Local residents receive degrees from UTM

Submitted report
Jun 2, 2019

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Several Graves 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 in Martin, Tennessee.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

• James Austin Lamb of Mayfield
• Keith Guy Latta of Water Valley
• Cheyenne Kristine McMullen of Wingo

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 19 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2019 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Among those named were the following local residents: Mallory H. Chism, High Honors; Madelyn A. Collins, High Honors; Brayden L. Faulkner, High Honors; Maison M. Gray, Honors; Taylor J. Harrison, Honors; Caitlin E. Jones, Highest Honors; Caelyn F. Morris, Honors; Garrett W. Morrison, High Honors; Julian P. Pipkin, High Honors; Chad W. Sellers, Highest Honors; Kendyl D. Smith, High Honors; Cullen R. Williams, Highest Honors; and Heather N. Worley, High Honors, all of Henderson.

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host two more Transfer and Adult Orientation sessions this year for incoming students in these categories. Students can still register to attend either the June 18 or July 19 session to learn more about life at UT Martin. There is no registration fee to attend.

Each day will begin with registration and breakfast from 8-8:45 a.m., with an official welcome to follow. Special interest sessions will be held from 9-10:45. Attendees will have opportunities to learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options.

Academic advising and registration will begin at 10:45. An optional tour of UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum, will start at 1 p.m. after lunch.

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to participate.

No tuition or fee payments will be due until the start of the fall semester.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee System will expand its statewide mural campaign to West Tennessee during the week of June 3-7 with the creation of a mural displaying the "Everywhere you look, UT" message on a grain bin owned by Robinson & Belew Inc. in Sharon. Artist Troy Freeman is painting the mural.

A reception officially announcing the mural will be held at 9 a.m., June 7, on the old highway fronting the Robinson & Belew Inc. property along US-45E just seven miles south of the UT Martin main campus.

Robinson & Belew Inc. is a family-run business founded in 1950 that ships corn, soybeans and wheat to end-users around the world.

The late Bob Robinson established a small business near the railroad tracks in Sharon during the first half of the 20th century. He initially sold strawberries and coal and used the railroad to ship sweet potato slips throughout the United States. In 1950, he purchased the Sharon Feed Mill with his partner and brother-in-law, A.L. Belew, and Robinson & Belew Inc. was born. Robinson’s son, Robert Dean “R.D.” Robinson, earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from UT Martin in 1961 and came home to expand the business even further.

The Robinson family boasts three generations of UT Martin ties beginning with R.D. and including his sister, Betty Robinson Eddings (’72); his wife, Dianne Palmer Robinson (’71); daughter, Linda Robinson Fowler (’85), and her husband, Keith (’85); and two of the Fowler’s three children: Chris in 2012 and Rachel in 2015. Their youngest child, Emily, attends Union University in Jackson. R.D. and Dianne Robinson recently established the R.D. and Dianne Robinson Agriculture Scholarship for students attending UT Martin.

Keith Fowler currently serves as president and runs the day-to-day business operations on behalf of his father-in-law, whose health has declined.

The mural at Robinson & Belew Inc. is the second installment of the UT System’s statewide marketing campaign. In March 2018, the first mural was painted on a water tower atop Knox Rail Salvage in the heart of downtown Knoxville, a property owned by UT System Interim President Randy Boyd.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UT Martin names students to spring honor roll

By STAFF REPORT  Jun 4, 2019

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

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

Benton - Connor J. Riley, High Honors.

Calvert City - Bailey R. Barrett, High Honors.

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

Video Game Camp Offered At UTM This Summer

MARTIN, Tenn. -- Area students ages 8-14 can enroll in "Make Your First Video Game Camp" this summer, held from 9 a.m.-noon (ages 8-10) or 1-4 p.m. (ages 11-14), June 24-28, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Registration is $175 per student, and seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants will learn the steps to designing a two-dimensional platform video game including conceptualization, play experience, level design, graphics, sounds and simple coding. Programs created by students will be available for testing by friends and family via a password-protected website at the conclusion of camp. All games will be designed for PC computers, but programs can be converted to Mac-compatible versions for $15. Students will work in pairs and teams to create their programs.

No previous experience with game coding is necessary. However, returning students are encouraged to participate as well and build upon skills learned in previous years.

This same camp will also be offered at the UT Martin Jackson Center on July 15-19. Online registration is required to reserve a space. Visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php and choose "game coding" from the list of camps for children and youth.

For assistance, contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104.
UTM To Offer Summer Piano Camp

MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a summer piano camp from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., June 17-21, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. Students who have completed the seventh through 12th grades are invited to participate.

