter of Ronnie and Debbie Breckenridge, of Brighton, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Drake Grimes, son of Mike and Rachelle Grimes, of Brighton, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

Mckayla Rose Honeycutt, daughter of Richard and Janna Honeycutt, of Covington, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
GEARING UP FOR CAR SHOW—UTM Students and Discovery Park of America Interns Courtney Plunk of Martin and Cayce Wainscott of Dresden are pictured stuffing goodie bags for the Second Annual Discovery Park Car Show set for Saturday. The car show will be open to the public beginning at 10 a.m. Admission to the Discovery Park grounds will be free, while tickets into Discovery Center will just be $10 for everyone that day. Anyone wanting to display an automobile can enter online at the park's website, by calling the park or by showing up at 8 the morning of the show. The awards ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 that afternoon.

UTM to open new center in Somerville for Fall 2017

Somerville City Administrator Bob Turner recalls when a possible higher education center in Fayette County was first discussed some 10 years ago. What has been a dream for Turner and others moved a step closer to reality Wednesday when elected officials, University of Tennessee representatives and others gathered in the main entrance of the former Methodist Fayette Hospital to celebrate state funding for the UT Martin Somerville Center. The center is projected to make the facility its new home in fall 2017 following extensive renovations.

The Tennessee General Assembly approved $250,000 in recurring funding for the center in the state's 2016-17 budget. Also approved was $875,000 in one-time funding to support the hospital facility's renovation. Gov. Bill Haslam was scheduled to attend the event and present a symbolic check from the state, but thunderstorms in the Nashville area prevented air travel to West Tennessee. Still, the celebration continued as those present saw many years of hard work and persistence finally result in a home for higher education in Somerville and Fayette County.

SEE UTM, PAGE 8
UTM,  
From Page 1

In an interview before the program began, Turner remembered that the possibility of a center coming to Fayette County gained new traction when he became Somerville’s mayor in 2011. It was then that he and current interim Mayor Ronnie Neill revived discussions about a possible higher education partner for the project, but little progress followed. Then in summer 2012, a meeting was held with UT and UT Martin officials, “and they just kind of changed our world at that point,” Turner said.

“They were going to bring in (the) UT Foundation to raise funds for this project and take a more active role in the whole thing, so we changed the whole idea to a UT Martin center,” he said. A new building for the center was initially proposed, but the project was cost-prohibitive. Methodist Fayette Hospital then closed in March 2015, and Fayette County officials suggested Methodist Healthcare give the facility to the town.

“They gave us $250,000 and this building and all the land that’s here (nine acres),” Turner said. “The town of Somerville owns this property.” The actual transfer occurred in July 2015.

Turner said the building will be occupied by several tenants, including UT Martin, which will use about 40 percent of the building, or approximately 21,000 square feet. One patient wing, which includes a commercial kitchen, will house UT Extension, while the second patient wing will be home to Fayette Literacy. About 20,000 square feet of vacant space will be allocated later.

Neill e-mailed the program and welcomed attendees who gathered in the hospital’s former physicians’ wing waiting area. He recognized local and out-of-town guests, including William Kenley, CEO, Methodist Le Bonheur Ger-

mantown. Neill thanked Methodist Healthcare for its significant contribution in making the center possible and was then followed by speakers who addressed the project’s significance and potential impact in the immediate area and region.

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, referenced statistics from the university’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. He noted that 449 students graduated from the high schools in Fayette and Hardeman counties in 2015. Of that total, 143 attended college, but only three percent of those stayed within 30 miles from home. “And when we finish this project, that won’t be true any longer,” Smith assured the audience.

“The reality is at the University of Tennessee, we forge great partnerships every day with somebody somewhere, and that makes us entirely different,” said Dr. Joe DiPietro, University of Tennessee president, who followed Smith on the program. “And we’re entirely different, too, because we’re connected with all parts of Tennessee, like your county extension office right here with Fayette County.”

DiPietro also referenced UT Martin’s experience operating off-campus centers and how these higher-education facilities are making a difference. “It’s a very impressive kind of relationship [centers and communities], because it allows people in some ways to say, ‘I can give it [college] a try because it’s right in my hometown,’ … and we think in this region UT Martin provides the finest secondary education you can receive.”

Sen. Dolores Gresham (R-Somerville), who chairs the Senate Education Committee and spearheaded the request for the governor’s support and the legislature’s recurring budget commitment to the project, was to introduce Gov. Haslam. She used the opportunity to highlight the governor’s Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect initiatives, “which are both game changers for youngsters who are graduating from our high schools and for non-traditional students, people who do have some college background but want to come back [to college],” she said. “These are highly unique opportunities in this country, and they [other states] are looking at us for leadership.”

Gresham joined others in thanking Methodist Healthcare for its role in making the UT Martin Somerville Center possible, which she said will provide a needed morale boost for future high school graduates. “When somebody graduates from a local high school, they know that they have options, and they’re not going to have to drive an hour or so to exercise those options, … they will get a good education right here at home,” Gresham said. “That is so significant to the youngsters today.”

UT Martin currently offers degree programs in social work, psychology and criminal justice in the area, with other programs projected to follow. Also available is the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, which is designed specifically to reach adults who are the focus of Tennessee Reconnect. The center will also have on-job skill training and meeting the immediate needs of existing and prospective employers.

As he considered what has been accomplished, Bob Turner pointed to examples of economic progress, such as the Memphis Regional Megasite to the north and the intermodal facility located 15 miles southwest of Somerville. People will now have the opportunity to attend college close to home, thanks to the UT Martin Somerville Center. “People have been looking forward to this (the center) for a long time,” Turner said, “I think it’s big deal.”

Kara Tapp was appointed Somerville Center director May 1. More information about the center is available at 901-465-7313.
UT could approve lowest tuition increase in 30 years

KNOXVILLE - University of Tennessee's system president has recommended the UT board of trustees approve the lowest increase in student tuition in more than three decades this week.

The official announcement on tuition increases will come following two days of meetings this week, during which a committee, then the UT trustee board, will vote on a plan to cap tuition increases at 2.2 percent in most cases for the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year budget on Thursday.

Tuition has more than doubled since the 2008-2009 school year. At that time, an incoming freshman from Tennessee paid about $5,500 dollars per year in tuition. If the new hike is approved, an incoming in-state freshman will pay nearly $12,500 a year.

President Joe DiPietro said he's "not proud of the fact" that in his first years as president, annual tuition hikes were between 8 and 12 percent. That's why he and other UT leaders got the ball rolling a few years ago to change that.

Raja Jubran, vice chairman of the Board of Trustees, said tuition hikes have become unsustainable for Tennessee families in the last three or four years.

"The increase used to be about 8 percent per year, so having a 3 percent increase last year and this year only 2.2 percent, we're extremely happy that we're making higher education more affordable," he said.

"If we can just keep state appropriations even, we need to keep tuition at no more than the rate of higher education inflation, which is 2.2 percent this year," said DiPietro.

But that doesn't mean future tuition increases won't happen.

"While we enjoyed relatively good appropriations this year from the state and we're grateful for that, when we try to keep salaries competitive and do what they do for other state employees, it really necessitates some sort of tuition increase that's at least very modest like this, to keep us able to move the place forward," said DiPietro.

The system includes the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Under the proposal, some students at UT-Martin will participate in a restructured finance program called "Soar in Four." The program is designed to reduce the cost of obtaining an undergraduate degree by incentivizing graduating in four years.

Undergraduates at UT-Knoxville who take part in the university's "Take 15, Graduate in 4" program and were admitted in the 2013-2014 school year will see a slightly higher increase at three percent. Previous increases for that group had been lower than average, resulting in an overall 2.2 percent average annual increase over the past four years, according to UT.

The 2.2 percent cap has been dubbed the "maintenance fee." It does apply to most in-state and out-of-state undergraduate students, with the exception of those included in the "Soar in Four" program.

UT also says most fees will not increase. Where fee increases are proposed, the net increase on each campus will range from 0 to 3 percent.

Regents this week are expected to take final action on a budget that holds at 3 percent tuition increases. Students at Chattanooga State and Cleveland State will see a 2.6 percent overall increase for tuition and fees.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission coordinates both systems. It told UT and board officials to hold collective impact of tuition increases to 3 percent.

That came after Governor Bill Haslam recommended and state lawmakers approved an additional $72.2 million for salaries and inflation for the UT and Tennessee Board of Regents systems.
WestStar Leadership graduation was held Tuesday at the DoubleTree Hotel. The featured speaker was UT Martin Interim Chancellor Robert Smith. Award presentations were made to alumni of the program by Charley Deal, executive director for WestStar. Diplomas were presented by Smith.

BEST OF THE BEST

WestStar program graduates a better class of leaders

MATTHEW JOHNSON
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On Tuesday, members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Program left the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson with a diploma and an arsenal of skills to help make West Tennessee a better place.

WestStar is sponsored by UT Martin and was established in 1990 with the mission to give community leaders of West Tennessee an opportunity to connect and share across counties. Each year, 30 to 35 outstanding leaders are chosen to participate in WestStar after selective consideration. The program now spans 21 counties, and 739 graduates have benefited from WestStar.

UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith co-founded WestStar in 1990 and directed the leadership program for 10 years. Smith says the program has fit its original vision throughout its 27 years and has also progressed in its mission.

"WestStar's plan is to unlock people's interests in taking ideas, learning from each other, and being excited to help the region," said Smith. "The difference now is its focus. Education is still the foundation, but it's now about advocacy. We've moved on from simply equipping See WestStar, Page 6A
leaders to encouraging action in the region."

Smith spoke on WestStar's unique ability to unite community figures, despite political differences. Despite being separated in political agendas, the alumni of WestStar are able to work across boundaries in order to benefit individual communities, as well as the network that is supported by the leadership program.

Charley Deal, current executive director of WestStar, presented graduates with their diplomas on May 17. He commented on the program's goal to help each leader collaborate in an effort to improve West Tennessee.

"The mission is to bring together community leaders from across the region and to have a discussion about needs and how to come together for the region," said Deal.

Deal described WestStar's ability to "take down borders" in regard to encouraging individual communities, counties and leaders to reach out to one another for the region. He explained the methodology of the program by describing different simulations class members undergo together. By taking on new perspectives, each member is able to consider community issues in a new light, and with new support by their side.

Through the eight seminars WestStar coordinates each year and the invaluable alumni network, participants have everything to gain.

Art Sparks celebrated his graduation from WestStar on Tuesday with the class of 2016. A prominent leader in Obion County, Sparks found the opportunities afforded by WestStar to have a positive impact on all participants.

"It's about meshing the leaderships of West Tennessee. Not only do we all want to serve our own local communities, but we also want to serve all of West Tennessee," said Sparks.

In all the benefits provided by WestStar, Sparks found the familial aspect of the program's graduates and alumni to be the most important.

"If I need help in certain areas, not only can people come help, but they'll be willing to come help. Each of us has our own strengths and weaknesses. If we pool our strengths to offset the weaknesses, the community will be better for it."

Sen. Mark Norris, Sen. Dolores Gresham and Interim Chancellor Robert Smith attend the Tuesday WestStar graduation.

GAIL BAILEY/THE JACKSON SUN
STAPLETON ATTENDS TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL: Aaron Stapleton, of Dyersburg, is participating in Governor's School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life. Stapleton is a student at Dyersburg High School.

Local students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Several Dyer County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Felisha Cordasco, of Dyersburg, daughter of Mary Underwood and Joe Henderson, will be a senior. She received the Ken Leeth Family Scholarship.
- Dawson Price, son of Bobby and Kelly Price, of Newbern, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Award.
- Ethan Stallings, of Ridgely, son of Charlotte Vaughn and Tim Stallings, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
University of Tennessee board to consider increase

NASHVILLE (AP) — The University of Tennessee board of trustees will vote on tuition increases that system President Joe DiPietro says are the lowest in decades.

"Shout it from the mountaintop," DiPietro said. "As always, action by the UT Board of Trustees is required for fee or tuition increases and, therefore, nothing is official until after the board meets."

The full UT board will vote today on a plan to cap tuition increases to 2.2 percent in most cases for the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year budget, the Times Free Press reported (http://bit.ly/28JAUyY).

The 2.2 percent cap, also called the "maintenance fee," applies to most in-state and out-of-state undergraduates. The change doesn't affect students in UT-Martin's "Soar in Four" program, which consists of restructured fees and is meant to incentivize completing college in four years. Undergraduates in UT-Knoxville's "Take 15, Graduate in 4" program who were admitted in 2013-2014 will see a 3 percent tuition increase.

The majority of fees also will not increase, UT officials said. For fees where an increase is proposed, the net increase at each campus will range from nothing up to 3 percent.

The low tuition increases may be attributed to state lawmakers approving $72.2 million for salaries and inflation for the UT and Tennessee Board of Regents systems.

"We need to continue to work to make our colleges and universities affordable for students. If there is to be a tuition increase, the lowest the better," Rep. Kevin Dunlap said.


FOR EDUCATION — Desarae Mitchell (center) of Union City was presented with the Obion County/Union City Retired Teachers Association's annual college scholarship during a recent meeting held at Sassafraz in Union City. She graduated from Union City High School and plans to enroll at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall, majoring in elementary education. She is the daughter of Rodney and Tabitha Mitchell of Union City. At the presentation, she was joined by her grandmother, Rita Mitchell (left), and Ann Cheatham from the OC/UC Retired Teachers Association. The group's scholarship is given each year to a senior from either UCHS, Obion County Central High School or South Fulton High School to help promote education as a profession and to give back to the community.
JOINS SKYHAWK RANKS — Kendall Speed (center) of Union City registered for her first college semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin during Summer Orientation and Registration recently. She joined fellow members of the incoming freshman class to learn about campus housing, student recreation, meal plans, financial aid and a host of other topics to help them transition to collegiate life. She was joined by her parents, Brian and Yonna Speed. UT Martin will host a final SOAR session July 15 and all incoming freshman are required to participate.

UT Martin had the lowest number of group A offenses as well, with only 78 incidents reported in 2015. Group A offenses are serious crimes not considered index crimes. This number is down from 87 reported in 2014.

“The university community should take a lot of pride in another low crime rate. The caliber of students and staff who attend and work here on campus is the main reason we have the lowest crime rate among four-year public universities,” said Scott Robbins, director, UT Martin Department of Public Safety.

The UT Martin main campus is patrolled 24 hours a day, and the campus community is consistently taught how to be security-minded in their daily activities. Freshmen attend special training sessions in their first year to instruct them on basic personal safety, property security and an awareness of current surroundings.

For more information, contact Robbins at 731-881-7775.
Local students receive scholarships to attend UTM

Several Decatur County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Rae Lynn Green, of Decaturville, daughter of Staci Lomax and Tim Green, will be a sophomore. She received the UTM Advantage Scholarship, the Estes Kefauver Scholarship and the Deans Year 2 Scholarship.
- Haley Michele Harris, of Darden, daughter of Teresa Harris and Michael Harris, will be a junior. She received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.
- Brooke Johnson, daughter of Tim and Joy Johnson, of Parsons, will be a senior. She received the Deal Family Nursing Scholarship.
- Ivey Watkins, of Decaturville, daughter of Jennifer Ivey Thaxton and John Watkins, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238.

UT Martin Parsons Center to host Robotics Camps

Children interested in robotics can attend the WeDo or NXT robotics camps at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center. Both camps will be held from 9-11 a.m., July 11-15.

WeDo Robotics Camp is for children ages 5-7. Campers will design, build and control motorized robots. They will also program the robot, add sensors to complete challenges and work in teams. Students must have completed kindergarten to participate.

Students ages 8-14 who are interested in building robots can attend NXT Robotics Camp. Campers will learn to program robots to perform actions such as dance, follow a line, and drive around the block and park. The camp uses LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software to help students build and program real-life robotic solutions.

The registration fee is $155 per student, which includes a camp T-shirt. Robotic kits will be provided for use during camp, and product information will be available for those who would like to purchase the equipment.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses/children/robotics.php.
UT Martin-Somerville Center Celebrates Support from Gov. Haslam & Tennessee Assembly

By: Bud Grimes

Somerville city administrator Bob Turner recalls when a possible higher education center in Fayette County was first discussed some 10 years ago. What has been a dream for Turner and others moved a step closer to reality June 15 when elected officials, University of Tennessee representatives, and others gathered in the main entrance of the former Methodist Fayette Hospital to celebrate state funding for the UT Martin Somerville Center. The center is projected to make the facility its new home in fall 2017 following extensive renovations.

The Tennessee Legislature approved $250,000 in recurring funding for the center in the state’s 2016-17 budget. Also approved was $875,000 in one-time funding to support the hospital facility’s renovation. Gov. Bill Haslam was scheduled to attend the event and present a symbolic check from the state, but thunderstorms in the Nashville area prevented air travel to West Tennessee. Still, the celebration continued as those present saw many years of hard work and persistence finally result in a home for higher education in Somerville and Fayette County.

In an interview before the program began, Turner remembered that the possibility of a center coming to Fayette County gained new traction when he became Somerville’s mayor in 2011. It was then that he and current interim Mayor Ronnie Neill revived discussions about a possible higher education partner for the project, but little progress followed. Then in summer 2012, a meeting was held with UT and UT Martin officials, “and they just kind of changed our world at that point,” Turner said.

“They were going to bring in (the) UT Foundation to raise funds for this project and take a more active role in the whole thing, so we changed the whole idea to a UT Martin center,” he said. A new building for the center was initially proposed, but the project was cost-prohibitive. Methodist Fayette Hospital then closed in March 2015, and Fayette County officials suggested Methodist Healthcare give the facility to the town.

“They gave us $250,000 and this building and all the land that’s here (nine acres),” Turner said. “The town of Somerville owns this property.” The actual transfer occurred in July 2015.

Turner said the building will be occupied by several tenants, including UT Martin, which will use about 40 percent of the building, or approximately 21,000 square feet. One patient wing, which includes a commercial kitchen, will house UT Extension, while the second patient wing will be home to Fayette Literacy. About 20,000 square feet of vacant space will be allocated later on.

Neill enceed the program and welcomed attendees who gathered in the hospital’s former physicians’ wing waiting area. He recognized local and out-of-town guests, including William Kenley, CEO, Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown. Neill thanked Methodist Healthcare for its significant contribution in making the center possible and was then followed by speakers who addressed the project’s, significance and potential impact in the immediate area and region.

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, referenced statistics from the university’s Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. He noted that 449 students graduated
INNOVATION AND LEARNING - Several area high school students placed in competitions during Skyhawk STEM Camp June 6-10, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. This camp stresses the importance of science and engineering while encouraging rising ninth- and 10th-grade students to use problem solving and critical thinking skills. Pictured are solar car competition winners (from left) Conner Sanford, of Ashland City, third place; Emily Grace Bell and Emily Ray, both of Martin, second-place team; and Sarah Foltz, of Martin, Lily Shannon, of Gleason, and Zakaria Adams, of Milan, first-place team. Sanford also took second place in the boomilever competition and third place for earthquake tower construction, while Bell and Ray took third place in the boomilever competition. Foltz, Shannon and Adams also worked together to win first place in the earthquake tower competition. Adams and Shannon later placed in the model rocket launch, receiving second and third place, respectively.

SKYHAWK STEM CAMP - Several area high school students placed in competitions during Skyhawk STEM Camp June 6-10, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. This camp stresses the importance of science and engineering while encouraging rising ninth- and 10th-grade students to use problem solving and critical thinking skills. Pictured are (from left) Melodi Clayton and Kendal Penick, both of Martin, who worked together to win first place in the boomilever competition. They also took second place as a team for earthquake tower construction, and Penick won first place in the model rocket launch.
from the high schools in Fayette and Hardeman counties in 2015. Of that total, 143 attended college, but only three percent of those stayed within 30 miles from home. "And when we finish this project, that won't be true any longer," Smith assured the audience.

"The reality is at the University of Tennessee, we forge great partnerships every day with somebody somewhere, and that makes us entirely different," said Dr. Joe DiPietro, University of Tennessee president, who followed Smith on the program.

"And we're entirely different, too, because we're connected with all parts of Tennessee, like your county extension office right here with Fayette County."

DiPietro also referenced UT Martin's experience operating off-campus centers and how these higher-education facilities are making a difference. "It's a very impressive kind of relationship (centers and communities), because it allows people in some ways to say, I can give it (college) a try because it's right in my hometown,'...and we think in this region UT Martin provides the finest secondary education you can receive."

Sen. Dolores Gresham (R-Somerville), who chairs the Senate Education Committee and spearheaded the request for the governor's support and the legislature's recurring budget commitment to the project, was to introduce Gov. Haslam. She used the opportunity to highlight the governor's Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect initiatives, "which are both game changers for youngsters who are graduating from our high schools and for non-traditional students, people who do have some college background but want to come back (to college)," she said. "These are highly unique opportunities in this country, and they (other states) are looking at us for leadership."

Gresham joined others in thanking Methodist Healthcare for its role in making the UT Martin Somerville Center possible, which she said will provide a needed morale boost for future high school graduates. "When somebody graduates from a local high school, they know that they have options, and they're not going to have to drive an hour or so to exercise those options...they will get a good education right here at home," Gresham said. "That is so significant to the youngsters today."

The board of trustees also announced Thursday that in-state tuition will increase no more than 2.2 percent for most undergraduates system wide. The Associated Press reported Thursday that net increases range from 0 to 3 percent, depending on the campus. The board said the increases are the lowest in 30 years.

The AP said a $2.2 billion budget was approved by the trustees at a quarterly meeting in Knoxville.

For more on UT Martin's new tuition schedule, click here.

UT Martin currently offers degree programs in social work, psychology and criminology, in the area, with other programs projected to follow. Also available is the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, which is designed specifically to reach adults who are the focus of Tennessee Reconnect. The center will also concentrate on job-skills training and meeting the immediate needs of existing and prospective employers.

As he considered what has been accomplished, Bob Turner pointed to examples of economic progress, such as the Memphis Regional Mega-site to the north and the inter-modal facility located 15 miles southwest of Somerville. People will now have the opportunity to attend college close to home, thanks to the UT Martin Somerville Center. "People have been looking forward to this (the center) for a long time," Turner said. "I think it's a big deal."

Kara Tapp was appointed Somerville Center director May 1. More information about the center is available at 901-465-7313.

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/
Riggins joins Skyhawk women’s indoor and outdoor track staff

Sports Information

University of Tennessee at Martin head cross country/track coach Peter Dalton has announced the addition of Kelsey Riggins to the staff as a graduate assistant. Riggins joins the Skyhawk women’s indoor and outdoor track staff with an emphasis in guiding the sprints, jumps and relay squad.

“We are extremely excited to welcome Kelsey to the staff,” said Dalton. “She brings an outstanding record of success to our staff. We are committed to taking this opportunity to compete during the indoor and outdoor track season. I believe Kelsey possesses the (skills) to advance the traditions being built here.”

Riggins joins the Skyhawks after spending one year as head coach of Waldorf University’s cross country and track and field programs after serving as associate head coach for both sports during the 2014-15 academic year. Taking over as head coach in April 2015, during Waldorf’s first-ever outdoor season, Riggins helped 11 athletes establish school records in 17 events.

She coached three Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference (MCAC) champions in the men’s 110-meter hurdles, men’s 400 hurdles and women’s 100 hurdles. She also coached the Warriors to four MCAC runner-up finishes in the women’s long jump, women’s 100-meter dash, women’s 400 hurdles and men’s 5,000. Waldorf’s 2015 women’s team earned Scholar-Team honors from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and four members of the track teams were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

The Waldorf men’s track and field team claimed fourth place in the 2015-16 NSAA Indoor Championships while the women’s team secured fifth. The team boasted five all-conference performances by the men’s team which won the conference title in the 4x800 relay. The women’s team delivered two all-conference performances.

During the 2016 outdoor season, Waldorf’s men battled to fourth in the NSAA Outdoor Championships, which were hosted by Waldorf at Beebe Track. The Warrior women placed fifth. Six all-conference performances were recorded by the men’s team while the women put together four all-conference finishes. Waldorf’s women’s team had the triple jump champion, which set a new meet record and outdoor school record in the event.

During the 2015 cross country season, Riggins and her staff guided the Warrior men’s team to a runner-up finish in the North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) Championships. Waldorf produced two national qualifiers for the first time in program history, marking the first time the Warriors have been represented at nationals since 2012.

“I am very grateful for this opportunity and am honored to become part of the Skyhawks XC and Track & Field family,” said Riggins. “Helping to get the women’s track program up and running while taking part in the continued success of the men’s and women’s cross country program is a privilege. I am looking forward to getting started.”

Starting her coaching career in 2008 at Park Center (MN) High School in Brooklyn Park, Minn., Riggins coached student-athletes in the pole vault, sprint and other jumping events.

While at Park Center, Riggins helped the girls’ 4x400 and boys’ 4x100 relay teams set new school records. She coached the 2014 District 279 champion and the Northwest Suburban Conference (NWSC) runner-up in the boys’ pole vault. Riggins coached state qualifiers in the girls 100-, 200 and 400-meter dashes, as well as the boys’ triple jump, 200, 4x100 relay and the 4x200 relay.

As a student-athlete at Minnesota, Riggins continued her track career with the Golden Gophers and was a member of the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Big Ten Conference championship teams. She was named a Scholar Athlete during the 2005, 2006 and 2007 seasons.
MARTIN, TN - A new "Soar in Four" tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for the University of Tennessee at Martin on Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees.

The new model encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. It will also fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including a completely revamped and upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

The tuition model is supported by UT Martin's Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds. Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.

Completing college in four years offers financial benefits for students. The fifth year in college and beyond results in the typical student adding $8,735 in debt. The student's average annual cost to attend is $22,058, so graduating in four years will result in significant savings.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UT Martin students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a $3,840 flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model. UT Martin does not charge for enrolled hours above 12, which is the threshold for full-time students for financial aid, tuition and fee purposes.

Mandatory fees at the university will not increase this academic year. Additionally, the university is reducing the overall residential housing rates and increasing private scholarship assistance.

Students enrolled for online courses will pay more for courses in 2016-17. The undergraduate online course fee increased 2.2 percent for in-state and out-of-state domestic students, while graduate online course fees increased 3 percent.

The new tuition schedule is available at https://www.utm.edu/departments/bursar/tuition.php.

For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, a final Summer Orientation and Registration session is set July 15, followed by the final Transfer Orientation and Registration session for transfer students on July 22, both at the main campus. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 22.
A new “Soar in Four” tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for UT Martin Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees.

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For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, a final Summer Orientation and Registration session is set July 15, followed by the final Transfer Orientation and Registration session for transfer students on July 22, both at the main campus.

Fall semester classes begin August 22.

(UT Martin Office of Public Relations)
Benton County student receives UTM scholarship

Caitlyn Bishop, daughter of John Bishop, of Camden, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin. A 2016 graduate of CHS, Bishop will be a freshman in the fall.

Bishop received the Dean's Scholarship, which provides recipients with $2,000 per year for up to four years. The academic criteria used to award this scholarship are based on a combination of ACT score and high school GPA. Recipients of this scholarship have an average ACT of 26 and GPA 3.85. To maintain eligibility for the Dean's scholarship, students must earn an annual GPA of 3.0, attend UTM full time, and complete required courses in their field of study.

UTM Parsons offers Robotics Camps for kids

Children interested in robotics can attend the WeDo or NXT robotics camps at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center. Both camps will be held July 11-15 from 9-11 a.m.

WeDo Robotics Camp is for children ages 5-7. Campers will design, build, and control motorized robots. They will also program the robot, add sensors to complete challenges, and work in teams. Students must have completed kindergarten to participate.

Kids ages 8-14 who are interested in building robots can attend the NXT Robotics Camp. The camp uses LEGO Mindstorms Education NXT Software to help students build and program real-life robotic solutions. Campers will learn to program robots to perform actions such as dance, follow a line, and drive around the block and park.

The registration fee for either camp is $155 per student, which includes a camp T-shirt. Robotic kits will be provided for use during camp, and product information will be available for those who would like to purchase the equipment.

For more information or to register, contact UTM at 731-881-7082 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/ecs/courses/children/robotics.php.
UT Martin prepares for guns on campus law to take effect

June 24, 2016 by Mallory Cooke

MARTIN, Tenn. — One week from Friday some employees will legally be able to carry guns on campuses at Tennessee's public colleges and universities.

Starting July 1 some full-time faculty and staff at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be able to carry guns on campus. "They will be required to show their valid handgun carry permit," UT Martin Director of Public Safety Scott Robbins said.

Robbins said employees wanting to carry a gun must first register with his office. "It's a quick process," he said. "Should take less than five minutes."

There are restrictions. Robbins said guns are not allowed on certain parts of campus. "The two places where you can never carry on campus will be the childcare center and the student health center," he said.

The university said guns are also off limits at gyms, stadiums, and meetings involving disciplinary issues or tenure.

"I don't ever even want to imagine myself put in that situation, but at least I know my teachers are ready for that situation," Joe Nelson, a senior, said.

Nelson said he feels safer knowing faculty and staff will be armed. "There's more crime coming up," he said. "It's not like the old days where things were just calm."

Robbins said carriers will remain confidential. "The only people that'll know who's carrying will be the law enforcement officers on campus," he said.

Robbins said violators could end up in trouble with the law and the university.

Jackson State Community College released this statement Friday:

"The administration of Jackson State Community College has been working through the development of policies that will guide the implementation of the new concealed weapons legislation on the JSCC campus. The policy was approved by TBR earlier today and is in full compliance with the law. The policy will be distributed to the campus and be made public beginning Monday, June 27. Full-time faculty and staff that are eligible to register for the concealed weapon privilege will be able to do so beginning July 1 when the law goes into effect. It is the hope of administration that the implementation of this new law will add to the safety and security of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors of the JSCC campuses."

The University of Memphis said it plans to release more information Monday.
Local students attend Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities

(From left) Ryan Ammenheuser and Caitlin Glover, both of Lebanon, and Elizabeth Hinton, of Mt. Juliet, participate in Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin in June. The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life. Ammenheuser is a student at Wilson Central High School; Glover attends Lebanon High School; and Hinton is enrolled at Mt. Juliet High School. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.

UT Martin model encourages students to graduate in four years or less

Jordan Nix jnix@covingtonleader.com  Jun 25, 2016

A new “Soar in Four” tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for the University of Tennessee at Martin on Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees. The new model encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The new model will also fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including a completely revamped and upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

The tuition model is supported by UT Martin’s Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds. Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.
Completing college in four years offers financial benefits for students. The fifth year in college and beyond results in the typical student adding $8,735 in debt. The student’s average annual cost to attend is $22,058, so graduating in four years will result in significant savings.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UT Martin students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a $3,840 flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model. UT Martin does not charge for enrolled hours above 12, which is the threshold for full-time students for financial aid, tuition and fee purposes.

Mandatory fees at the university will not increase this academic year. Additionally, the university is reducing the overall residential housing rates and increasing private scholarship assistance.

Students enrolled for online courses will pay more for courses in 2016-17. The undergraduate online course fee increased 2.2 percent for in-state and out-of-state domestic students, while graduate online course fees increased 3 percent.

The new tuition schedule is available at https://www.utm.edu/departments/bursar/tuition.php.

For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, a final Summer Orientation and Registration session is set July 15, followed by the final Transfer Orientation and Registration session for transfer students on July 22, both at the main campus. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 22.
Martin, nation mourn the loss of Pat Head Summitt

WE BACK PAT — Martin, as well as the rest of the nation, is mourning the loss of Pat Head Summitt, who passed away early this morning after battling dementia. She was 64. Pat Head Summitt played at UT Martin from 1970-74 and went on to coach the Lady Vols for 38 seasons, earning eight national championships and nearly 1,100 wins, making her the winningest coach in both men’s and women’s NCAA Division I basketball. Summitt uplifted the women’s game from obscurity to national prominence during her career at Tennessee. Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement this morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most. "Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, Alzheimer’s Type, and she did so with braving fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it’s incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease." (See related coverage, Page 9)

Photo by University Relations

REMEMBERING PAT — Pat Head Summitt, who turned 64 earlier this month, passed away early this morning after battling early onset dementia since 2011. Summitt played women’s basketball at UT Martin from 1970-74 before she began her coaching career at Tennessee at the age of 22. She coached the Lady Vols for 38 seasons before retiring in 2012. Here she is seen during Homecoming in 2012 when a statue in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center was dedicated to her, her former coach Nadine Gearn and former women’s athletic director Bettye Gilles (right). This was the last time she was on the campus at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Summitt won nearly 1,100 games at Tennessee, making her the winningest coach in both men’s and women’s NCAA Division I basketball history.

Photo by University Relations
Pat Head Summit passes away at age 64

Sports Information

Pat Head Summit, whose legendary collegiate coaching path was molded after a trailblazing playing career at the University of Tennessee at Martin, passed away this morning in Knoxville.

Summitt, who celebrated her 64th birthday earlier this month, was diagnosed with early onset dementia in 2011 and had fought a courageous battle against the disease over the last five years.

“It is truly a sad day for UT Martin and for the women’s basketball community,” said Skyhawk interim athletics director Kevin McMillan, who has also served as the school’s head women’s basketball coach since 2009. “Through the years, I developed a friendship with Coach Summitt that I valued very much. She always knew what was going on at UT Martin and she loved her alma mater. Her impact here – and on women’s basketball – is immeasurable.”

Summitt played basketball at UT Martin for head coach Nadine Gearin from 1970-74.

She led the then-Lady Pacers to a combined 64-30 record, two AIAW district tournament championships, one AIAW Tennessee state tournament title, one AIAW regional championship and an appearance in the 1972 AIAW national tournament.

A native of Ashland City, Tenn., Summitt left UT Martin as the program’s all-time leading scorer with 1,405 points. Despite the fact that she was limited to just seven games during her senior season, she still ranks in the top-10 of five different single-season or career record categories.

Summitt was co-captain of the USA National team in 1976, earning a silver medal in the Olympics. Taking over as head coach in time for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, she guided Team USA to its first-ever gold medal in the sport of women’s basketball.

Literally months after Summitt graduated from UT Martin with a degree in physical education, she took over as head women’s basketball coaching at the University of Tennessee in 1974.

It was there where she established herself as one of the best coaches in the history of basketball.

Over 38 seasons, Summitt posted a 1,098-208 record for an .840 winning percentage. Her 1,098 victories are the most for any coach in Division-I basketball history, currently 55 more than Duke head men’s basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski.

She helped guide the Lady Volunteers to eight NCAA national championships and a total of 32 Southeastern Conference tournament and regular season titles. In addition, Summitt compiled a 100 percent graduation rate for all Lady Vols who exhausted their eligibility at Tennessee.

In 2009, the Sporting News named Summitt the 11th greatest coach of all-time in any sport, as she was the only female to appear on their top-50 list. In 1999, she was inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame and she followed that with an inclusion into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000. Her 112 NCAA Tournament wins and 18 NCAA Final Four appearances are still the most in college basketball history.

Fittingly, one of Summitt’s final games as head coach of the Lady Vols was against UT Martin in the 2012 NCAA Tournament. In April of that year, she was assigned the permanent title of head coach emeritus at Tennessee before receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama – the country’s highest civilian award.

Summitt and her son Tyler formed the Pat Summit Foundation Fund in November 2011, three months after she announced her diagnosis of early onset dementia. Soon thereafter, a “We Back Pat” campaign swept the nation and has helped raise awareness to cure dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

“Pat Summit’s legacy as one of the greatest basketball coaches of all time is assured,” UT Martin interim chancellor Dr. Robert M. Smith said. “More important-ly for her friends at UT Martin is how she pioneered the path for female student-athletes and assured them opportunities they enjoy today in sports and in life. There will be those who might imitate but none will emulate what she accomplished.

“We honor the memory of our friend, UT Martin graduate and women’s basketball legend.”

Summitt’s legacy will live on at UT Martin for years to come, as she was a charter member of the school’s Hall of Fame in 1983.

A statue of herself, her former coach Gearin and her former women’s athletics director Bettye Giles was unveiled on campus during Homecoming weekend in 2012.

Her retired No. 55 jersey hangs in the rafters of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, overseeing where both Skyhawk basketball teams play on Pat Head Summitt Court.

In 1997, a street on the south end of the UT Martin campus was officially named Pat Head Summit Drive. In 2014, the UT Board of Trustees also approved the name of the “Pat Head Summitt Chi Omega House”, which is slated to open in the near future.
Leadership Class graduation ceremony held in Jackson

Members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class graduated last week in an event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A 5:30 p.m. reception was followed by dinner and the graduation ceremony. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program. Members of the 2016 WestStar graduating class are (back row, from left) Joseph Crone, Memphis; Dr. Brock Marvin, Huntington; John Griggs, Milan; Mayor Justin Hansen, Covington; Greg Dozier, Rives; Joel Howard, Covington; Mayor Maurice Gaines Jr., Ripley; Mayor Chris Young, Trimble; Errie Kellum, Jackson; Mayor John Holden, Dyersburg;Whitney, Savannah; Ron Gant, Rossville; Michael Overby, Jackson; Bobby Williams, Rossville; Art Sparks Jr., Union City; Brooks McDonald, Bartlett; Ross Mitchell, Selmer; Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, Martin; Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, Martin; and Mayor Carlton Gerrall, Paris. (front row) Carrie Ann Knox, Jackson; Jennifer Travis, Lexington; Kelly Codega, Memphis; Donna Craig, Paris; Elizabeth Precheur, Martin; Beth Farnell, Jackson; Achara Jarrett, Brownsville; Mary Ann Sharpe, Brownsville; Shelly Matthews, Henderson; and Shawn Francisco, Dresden.

Members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class graduated last week in an event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. A 5:30 p.m. 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 27th class and brings the total to 769 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990. The 2016 class included 30 participants 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 leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. Participants are chosen from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement.

Among those attending the event was UT Martin interim Chancellor Bob Smith, a WestStar co-founder and former executive director for the program, who thanked the 2016 class for their commitment to improving West Tennessee. Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and WestStar executive director, presided over the event. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, offered a “year in review” of WestStar activities and presented graduation plaques along with the program’s board of trustees.

Deal also announced several WestStar awards, including the program’s two major recognitions:

C.P. Boyd Leadership Award - Carrie Ann Knox, of Jackson. Kirkland Cancer Center. The award, named for Haywood County community leader and educator C.P. Boyd, is the person selected by the class who best reflects compassion and leadership for West Tennessee.

Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award – James Ross, of Jackson, WestStar Class of 2004, interim president and CEO, West Tennessee Healthcare. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, 1990 WestStar graduate, founding trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration.

Selection criteria include a WestStar graduate who has had a positive impact in the recipient’s city or county during the past five years and a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee.
STUDENTS AIM HIGH – The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first-ever Skyhawk Engineering Camp on June 13-17. Students in grades 7-10 learned to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams. Pictured are students who placed in the overall assessment category: (from left) James Nail of Sharon, second place; Zakaria Adams of Milan, first place; and Caleb Snyder of Scotts Hill, and Caleb Collins of Fulton, Ky., third-place tie.

LOCAL WINS AWARD – (from left) Carson Brigance of Martin, Joshua Watson of Paris and Amy Kang of Martin took first, second and third places respectively in the coding competition during Skyhawk Engineering Camp on June 13-17. The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted this camp for the first time this year. Students in grades 7-10 learned to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams.
ENGINEERING CAMP – The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first-ever Skyhawk Engineering Camp on June 13-17. Students in grades 7-10 learned to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams. Pictured are (back row, from left) Peyton Stratton of Jackson, Tyler Molands of Union City, James Nail of Sharon and Caleb Collins of Fulton, Ky., whose team took first place in the ping pong ball retrieval competition and third place in the robotic maze race. In the middle row (from left) are Skyler Davis of Halls, Jonathan Morris of South Fulton, Joshua Walker of Fulton, Ky., and Parker Maxey of Dresden, who won second in both competitions. Also pictured are (front row) Caleb Snyder of Scotts Hill, Grant McGehee of Sharon, Jackson Horton of Martin and Carson Brigance of Martin, who won third place for number of ping pong balls retrieved by their robot and first place for navigating their robot through a maze.

Remembering Pat Summitt: A UT Martin Pioneer

Published: Tuesday, June 28th, 2016, 10:05 am CDT
Updated: Tuesday, June 28th, 2016, 10:05 am CDT
Written by Alycia Dobrinick, Digital Content Executive Producer

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - Legendary coach Pat Summitt passed away this morning in Knoxville.

Summitt was a native of Ashland City, Tenn. and attended the University of Tennessee Martin from 1970-1974.

"It is truly a sad day for UT Martin and for the women's basketball community," said Skyhawk Interim athletics director Kevin McMillian, who has also served as the school’s head women's basketball coach since 2009. "Through the years, I developed a friendship with Coach Summitt that I valued very much. She always knew what was going on at UT Martin and she loved her alma mater. Her impact here – and on women's basketball – is immeasurable."

She celebrated her 64th birthday this month. Summitt was diagnosed with early onset dementia in 2011.

According to UT Martin, Summitt left the school as the program's all-time leading scorer with 1,405 points.

Just months after earning her degree at UT Martin, she took over as the head women’s basketball coach at the University of Tennessee. She went on to become one of the best coaches in the history of the game.

Summitt was the co-captain of the USA National team in 1976 and earned a silver medal in the Olympics.

She took over as head coach of the team for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles and guided the team to its first-ever gold medal in women's basketball.

Summitt and her son, Tyler, formed the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund in November 2011, three months after she announced her diagnosis of early onset dementia.

"Pat Summitt's legacy as one of the greatest basketball coaches of all time is assured," UT Martin interim chancellor Dr. Robert M. Smith said. "More importantly for her friends at UT Martin is how she pioneered the path for female student-athletes and assured them opportunities they enjoy today in sports and in life. There will be those who might imitate but none will emulate what she accomplished. We honor the memory of our friend, UT Martin graduate and women's basketball legend."
Pat Summit, Legendary Women's Basketball Coach, Dies at 64

Pat Summit, Legendary Women's Basketball Coach, Dies at 64

by CASSANDRA VINOGRAD

Legendary women's basketball coach Pat Summit has died. She was 64.

Summitt's son Tyler said his mother died "peacefully" Tuesday morning, surrounded by "those who loved her most," in Knoxville, Tennessee.

He said she had been battling her "toughest opponent" — early onset dementia.

"She did so with bravely fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summit said in a statement.

"Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

Summitt served as head coach of women's basketball at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville for 38 seasons. She was recognized as the "winningest basketball coach in NCAA history" for both men's and women's Division I teams.

The University of Tennessee paid tribute to Summit's "relentless pursuit of excellence" and lasting legacy: eight national championships, a 100 percent graduation rate and 1,098 total wins.

"Pat's legend transcends numbers," the university said. "It transcends sport, gender and all things quantitative."

Following Summit's announcement in August 2011 that she had been diagnosed with early-onset dementia, the coaching icon set up a foundation aimed at advancing a cure for the disease.