Registration is $275 per student and includes lunches and all lesson materials. Activities include private piano lessons and ensemble coaching from Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, as well as musical theory classes and sight-reading sessions. Special topics include an introduction to the organ and harpsichord, as well as a chamber music performance by the University Trio.

Participants will present a public program of solo and ensemble performances at 4 p.m., June 21, for parents, family and friends.

Scholarships and overnight housing accommodations are available for a limited number of students. Those wishing to apply for a camp scholarship or overnight housing must contact Harriss before June 1.

Slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and early registration is advised. Additional information and registration forms are available online at utm.edu/departments/piano/pianocamp.php.

For assistance or additional information, contact Harriss at 731-881-7411 or by email at elaineh@utm.edu.

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized several Gibson County residents with individual academic and merit awards during the spring 2019 semester. The following students were recognized:

Christine Anderson of Milan, was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society; Greg Boling of Bradford, received the Outstanding Interdisciplinary Studies Student Award; Remington Burch of Trenton, received the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award and the American Legion Award for Scholastic Excellence; Emily Campbell of Trenton, received the Harriet Fulton Sigma Alpha Iota Award; Sarah Dodd of Trenton, received the Outstanding Agronomy Student Award; Colby Evans of Bradford, received the Marvin L. Downing Lower Division History Award; Joanna Ferguson of Trenton, received the Geoscience ECOS Student Award; Meleah Gateley of Humboldt, was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society; Courtney Jackson of Bradford, was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society; Mahala Perry of Humboldt, received the Daughters of the American Colonists Award and the Col. Jerry Bussell ROTC Scholarship Award; Hohner Porter of Trenton, received the Outstanding Music Student Award; Jordan Reynolds of Bradford, was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society; Samuel Walgren of Milan, received the Geoscience ECOS Student Award and the George and Ruth Horton Curriculum Award for the humanities; Keaton Wilson of Humboldt, was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.
UT Martin programs nationally recognized

Four degree programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been ranked among the top 20 programs in the nation for their respective fields in recent publications.

The online Master of Business Administration degree is ranked fifth in the country by OnlineCourseReport.com in the site's recent list of "the best 50 online MBA programs." This ranking considers U.S. News & World Report standings as well as hourly tuition rates, available specializations within the degree program, online flexibility, and both regional and AACSB accreditation status.

AffordableSchools.net ranks the UT Martin MBA program eighth among their top 25 most affordable master's degrees in the country, considering average cost of attendance and college ranking. UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee school on both these websites.

UT Martin's online master's degree in education with a major in school counseling places 18th among the top 30 programs of this type nationwide, according to TopCounselingSchools.org. This ranking considers factors such as graduate tuition rates, student-to-faculty ratio, accreditation, support services and internship or practicum opportunities. UT Martin is the second Tennessee school on this list, with the University of Memphis ranked in 11th place.

The same program ranks 20th among the "best online master's in school counseling programs" according to BestColleges.com, which considers tuition rates and student debt information.

SEE UTM PAGE 10

UT Martin offers summer piano camp June 17-21

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a summer piano camp from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., June 17-21, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. Students who have completed the seventh through 12th grades are invited to participate.

Registration is $275 per student and includes lunches and all lesson materials. Activities include private piano lessons and ensemble coaching from Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, as well as musical theory classes and sight-reading sessions.

Special topics include an introduction to the organ and harpsichord, as well as a chamber music performance by the University Trio.

Participants will present a public program of solo and ensemble performances at 4 p.m., June 21, for parents, family and friends.

Scholarships and overnight housing accommodations are available for a limited number of students. Those wishing to apply for a camp scholarship or overnight housing must contact Harriss before June 1.

Slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and early registration is advised. Additional information and registration forms are available online at utm.edu/departments/piano/pianocamp.php.

For assistance or additional info, contact Harriss at 731-881-7411 or by email at elaineh@utm.edu.
Sharon business part of UT mural project

The University of Tennessee System will expand its statewide mural campaign to West Tennessee this week with the creation of a mural displaying the “Everywhere you look, UT” message on a grain bin owned by Robinson & Belew Inc. in Sharon.

A reception officially announcing the mural will be held at 9 a.m. Friday on the old highway fronting the Robinson & Belew Inc. property along US-45E just seven miles south of the UT Martin main campus.

Robinson & Belew Inc. is a family-run business founded in 1950 that ships corn, soybeans and wheat to end-users around the world.

The late Bob Robinson established a small business near the railroad tracks in Sharon during the first half of the 20th century. He initially sold strawberries and coal and used the railroad to ship sweet potato slips throughout the United States. In 1950, he purchased the Sharon Feed Mill with his partner and brother-in-law, A.L. Belew, and Robinson & Belew Inc. was born.

Robinson’s son, Robert Dean “R.D.” Robinson, earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from UT Martin in 1961 and came home to expand the business even further.