"I thought I would be remembered for winning basketball games, but I hope I'm remembered for making a difference in this disease," she once said, according to The Pat Summit Foundation.

The foundation expressed "deep sorrow" over Summit's passing and pledged to continue her mission in hopes of finding a cure.
"There are not many icons that you come in contact with in your lifetime and we all were fortunate to know one, Pat Summitt," it said in a statement. "Her work ethic, her dedication to the young women she coached, and her integrity in everything she did will never be equalled.

"She set the standard for excellence in academics, athletics and life. She was a role model and an inspiration and we are all enriched for having known her."

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker said Summitt's impact on her players, the university and game of basketball will be felt for years to come. "Basketball has lost a legend, and Tennessee has lost one of its most beloved daughters," Corker said in a statement.

Holly Warlick, who stepped in as head coach of the Lady Vols following Summitt's retirement, said: "My heart is broken."

Patricia Sue Head Summitt was born on June 14, 1952 in Clarksville, Tennessee—the fourth of five children on her family's farm. After high school, she attended the University of Tennessee—Martin, where she led the women's basketball team to two national championship tournaments before graduating in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in physical education.

She accepted a position as head coach of women's basketball at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville shortly after graduating, at the age of 22.

Beyond her tenure at UT-Knoxville, Summitt was co-captain of the U.S. women's team and earned a silver medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. As head coach she later led the 1984 U.S. Women's Olympic Team to a gold medal in Los Angeles.

In addition to her son Tyler, Summitt is survived by her mother, sister, three brothers and three sisters-in-law.

Summitt's UTM family reflects on her legacy

MARTIN, TN: "Somebody will beat 1,098 wins one of these days," former UT Martin women's athletics director Bettye Giles said. "But the people that associate with them will always remember most [what] I call life lessons."

Numbers will measure Pat Summitt for her eight championships, but those that know her will measure her legacy by what she did outside the lines.

"I'm not sure anybody can uphold the integrity, humbleness, and the character and coaching of any sport," former teammate Jan Godwin said.

And no matter the coach or the sport she'll always be with elite company.

"She is comparable to John Wooden as far as coaching stature goes," Godwin said. However, you'd never know if Summitt wasn't wearing orange.

"She was Pat no matter where she went. She wasn't someone who was above being successful. She was just the same wherever you saw her," Godwin said.

Video Courtesy: UTM Athletics, Associated Press
Legendary Coach Pat Summit Dead at 64

Former UTM Standout Remembered

JUNE 28 — Following a courageous battle with Alzheimer’s, former Tennessee Lady Volunteer coaching legend Pat Summit, surrounded by family, died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living early this morning in Knoxville.

Born June 14, 1952, in Henrietta, Tennessee, Summit graduated from Cheatham County Central High School just west of Nashville.

She played college basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her bachelor’s degree in physical education. She was the co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal.

After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left. Her collegiate coaching career was spent exclusively at Tennessee.


Her career record of 1,098-208 in 38 seasons included 18 NCAA Final Four appearances.

After announcing in 2011 that she had been diagnosed with early onset dementia, Summit coached one more year before retiring.

During an interview with The McKenzie Banner, former Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School basketball coach Buddy Smothers commented about his former UTM classmate and friend.

He said, “The first time I met Pat at UTM was in the classroom. We were both freshmen at UTM in 1970, majoring in Physical Education. She was a big old, raw country girl, not polished like she was later on. She was easy to talk to and fun to be around. She talked to everyone, and blended in very well on campus.”

He continued, “Pat learned how to play basketball by competing with her three brothers in a basketball gym built in a barn at their home. Her three brothers signed scholarships and played for Austin Peay. Pat came to UTM and played without a scholarship because the school did not offer them to the girls basketball players at that time. She never forgot UTM. She made sure that UTM’s statue honoring her was dedicated before any statutes were dedicated to her at UT-Knoxville.”

In 2008, Buddy, accompanied by his wife, Joyce, attended a Lady Vols basketball game against Alabama and were guests at a team practice the next day.

He said, “Pat would come over and speak with us during the practice session. She was tough on the court and very demanding, but genuine and kind off the court. We don’t have enough good people in the world like Pat. She planned to get a high school coaching job after graduating from UTM, but Coach Betty Giles pushed her to do more. When she took over as head coach for the Lady Vols at the age of 22, Pat changed women’s college basketball forever. As they say, ‘the rest is history.’ We all knew she was special at UTM, but none of us had any idea of what she would become. I’m so proud of her.”

He concluded, “Pat always said, ‘Never forget where you came from.’ She never forgot.”

LEGENDARY WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH PAT SUMMIT DIES

KNOXVILLE, Tenn (WPVI) -- Pat Summit, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history who uplifted the women's game from obscurity to national prominence during her 38-year career at Tennessee, died Tuesday morning. She was 64.

With an icy glare on the sidelines, Summit led the Lady Vols to eight national championships and prominence on a campus steeped in the traditions of the football-rich south until she retired in 2012.
Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.

"Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, 'Alzheimer's Type,' and she did so with bravely fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

The Pat Summitt Foundation also made an announcement Tuesday morning on its Twitter account.


She announced in 2011 at age 59 that she'd been diagnosed with early onset dementia. She coached one more season before stepping down. At her retirement, Summitt's eight national titles ranked behind the 10 won by former UGA men's coach John Wooden. UConn coach Geno Auriemma passed her after she retired.

When she stepped down, Summitt called her coaching career a "great ride."

Summitt was a tough taskmaster with a frosty glower that could strike the fear of failure in her players. She punished one team that stayed up partying before an early morning practice by running them until they vomited. She even placed garbage cans in the gym so they'd have somewhere to be sick.

Nevertheless, she enjoyed such an intimate relationship with her players that they called her "Pat."

Known for her boundless energy, Summitt set her clocks ahead a few minutes to stay on schedule.

"The lady does not slow down, ever," one of her players, Kellie Jolly, said in 1998. "If you can ever catch her sitting down doing nothing, you are one special person."

Summitt never had a losing record and her teams made the NCAA Tournament every season. She began her coaching career at Tennessee in the 1974-75 season, when her team finished 16-8.

With a 75-54 victory against Purdue on March 22, 2005, she earned her 880th victory, moving past North Carolina's Dean Smith as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history. She earned her 1,000th career win with a 73-43 victory against Georgia on Feb. 5, 2009.

Summitt won 16 Southeastern Conference regular season titles, as well as 16 conference tournament titles. She was an eight-time SEC coach of the year and 12-time All-America coach of the year. She also coached the U.S. women's Olympic team to the 1984 gold medal.
Summitt's greatest adversary on the court was Auriemma. The two teams played 22 times from 1995-2007. Summitt ended the series after the 2007 season.

"Pat's vision for the game of women's basketball and her relentless drive pushed the game to a new level and made it possible for the rest of us to accomplish what we did," Auriemma said at the time of her retirement.

In 1999, Summitt was inducted as part of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. She made the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame a year later. In 2013, she also was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Summitt was such a competitor that she refused to let a pilot land in Virginia when she went into labor while on a recruiting trip in 1990. Virginia had beaten her Lady Vols a few months earlier, preventing them from playing for a national title on their home floor.

But it was only in 2012 when being honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award that Summitt shared she had six miscarriages before giving birth to her son, Tyler.

She was born June 14, 1952, in Henrietta, Tennessee, and graduated from Cheatham County Central High School just west of Nashville. She played college basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her bachelor's degree in physical education. She was the co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal.

After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left.

She wrote a motivational book in 1998, "Reach for the Summit." Additionally, she worked with Sally Jenkins on "Raise the Roof," a book about the 1997-98 championship season, and also detailed her battle with dementia in a memoir, "Sum It Up," released in March 2013 and also co-written with Jenkins.

"It's hard to pinpoint the exact day that I first noticed something wrong," Summitt wrote. "Over the course of a year, from 2010 to 2011, I began to experience a troubling series of lapses. I had to ask people to remind me of the same things, over and over. I'd ask three times in the space of an hour, 'What time is my meeting again?' and then be late."

Summitt started a foundation in her name to fight Alzheimer's in 2011 that has raised millions of dollars.

After she retired, Summitt was given the title head coach emeritus at Tennessee. She had been cutting back her public appearances over the past few years. She came to a handful of Tennessee games this past season and occasionally also traveled to watch her son Tyler coach at Louisiana Tech the last two years.

Earlier this year, Summitt moved out of her home into an upscale retirement resort when her regular home underwent renovations.

Summitt is the only person to have two courts used by NCAA Division I basketball teams named in her honor: "Pat Head Summitt Court" at the University of Tennessee-Martin and "The Summitt" at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She also has two streets named after her: "Pat Summitt Street" on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus and "Pat Head Summitt Avenue" on the University of Tennessee-Martin campus.

She is survived by son Tyler Summitt.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
Tennessee women's basketball head coach Pat Summitt, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history, died this morning. She was 64.
Pat Head Summitt, UT Martin graduate and Olympic star, became synonymous with women's college basketball

KNOXVILLE (AP) — Pat Summitt, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history who uplifted the women's game from obscurity to national prominence during her 38-year career at Tennessee, died this morning. She was 64.

With an icy glare on the sidelines, Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight national championships and prominence on a campus steeped in the traditions of the football-rich south until she retired in 2012.

Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement this morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.

"Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, Alzheimer's Type, and she did so with a brave and fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

Summitt helped grow college women's basketball as her Lady Vols dominated the sport in the late 1980s and 1990s, winning six titles in 12 years. Tennessee — the only school she coached — won NCAA titles in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996-98 and 2007-08. Summitt had a career record of 1,098-208 in 38 seasons, plus 18 NCAA Final Four appearances. She announced in 2011 at age 59 that she'd been diagnosed with early onset dementia. She coached one more season before stepping down.

At her retirement, Summitt's eight national titles ranked behind the 10 won by former UCLA men's coach John Wooden. UConn coach Geno Auriemma passed Summitt after she retired.

When she stepped down, Summitt called her coaching career a "great ride." Peyton Manning, who sought Summitt's advice about returning to Tennessee for his senior season or going to the NFL, said it would have been a great experience to play for her.

"She could have coached any team, any sport, men's or women's. It wouldn't have mattered because Pat could flat out coach," Manning said in a statement. "I will miss her dearly, and I am honored to call her my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Tyler and their entire family."

Summitt was a tough taskmaster with a frosty glower that could strike the fear of failure in her players. She punished one team that stayed up partying before an early morning practice by running them until they vomited. She even placed garbage cans in the gym so they'd have somewhere to be sick.

Nevertheless, she enjoyed such an intimate relationship with her players that they called her "Pat."

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Summitt won 16 Southeastern Conference regular season titles, as well as 16 conference tournament titles. She was an eight-time SEC coach of the year and seven-time NCAA coach of the year.

In 1999, Summitt was inducted as part of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. She made the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame a year later. In 2013, she also was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

But it was only in 2012 when being honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award that Summitt shared she had six miscarriages before giving birth to her son, Tyler.

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After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left.
Pat Summitt, iconic University of Tennessee basketball coach, dead at 64

Last Updated Jun 28, 2016 8:40 AM EDT

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Pat Summitt, the iconic University of Tennessee women's basketball coach who became the winningest coach in college basketball history, has died at the age of 64, several years after being diagnosed with early onset dementia, her son and her foundation's website said Tuesday.

CBS Sports Network's Dana Jacobson and CBSN's Josh Elliott discuss coaching legend Pat Summitt's singular career.

With an icy glare on the sidelines, Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight national championships and prominence on a campus steeped in the traditions of the football-rich south until she retired in 2012. Her teams dominated women's college basketball for much of the 1980s and 1990s, helping grow the sport along the way while starting a coaching tree that touches sidelines and front offices everywhere to this day.

In addition to her impact on the sport of basketball, Summitt's determination, hard work and winning ways affected people of all stripes.

Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.
"Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, 'Alzheimer's Type,' and she did so with bravely fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

For 38 years, the trailblazing coach roamed courtside at Tennessee, racking up 1,098 wins against only 208 losses. Along the way, there were eight national championships and 16 conference titles that put Summitt and women's college basketball on the nation's sports map.

She announced in 2011 at age 59 that she'd been diagnosed with early onset dementia. She stepped down as Tennessee's coach the following year after her diagnosis of Alzheimer's type. She coached one more season before stepping down. At her retirement, Summitt's eight national titles ranked behind the 10 won by former UCLA men's coach John Wooden. UConn coach Geno Auriemma passed Summitt after she retired.

After her diagnosis, Summitt played a leading role in the fight against Alzheimer's. She launched the Pat Summitt Foundation, which is dedicated to researching and educating people about the disease while also providing services to patients and caregivers.

In a 2012 interview with "CBS This Morning," her only child, Tyler Summitt, said that his mother was stepping into a new role at the Pat Summitt Foundation after leaving Tennessee.

"We've always known that God has had a bigger plan for her than just coaching basketball," he said. "And so, she's stepping into a new role where she can still mentor her players and be a role model for them."

The Pat Summitt Alzheimer's Clinic is scheduled to open at the University of Tennessee medical center in December.

"When she fights this disease, what she has taught all of us is how to do it with courage," former Tennessee women's athletic director Joan Cronan said at a 2015 charity event honoring Summitt. "She's done that from Day One. It's been about (how) we can find a cure for this disease, and she has done it facing it straight-on and she's done it giving back as she always has."

Shelley Collier, who played for Summitt from 1983 to 1987, told CBS News in 2012 that when a person thinks of women's basketball, it's impossible not to think of Summitt.

"She has touched a lot of people's lives," she said.

Summitt was a tough taskmaster with a frosty glower that could strike the fear of failure in her players. She punished one team that stayed up partying before an early morning practice by running them until they vomited. She even placed garbage cans in the gym so they'd have somewhere to be sick.

Nevertheless, she enjoyed such an intimate relationship with her players that they called her "Pat."

Known for her boundless energy, Summitt set her clocks ahead a few minutes to stay on schedule.

"The lady does not slow down, ever," one of her players, Kellie Jolly, said in 1998. "If you can ever catch her sitting down doing nothing, you are one special person."
Summitt never had a losing record and her teams made the NCAA Tournament every season. She began her coaching career at Tennessee in the 1974-75 season, when her team finished 16-8.

With a 75-54 victory against Purdue on March 22, 2005, she earned her 880th victory, moving her past North Carolina’s Dean Smith as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history. She earned her 1,000th career win with a 73-43 victory against Georgia on Feb. 5, 2009.

Summitt won 16 Southeastern Conference regular season titles, as well as 16 conference tournament titles. She was an eight-time SEC coach of the year and seven-time NCAA coach of the year. She also coached the U.S. women's Olympic team to the 1984 gold medal.

Summitt's greatest adversary on the court was Auriemma. The two teams played 22 times from 1995-2007. Summitt ended the series after the 2007 season.

"Pat's vision for the game of women's basketball and her relentless drive pushed the game to a new level and made it possible for the rest of us to accomplish what we did," Auriemma said at the time of her retirement.

In 1999, Summitt was inducted as part of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. She made the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame a year later. In 2013, she also was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Summitt was such a competitor that she refused to let a pilot land in Virginia when she went into labor while on a recruiting trip in 1990. Virginia had beaten her Lady Vols a few months earlier, preventing them from playing for a national title on their home floor.

But it was only in 2012 when being honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award that Summitt shared she had six miscarriages before giving birth to her son, Tyler.

She was born June 14, 1952, in Henrietta, Tennessee, and graduated from Cheatham County Central High School just west of Nashville. She played college basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her bachelor's degree in physical education. She was the co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal.

After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left.

She wrote a motivational book in 1998, "Reach for the Summit." Additionally, she worked with Sally Jenkins on "Raise the Roof," a book about the 1997-98 championship season, and also detailed her battle with dementia in a memoir, "Sum It Up," released in March 2013 and also co-written with Jenkins.

"It's hard to pinpoint the exact day that I first noticed something wrong," Summitt wrote. "Over the course of a year, from 2010 to 2011, I began to experience a troubling series of lapses. I had to ask people to remind me of the same things, over and over. I'd ask three times in the space of an hour, 'What time is my meeting again?' - and then be late."

Summitt started a foundation in her name to fight Alzheimer's in 2011 that has raised millions of dollars.

After she retired, Summitt was given the title head coach emeritus at Tennessee. She had been cutting back her public appearances over the past few years. She came to a handful of Tennessee games this past season and occasionally also traveled to watch her son Tyler coach at Louisiana Tech the last two years.

Earlier this year, Summitt moved out of her home into an upscale retirement resort when her regular home underwent renovations.

Summitt is the only person to have two courts used by NCAA Division I basketball teams named in her honor: "Pat Head Summitt Court" at the University of Tennessee-Martin, and "The Summitt" at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She also has two streets named after her: "Pat Summitt Street" on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus and "Pat Head Summitt Avenue" on the University of Tennessee-Martin campus.
Hall of Fame coach Pat Summit, a pioneer of women's college basketball who guided the Tennessee Volunteers to eight national titles in her 38 seasons at the university, died Tuesday morning. She was 64.

Summitt led the Lady Vols to 1,098 victories -- the most in Division I college basketball history (men or women) -- before stepping down in 2012, one year after announcing she had early onset dementia, Alzheimer's type.

**Editor's Picks**

- **Warlick: Summit embodied strong character, integrity**
  Holly Warlick, who has cherished and maintained the Lady Vols legacy Pat Summit built as much as anyone, says the coach fought Alzheimer's with the same strength she demonstrated as a coach.

- **Summitt's influence was wide, far reaching**
  Whether in handwritten letters, conversations on the recruiting trail or the occasional postgame handshake -- yes, even after a 65-point loss -- every interaction with Pat Summit was memorable.

- **Legendary Summit truly one of a kind**
  She was one of sports' most accomplished figures but also universally beloved and humbly warm. To say there will never be anyone like Pat Summit is not hyperbole. In fact, it seems inadequate.
Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying his mother died peacefully at the Sherrill Hills retirement facility in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.

"Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, 'Alzheimer's Type,' and she did so with bravely fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

Tyler Summitt said a private funeral and burial will be held in Middle Tennessee and asked that the family's privacy be respected. A Celebration of Life Service honoring Summitt will be open to the public at 7 p.m. July 14 at Thompson-Boling Arena on the University of Tennessee campus.

Named the NCAA coach of the year seven times, Summitt led the Lady Vols to 22 Final Fours (18 NCAA, four AIAW) in her nearly four decades as coach.

"Pat Summitt is synonymous with Tennessee, but she truly is a global icon who transcended sports and spent her entire life making a difference in other peoples' lives," Tennessee athletic director Dave Hart said in a statement. "She was a genuine, humble leader who focused on helping people achieve more than they thought they were capable of accomplishing. Pat was so much more than a Hall of Fame coach; she was a mother, mentor, leader, friend, humanitarian and inspiration to so many. Her legacy will live on through the countless people she touched throughout her career."

Of her eight national championships, she won three straight from 1996 to 1998. Her teams won 16 Southeastern Conference tournament titles and made an unprecedented 31 consecutive appearances in the NCAA tournament. "I miss her, and it's a very sad day," former Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, who played at the school from 1994 to 1997, said on SportsCenter. "When you hear her former players talk about her and the impact she had on them as players and people, it speaks volumes.

"She loved everything about Tennessee. Everyone in the state was proud to have her as an ambassador. She had a huge impact on everyone she met. I always felt better every time I was around her."

Every player who completed their eligibility under Pat Summitt went on to earn a degree. "Across the board with her kids, she also prepared them for life after basketball," Bob Knight said. "Not many people have prepared their players that well for life."

At her retirement, Summitt's eight national titles ranked behind the 10 won by former UCLA men's coach John Wooden. UConn coach Geno Auriemma passed Summitt after she retired. Summitt's greatest adversary on the court was Auriemma. UConn and Tennessee played 22 times between 1995 and 2007. Summitt ended the series after the 2007 season.

"From a competitive standpoint, it was the one program, the one game that each year you kind of measured yourself and your team ... that, hey, when we play this game we'll know if we're good enough to win a championship," Auriemma said Tuesday on SportsCenter. "From a personal standpoint, you can see how difficult it was for a woman to do something no woman had done before and try to juggle being a mom, coach and a representative of the game. ... She was the first. There were other people that did it, but nobody did it better or did it longer.
"Whoever writes the history of women's basketball, her name and influence will be all over that book from the mid-’70s until they don't play basketball anymore. ... She was the defining figure of the game. Lots of people coach the game, but very few get to define the game."

For many, with the advent of Title IX in 1972, Summitt became the face of women's college team sports in that she helped prove, from the outset, that they could work.

Long before the Lady Vols had their own basketball-only practice facility and she was making a seven-figure salary, Summitt made just $8,900 per year and fought with physical education classes for practice space in a multiuse gymnasium.

"I don't know how much I've had to do with that, but I'm proud of what's happened," Summitt told ESPN in 2009 about the growth of women's sports. "That's the main thing. I do take a lot of pride in seeing the success of other conferences, as well as what's happening right here on this campus. And just seeing women's sports with a level of appreciation and awareness and coverage that we've never enjoyed before. So yeah, when I think about that, have we finally arrived? I hope so."

As a child, Summitt's father moved his family across county lines to a district where the high school had a girls' basketball team so she would be able to play.

**Pat Summitt by the numbers**

2: Gold medals won in Olympics
7: NCAA Coach of the Year awards
8: National championships
12: Olympians coached at Tennessee
18: Final Four appearances
21: Number of All-Americans coached
31: NCAA tournament appearances
38: Seasons coaching the Lady Vols
112: NCAA tournament wins
841: Career winning percentage
1,098: Career victories
$8,900: Summitt's 1st salary at Tennessee
$1.4M: Compensation for 2008-09 season

She attended college at the University of Tennessee-Martin, where she starred on the basketball court that now bears her name. She helped lead the team to a 64-29 record at UT Martin, along with two appearances in the national championship tournament. She graduated as the school's all-time leading scorer (1,045 points).

During her junior year in college, she played with the U.S. team in the World University Games. The silver medal she won there was matched with the same finish as part of the national team at the 1975 Pan Am Games, by which time she had begun her college coaching career and had recovered from a knee injury suffered in her senior year. She then played for and co-captained the U.S. team at the 1976 Olympic Games, earning another silver medal as the U.S. finished second to the Soviet Union as women's basketball made its first appearance as an official Olympic sport.
Eight years later, Summitt coached the U.S. national team to gold at the 1984 Olympic Games. She was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, the same year she was named the Naismith Coach of the Century. Summitt was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2012.

"Pat was a patriot who earned Olympic medals for America as a player and a coach, and I was honored to award her the Presidential Medal of Freedom," a statement from President Barack Obama read. "She was a proud Tennessean who, when she went into labor while on a recruiting visit, demanded the pilot return to Knoxville so her son could be born in her home state. And she was an inspiring fighter. Even after Alzheimer's started to soften her memory, and she began a public and brave fight against that terrible disease, Pat had the grace and perspective to remind us that 'God doesn't take things away to be cruel. ... He takes things away to lighten us. He takes things away so we can fly.'

"Michelle and I send our condolences to Pat Summitt's family -- which includes her former players and fans on Rocky Top and across America."

Summitt was also named Sports Illustrated's Sportswoman of the Year in 2011 and honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the 2012 ESPYS. And, perhaps most important, all her players who completed their eligibility went on to earn their degrees.

"As a coach, you want to win. Pat did that," Hall of Fame men's coach Bob Knight told ESPN in 2014. "But across the board with her kids, she also prepared them for life after basketball. Her kids probably had the best situation of any group of players at the college level, male or female, for learning what life would be all about. Through what they had learned through her practices and games, Pat's players were ready to go out and be successful beyond basketball.

"I'm sure she has a tremendous feeling of pride in what her players have accomplished in basketball and whatever endeavors they've gone into. Not many people have prepared their players that well for life." Tamika Catchings, who won two national titles with Tennessee, also spoke to that point in 2013. "When you look at all of us and all the things we've been able to accomplish not only on the basketball court, but even off the court, we've got coaches, we've got entrepreneurs, we've got mothers, a little bit of everything," Catchings said. "We learned [from Summitt] what it takes to be a leader, what it takes to be a great woman, what it takes to be a great lady, what it takes to have character, what it takes to have poise, how not to buckle under adversity."

The University of Tennessee created Pat Summitt Plaza in 2013 to honor the Hall of Fame coach for her many achievements and successes.

At the age of 22, Summitt accepted the offer of a graduate teaching and assistant coaching position at the University of Tennessee after graduating from UT Martin in 1974. When the head coach suddenly resigned to pursue a doctoral study program, Summitt was promoted. The Lady Vols lost their first game under her and went on to finish 16-8.
In her second season (1975-76), Summitt coached the Lady Vols while earning her master's degree and training for the U.S. Olympic team. The next two seasons, she guided Tennessee to back-to-back Region II titles in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and entry into the national tournament.

The Lady Vols made their first AIAW Final Four in 1977 and made a return to the national semifinals in 1979 (finishing third both times). She then guided Tennessee to back-to-back AIAW national championship games in 1980 and '81 but fell short both times.

After the NCAA took over as the governing body for women's sports by 1982, Summitt led the Lady Vols to two of the first three NCAA Final Fours, finishing runners-up to Southern California in 1984. That summer, Summitt returned to L.A. and coached the U.S. national team to the gold medal at the 1984 Olympic Games.

The 1986-87 season proved historic for Summitt and Tennessee, as she claimed her 300th victory and guided the Lady Vols, led by forward Bridgette Gordon and guard Tonya Edwards, to their first national title. Two years later, again led by Gordon and Edwards, Tennessee won title No. 2.

The 1990s proved hugely successful for Summitt and Tennessee, as they won national titles in 1991 (with All-American Daedra Charles) and from 1996 to '98, becoming the first women's basketball team to win three national championships in a row.

Chamique Holdsclaw was the backbone of those three titles, and she was joined by freshmen Catchings and Semeka Randall as the Lady Vols cruised to a 39-0 record en route to title No. 6, setting a record for wins by a women's team in a single season.

Despite reaching the Final Four five times, the Lady Vols went eight seasons without another national title. During that time, however, Summitt passed Jody Conradt in March 2002 as the all-time leader in women's Division I wins with her 788th. In March 2005, she passed Dean Smith's Division I record for wins with her 880th victory.

In 2006, Summitt received a six-year contract extension and became the first women's basketball coach to break past the million-dollar salary threshold with an annual $1.125 million.

The following year, Summitt celebrated the 20th anniversary of Tennessee's first national championship by returning to the top of the sport behind sophomore All-American Candace Parker. Summitt won her final championship -- No. 8 -- in 2008.

After Summitt earned win No. 1,000 in 2009, Tennessee gave her a $200,000 bonus and awarded her with a contract extension through 2014. After revealing that she had been diagnosed with early onset dementia, Summitt continued to coach the team through the 2011-12 season and reached the Elite Eight.

After the season, Summitt announced she would step aside -- finishing with a 1,098-208 (.841) record, with longtime assistant Holly Warlick taking over as head coach.

"We had such a strong connection," Warlick said during a teleconference Tuesday morning. "We shared so much outside of basketball. Honestly, I didn't see me coaching anywhere else but Tennessee."

After stepping aside, Summitt was honored by the university with a bronze statue on Pat Summitt Plaza and was given the title of head coach emeritus for as long as she agreed to the role. Former players and colleagues said Summitt's fight against early onset dementia through her organization, the Pat Summitt Foundation, surpassed even her accomplishments as a coach.

"On a scale of what's real life, what she's done for people by raising awareness and dollars and putting the foundation [together] is much more impactful than what her record might have been," former Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer said in July 2015.

Graham Hays and The Associated Press contributed to this report.
Remembering Pat Summitt: A UT Martin Pioneer

By Nelson Rowe | Jun 28, 2016

Pat Summitt, the University of Tennessee legend and winningest coach in NCAA basketball history, died Tuesday morning, her son said in a statement. She was 64. Just before, Summitt had led Tennessee to the NCAA semifinals without winning the title. She had a career record of 1,098-208 in 38 seasons.

Summitt was a first ballot inductee into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts and was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame as part of the 1999 inaugural class. She was given the job because no one else wanted it. Pat Summitt earned a salary of $220,000 a month and her coaching duties included washing the player's uniforms, driving the team bus and organizing donut sales to help pay for travel. She pushed for more television exposure for her sport, and her rivalry with Connecticut's Geno Auriemma was instrumental in the birth of the WNBA. After she won her first national title in 1987 in her eighth Final Four in the AIAW or NCAA, she said, "Well, the monkeys are off my back."

"It's truly a sad day for UT Martin and for the women's basketball community," said Skyhawk interim Athletics Director Kevin McMillin, who has also served as the school's head women's basketball coach since 2009.

- No. 9/9 March 22, 2005 - Summitt passes Smith when Tennessee beats Purdue 75-54 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in Knoxville.

Her program maintained a 100 percent graduation rate for players who completed their eligibility at Tennessee.

Her squads won a combined 32 SEC regular season and tournament championships (16 regular season/16 tournament).

In October 1990, Summitt was enshrined in the Women's Sports Foundation Hal of Fame at a gala event in New York City.

"She is women's basketball." In 2012 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Obama, who said Summitt had paved the way for his own daughters.

Current Tennessee football coach Butch Jones says he "stands in awe of Pat and what she accomplished on and off the court."

Washington Post columnist Sally Jenkins worked with Summitt on all three books. She previously wrote the motivational book for the Summit and Raise the Roof, about the Lady Vols' 1997-98 championship.

"Pat Summitt was many things to many people."

It is the demanding, driven attitude that players and fans are recalling since Summitt's death was announced today by her son, Tyler Summitt.

Crone is now the women's AD emeritus at Tennessee.

When I was 9 years old, my mom, brother, and I went to Auburn to watch the Lady Vols play the Lady Tigers. But that time, I decided, "You need to be smart about this, and you need to give it."

Earlier this year, Summitt moved out of her home into an upscale retirement resort.

We are in the process of finalizing the details of a public celebration of her life which will take place in one of her favorite places, Thompson-Boling Arena.

In 1980, she married Ross Barnes "R.B."

Amid reports of Summitt's failing health, her family issued a statement Sunday asking for prayers and saying she had been surrounded by the people who mean the most to her.

A private family service is planned in Knoxville.
Tennessee legend Pat Summitt began career at U.T. Martin

Brent Remadna
Published: June 28, 2016, 3:42 pm | Updated: June 29, 2016, 9:44 am

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WKRN) — To understand the legacy of a Tennessee legend, you have to start from somewhere close to the beginning.

University of Tennessee-Martin was where legendary coach Pat Summitt started her college basketball career, a career that left her the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history.

If you take a walk through Elam Center on the campus of U.T. Martin, it's hard not to notice something with the name Pat Summitt on it. From banners to posters, it's clear Summit made an impact on the school. But she's also made an impact on many people and left a lasting legacy that no one will forget, especially those that were close to her.

“She taught the lessons of life and she talked where everyone could understand what she meant by dedication, determination, loyalty and on and on and on,” said Giles.
In a time when women’s basketball was getting little recognition, a young girl from Clarksville, Tennessee by the name of Pat Head Summit decided to play basketball at U.T. Martin.

One of the people who brought her there was Bettye Giles, U.T. Martin’s former athletic director.

“She was so much better than any of the other kids that it was pitiful,” Giles continued.

From the beginning, their friendship flourished.

“Kinda like mother, daughter I think. I was very proud of Pat and all she stands for and all she did and there are so many stories.”

Stories that will always live on with those she shared them with. And those stories have been shared with so many.

“She left me with the idea to always surround yourself with people who make you do better. She made me do better. She made me become better. She made everyone around her better,” said former U.T. Martin teammate Julia Brundige.

If you walk around the U.T. Martin campus, you can see the impact she has had. From statues to a street named after her. And that is just in the town of Martin.

“I don’t care where I’ve been when they find out I am from Martin most people would say, oh that is where UTM is. That is where Pat Head Summitt played.

And while she may be gone, Pat Summitt’s legacy will never be forgotten.

“I think she leaves a great legacy,” said Giles.
Legendary Women’s Basketball Coach Pat Summitt Dead At 64

June 28, 2016 7:57 AM

KNOXVILLE, TN (CBSMiami) – Pat Summitt, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history who lifted the women’s game to national prominence during her 38-year career at Tennessee, died Tuesday. She was 64.

With an icy glare on the sidelines, Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight national championships and prominence on a campus steeped in the traditions of the football-rich south until she retired in 2012.

Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.

"Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, ‘Alzheimer’s Type,’ and she did so with bravely fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

Summitt helped grow college women's basketball as her Lady Vols dominated the sport in the late 1980s and 1990s, winning six titles in 12 years. Tennessee — the only school she coached — won NCAA titles in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996-98 and 2007-08. Summitt had a career record of 1,098-208 in 38 seasons, plus 16 NCAA Final Four appearances.

She announced in 2011 at age 59 that she’d been diagnosed with early onset dementia. She coached one more season before stepping down. At her retirement, Summitt’s eight national titles ranked behind the 10 won by former UCLA men's coach John Wooden. UConn coach Geno Auriemma passed Summitt after she retired.

She also coached the 1984 Olympic team, which finished 16-8. When she stepped down, Summitt called her coaching career a “great ride.”

President Barack Obama issued a statement in which he cited Summitt’s victories and championships while noting “her legacy, however, is measured much more by the generations of young women and men who admired Pat’s intense competitiveness and character, and as a result found in themselves the confidence to practice hard, play harder, and live with courage on and off the court.”

Obama added that “her Hall of Fame career would tell the story of the historic progress toward equality in American athletics that she helped advance.”

"Pat started playing college hoops before Title IX and started coaching before the NCAA recognized women's basketball as a sport," Obama said. "When she took the helm at Tennessee as a 22-year-old, she had to wash her players' uniforms; by the time Pat stepped down as the Lady Vols' head coach, her teams wore eight championship rings and had cut down nets in sold-out stadiums.”

Miami Heat president Pat Riley released a statement on Tuesday afternoon to honor Summitt and her accomplishments.

“When you think about the game of basketball and the great ambassadors of the game, those who truly have left something significant behind, Pat Summitt rises to the level of John Wooden and John Wooden only. Pat’s presence and what she accomplished in teaching players how to play the game to win and play it the right way was a testament to her greatness. Having met her a number of times, I realize that the sport of basketball, not just women’s basketball, has suffered a significant loss. I am extremely dismayed by the passing of this great coach and great woman. The Miami HEAT organization share tremendous sympathy with the Summitt family. Rest in Peace.”

Peyton Manning, who sought Summitt’s advice about returning to Tennessee for his senior season or going to the NFL, said it would have been a great experience to play for her.

“She could have coached any team, any sport, men's or women's. It wouldn't have mattered because Pat could flat out coach,” Manning said in a statement. "I will miss her dearly, and I am honored to call her my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Tyler and their entire family.”

Summitt was a tough taskmaster with a frosty glower that could strike the fear of failure in her players. She punished one team that stayed up partying before an early morning practice by running them until they vomited. She even placed garbage cans in the gym so they’d have somewhere to be sick.

Nevertheless, she enjoyed such an intimate relationship with her players that they called her “Pat.”

Summitt never had a losing record and her teams made the NCAA Tournament every season. She began her coaching career at Tennessee in the 1974-75 season, when her team finished 16-8.

With a 75-54 victory against Purdue on March 22, 2005, she earned her 880th victory, moving her past North Carolina's Dean Smith as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history. She earned her 1,000th career win with a 73-43 victory against Georgia on Feb. 5, 2009.

Summitt won 16 Southeastern Conference regular season titles, as well as 16 conference tournament titles. She was an eight-time SEC coach of the year and seven-time NCAA coach of the year. She also coached the U.S. women's Olympic team to the 1984 gold medal.

In 2006, Tennessee made Summitt the first millionaire coach in women's basketball with a contract paying $1.25 million. She was paid $1.5 million in the final year of the six-year contract in 2011-12.
Summitt’s greatest adversary on the court was Auriemma. The two teams played 22 times from 1995-2007. Summitt ended the series after the 2007 season.

"Pat’s vision for the game of women’s basketball and her relentless drive pushed the game to a new level and made it possible for the rest of us to accomplish what we did," Auriemma said at the time of her retirement.

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But it was only in 2012 when being honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award that Summitt shared she had six miscarriages before giving birth to her son, Tyler.

She was born June 14, 1952, in Henrietta, Tennessee, and graduated from Cheatham County Central High School just west of Nashville. She played college basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her bachelor’s degree in physical education. She was the co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal.

After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left.

She wrote a motivational book in 1998, “Reach for the Summitt.” Additionally, she worked with Sally Jenkins on “Raise the Roof,” a book about the 1997-98 championship season, and also detailed her battle with dementia in a memoir, “Sum It Up,” released in March 2013 and also co-written with Jenkins.

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Pat Summitt, winningest coach in Division I college basketball, has died at 64

In this file photo, former Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt smiles as a banner is raised in her honor before the team's NCAA college basketball game against Notre Dame in Knoxville, Tenn. Summitt, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history who boosted women's game, has died at 64. Wade Payne — The Associated Press file

By Steve Megargee, The Associated Press

Posted: 06/28/16, 3:36 PM PDT | Updated: 2 days ago

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. >> Pat Summitt, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history who uplifted the women's game from obscurity to national prominence during her 38-year career at Tennessee, died Tuesday morning. She was 64. Pat Sullivan — The Associated Press file

With an icy glare on the sidelines, Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight national championships and prominence on a campus steeped in the traditions of the football-rich south until she retired in 2012.

Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.
"Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, ‘Alzheimer’s Type,’ and she did so with bravely fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it’s incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

Summitt helped grow college women’s basketball as her Lady Vols dominated the sport in the late 1980s and 1990s, winning six titles in 12 years. Tennessee — the only school she coached — won NCAA titles in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996-98 and 2007-08. Summitt had a career record of 1,098-208 in 38 seasons, plus 18 NCAA Final Four appearances.

She announced in 2011 at age 59 that she’d been diagnosed with early onset dementia. She coached one more season before stepping down. At her retirement, Summitt’s eight national titles ranked behind the 10 won by former UCLA men’s coach John Wooden. UConn coach Geno Auriemma passed Summitt after she retired.

When she stepped down, Summitt called her coaching career a "great ride."

Peyton Manning, who sought Summitt’s advice about returning for to Tennessee for his senior season or going to the NFL, said it would have been a great experience to play for her.

"She could have coached any sport, men’s or women’s. It wouldn’t have mattered because Pat could flat out coach," Manning said in a statement. "I will miss her dearly, and I am honored to call her my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Tyler and their entire family."

Summitt was a tough taskmaster with a frosty glower that could strike the fear of failure in her players. She punished one team that stayed up partying before an early morning practice by making them run until they vomited. She even placed garbage cans in the gym so they’d have somewhere to be sick.

Nevertheless, she enjoyed such an intimate relationship with her players that they called her “Pat.”

Known for her boundless energy, Summitt set her clocks ahead a few minutes to stay on schedule.

“The lady does not slow down, ever,” one of her players, Kellie Gatley, said in 1998. "If you can ever catch her sitting down doing nothing, you are one special person."

Summitt never had a losing record and her teams made the NCAA Tournament every season. She began her coaching career at Tennessee in the 1974-75 season, when her team finished 16-8. With a 75-54 victory against Purdue on March 22, 2005, she earned her 880th victory, moving her past North Carolina’s Dean Smith as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history. She earned her 1,000th career win with a 73-43 victory against Georgia on Feb. 5, 2009. Summitt won 16 Southeastern Conference regular season titles, as well as 16 conference tournament titles. She was an eight-time SEC coach of the year and seven-time NCAA coach of the year. She also coached the U.S. women’s Olympic team to the 1984 gold medal.

Summitt’s greatest adversary on the court was Auriemma. The two teams played 22 times from 1995-2007. Summitt ended the series after the 2007 season.

"Pat’s vision for the game of women’s basketball and her relentless drive pushed the game to a new level and made it possible for the rest of us to accomplish what we did," Auriemma said at the time of her retirement.

In 1999, Summitt was inducted as part of the inaugural class of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. She made the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame a year later. In 2013, she also was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

Summitt was such a competitor that she refused to let a pilot land in Virginia when she went into labor while on a recruiting trip in 1990. Virginia had beaten her Lady Vols a few months earlier, preventing them from playing for a national title on their home floor.

But it was only in 2012 when being honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award that Summitt shared she had six miscarriages before giving birth to her son, Tyler.

She was born June 14, 1952, in Henrietta, Tennessee, and graduated from Cheatham County Central High School just west of Nashville. She played college basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her bachelor’s degree in physical education. She was the co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal.

After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left.

She wrote a motivational book in 1998, “Reach for the Summit.” Additionally, she worked with Sally Jenkins on “Raise the Roof,” a book about the 1997-98 championship season, and also detailed her battle with dementia in a memoir, “Sum It Up,” released in March 2013 and also co-written with Jenkins.

“It’s hard to pinpoint the exact day that I first noticed something wrong,” Summitt wrote. “Over the course of a year, from 2010 to 2011, I began to experience a troubling series of lapses. I had to ask people to remind me of the same things, over and over. I’d ask three times in the space of an hour, ‘What time is my meeting again?’ — and then be late.”

Summitt started a foundation in her name to fight Alzheimer’s in 2011 that has raised millions of dollars.

After she retired, Summitt was given the title head coach emeritus at Tennessee. She had been cutting back her public appearances over the past few years. She came to a handful of Tennessee games this past season and occasionally also traveled to watch her son Tyler coach at Louisiana Tech the last two years.

Earlier this year, Summitt moved out of her home into an upscale retirement resort when her regular home underwent renovations.

Summitt is the only person to have two courts used by NCAA Division I basketball teams named in her honor. “Pat Head Summitt Court” at the University of Tennessee-Martin, and “The Summit” at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She also has two streets named after her: “Pat Summitt Street” on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus and “Pat Head Summitt Avenue” on the University of Tennessee-Martin campus.

She is survived by son Tyler Summitt. He said a private funeral and burial will be held in Middle Tennessee and asked that the family’s privacy be respected. A public memorial service is being planned for Thompson-Boling Arena.
TENNESSEE LEGEND — In this file photo from March 19, 2012, Tennessee head coach Pat Summitt waves as she leaves the court after Tennessee defeated DePaul 63-48 in an NCAA tournament second-round women’s college basketball game in Rosemont, Ill. Summitt, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history, who uplifted the women’s game from obscurity to national prominence during her career at Tennessee, died this morning. She was 64. A public memorial service is being planned for Thompson-Boling Arena. AP

Reaching the ‘Summitt’

Legendary Lady Volunteers coach passes away

Pat Head Summitt, whose legendary collegiate coaching path was molded after a trailblazing playing career at UT Martin, passed away this morning in Knoxville.

Summitt, who celebrated her 64th birthday earlier this month, was diagnosed with early onset dementia in 2011 and had fought a courageous battle against the disease over the last five years.

“If it is truly a sad day for UT Martin and for the women’s basketball community,” said Skyhawk interim athletics director Kevin McMillan, who has also served as the school’s head women’s basketball coach since 2009.

“Through the years, I developed a friendship with Coach Summitt that I valued very much. She always knew what was going on at UT Martin, and she loved her alma mater. Her impact here — and on women’s basketball — is immeasurable.”

Summitt played basketball at UT Martin for head coach Nadine Gearin from 1970-74. She led the then-Lady Pacers to a combined 64-30 record, two AIAW district tournament championships, one AIAW Tennessee state tournament title, one AIAW regional championship and an appearance in the 1972 AIAW national tournament.

A native of Henrietta, Summitt left UT Martin as the program’s all-time leading scorer with 1,405 points. Despite the fact that she was limited to just seven games during her senior season, she still ranks in the top 10 of five different single-season or career record categories.

Summitt was co-captain of the USA National team in 1976, earning a silver medal in the Olympics. Taking over as head coach in time for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, she guided Team USA to its first-ever gold medal in the sport of women’s basketball.

Literally months after Summitt graduated from UT Martin with a degree in physical education, she took over as head women’s basketball coaching at the University of Tennessee in 1974. It was there where she established herself as one of the best coaches in the history of basketball.

Over 38 seasons, Summitt posted a 1,098-208 record for an .840 winning percentage. Her 1,098 victories are the most for any coach in Division-
In 1999, she was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and she followed that with an inclusion into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000. Her 112 NCAA Tournament wins and 18 NCAA Final Four appearances are still the most in college basketball history.

Fittingly, one of Summitt's final games as head coach of the Lady Vols was against UT Martin in the 2012 NCAA Tournament. In April of that year, she was assigned the permanent title of head coach emeritus at Tennessee before receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama — the country's highest civilian award.

Summitt and her son, Tyler, formed the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund in November 2011, three months after she announced her diagnosis of early onset dementia. Soon thereafter, a "We Back Pat" campaign swept the nation and has helped raise awareness to cure dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

"Pat Summitt's legacy as one of the greatest basketball coaches of all time is assured," UT Martin interim chancellor Dr. Robert M. Smith said. "More importantly for her friends at UT Martin is how she pioneered the path for female student-athletes and assured them opportunities they enjoy today in sports and in life. There will be those who might imitate, but none will emulate what she accomplished. We honor the memory of our friend, UT Martin graduate and women's basketball legend."

Summitt's legacy will live on at UT Martin for years to come, as she was a charter member of the school's Hall of Fame in 1983.
Milan's Griggs is WestStar grad

Members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class graduated Tuesday, June 21, in an event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program.

This marked the program's 27th class and brings the total to 769 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990. The 2016 class included 30 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Among the graduates was Milan City Recorder Jason Griggs. Griggs said the WestStar experience was amazing. "My WestStar experience has truly been life changing," said Griggs. "I've made professional contacts in every county in West Tennessee that can and have already begun to benefit our local community. WestStar revealed to me what every county in West Tennessee is doing right and how those ideas can be implemented in our local community. Also, I've made new lifelong friends. I have no doubt that WestStar will be the catalyst that will make West Tennessee equal to the other 2 grand divisions of the state," he added.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program's board of trustees. Selection is based on leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee's development. Participants are chosen from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement.

Halls student takes part in UTM camp

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted the first-ever Skyhawk Engineering Camp on June 13-17. Students in grades 7-10 learned to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams. Pictured are, from left, front row, Caleb Snyder of Scotts Hill, Grant McGehee of Sharon, Jackson Horton of Martin, and Carson Brigance of Martin, who won third place for number of ping pong balls retrieved by their robot and first place for navigating their robot through a maze; middle row, Skyler Davis of Halls, Jonathan Morris of South Fulton, Joshua Walker of Fulton, Ky., and Parker Maxey of Dresden, who won second in both competitions; back row, Peyton Stratton of Jackson, Tyler Molands of Union City, James Nail of Sharon, and Caleb Collins of Fulton, Ky., whose team took first place in the ping pong ball retrieval competition and third place in the robotic maze race.
Pat Summitt's hometown remembers legendary Lady Vols coach

ASHLAND CITY — Norma Gibbs Beshears can tell you about Trish.

The drag racing and the waterskiing, the endless days on the family farm, the moments on a high school basketball court that remain vivid nearly half a century later.

The world is mourning Pat Summitt, hailing her greatness as the longtime women's basketball coach at Tennessee. They're talking about her eight national championships and all she did for women's athletics. They're talking about her death, too young at age 64, five years after she was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's.

On this Tuesday morning, Norma is sitting in the Hardee's on Main Street in this town of 4,600, 20 miles northwest of Nashville, remembering Trish. Patricia Sue Head.

Trish is who she was before she was called "Pat" at UT-Martin and was too timid to correct them; before she overcame a blown knee to co-captain the first U.S. women's Olympic basketball team to a silver medal, in 1976; before she coached the 1984 team to a decisive gold; before marriage to R.B. Summitt in 1980 and divorce in 2008; before six miscarriages and the 1990 birth of their son, Tyler, who was nearly born on a private plane during a recruiting trip she was advised not to take; before all the success and fame. The thing is, she never stopped being Trish. Not here. It's written in large cursive letters in the yearbook, the 1970 edition of "The Echo" of Cheatham County Central High School, at the center of a heartfelt message from graduating senior Trish to junior Norma.

"I hope school won't end our friendship," Trish wrote to start. "I'll never forget our great times."
http://www.tennessean.com/

Norma flips to the page with Trish and her boyfriend Mack Hagewood, co-winners of the Most Popular award. Then the page featuring Trish as winner of Sweetheart of the Season. And then a few pages on the CCCHS Cubs girls basketball team. Directly behind Hardee’s, at the corner of Elizabeth and Lowe streets, sits Ashland City Elementary School. Its final year as the high school was Trish’s senior year, and it’s where she once grabbed Norma’s jersey at halftime of a game and promised they would not lose (they didn’t).

It’s where she stuffed little guard Adrian Hooper into a locker for sport. It’s where she once took the pressure off Norma before free throws in a five-overtime game, promising her she would get the rebound if Norma missed. Norma made them and the Cubs won.

“I mean, who does that?” Norma says. “If she told me to jump off the Cumberland River Bridge, I would have jumped off the Cumberland River Bridge.”

Now we’re moving north on Main Street, three miles, through the most urban portion of a county that measures 307 square miles and contains less than 40,000 people. A couple of fast-food restaurants, a government building, a Walgreen’s, a gas station, a few more businesses and then countryside until the new high school, opened in 1970.

The sign out front says: “A life well lived, Pat Head Summit, 1952-2016.” Inside is a basketball court named after the coach, her signature engraved on it. And a trophy case filled with mementos, including a Wheaties box with her face on it.

And though Norma says she’s embarrassed, that she really only spent one year as a close friend of Trish’s, decades later they played P-I-G on that court in front of HBO cameras.

Trish called Norma and said they were making a documentary on her, they’d been following her through the national championship repeat season of 1996-97, and would she mind doing an interview and bringing the yearbook? A producer asked them to play. They were sure it wouldn’t make the cut.

“It made it,” Norma says, laughing. “The part they didn’t put in there was the part where she threatened to slice my tires because I beat her.”

Down the road at the Tucker Empson County Office Building, Adrian Hooper Johnson is laughing, too, as she knocks the large Vanderbilt cup off the file cabinet that serves as a Summitt shrine — littered with posters of the coach, and cards and letters from her.

“Trish would die if she saw that,” Adrian says of the Vanderbilt cup, and she starts telling the story of the time a few members of the team got their hands on some cigarettes and went to her house.

Adrian’s mother came home from work earlier than expected, and everyone raced for cover. Adrian hid in the bathroom. Trish stuck the ashtray under her shirt and calmly greeted the adult.

“She was in there talking her way out of anything,” Adrian says of Trish, “like usual.”

Adrian breaks down in tears as she explains how Trish took in her son Drew, now the girls basketball coach at Hendersonville High, while he was a student assistant with the Vols. She was his mentor, and a demanding one, until he graduated in 1996. The Johnsons were in Knoxville often during that time.

“She was so good to us, she would feed us, cook for us,” Adrian says of Trish. “She was down to Earth. You just need to tell everybody what a good person she was. She never knew a stranger. There’s not enough words that can describe it.”

Adrian’s husband, Rick, arrives to take her out for a hamburger. He’s in his second term as Ashland City mayor. He recalls the time he ventured into Trish’s Knoxville office and she was on the phone, giving advice on motivating a team to coach Steve Spurrier, shortly before his national championship with the Florida Gators.

Rick also remembers being one of the few boys in town brave enough to venture into the Head household to get Trish. He’d do it for her boyfriends.

Family patriarch Richard Head, famously tall, gruff and tough, would look at him and growl: “What do you want, Johnson?” They’d double date, stop by the old Dairy Dip for ice cream, and they’d drag race on isolated, gravel roads in Henrietta. Someone would yell “Switch!” and the driver and passenger in the passenger seat would swap spots at high speed.

“This day and time, that would be considered a little dangerous,” Adrian says.

Now it’s time to go there. North on TN-12, a winding road past West Cheatham Elementary on the right. A Dollar General on the left. Big bales of hay on the right, then a soybean crop.
On the left, a tobacco field, the kind Trish and her four siblings would work when they weren't milking cows or minding the family grocery, feed store or gas station in Henrietta. Richard, who passed away in 2005, and 90-year-old Hazel married in 1943, started with almost nothing and built all that from a plot of land in Oak Plains, across the county line in Montgomery County. And when Trish realized she wouldn't be able to play basketball at Clarksville High — it wasn't offered for girls at the time — Richard moved the family to Henrietta, to a smaller house right next to the store. That way she could play in Ashland City. Now we're in Henrietta, an unincorporated community, where Hazel still lives. The gas station is Rusty's Used Cars, and employee Chris Pipkin has been denying TV reporters today who have asked him to identify Hazel's house.

"The family hasn't even had time to grieve yet," he says.

There's a road sign welcoming visitors to Henrietta and declaring it the home of Pat Head Summitt. Orange and white balloons have been tied to it. Two 16-year-old girls approach the sign to take pictures.

"She left a legacy for all the people around her," says Ellie Treanton, a basketball player at Clarksville High, where Trish couldn't play 50 years ago.

And now the final leg. North again on TN-12, then east on Shady Grove Road. Past the Head family farm in Oak Plains, a total of eight miles of countryside to Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church.

The church is surrounded by farmland in every direction. Trish and R.B. were married here and her father is buried here, with a spot already set aside for Hazel. And this is where Trish will be buried after a private ceremony at the church.

But that is not what today is for in this community. Today is for another CCCHS teammate, Sheila Hutton Harris, to recall when Trish called her amid the Knoxville success and asked: "You don't think I've changed, do you?"

And it's for Norma to get a text from a woman she coached as a young girl, recalling Trish eating some of her fries when Norma brought the team to a UT camp. Earlier, Trish spoke at that team's banquet in Ashland City.

"I didn't even give her gas money," Norma says.

And it's for Sheila to think of the death of her own mother, Mallon Hutton, at age 50 in 1977 of a heart attack. Trish was far away with USA Basketball duties at the time.

"But at the funeral I looked around, and there she was," Sheila says. "All these famous things happened in her life. And she never forgot us.

"Can you tell we adore this lady?"

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http://www.lebanonenterprise.com/

**Lebanon native receives scholarship to University of Tennessee at Martin**

*Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 6:00 am (Updated: June 29, 6:02 am)*

Mary Abigail Thomas of Elizabethtown has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-17 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement. Thomas will be a sophomore, and she received the Explorer Out-of-State Transfer Scholarship. She is the daughter of Paul Thomas of Lebanon and Lori Burks of Elizabethtown.
PAT SUMMITT 1952-2016

ICON MOURNED

Legend. Icon. Hero. Friend. Fierce competitor. Or, as she was known to her players, simply Pat.

Today in Sports, we remember the remarkable life and career of former University of Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summit, who died Tuesday morning after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. She coached the Lady Vols to eight national championships, but as former Collierville High and UT star Nikki McCray said, Summit's influence was profound, and went far beyond basketball: “She demanded excellence and you reaped the benefit of that. That's what she instilled in us as players. Not to mention the intangible things — the discipline, the loyalty, family, never forgetting where you came from.”

STORIES, 1C

By Dan Fleser
USA Today Network — Tennessee

KNOXVILLE — When Pat Summit announced in August 2011 that she had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, the Tennessee women's basketball coaching legend said, "It's not going to keep me from living my life."

Her public battle with the brain disease ended early Tuesday morning when Summit died at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville. She was 64.

Summit is survived by her mother, Hazel Albright Head; son, Ross "Tyler" Summit; sister, Linda; and brothers, Tommy, Charles and Kenneth.

A private service and burial for family and friends will be held in Middle Tennessee. A public service to celebrate her life will take place at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville at 6 p.m. July 14. Memorial gifts may be made to The Pat Summit Foundation by visiting pat-summitt.org/donate.

"Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease," Tyler Summit said in a prepared statement.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero tweeted that the Henley Bridge lights would be changed to orange, white and blue Tuesday night "in remembrance of Coach Summit's deep devotion to Knoxville."

Summit, who was born

See SUMMITT, 2C
in Clarksville, Tennessee, was the fourth of five children and the first girl for Hazel and Richard Head. She grew up on a farm doing such chores as chopping tobacco, plowing fields and baling hay. She never missed a day of school from kindergarten through high school.

During her early years, she played basketball with her brothers in the hayloft of the family's barn.

Summitt attended UT Martin, graduating in 1974. The late Helen B. Watson, former chair of UT's Physical Education Department, hired Summitt to be a graduate teaching assistant. Watson later called back to inform Summitt that then-women's basketball coach Margaret Hutson had decided to take a sabbatical and offered her the coaching position. Summitt, then Pat Head, was 22 years old.

"I was absolutely overwhelmed and scared to death," Summitt said then. She was a quick study, as evidenced by her all-time record of 1,098-208 (.840). She coached 47 percent of her games against ranked opponents and also had a .913 winning percentage at home (504-48). Her victory total was the most for any Division 1 coach, men or women.

Summitt topped her 38-year career by coaching a final season (2011-12) after her Alzheimer's diagnosis. She then stepped down to become the program's head coach emeritus.

Summitt has been inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (1999), the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (2000) and the FIBA Hall of Fame (2013).

The Pat Summit Plaza, which features a statue of her, was built across from Thompson-Boling Arena and dedicated in 2013. "Icons are rare breeds," UT athletic director Dave Hart said, "and Pat Summitt was a very rare breed."

President Barack Obama announced on April 19, 2012, that Summitt had received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was honored at the White House on May 29. The president issued a four-paragraph statement Tuesday morning, calling Summitt a "patriot" and "a hero to millions of Americans, including my two daughters."

The "We Back Pat" campaign began almost immediately after Summitt's medical announcement. Fighting Alzheimer's became her cause before her coaching career ended as well. At halftime of a game against then-No. 1 Baylor on Nov. 27, 2011, Summitt and Tyler announced the formation of the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund. The foundation was established to make grants to non-profit organizations that provide Alzheimer's education and research as well as support services.

"Tyler and I have decided it's time for us to join this battle," Summitt said at the time. "It's time for us to turn this obstacle into a stepping stone leading to a cure."

Foundation officials and The University of Tennessee Medical Center announced last year a partnership to expand the scope and capacity of the Medical Center's existing Alzheimer's Clinic and establish the Pat Summitt Alzheimer's Clinic.

Summitt still attended some games last season. Tyler said in March that his mother had moved into Sherrill Hill in late January while her regular home underwent renovation.

A pilgrimage of former Lady Vols players and coaches to Summitt's side began Thursday and continued into Monday.

"I was always impressed with how all of her former players spoke about her," former UT quarterback Peyton Manning said in a university release. "You speak to people like Tamika Catchings or Chamique Holdsclaw and they just talk about the role that Pat played in all their lives on and off the court. You can just tell the impact that she had on those players."

Teresa Olive of Knoxville touches a statue of Pat Summitt on the University of Tennessee campus as she pays her respects to the winningest coach in Division 1 college basketball history.
Former Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt, whose 1,098 career victories is the most in Division 1 college basketball, died Tuesday morning in Knoxville, five years after she announced she had early onset Alzheimer’s disease. She was 64.
Summitt won 16 Southeastern Conference regular season titles, as well as 16 conference tournament titles. She was an eight-time SEC coach of the year and seven-time NCAA coach of the year. She also coached the U.S. women's Olympic team to the 1984 gold medal.

Her greatest adversary on the court was Auriemma. The two teams played 22 times from 1995-2007. Summitt ended the series after the 2007 season.

"Put set the standard for which programs like ours dreamed of achieving, both on and off the court," Auriemma said. "Our sport reached new heights thanks to her success, which came from an incomparable work ethic and a larger than life, yet compassionate personality."

In 1999, Summitt was inducted as part of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. She made the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame a year later.

She also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Summitt was such a competitor that she refused to let a pilot land in Virginia when she went into labor while on a recruiting trip in 1990. Virginia had beaten her Lady Vols a few months earlier, preventing them from playing for a national title on their home floor.

But it was only in 2012 when being honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award that Summitt shared she had six miscarriages before giving birth to her son, Tyler.

Born June 14, 1952, in Henrietta, Tenn., Summitt graduated from Claflin County Central High School just west of Nashville. She played college basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her bachelor's degree in physical education. She was the co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal.

After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left.

Summitt detailed her battle with dementia in a memoir, "Sum It Up," released in March 2013 and co-written with Sally Jenkins.

"It's hard to pinpoint the exact day that I first noticed something wrong," Summitt wrote. "Over the course of a year, from 2010 to 2011, I began to experience a troubling series of lapses. I had to ask people to remind me of the same things, over and over. I'd ask three times in the space of an hour. 'What time is my meeting again?' - and then be late."

Summitt started a foundation in her name to fight Alzheimer's in 2011 that has raised millions of dollars.

After she retired, Summitt was given the title head coach emeritus at Tennessee. She had been cutting back her public appearances, coming to a handful of Tennessee games this past season and occasionally also traveled to watch her son Tyler coach at Louisiana Tech.

Earlier this year, Summitt moved out of her home into an upscale retirement resort.


Summitt is survived by her mother, Hazel Albright Head, son, Tyler, sister, Linda, brothers, Tommy, Charlie and Kenneth. Tyler Summitt said a private funeral and burial will be held in Middle Tennessee and asked that the family's privacy be respected. A public memorial service will be held July 14 at Thompson-Boling Arena.

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Pat Summitt, 64, vitalized sport
Starting at age 22, she won 1,098 basketball games, 8 titles

Pat Summit, who won eight women's national basketball championships at the University of Tennessee and more games than any other Division I college coach, male or female, died Tuesday. She was 64.

In this Sept. 4, 2012, file photo former Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summit listens to comments during the USTA. (By CHARLES KrUPA) (Credit: AP)

Her death was confirmed on the website of the Pat Summit Foundation.

Summitt stepped down after 36 seasons and 1,098 victories at Tennessee in April 2012, at 59, less than a year after she learned she had early onset Alzheimer's disease.

Over nearly four decades, Summitt helped transform women's college basketball from a sport ignored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association into one that drew national television audiences and paid its most successful coaches more than $1 million a year.

"In modern history, there are two figures that belong on the Mount Rushmore of women's sports -- Billie Jean King and Pat Summitt," Mary Jo Kane, a sports sociologist at the University of Minnesota, said in 2011. "No one else is close to third."

Summitt, who was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, was a trailblazer, ambassador and missionary. She was a co-captain of the 1976 women's Olympic team, which won a silver
On the passing of Pat Summitt

"One would be hard-pressed to name a figure who had a more indelible impact on her profession than Pat Summitt."

Geno Auriemma, Connecticut women's basketball coach

"I can’t even imagine where our game would be without Pat Summitt. Her legacy will be the impact that she has had on us all. It extends beyond her Lady Vols family, and includes any of us who have competed on every level."

Gary Blair, Texas A&M women's basketball coach

"I always said Pat Summitt could have coached any sport on the UT campus, and she would have won a championship. She just knew how to win."

Jimmy Dykes, Arkansas women's basketball coach

"She was something like a superhero to me. In the face of adversity, she never showed weakness, she never backed down."

Chamique Holdsclaw, former Tennessee player

"Pat Summitt is a pioneer in basketball. Her amazing career accomplishments are among an elite group of leaders. Very few people leave a lasting legacy in their chosen professions, and Coach Summitt has done just that at the University of Tennessee and in women's basketball."

Mike Krzyzewski, Duke men's basketball coach

"It would have been a great experience to play for her. She could have coached any team, any sport, men or women. I wouldn’t have minded because Pat could flat out coach. I will miss her dearly, and I am honored to call her my friend."

Peyton Manning, former Tennessee and NFL quarterback

...medal, then guided the United States to gold as head coach at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. All of her players who completed their eligibility at Tennessee also graduated, school officials said.

She was born Patricia Sue Head on June 14, 1952, in Clarksville, Tenn. The fourth of five children, she slept in a baby bed until she was 6. Her farmer father, Richard Head, was a disciplinarian who, she recalled, admonished his children that "cows don't take a day off."

During the day, she joined her three older brothers in baling hay and chopping tobacco. At night, she played basketball against her brothers and neighbors.

"I was the only girl," Summitt once said, "They beat me up, but it made me tougher."

Title IX, the federal law that prohibited discrimination in schools based on gender, was passed in 1972, but expanded opportunities for female athletes came haltingly. The NCAA did not begin sponsoring women's basketball until 1982, 43 years after it held its first postseason tournament for men.

Still, the women's game thrived in rural enclaves in states such as Tennessee and Texas, where girls who worked on farms could not be told with any seriousness that they lacked the endurance to play sports.

Summitt attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and, upon graduating in 1974, became head coach at the University of Tennessee's flagship campus in Knoxville. At 22, she was barely older than her players.

Summitt's first game at Tennessee ended in a one-point defeat. When she phoned her parents to give them the news, she recalled, her father offered a bit of sage advice: "Tricia, don't take donkeys to the Kentucky Derby" -- meaning that the best coaches recruited the top players. For most of 38 seasons, she did.

Her two biggest stars, Chamique Holdsclaw of Queens, N.Y., and Candace Parker of suburban Chicago, led the Lady Vols to five of Summitt's eight national titles and are considered two of the best women's collegiate players of all time. Summitt's best team, guided by Holdsclaw and reliant on relentless offense and aggressive defense, finished 39-0 to win the national title in 1998. To that point, no women's team had won as many games in a season.

As the number of championships climbed, so did Summitt's salary, eventually reaching $1.25 million a year. She was once approached by Tennessee officials about coaching the men's team. She dismissed the overture, asking, "Why is that considered a step up?"

Summitt's marriage of 27 years to R.B. Summitt, a banker, ended in divorce in 2008.

Summitt's eighth and final national title also came in 2008, three short of the 11 titles won by Geno Auriemma, who coaches the Connecticut women's team.

Summitt began to notice changes in herself during the 2010-11 season. She grew forgetful during games, she lost track of meetings. After the season, she visited the Mayo Clinic, and doctors found that she had early onset Alzheimer's.

Summitt coached through the 2011-12 season, though her three assistant coaches assumed most of her duties during practices and games. The Lady Vols struggled at times but still came within one victory of reaching the Final Four. Shortly after the season ended, Summitt retired as head coach. She started a foundation to raise awareness about dementia.

Her memoir, Sum It Up (written with Sally Jenkins), was a best-seller in 2013.

Her survivors include her son, Tyler, who was the women's coach at Louisiana Tech before resigning this year over what was described as "an inappropriate relationship," widely reported to be with one of his players, her mother, Hazel Albright Head; her sister, Linda Atteberry; and her brothers, Kenneth, Tommy and Charles Head."

http://www.nwaonline.com/

"A great person, loving mother, passionate coach and loyal friend."

Phillip Fulmer, former Tennessee football coach

"Dead at 64? That's five years younger than Duke's Mike Krzyzewski. Seven years younger than Syracuse's Jim Boeheim. One year younger than North Carolina's Roy Williams. Eleven years younger than SMU's Larry Brown. And Summitt was just one year older than Louisville's Rick Pitino and three years older than Michigan State's Tom Izzo. Those fellow Naismith Hall of Famers are all still operating at a high level. Summitt should be, too."

Gary Parrish, CBSSports.com

"It hurts. This whole situation has been very difficult. She meant a lot to me. She was a teacher on and off the court. It was an opportunity and a blessing to play for her. She really helped me grow up and become a woman."

Shakamia Stricklan, former Morrilton High School and Tennessee player

"We lost one of the true giants in coaching, in any sport and regardless of gender, today. If there were a Mount Rushmore of coaching, Pat Summitt would certainly be included."

Roy Williams, North Carolina men's basketball coach

Summitts year-by-year record

SEASON RECORD
1974-1975 16-8 Did not qualify
1975-1976 16-11 Did not qualify
1976-1977 28-5 AIAW semifinals
1977-1978 27-4 AIAW regional first round
1978-1979 30-9 AIAW semifinals
1979-1980 33-5 AIAW runner-up
1980-1981 25-6 AIAW runner-up
1981-1982 22-10 NCAA semifinals

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Pat Summitt (right) embraces a supporter at UT Martin's Homecoming 2012. Summitt passed away on Tuesday.

Most famous UTM alum passes
Locals offer tributes to the late Pat Summitt

KENNETH COKER
Sports Editor

Pat Summitt – the UT Martin graduate who built a basketball empire at Tennessee on her way to 1,098 wins and eight NCAA national championships – has died at the age of 64. Summitt passed away Tuesday morning in Knoxville following a courageous battle with early onset dementia, Alzheimer's type.

The death of the winningest coach in NCAA basketball history and the only Olympic Gold medalist in UTM history (1984 Olympics as a coach) came just days after reports emerged of Summitt's worsening condition.

As tributes have poured in from all over the sports world, teammates and coaching peers were grieving locally on Tuesday morning as the news settled in.

"She had grace, class and an incredible ability to make people do things they didn't think they could do," said former Westview girls coach and fellow UT Martin Athletics Hall of Famer Julia Brundige, who shared the floor with Summitt. "She made me rise to heights I didn't think I could and made me better than I thought I was. That will live with me forever. Pat gave me something nobody can take away from me."

Summitt played both basketball and volleyball at UTM in a time when women's athletics were an afterthought.

At first, Summitt and Brundige butted heads while jockeying for a certain position on the floor.

"We both wanted to play post and she was an inch taller than I was," Brundige recalled. "She literally took me out back of the women's gym and said we've got to make a deal. I didn't care who she was. I wanted to play post and she wanted to play post, too. Then, she told me, 'you have got to let me play post and be my primary feeder.' I didn't think we had any say it and said 'we'll see about that.' Finally, I gave in and told her to be the post and I would be her main feeder."

"I think I'm in the UTM Hall of Fame because of playing both basketball and volleyball and due to having the most assists to Pat. I didn't mind her scoring because we were so competitive and we wanted to win. She never did give me the start, though. That's something to talk about."

"I fed the basketball into her and I was one of the few that could get it into her. It just shows how basketball-savvy she was even before she became a coach."

After sorting out the business

Continued on Page 6

Locals
From page 5

of who would be post, their friendship blossomed at UT Martin, leading to Brundige's ejection from a game years later.

"We were playing somebody and this girl were all over me," Brundige said. "We had a timeout and Pat told me 'If you don't draw blood on her, I'm going to sit you on the bench by myself. Well, we went back out there and I elbowed this girl and that didn't work. I tried to bump into her and that didn't work. Finally, I caught her with the heel of my hand and blood started gushing everywhere. The official gave me a technical for an intentional foul and asked for the ball. I told him he could go get it and threw it down the floor. Of course, I got ejected for that. In a later timeout, Pat told me she didn't really mean she wanted me to draw blood."

"Pat used that as an illustration in one of her books to show how powerful words can be. She realized at that point how her words affected people greatly. Pat had a powerful influence on me. If she told me to run through fire, I would. There was a mutual respect for one another."

Brundige also was present the day the phone call came down asking for Summitt to become the new women's coach in Knoxville.

"When she was a senior, Bettye Giles came into one of our practices and told Pat the athletic director at Knoxville had called and wanted her to become the head coach at Tennessee," Brundige said. "I never will forget how she turned and looked at me and said 'Now, why would I want to do that? I told her she was crazy if she didn't take the job, but she was concerned because she didn't have a masters' degree yet. They just wanted somebody who loved basketball. And that was Pat.'"

Summitt eventually took the job as women's basketball coach at Tennessee – a position she held for 38 seasons while leading the program to heights not previously reached by a female college team before, during or after Title IX.

Along the way, Summitt made friends with another Weakley Countian – fellow UT Martin Hall of Famer and WNBA champion coach Lin Dunn of Dresden.

"When I think of the impact Pat has had on women's sports and women's basketball, I think of the impact Billie Jean King had on women's sports," Dunn said. "Pat was the first to do this and the first to do that. She put UT Martin on the map with success in the AIF Tournament as a player. Then, Pat went to Knoxville and built the Lady Vols into a national power. She's so beloved in our area of the country and all of Tennessee. We cherish the fact she's one of us. She was born and raised in Tennessee and lived in Tennessee her whole life while bringing so much positive recognition to UT Martin, West Tennessee, Henrietta and Dyerville. Pat is a big part of the history and the growth of our game."

Dunn deflected when asked about coaching against Summitt, instead offering personal feelings on her friendship with the Tennessee legend.

"The thing I remember the most today about Pat is that she is the person off the court," Dunn said. "Pat was full of life. She loved people, loved to laugh and loved to have fun. Pat almost never turned an opportunity to give back down. She would speak at camps and clinics at a moment's notice. If somebody needed encouragement, Pat was there with her resources and time. She was just a giver. Those are the things I remember today more than the competition. I remember how she touched the lives of people off the court. She was a wonderful mother, friend and a tremendous mentor."

According to the Pat Summitt Foundation's Web site, a private service and burial will be held in Middle Tennessee. A public service to celebrate Coach Summitt's life will take place at the Thompson-Boiling Arena on the campus at Tennessee at a later date.
Memories of Summit key to legacy

KENNETH COKER
Sports Editor

Pat Summit will never be forgotten.

Those words ring true today from Martin to Knoxville and from coast-to-coast.

The sad irony in the opening sentence of this column is the memories of the winner of 1,098 basketball games and eight national championships faded in the final years of her life.

As tributes poured in nationally and locally on Tuesday, two themes remained constant: 1) Pat Summit gave back to everyone she could during her storied career and 2) everyone seems to have a Pat Summit memory.

Personally, I remember watching the final season of Summit’s tenure at Tennessee. I remember the day she stepped down and allowed Holly Warlick to assume her chair on the bench.

I remember hearing her speak at the Big Orange Caravan alongside Phillip Fulmer and Bruce Pearl in Milan.

I remember the day I was a terrified 22-year-old set to interview her inside the UT Martin chancellor’s home. I remember fearing the famed ‘Summitt Stare’ and how relieved I was to have steered clear of it as I stammered and stuttered through the questions I had for her.

I remember meeting Coach Summit as a teenager when the Lady Vols played in Martin and seeing the first 39-0 NCAA women’s college basketball team as it bested the Skyhawk women.

I remember Pat Summit at UTM’s Homecoming 2012. Initially, word broke she would be coming to town for a ceremony to unveil statues of herself, Nadine Gearn and Betty Giles just outside of the Elam Center with the belief being she would only be on hand for the event and she would not speak.

I remember going into that day with a sense of dread in not knowing how Coach Summit was doing.

I remember being pleasantly surprised and lifted up when Summit took to the podium and was for lack of a better term Pat Summit.

I didn’t see a lady at a pity party. There was not a ‘woe is me’ look in her eyes.

I remember the creation of the Pat Summit Foundation. I remember hearing how much money it has raised for Alzheimer’s research.

In the past 24 hours, Tennessee and UT Martin players and fans of all ages have shared memories, photos and thoughts on Pat Summit.

It seems like everyone has a memory of the greatest women’s basketball coach of all-time which brought me to a comforting conclusion.

Essentially, Pat Summit - who accomplished most everything a female athlete or coach can - didn’t need her memories in order for her legacy to go forward. The body of work she compiled both on and off the court has enough witnesses to carry her memories forward for future generations.

Thus, in typical Pat Summit fashion, she left her memories here when she passed this morning, giving small keepsakes to those she cared about the most - her family, friends, teammates and fans.

Obion Countains receive scholarships

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2016-2017 academic year, according to Dr. James Man водо, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Tyler Bolton, of Union City, son of Theresa Bumpus and Steve Bolton, will be a junior. He received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.

Emma Bruner, daughter of Kevin and Michelle Bruner, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor’s Award.

Mason Todd Chandler, son of Todd and Jennifer Chandler, of Kenton, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Award.

Jennifer Del-Castillo, of Union City, daughter of James and Cindy Watkins, will be a senior. She received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.

Andrew Sean Kinney, son of Candi Kinney, of South Fulton, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

Johen Rico, daughter of Rafael Rico and Maria Montoya, of Union City, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Kendall Speed, daughter of Brian and Yonna Speed, of Union City, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

Zackary Williamson, son of Jim and Amy Williamson, of Union City, will be a freshman. He received the J. Harbert Bennett Scholarship.

Kendra Young, daughter of Rozelle and Janet Doty, of Union City, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship and the Harold Conner Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Losing a legend

Pat Summitt, legendary Lady Vols coach, dies at 64

DAN FLEUSER USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE — When Pat Summitt announced in August 2011 that she had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s disease, the Tennessee women’s basketball coaching legend pointedly said, “It’s not going to keep me from living my life.”

Her public battle with the brain disease ended early Tuesday morning when Summitt died at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville. She was 64.

The time of death, according to former UT women’s athletic director Joan Cronan, was 5:05 a.m. Cronan also said she received a text about Summitt’s death at 5:10 a.m.

Summitt is survived by her mother, Hazel Albright Head; son, Ross “Tyler” Summitt; sister, Linda; brothers, Tommy, Charles and Kenneth.

Summitt attended UT Martin, graduating in 1974. The late Helen B. Watson, the former chairperson of UT’s Physical Education Department, hired Summitt to be a graduate teaching assistant. Watson later called back to inform Summitt that then-women’s basketball coach Margaret Hutson had decided to take a sabbatical and offered Summitt the coaching position. Summitt, then Pat Head, was 22 years old.

“I was absolutely overwhelmed and scared to death,” Summitt said then.

She was a quick study, as evidenced by her all-time record of 1,098-208 (.840). She coached 47 percent of her games against ranked opponents and also had a .913 winning percentage at home (504-48). Her victory total was the most for any men’s or women’s coach in NCAA Division I basketball history.

Summitt topped her 38-year career by coaching a final season (2011-12) after her Alzheimer’s diagnosis. She then stepped down to become the program’s head coach emeritus.

“We’d go around and she would say, ‘This is my boss.’” Cronan said. “I always said Pat never had a boss.”

Summitt has been inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame (1999), the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (2000) and the FHBA Hall of Fame (2013).

The Pat Summitt Plaza, which features a statue of her, was built across from Thompson-Boling Arena and dedicated in November 2013.

“Icons are rare breeds,” Tennessee athletic director Dave Hart said, “and Pat Summitt was a very rare breed.”

President Obama announced on April 19, 2012, that Summitt had received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was honored at the White House on May 29. The president issued a four-paragraph statement Tuesday morning, which reflected the wealth of reaction to her death. He called Summitt a “patriot” and “a hero to millions of Americans, including my two daughters.”

The “We Back Pat” campaign began almost immediately after Summitt’s medical announcement. Fighting Alzheimer’s became her cause before her coaching career ended as well. At halftime of a game against then-No. 1 Baylor on Nov. 27, 2011, at the arena, Summitt and Tyler announced the formation of the Pat Summitt Foundation Fund. The foundation was established to make grants to nonprofit organizations that provide Alzheimer’s education and research as well as support services.

Foundation officials and The University of Tennessee Medical Center announced last year a new strategic partnership to significantly expand the scope and capacity of the Medical Center’s existing Alzheimer’s Clinic and establish the Pat Summitt Alzheimer’s Clinic.
'She will go down in history for her kindness'
BRANDON SHIELDS
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Julia Brundige was a teammate of Pat Head Summitt’s on the women's basketball team at UT Martin in 1972-73 when the two had a conversation one night after practice. “We were the two tallest on the team and competing, and she found out I was one that wasn’t afraid of her,” Brundige said. “And she and I were talking one night behind the women’s gym after we’d finished practicing, and she looked at me and said, ‘I’m going to do great things. I think I’m destined for it, and I want to take you with me.’ “And I think she succeeded in doing that.” Summitt died early Tuesday morning after numerous reports surfaced in recent days stating her passing was likely to happen soon. She was diagnosed with dementia and a form of Alzheimer’s disease in 2011 before retiring from coaching women's basketball at Tennessee in 2012.

Her list of accomplishments on the basketball court suggest she became great. Her 1,098 victories are the most of any college basketball coach in the men's or women's game. She led the Lady Vols to eight national championships and 16

See Summitt, Page 4A

Summitt

Continued from Page 3A

Southeastern Conference championships while being named the national coach of the year seven times and being named the Naismith Coach of the 20th Century.

Brundige said she hopes that’s only a small part of the legacy Summitt will be remembered for.

“She will go down in history for her kindness,” Brundige said. “She was very loyal. Once she was your friend, she was your friend for life.

“She was the same way with her players. And if she had a player that didn’t fit well in Pat’s program and didn’t want to learn Pat’s way under Pat, she would let her go and let her down nicely.”

Brundige said that was the way Summitt was because relationships were very important to her.

“You don’t have a good team or a good family or a good church or a good anything involving more than one person without relationships,” Brundige said.

“It just doesn’t work, and Pat understood that and valued relationships and people because she was a good person.”

Bettye Giles was the first women’s athletic director at UTM and was instrumental in getting Summitt to Martin along with the team’s coach, Nadine Gearin, who died in 2009.

“The first time I saw her play was at Roosevelt Elementary School in Clarksville,” Giles said. “I knew the Head family in Montgomery County, and I watched her play, and she was already so skilled even at such a young age while the rest of the kids were just learning how to dribble.”

Giles said Summitt became that way growing up on her father’s farm with three older brothers who all played basketball. Their father went to extreme lengths for his daughter including putting a basketball goal in the loft of their barn and selling his farm in Montgomery County and buying a place in Cheatham County because schools in Montgomery County and Clarksville weren’t offering girls sports yet.

“That certainly was an extreme action to take, but I think he saw something in Pat that could give her the chance to do something with sports,” Giles said.

Giles remembers the first day Summitt was on campus at UTM.

“We were signing up for classes for the first quarter, and she came into my office and asked when we started playing basketball,” Giles said. “I told her we played volleyball first.

“She asked, ‘Why do we do that?’”

Giles had fought hard to bring three women’s sports to campus, so she was quick to defend playing something else besides basketball. So her explanation that volleyball was used to get in shape for basketball seemed to work, temporarily.

“But she hated volleyball,” Giles said.

“If you let her stand around with the volleyball long enough with nothing to do, she’d start throwing the ball at the basketball goal working on her shot.”

Summitt was a person who enjoyed
being around other people, sharing stories and having a good time.

"That's why it was so hard watching her health go down the way it has since she was diagnosed," Brundige said. "Of course we're all sad she's gone, but I've had my cry.

"I'm glad now her misery is over and she's out of pain and suffering now."

Brundige said it had been a while since she'd actually talked with Summitt, but she got a sweet memory a few weeks ago she will hang on to.

"I sent her a picture about a month ago, and her caretaker, Mary Margaret, said Pat looked at it and smiled and said it was the last time she smiled," Brundige said. "It was a picture of us goofing off when we were in college.

"She'd gotten to the point where she wiggled her toes to let us know she understood something, and Mary Margaret said she wiggled her toes and smiled. I was glad when she told me that."

Brundige said her memories of Summitt will be different than a lot of others.

"I didn't get that icy glare like everybody else apparently did, because I was the one that fed her the ball," Brundige said laughing. "But Pat didn't hand out compliments easily if at all because she wasn't one to do that.

"But I remember her hands. If I was struggling in a game or something, she'd come up to me and talk to me about what I needed to do. She'd put her hand on my back (I'd) and feel these long fingers spread out over my back and shoulder blades. And it was her way of saying we were going to be OK and we'd get through the game and give ourselves a chance to win."

The pair were part of the most successful team in UTM women's hoops history with a final record of 22-3. They were inducted into the UTM Sports Hall of Fame together.

"That happened because of Pat and the friendship we had," Brundige said. "Her loyalty and kindness were more memorable for me than any game or championship she won."

Giles said she appreciates the effect Summitt had on women's athletics — not just at Martin or in Knoxville, but nationwide in more sports than basketball.

"You look at all her accomplishments at the collegiate level and the influence she had," Giles said. "I'm proud to have known her and glad to have been friends with her and her family.

"She will definitely be missed."

Reach Brandon at (731) 425-9751
PAYING RESPECT — Floral arrangements sit at the foot of the “Coaches” statue near the main entrance of the Elam Center in honor of former UT Martin player and longtime legendary Tennessee women’s basketball coach Pat Summitt, who died in Knoxville on Tuesday. The statue honors three of the biggest figures in UTM women’s athletics history: Summitt, former head coach Nadine Gearin and former women’s athletic director Bettye Giles.
Sisters... (Continued from Page 1) having hardships in our lives, she was the first one on the phone to give us a call to lift us up. My mother passed away in 2008. I was home in Union City, and the phone rang. My brother answered it, handed it to me and said, “It’s Pat. She wants to talk to you.” She just had to call and offer her condolences, tell me she loved me and that she was there for me. You just always knew she would be there for you.”

Beale is heading up the fundraising for the on-campus Pat Summitt Chi Omega House at UT Martin, which will be dedicated during homecoming ceremonies on Oct. 8.

Gratitude and loyalty were not just words to Summitt. She lived by those values and expected the same of the people she brought into her circle.

Branches remembers how Summitt thanked her teachers when she came back to UT Martin several years ago to deliver the commencement address.

While coaching at Tennessee, she would often have the other coaches at her house and cook them a meal, and she would attend their games and events. In turn, the likes of Phillip Fulmer, Bruce Pearl and the other coaches would be at Lady Vols’ games.

“It’s about doing the right thing,” Branches said. “It’s about your relationships with your family, your church, your players. Everything breaks apart if you don’t have good relationships.”

That carried over to everyone who came in contact with her.

“She never met a stranger,” Beale said. “And, as far as I know, she never denied anyone a photo opportunity or an autograph. I can remember games where they lost, and she was very upset. But when kids came up with a program or a baseball cap, she stopped to give them that autograph. She was just a genuine, down-to-earth person.”

But Summitt would not tolerate those who weren’t loyal. “If you betrayed her trust,” Branches said, “she’d cut you off.”

The love Summitt had for her home was just as big as that she had for family and friends.

“She loved Henrietta, she loved Cheatham County, she loved the fact that she was from Tennessee,” said Dunn, a native of Dresden. “She had so many wonderful experiences at UT Martin, not only playing basketball but also with her Chi Omega sisters. She’s spent her entire life in Tennessee. Every time she sang ‘Rocky Top,’ she sang it from the heart, because she bled orange. She loved being from the state of Tennessee, and she loved being what I guess you could call a true Volunteer. She had so much pride in her state. She loved Tennessee. From Memphis to Knoxville, it was her state, and she was proud of where she was from.”

Branches was there when Bettye Giles came out of her office at UT Martin and told Summitt she had been offered the coaching job at Knoxville.

“At her first game, she got in the middle of the court, crossed her arms and counted the people there,” Branches said. “There were 26 people there. Her job and her passion was to fill that gym, and she did. She gave a lot of women opportunities they never would’ve had.”

It was humble beginning, for sure. But from that handful of people at Stokley Athletics Center, a door for women was opened, a bar was raised and a glass ceiling was shattered.

“I think about the years, the players and staff she’s worked with,” Dunn said. “The traits she had rubbed off on them. Of course, she taught them how to be competitive, but she also instilled her generosity in them and a lot of the people she came in contact with.
“She’s just one of a kind. She’s impacted so many lives in a positive way.”

Her legacy was built within Chi Omega long before she became the face of women’s athletics. Passmore, who lives in Mayfield, Ky., remembers what she was told shortly after joining Chi Omega.

“We were taught very early when we were at UT Martin what an exceptional woman she was,” Passmore said. “That was back in 1974. That was before she became an icon. They knew even then that Pat would do great things. She inspired me without even knowing me.

“We’re all very sad and heartbroken right now. We lost a great sister.”

All Chi Omega sisters are held accountable by a Symphony, a creed for conduct. In it, they are told “to be womanly always; to be discouraged never.”

In the way she lived her life and fought to the end, Summitt certainly embodied the spirit of a Chi-O sister.

Brundige knew Summitt about as well as anyone outside the Head family. So it’s fitting that one simple sentence from her is all anyone needs to truly understand why Summitt was who she was.

“It’s all about people with Pat.”

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New UT Martin tuition model gains approval

A new “Soar in Four” tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for the University of Tennessee at Martin Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees.

The new model encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The new model will also fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including a completely revamped and upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

The tuition model is supported by UT Martin’s Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds. Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.

Completing college in four years offers financial benefits for students. The fifth year in college and beyond results in the typical student adding $8,735 in debt.

The student’s average annual cost to attend is $22,058, so graduating in four years will result in significant savings.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UT Martin students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a $3,840 flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model. UT Martin does not charge for enrolled hours above 12, which is the threshold for full-time students for financial aid, tuition and fee purposes.

Mandatory fees at the university will not increase this academic year. Additionally, the university is reducing the overall per-student housing rates and increasing private scholarship assistance.

Students enrolled for online courses will pay more for courses in 2016-17. The undergraduate online course fee increased 2.2 percent for in-state and out-of-state domestic students, while graduate online course fees increased 3 percent.

The new tuition schedule is available at https://www.utm.edu/departments/bursar/tuition.php.

For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, a final Summer Orientation and Registration session is set for July 15, followed by the final Transfer Orientation and Registration session for transfer students on July 22, both at the main campus. (See related story, below.)

Fall semester classes begin Aug. 22.
UT Martin sets event for incoming freshmen

Any students planning to begin their college careers at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall 2016 semester who have not yet registered for classes must attend Summer Orientation and Registration on July 15.

SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen, and students will not be permitted to register for classes outside of these sessions.

The cost to attend SOAR is $45 per student and $20 for each additional person. No tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited.

Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register.

Visit www.utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

Each SOAR session begins with check-in and an administrative fair from 7:30-8:30 a.m., with an official welcome to follow. At 9, students will meet with their orientation leaders and begin a rotation of informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and other important topics.

Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m., at which point parents and families can attend a parent panel session.

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending the July 15 session, contact Mary Wiggins in the Office of Student Engagement at (731) 881-7740 as soon as possible.

For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.

UTM Parsons Center prepares with faculty workshop

It seems that all the schools have just let out, but the UT Martin Parsons Center is already back at work with a faculty workshop. The Parsons Center already has a 5.6% increase over last year's enrollment and they are looking for another record breaking year. The faculty will consist of approximately 60 members of the staff, including adjunct. Dr. Kelli Deere, director, says they will all be ready and prepared for an exciting new year.
Incoming UTM freshmen can register July 15 for fall classes

MARTIN, Tenn. — Any students planning to begin their college career at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall 2016 semester who have not yet registered for classes must attend Summer Orientation and Registration on July 15. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen, and students will not be permitted to register for classes outside of these sessions.

The cost to attend SOAR is $45 per student and $20 for each additional person. No tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester. SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received a tentative or final acceptance letter to register. Visit www.utm.edu/soar for more information and for registration instructions.

Each SOAR session begins with check-in and an administrative fair from 7:30-8:30 a.m., with an official welcome to follow. At 9 a.m., students will meet with their orientation leaders and begin a rotation of informational sessions on academic options, financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and other important topics.

Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m., at which point parents and families can attend a parent panel session.

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending the July 15 session, contact Mary Wiggins, Office of Student Engagement, at 731-881-7740 as soon as possible.

For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.

Channel 4’s Paul Heggen visits UTM Kids College

Paul Heggen, the weekday morning meteorologist for Channel 4 WSMV, Nashville must have some strong ties to the weather maker. During his presentation about different weather conditions to the UTM Parsons Campus Kids College last Monday, when he mentioned lightning and thunder, that’s exactly what happened. The small thunderstorm passed over Parsons at just the right time to make his point. It even brought a power surge or two. Some kids in attendance were glad that when he started talking about a tornado and flooding that he didn’t have any real demonstrations. Students appeared on Channel Four news Tuesday morning at 4:45, 5:45 and 6:45 a.m.

Heggen says he likes coming to Decatur County, since he has ties to the area. He is married to Rachel Ward, daughter of Terry and Judy Ward. Kids College will be continuing through Thursday and will have lots more exciting things to happen at Kids College.
Legendary coach Pat Summitt passes away

LEGENDARY TENNESSEE Lady Vols basketball head coach Pat Summitt passed away. Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.

STEVE MEGARGEE
AP Sports Writer

KNOXVILLE — Pat Summitt, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history who lifted the women's game to national prominence during her 38-year career at Tennessee, died Tuesday. She was 64.

With an icy glare on the sidelines, Summitt led the Lady Vols to eight national championships and prominence on a campus steeped in the traditions of the football-rich south until she retired in 2012.

Her son, Tyler Summitt, issued a statement Tuesday morning saying his mother died peacefully at Sherrill Hill Senior Living in Knoxville surrounded by those who loved her most.

"Since 2011, my mother has battled her toughest opponent, early onset dementia, 'Alzheimer's Type,' and she did so with bravely fierce determination just as she did with every opponent she ever faced," Tyler Summitt said. "Even though it's incredibly difficult to come to terms that she is no longer with us, we can all find peace in knowing she no longer carries the heavy burden of this disease."

Summitt helped grow college women's basketball as her Lady Vols dominated the sport in the late 1980s and 1990s, winning six titles in 12 years. Tennessee — the only school she coached — won NCAA titles in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996-98 and 2007-08. Summitt had a career record of 1,098-208 in 38 seasons, plus 18 NCAA Final Four appearances.

She announced in 2011 at age 59 that she'd been diagnosed with early onset dementia. She coached one more season before stepping down. At her retirement, Summitt's eight national titles ranked behind the 10 won by former UCLA men's coach John Wooden. UConn coach Geno Auriemma passed Summitt after she retired.

When she stepped down, Summitt called her coaching career a "great ride."

President Barack Obama issued a statement in which he cited Summitt's victories and championships while noting "her legacy, however, is measured much more by the generations of young women and men who admired Pat's intense competitiveness and character; and as a result found in themselves the confidence to practice hard, play harder, and live with courage on and off the court."

Obama added that "her Hall of Fame career would tell the story of the historic progress toward equality in American athletics that she helped advance."
"Pat started playing college hoops before Title IX and started coaching before the NCAA recognized women's basketball as a sport," Obama said. "When she took the helm at Tennessee as a 22-year-old, she had to wash her players' uniforms; by the time Pat stepped down as the Lady Vols' head coach, her teams wore eight championship rings and had cut down nets in sold-out stadiums."

Peyton Manning, who sought Summitt's advice about returning to Tennessee for his senior season or going to the NFL, said it would have been a great experience to play for her.

"She could have coached any team, any sport, men's or women's. It wouldn't have mattered because Pat could flat out coach," Manning said in a statement. "I will miss her dearly, and I am honored to call her my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Tyler and their entire family."

Summitt was a tough taskmaster with a frosty glower that could strike the fear of failure in her players. She punished one team that stayed up partying before an early morning practice by running them until they vomited. She even placed garbage cans in the gym so they'd have somewhere to be sick.

Nevertheless, she enjoyed such an intimate relationship with her players that they called her "Pat."

Summitt never had a losing record and her teams made the NCAA Tournament every season. She began her coaching career at Tennessee in the 1974-75 season, when her team finished 16-8.

With a 75-54 victory against Purdue on March 22, 2005, she earned her 880th victory, moving her past North Carolina's Dean Smith as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history. She earned her 1,000th career win with a 73-43 victory against Georgia on Feb. 5, 2009.

Summitt won 16 Southeastern Conference regular season titles, as well as 16 conference tournament titles. She was an eight-time SEC coach of the year and seven-time NCAA coach of the year. She also coached the U.S. women's Olympic team to the 1984 gold medal.

In 2006, Tennessee made Summitt the first millionaire coach in women's basketball with a contract paying $1.125 million. She was paid $1.5 million in the final year of the six-year contract in 2011-12.

Summitt's greatest adversary on the court was Arurriema. The two teams played 22 times from 1995-2007. Summitt ended the series after the 2007 season.

"Pat's vision for the game of women's basketball and her relentless drive pushed the game to a new level and made it possible for the rest of us to accomplish what we did," Auriemma said at the time of her retirement.

In 1999, Summitt was inducted as part of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. She made the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame a year later.

She also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Summitt was such a competitor that she refused to let a pilot land in Virginia when she went into labor while on a recruiting trip in 1990. Virginia had beaten her Lady Vols a few months earlier, preventing them from playing for a national title on their home floor.

But it was only in 2012 when being honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award that Summitt shared she had six miscarriages before giving birth to her son, Tyler.

She was born June 14, 1952, in Henrietta, Tennessee, and graduated from Cheatham County Central High School just west of Nashville. She played college basketball at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she received her bachelor's degree in physical education. She was the co-captain of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal.

After playing at UT Martin, she was hired as a graduate assistant at Tennessee and took over when the previous head coach left.

She wrote a motivational book in 1998, "Reach for the Summit." Additionally, she worked with Sally Jenkins on "Raise the Roof," a book about the 1997-98 championship season, and also detailed her battle with dementia in a memoir, "Sum It Up," released in March 2013 and also co-written with Jenkins.

"It's hard to pinpoint the exact day that I first noticed something wrong," Summitt wrote. "Over the course of a year, from 2010 to 2011, I began to experience a troubling series of lapses. I had to ask people to remind me of the same things, over and over. I'd ask three times in the space of an hour, 'What time is my meeting again?' - and then be late."

Summitt started a foundation in her name to fight Alzheimer's in 2011 that has raised millions of dollars.

After she retired, Summitt was given the title head coach emeritus at Tennessee. She had been cutting back her public appearances, coming to a handful of Tennessee games this past season and occasionally also traveled to watch her son Tyler coach at Louisiana Tech.

Earlier this year, Summitt moved out of her home into an upscale retirement resort.

Summitt has two courts used by NCAA Division I basketball teams named in her honor: "Pat Head Summitt Court" at the University of Tennessee-Martin, and "The Summit" at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She also has two streets named after her: "Pat Summit Street" on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus and "Pat Head Summitt Avenue" on the University of Tennessee-Martin campus.


Summitt is survived by her mother, Hazel Albright Head; son, Tyler Summitt; sister, Linda; brothers, Tommy, Charlie, and Kenneth. Tyler Summitt said a private funeral and burial will be held in Middle Tennessee and asked that the family's privacy be respected. A public memorial service is being planned for Thompson-Boling Arena.
The Sky's the Limit for UT-M Kids College

By Kiley Williams
Staff Writer

Kids gathered at the University of Tennessee at Martin's McNairy Center at 8:45 a.m., ready to learn.

You read that correctly - during their summer vacation, McNairy County children all convened on the UTM McNairy Center for learning made fun.

Last week, the University of Tennessee at Martin McNairy Center hosted Kid College 2016, themed "The Sky's the Limit."

Kid College is a five-day program that introduces the child to the sciences, physical fitness, cooking, and relationship building. The University of Tennessee Martin's goal for Kid College was to provide children with an opportunity to have a fun, safe, learning experience and build new relationships during summer vacation.

This year's enrollment included children from Selmer, Adamsville, Finger, Bethel Springs, and even those from other nearby cities like Savannah or South Jackson.

Classes began at 8:45 a.m. when children were divided into small groups by age. The kindergarden and first grade students together, then second and third grade children, and finally the fifth and sixth grade kids. The three groups then rotated through a series of three classes each, covering a unique topic at each station.

Kid College instructors and the Center's administration were

Kelly Smith's marshmallow launchers were very popular amongst the students this year.
all experienced in their fields, and brought a varied amount of hands-on tasks, fitness awareness activities, and learning opportunities.

Director Alan Youngerman was hands-on with the students in attendance, while Sandy King and Kathleen Donnenworth made the event happen behind the scenes and on the front line.

The complete process was smooth and professional, as total success was the final goal for the week-long event.

Coach Mellanie Surratt challenged the mind, body and spirit of the students with the Bodies in Motion and Ninja Warrior Challenge events.

Children participated in compound archery and obstacle courses, personal challenges, water sports and team activities. The class culminated in a timed Ninja Warrior Challenge on Friday as each group crossed a rope bridge. Coach Surratt commented, “The kids were great, well-behaved and eager to learn. It was a good mix of kids from several areas around the county, and they were able to make new friends and practice social skills. They had great energy and responded well.”

Instructor Amy Ray spiked a taste for science in the students as she presented a project called Science Sampler.

This learning unit, complete with hands-on activities in the science lab that included studying solar energy by building hot dog cookers, learning about rock formations through making edible rocks, and studying air pressure, which resulted in quite a few exploded hard-boiled eggs.

The Science Sampler was topped off with a unique marshmallow launcher exhibition. Each class welcomed the knowledge and were eager for repeat attempts.

Kelly Smith expanded both the minds and taste buds of those in attendance with her program, Kids in the Kitchen.

Smith, an experienced chef, assisted the students in making their own chef hats and aprons, discussing common cooking vocabulary, measurements, and the essentials of healthy eating.

Each day, the children cooked up both savory and sweet recipes, including dirt pudding with worms, ice cream (with the science behind it), fruit pizza, fresh salsa, and a strawberry smoothie.

The kids were introduced to the tools of the trade and learned about safety in the kitchen, as well.

As the final day of Kids’ College drew nearer, both the instructors and pupils had been introduced to new recipes, new learning methods, new friends, and new challenges on the Warrior bridge.

Keep your eyes peeled for next year’s Kids’ College - if your student is entering a grade K-5, they are eligible to participate in this week of education and fun.
Local attorney graduates with
2016 WestStar Leadership Class

By Jeff Whitten
Head News Writer

A Selmer attorney and other potential leaders from West Tennessee have graduated from a leadership program.

Selmer attorney Ross Mitchell and other members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class graduated June 21, in an 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.

"It's a really great honor. You meet some extraordinary people, you build some friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said he learned a lot in the program.

"I learned a lot about West Tennessee that I did not know," Mitchell said.

One of the things he learned is the types of industry the region has and what every community is doing to draw potential businesses and residents. Mitchell saw this up close during one session that was held in Selmer.

"It's just a really good opportunity to see that," Mitchell said.

A very important aspect of the program that Mitchell will take away is the relationships he made through networking.

This marked the program's 27th class and brings the total to 769 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990. The 2016 class included 30 participants 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 leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee's development. Participants are chosen from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement.

Among those attending the event was UT Martin interim Chancellor Bob Smith, a WestStar co-founder and former executive director for the program, who thanked the 2016 class for their commitment to improving West Tennessee.

Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and WestStar executive director, presided over the event. He thanked the program's corporate sponsors, offered a "year in review" of WestStar activities and presented graduation plaques along with the program's board of trustees.

Deal also announced several WestStar awards, including the program's two major recognitions:

- C.P. Boyd Leadership Award - Carrie Ann Knox, of Jackson, Kirkland Cancer Center. The award, named for Haywood County community leader and educator C.P. Boyd, is the person selected by the class who best reflects compassion and leadership for West Tennessee.

- Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award - James Ross, of Jackson, WestStar Class of 2004, interim president and CEO, West Tennessee Healthcare. The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, 1990 WestStar graduate, founding trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration. Selection criteria include a WestStar graduate who has had a positive impact in the recipient's city or county during the past five years and a strong record of leadership in West Tennessee.

Members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class graduated June 21, 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. Ross Mitchell, of Selmer, is pictured fourth from the right in the back row.
Final freshman orientation is July 15 for fall classes at UT Martin

Any students planning to begin their college career at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall 2016 semester who have not yet registered for classes must attend Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) on July 15.

SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen and students will not be permitted to register for classes outside of these sessions. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student who has not yet registered from attending the July 15 session, contact Mary Wiggins, UTM Office of Student Engagement, at 731-881-7740 as soon as possible.

SOAR registration is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. Students must have received an acceptance letter to register. The cost to attend SOAR is $45 per student and $20 per guest. No tuition will be due until the start of the fall semester.

Each SOAR session begins with check-in, administrative fair, and welcome from 7:30-8:30 a.m. At 9 a.m., orientation leaders begin a rotation of informational sessions on academic options, financial aid, scholarships, housing, student life, and other important topics. Students will begin registering for classes at 1:30 p.m.

For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UTM Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admittance@utm.edu. Visit www.utm.edu/soar for more information or registration instructions.

New UTM tuition model urges four-year finish

A new “Soar in Four” tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for the University of Tennessee at Martin on Thursday by the UT Board of Trustees. The new model encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The new model will also fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including a completely revamped and upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

The tuition model is supported by UTM’s Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds. Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.

Completing college in four years offers financial benefits for students. The fifth year in college results in the typical student adding $8,735 in debt, so graduating in four years will result in significant savings.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UTM students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a $3,840 flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model. Students enrolled for online courses will pay more for courses in 2016-17. The undergraduate online course fee increased 2.2 percent for in-state and out-of-state domestic students, while graduate online course fees increased 3 percent.

The new tuition schedule is available at https://www.utm.edu/departments/bursar/tuition.php.
Locals participating in UTM’s Governor’s School

From left, Ryan Ammenheuser and Caitlin Glover, both of Lebanon, and Elizabeth Hinton, of Mt. Juliet, are participating in Governor’s School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin this month. The four-week program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to earn academic credit and get a taste of collegiate life. Ammenheuser is a student at Wilson Central High School; Glover attends Lebanon High School; and Hinton is enrolled at Mt. Juliet High School.

Attends

HUNTER HAILSLIP, of Gates, 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. Haislip, a student at Halls 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 about UT Martin, visit www.utm.edu/advantage.

Attends Engineering Camp

SKYLER DAVIS, left, in middle row, of Halls, was among students at the University of Tennessee at Martin, who attended the Skyhawk Engineering Camp June 13th through the 17th. Members of the group included, in front, from left, Caleb Snyder, of Scotts Hill; Grant McGehee, of Sharon; Jackson Horton, of Martin; and Carson Brigance, of Martin; who won third place for number of ping pong balls retrieved by their robot and first place for navigating their robot through a maze. In the middle Skyler, along with Jonathan Morris, of South Fulton; Joshua Walker, of Fulton, Ky.; and Parker Maxey, of Dresden, won second in both competitions. In rear, Peyton Stratton, of Jackson; Tyler Molands, of Union City; James Nail, of Sharon; and Caleb Collins, of Fulton, Ky., took first place in the ping pong ball retrieval competition and third place in the robotic maze race. This was the first camp hosted by the college to teach physics and robotics. Students in grades 7-10 learned to build basic robots and program them to complete a variety of tasks before competing against other teams.
WestStar Graduates

LAUDERDALE COUNTY MAYOR MAURICE GAINES, seventh from left, in rear, was among the members of the 2016 WestStar Leadership Class, who graduated Tuesday, June 21, in an event held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson. The University of Tennessee at Martin sponsors the WestStar Leadership Program. This marked the program’s 27th class and brings the total to 769 graduates since WestStar was established in 1990. The 2016 class included 30 participants 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 leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. Participants are chosen from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement.

Among those attending the event was UT Martin interim Chancellor Bob Smith, a WestStar co-founder and former executive director for the program, who thanked the 2016 class for their commitment to improving West Tennessee. Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and WestStar executive director, presided over the event. He thanked the program’s corporate sponsors, offered a “year in review” of WestStar activities and presented graduation plaques along with the program’s board of trustees.

Members of the graduating class also included, in front, from left, Carrie Ann Knox, of Jackson; Jennifer Travis, of Lexington; Kelly Codega, of Memphis; Donna Craig, of Paris; Elizabeth Pritchett, of Martin; Beth Parnell, of Jackson; Achana Jarrett and Mary Ann Sharpe, both of Brownsville; Shelley Matthews, of Henderson; and Shawn Francisco, of Dresden; and in rear, Joseph Crone, of Memphis; Dr. Brock Martin, of Huntingdon; Jason Griggs, of Milan; Mayor Justin Hanson, of Covington; Greg Dozier, of Rives; Joel Howard, of Covington; Mayor Chris Young, of Trimble; Erick Kellum, of Jackson; Mayor John Holden, of Dyersburg; Whit Ashe, of Savannah; Ron Gant; of Rossville; Michael Overbey, of Jackson; Bobby Williams, of Rossville; Art Sparks Jr., of Union City; Brooks McDonald, of Bartlett; Ross Mitchell, of Selmer; Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, and Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, both of Martin; and Mayor Carlton Gerrell, of Paris; plus, not pictured, Shannon Haynes, of Alamo; and Tommy Legins, of Martin.
New UT Martin Tuition Model

A new “Soar in Four” tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for the University of Tennessee at Martin by the UT Board of Trustees. The new model encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The new model will also fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including a completely revamped and upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

The tuition model is supported by UT Martin’s Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds. Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UT Martin students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model. UT Martin does not charge for enrolled hours above 12, which is the threshold for full-time students for financial aid, tuition and fee purposes.

Mandatory fees at the university will not increase this academic year. Additionally, the university is reducing the overall residential housing rates and increasing private scholarship assistance.

Students enrolled for online courses will pay more for courses in 2016-17. The undergraduate online course fee increased 2.2 percent for in-state and out-of-state domestic students, while graduate online course fees increased 3 percent.

The new tuition schedule is available at https://www.utm.edu/departments/bursar/ tuition.php.

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If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending the July 15th session, contact Mary Wiggins, Office of Student Engagement, at 731-881-7740 as soon as possible. For information on the admissions or registration process, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
In the wake of Pat Summitt’s passing, a few involved in women’s college basketball on this end of the state had memories of the former legendary coach at the University of Tennessee.

One of them was UT Martin women’s coach Kevin McMillan, who coached against the Lady Vols in one of Summitt’s final games.

“I don’t know if it was intentional that Summitt and Tennessee was matched up against her alma mater in the first round that year, but it was a nice story that week going in,” McMillan said. “Of course, our players were in awe.

“We had, I think, 12 on the team that year that grew up playing in Tennessee and dreaming of playing for Pat. They were focused on that, and we had to pull them back and tell them, ‘Hey, now. There’s another coach on the court with y’all, and I’m trying to help y’all beat Pat.’”

Summitt played her college ball at UTM before becoming the head coach in 1974 at Tennessee, where she would coach for 38 years and win eight national championships. She died early Tuesday morning about five years after being diagnosed with early onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type.

McMillan actually had a more in-depth counter with Summitt right after he was hired to lead the Skyhawk women in 2009.

“I think it was the first event I attended as the head coach here, I went to an AAU tournament,” McMillan said. “Where I was sitting, there was one open seat next to me, and Pat walked in.

“All these coaches were there, and they all stopped and looked at her as she came in. After a few seconds, I realized she was going to come and sit next to me.”

McMillan was wearing a UTM shirt,
Summitt
Continued from Page 1D

so that was a natural ice-breaker for Summitt. "She watched the game she needed to then stay around and watched another, and we talked basketball and Martin and people we both knew and how things were going there then," McMillan said. "She was great and cordial and let me know if we needed anything from her to let her know.

"Of course, I wasn't going to pick up a phone and just call Pat Summitt, but she seemed to be sincere that she wanted to help us out if we needed it. Of course, she wouldn't help us out and let us win in the tournament in (2012). She went on record as saying she loved winning more than she loved her alma mater."

UTM wasn't the only West Tennessee team Tennessee played that season. The Lady Vols hosted Union University for an exhibition game before that season began and the one before in 2010.

Lady Bulldogs head coach Mark Campbell said there wasn't a chance for much interaction during those trips, but he did get to spend a little time speaking with her while he was an assistant coach under Don Meyer at Lipscomb University.

"Coach Meyer knew everybody, and one Christmas break we went on a trip where he, I and the other assistants visited Indiana with Bobby Knight, Duke with Mike Krzyzewski, North Carolina with Dean Smith and Tennessee with Pat Summitt," Campbell said. "And Summitt was great. She let all his assistants sit down with her in the locker room and ask her questions for a little while — anything we wanted to know about any aspect of coaching."

"And watching her practices was an experience, just to see the expectations she had for the players in her program to meet every day in practice and not just in games. It's easy to see why she was so successful."

Campbell said anyone involved in college women's athletics owes Summitt a debt of gratitude. "You see where women's basketball is now compared to where it was when she first started, and you see the effect," Campbell said. "There's no other program or college in the country where a particular school will come to mind and you automatically think of a female coach except Tennessee athletics and Pat Summitt."

"She started out having to set up her own gym for her own games, and now we don't have to do that because of the heights she took women's basketball to and how much people across the country began to pay attention to the sport as a whole. She raised the bar, and everyone else is trying to live up to it."

Campbell's assistant coach, Lauren Avant Sumski, played for Summitt for a year before injuries forced her to transfer out.

"UT women's basketball plays at such a high level, I couldn't play at that level while dealing with injuries for three more years," Sumski said. "Coach Summitt was great and supportive of my decision, and I kind of kept in touch with her in the years after."

Sumski has the distinction of being the youngest player to commit to play for Summitt.

"Thanksgiving night of my freshman year of high school," Sumski said. "Coach Summitt had seen me play as a seventh-grader, and she could recruit me back then."

"And we built a relationship. She didn't need to 'recruit' or 'convince' me to come play for Tennessee. I was from this state and dreamed of playing for her at Tennessee, so committing to the program was an easy choice."

Sumski, who is from Memphis and played high school ball at Lausanne, played three years at Rhodes to finish her college career.

Kayla Hudson Irvin, who grew up in Gleason reading Summitt's books and dreaming of being a Lady Vol before committing to play at Union, was the starting point guard as a senior for the first Lady Bulldog team that played at Tennessee and was a graduate assistant coach in 2011 when the team returned to Knoxville.

"The one thing I remember is we were treated like any other team who played there," said Irvin, who was named earlier this year as the new girls basketball coach at Crockett County High. "I also remember early in the game, we did what we typically did in a game and hit a lot of long-range 3-pointers, and we were doing well enough that Coach Summitt called a timeout to get them to come out and defend our shots."

"She must've got on them pretty hard, because their guard who was guarding me ... I could just feel the intensity in her and the way she was defending me because Coach Summitt had let them know they needed to come out on us and let us shoot."

Irvin said she hopes to be able to instill high expectations into the Lady Cavaliers' program similar to what Summitt did at Tennessee.

"That's what made Tennessee so good, and kids can do so much better than what they think they can," Irvin said. "Summitt made them believe they could do so much more, and I hope to be able to do the same."
Students make UTM society

Two Paris natives were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society this spring at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Kayla Hargrove and Zachary Bell were picked for the group, which is based on academic achievements and exemplary character.

Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and promotes academic excellence in all fields of higher education. The society was founded at the University of Maine in 1897 and has chapters on the campuses of more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States, the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

Countians earn pins at UTM

A pair of Henry Countians took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during a pinning ceremony May 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Randi Wiles of Springville and Sabrina Reed of Paris were among the students who earned pins.

The pledge is taken by students entering the nursing profession and holds each candidate to a high standard of professional care in the health care industry. The students received their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during the university's commencement exercises May 7.
A legendary legacy
Pat Summitt set an example to emulate

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

So, she was the winningest coach, male or female, in major college basketball.
So, she won eight national championships.
So, her basketball players at the University of Tennessee had a 100-percent graduation rate.

None of those achievements, or the dozens of awards she received, will ever be forgotten.

But ironically, for a woman who died of early onset dementia, she has filled the world with memories far beyond the basketball court.

Fresh out of college at the University of Tennessee at Martin, she began coaching women’s basketball on the main campus in Knoxville in 1974.

At the time, it was almost unprecedented to hire a female to coach women’s ball at a major school. It took her a month to win her first game.

Although mostly unnoticed, that was the first tiny crack she created in the glass ceiling of females in positions of power.

“She showed that a woman could be tough and unrelenting and powerful — and be rewarded for it,” said Christine Brennan of USA TODAY sports.

In her dedication to being a mentor to young women, she twice declined the head coaching position of the UT men’s basketball team.

In her dedication to her home state, she flew home from a scheduled recruiting trip so her son Tyler could be born a Tennessean.

And when she was diagnosed with early-onset dementia, Alzheimer’s type, she dedicated herself to finding a cure for those who will follow.

Summitt had long been a highly visible philanthropist, throwing her support behind United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the American Heart Association and many other charities.

Then she took it another step.

Shortly after her diagnosis in 2011, Summitt and son Tyler created The Pat Summitt Foundation. “We Back Pat” basketball games around the country helped raise money to increase awareness and understanding of Alzheimer’s disease.

In partnership with the University of Tennessee Medical Center, The Pat Summitt Alzheimer’s Clinic will open in December of this year in Knoxville.

“Mom and I are excited and proud that the Foundation has fulfilled the first year of the five-year funding commitment to our strategic partner, The University of Tennessee Medical Center,” said Tyler Summitt at the time of the clinic’s announcement. “We are thrilled that the work to create The Pat Summitt Alzheimer’s Clinic will begin this year. Through our partnership with the UT Medical Center, we will be able to provide care for many more East Tennessean patients and families and also expand clinical research trials focused on finding a cure.”

Pat Summitt’s legacy will live on; not only on street signs and basketball courts, not only in halls of fame, and not only in the young women’s lives she touched; but in the hearts and minds of all who have family or friends suffering from a cruel disease.
PAYING RESPECT – A man bows his head as he takes a moment of silence at the tribute statue for Pat Head Summitt. People from the area brought flowers and decorations to create a make-shift memorial for the late Summitt, who died Tuesday in Knoxville after being diagnosed with early-onset dementia in 2011. Summitt played for UT Martin from 1970-74 before going on to coach the Lady Vols for 38 seasons, winning 1,098 games and eight National Championships.

Photo by Josh Lemons

LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP – Julia Brundige (No. 20, back row) stands next to Pat Head Summitt during the team photo originally published in the Weakley County Press’ Feb. 15, 1973 edition. The two met on the court, fighting for the same position but ended up being lifelong friends.
Pat Summitt remembered for kindness, loyalty

Josh Lemons
Sports Editor

Tuesday evening, before the start of the Texas Rangers and the New York Yankees, over 32,000 people in the Bronx stood in silence to honor a woman who nearly single-handedly changed the world of women's athletics.

North Carolina coaching legend Roy Williams said she belongs on the "Mount Rushmore of coaching." President Barack Obama called her a patriot.

Around here, we simply know her as Pat.

Summitt died early Tuesday morning from complications due to her 2011 diagnosis of early-onset dementia. She was 64.

And while many will remember the wins, the championships and the accolades, there was much more to Pat than what you saw on the court.

And those stories are beginning to surface in droves.

For many she was a mentor and a role model.

For people like Julia Brundige of Martin, she was a teammate first. But she was a friend for life.

"The thing about Pat is her relationships with her friends and with her players," Brundige said. "She made sure they knew that she cared about them."

"If she were sitting here right now she would tell me, 'It's not about how many wins and losses you have, it's about the relationship you have with people.'"

The two remained in contact until the last four weeks, when Summitt's disease had progressed to the point that communication was impossible.

She said one thing that always impressed her about Summitt was her loyalty and generosity.

"If you were her friend, and you treated her right, she'd give you anything," she said.

That loyalty extended to her alma mater, too.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, UTM chancellor emeritus, returned to UT Martin's campus in 1973. He said he was aware of Summitt's abilities on the court way before he stepped foot onto campus. In 2005, he invited her back to speak at graduation, where she told the crowd, "This was, as I look back and reflect, four of the best years of my life."

She urged the students at commencement to, "Give back to the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"That's important... don't forget where you came from."

Dunagan said over the years, he and Summitt frequently crossed paths and that when he called her and asked her to speak she was "just as gracious as you would expect her to be."

"Of all the fame that she has achieved throughout the years, she has never forgotten UT Martin," Dunagan said. "Of all the alumni of UT Martin, she has made a greater impact in the world, the nation, our state and on our campus of anyone I know of.

"There are not very many of us that can have a world impact but, by golly, she did."

Brundige and Summitt played together in the 1973-74 season at UT Martin.

She said one of her fondest memories was when Summitt got the offer to head east.

Bettye Giles, the first women's athletic director at UT Martin, walked into the old women's gym, after getting off the phone with the athletic director for the Lady Vols, where Summitt would spend the next 38 years. But she almost didn't take the job.

"She turned to me and said, 'Why would I want that job?,'" Brundige said.

"And nobody heard her but me. And I looked at her and I turned my head and said, 'You're crazy if you don't take that job.'"

She said Summitt was still a little skeptical.

"She said, 'I don't even have a master's degree,'" Brundige said. "And I said, 'They don't care.'"
Joshin’ Around: That time I didn’t meet Pat

Josh Lemons
Sports Editor

I ever tell you about the time I didn’t get to meet Pat Summitt?

I was in my third year of my five-year degree at UT Martin and the next day I would find myself leading a broadcast team for the first time as we stared down at 99,123 souls crammed into Neyland Stadium (Yes, I remember the attendance as well).

I had been contacted by some students in Knoxville that put on a Friday pregame show on their student radio station, (co-incidently 90.5, the same frequency as WUTM) and they wanted to see if I would be a guest on that show.

In the meantime, while I headed over to do the show, unbeknownst to me, some of my colleagues got to take a tour of Neyland and who do they run into in the bellows of the stadium?
You guessed it, Pat Summit.
As expected, they were elated. And I was jealous.

Fast-forward to 2012 and the Skyhawks are at their third-straight watch party, highly anticipating what team they would meet in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

“The No. 15 seed UT Martin will face the No. 2 seed Lady Vols in the Midwest Regional…”

Less than two months before graduation and here comes my vindication.
Only, there’s another problem. After the news that she has been diagnosed with early-onset dementia in the fall of 2011, she’s no longer doing interviews.
Assistant coach Holly Warlick will handle all of the pre-and-post game press conferences.
So I guess that’s that.

0-for-2 from the line.
The day before the teams matched up I was walking in the tunnel connecting the media area to the basketball floor at All-State Arena in Rosemont, Ill., a few miles out of Chicago, headed to watch the Skyhawks’ final practice.

As I was making my way onto the floor, the Lady Vols were wrapping up their final practice and as coach Summitt passed by I couldn’t help but take the opportunity, no matter what the “rules” were, to introduce myself.

And of course, just as many coaches and players over the past couple of days have said in interviews since her passing, she was friendly and gracious, as everyone has described.

What floored me is how much current news she knew about her alma mater.
And how much she lit up when I told her I was calling the game for the student radio station.

Before I had a chance to jokingly ask her who she was rooting for, she was approached by an assistant coach and next thing I knew, they were in the tunnel headed for the locker room.
I did get an answer to that question a few minutes later during Warlick’s final press conference before the game.

“Pat loves her alma mater,” Warlick said. “But she loves winning even more.”

Yep, sounds just like her.
Countey Prevention Coalition names Harper new director

Weakley County Prevention Coalition representatives said they are pleased to announce that Suzanne Harper has joined the coalition as its new program director.

Harper earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing and management from the University of Tennessee at Martin. As former marketing specialist at the Weakley County Press, Harper comes to WCPC with extensive experience in marketing and public relations.

She currently serves on a number of boards in the community, including Martin Business Association and the Tennessee Soybean Festival Planning Council. She is looking forward to using her combination of media experience, event planning and volunteer recruitment to expand awareness and connect with local residents, organizations and associations who share the common goal of building the Weakley County community into a healthier and safer place to live.

"I am very excited to take on this role and am looking forward to continuing the hard work of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition," said Harper. "The program has seen so much growth in recent years, thanks to successful leaders like Bethany Allen and other former directors. My goal is to continue the momentum and reach out to more community members to educate them on how they can get involved."

The WCPC's initiative is to bring the community together in an effort to strategically and comprehensively identify and address substance abuse in Weakley County, one of the largest issues facing the area today. Substance abuse is a contributing factor to the county's crime rate, and is also reported as a contributing factor to violence, higher health care premiums, child abuse, mental illness, and poverty.

"By continuing to provide training, education, and prevention programs across the county, I am confident that we can change the scope of substance abuse," Harper continued. "It starts with our youth. Real conversations about the dangers of substance abuse and strategic action to prevent it are essential to the future of our community. Anyone and everyone wanting to help the cause is encouraged to get involved with WCPC. I'm calling all parents, business owners, community leaders and citizens to be a part of the solution. You are valuable; you can change lives."

For more information on WCPC, visit www.weakleycountyprevention.com. Find WCPC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/weakleyprevention. For more information, contact Harper at 731-514-7951 or by email at weakleyprevention@gmail.com.

HARPER, From Page 1

the success and vitality of the future of our community. Anyone and everyone wanting to help the cause is encouraged to get involved with WCPC. I'm calling all parents, business owners, community leaders and citizens to be a part of the solution. You are valuable; you can change lives."

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UTM announces 'Soar for Four' degree program

A tuition hike and a new plan to make college more affordable were announced by the University of Tennessee board of trustees last week.

A new "Soar in Four" tuition model, designed to speed progress toward degree completion, was approved for the University of Tennessee at Martin on Thursday by the UT board of trustees. The new model encourages students to take 15 hours per semester and complete their undergraduate degrees in four years. The new model will also fund new initiatives beneficial to student success, including a completely revamped and upgraded Career Development and Internship Center.

The tuition model is supported by UT Martin's Student Government Association, which used student input to decide investment commitments for the new funds. Other improvements include new faculty positions to meet scheduling bottlenecks and gateway courses, new degree auditing and planning software, new living-learning communities, and increased tutoring and advising.

Completing college in four years offers financial benefits for students. The fifth year in college and beyond results in the typical student adding $8,735 in debt.

The student's average annual cost to attend is $22,058, so graduating in four years will result in significant savings.

The new tuition structure immediately impacts 36 percent of UT Martin students and will be phased in from fall 2016 through summer 2020, at which point 78 percent of students will be affected. The amount of tuition paid will be based on academic hours already earned by a current student.

Most students will enter the university under the new tuition structure and pay a $3,840 flat per-semester rate, plus mandatory fees as full-time students. Part-time and online students will remain on the traditional per-hour model.

UT Martin does not charge for enrolled hours above 12, which is the threshold for full-time students for financial aid, tuition and fee purposes.

Mandatory fees at the university will not increase this academic year. Additionally, the university is reducing the overall residential housing rates and increasing private scholarship assistance.

Students enrolled for online courses will pay more for courses in 2016-17. The undergraduate online course fee increased 2.2 percent for in-state and out-of-state domestic students, while graduate online course fees increased 3 percent.

The new tuition schedule is available at https://www.utm.edu/department/bursars/soarforfour.php.

For freshmen attending UT Martin this fall, a final summer orientation and registration session is set July 15, followed by the final transfer orientation and registration session for transfer students on July 22, both at the main campus. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 22.
ALI BARROS WITH LET IT ROCK

Second Chance Thoroughbreds (SCT) has announced the selection of Ali Barros as the equestrian director for the SCT Summer Camp Series. Barros was a cum laude graduate of The University of Tennessee at Martin in December, earning a bachelor of arts in public relations and political science.

Barros will be organizing and directing the horseback riding summer camp. The summer camp will run from 8 a.m. to noon on July 18-22 and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 1-4. The summer camp will give campers an intensive hands-on riding and horsemanship experience. Students will participate in horse-care lessons, a daily riding lesson, catered lunch, and an afternoon activity such as arts and crafts, dodge ball, and trail rides. Students will have the opportunity to ride daily under the supervision of professionals in each exciting discipline: dressage, stadium jumping, cross country, and hunt seat equitation.

"I am looking forward to sharing my insight and knowledge with young horse enthusiasts," Barros said. "Northwest Tennessee does not have many opportunities for youth to experience eventing or hunt seat equitation so this is a wonderful way for riders of all
ages to try something new and exciting.”

Barros has 15 years of horse experience and has competed locally and nationally in Hunt Seat Equitation Junior Medal Finals, United States Hunter Jumper Association Hunter Derby Qualifiers and Children’s Jumpers. Recently she placed eighth in the Indiana Eventing Association Horse Trials at Hoosier Horse Park in Edinburg, Ind. She also received top honors at the Germantown Charity Horse Show placing eighth in the $5,000 Germantown Versatility Challenge on her 13-year-old Thoroughbred gelding “Let It Rock.”

She is currently preparing for the Southeast Medal Finals in Jacksonville, Fla., in September where she will be competing in the Adult Medal Finals.

Barros recently adopted “Talon’s of Tuscany” (Tuscany) from Second Stride Inc. in Prospect, Ky. Tuscany is a 5-year-old 16.2-hand dark bay gelding out of Arch and Rich City Girl. He won his debut race and was pointed towards the Triple Crown as a 3-year-old. After three starts he was retired by Romans Racing Stable and rehomed by Second Stride Inc. “I am looking forward to restarting Tuscany as a pre-green hunter in the next few years and continuing his transition from the track to the hunter or jumper ring,” said Barros.

Second Chance Thoroughbreds is a privately owned eventing farm located on Cotton Grove Road in Jackson. For more information about the camp or to register, visit www.secondchancethoroughbreds.com and @SecondChanceThoroughbreds on Facebook.

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**BARROS IN ACTION** — Ali Barros and “Let It Rock” during The Germantown Charity Horse Show $5,000 Versatility Challenge. Photos provided by Second Chance Thoroughbreds.