The Robinson family boasts three generations of UT Martin ties beginning with R.D. and including his sister, Betty Robinson Eddings ('72); his wife, Dianne Palmer Robinson ('71); daughter, Linda Robinson Fowler ('85), and her husband, Keith ('85); and two of the Fowler's three children: Chris in 2012 and Rachel in 2015. Their youngest

SEE SHARON PAGE 10

Oak Ridge Boys headline at Soybean

By BRANDY COCHRAN
Special to The Press

When I got word that I was going to be interviewing Stephen Robinson of the classic country-blues band, The Oak Ridge Boys, I immediately thought of my mother, her vinyl collection, and her life-long love for gospel music and the many genres directly influenced by it. I know that when most people hear the name Oak Ridge Boys, their first reaction is to sing, “Mmmbop ... mmmmbop ... mmmmbop ... Elvira!” But to me, they represent a dedication to the music that took them from recording studios all the way to the White House. So, there was no surprise to me when Robinson informed me that after more than 40 years in the business, The Oak Ridge Boys are creating a gospel and roots country album named 17th Avenue Revival.

Those lucky enough to attend their concert during the Soybean Festival’s Gospel Music night this year will get to hear a sampling of what is to come from them, “but,” as Robinson put it, “Elvira will be played, too, or we might get booed out of town!” I was very intrigued when Robinson shared that the ORB are currently hard at work on a new album; it gave me reflection on what it must be like to be a full-time working musician — to fall back in love with one’s musical time and time again. Robinson explained to me that 17th Avenue Revival could not have been done without the talent, direction, and dedication of Dave Cobb, who is most famous for producing Rockabilly albums for major line-drawing artists, such as Chris Stapleton and Jason Isbell. Robinson praised Cobb for wanting to work with them on modernizing their original sound, rather than attempting to mold The Oak Ridge Boys into the contemporary pop-country genre in which they do not fit. When describing the album, Robinson enthusiastically told me, “I want you guys to think Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Rockabilly revival.” Not only is the album calling back
SOYBEAN
From Page 1

to that old-school sound, but it also pays homage to the historical RCA Studio A in Nashville on 17th Avenue that The Oak Ridge Boys recently had a hand in preventing from being shut down. There, the band found a revival, not only creatively, but also within themselves that only seemed suitable for the upcoming album title.

Partly why this past year has been so reflective for The Oak Ridge Boys is that they are under a dear friend back in December, former Pres. George H.W. Bush. Although it was public knowledge that they performed at his funeral, it was revealed during this interview just how close this band was with The Bushes. Robinson revealed their original meeting with a younger Bush, who, in 1983, had just become vice president to Ronald Reagan and was attending an after-inauguration celebration that The Oak Ridge Boys were booked to play.

As they were setting up the stage for their performance, a coy Bush approached them, not as a political figure, but as an avid fan. He was explaining that he was going to miss the show because he had to fly out of the country for presidential business and would love to hear some of his favorite songs by them before he left. Robinson explained, “At first, we thought he would name the usual top-40 hits, but he didn’t — he named all deep cuts and obscure recordings. We couldn’t believe he was an actual true fan of ours! So, we played him a mini concert or whatever he wanted to hear, and it became the beginning of a strong, long-lasting friendship with the Bushes that hold so many wonderful memories.”

When The Oak Ridge Boys got the call to perform at Bush’s funeral, they were prepared to do so, even though they were on their famous Christmas tour at the time, scheduled to perform in Washington that evening. As soon as they got word of their needed presence at their friend’s funeral, they flew into Houston from Spokane, Washington, without hesitation and performed their rendition of “Amazing Grace” Bush’s favorite hymn by them, one final time for their dear friend before having to hop back on a plane and continue their tour that evening with solemn hearts.

Since then, The Oak Ridge Boys have received practically daily praise for their performance and have added “Amazing Grace” to their shows’ set lists. Whether you are an avid fan of The Boys themselves, gospel music, classic country, Rockabilly, or just want the chance to sing, “Elvira” along with the seeing the band live, make sure and come out to the downtown stage at Festival Park that Friday, Sept. 6 and experience what a true Tennessee music revival is all about!

Tickets are on sale now for the concert at tnsoybeanfestival.org.

TRENTON GAZETTE
Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Gibson County students recognized at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized several Gibson County residents with individual academic and merit awards during the spring 2019 semester.

Christine Anderson of Milan was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Greg Boling of Bradford received the Outstanding Interdisciplinary Studies Student Award.

Remington Burch of Trenton received the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award and the American Legion Award for Scholastic Excellence.

Emily Campbell of Trenton received the Harriet Fulton Sigma Alpha Iota Award.

Sarah Dodd of Trenton received the Outstanding Agronomy Student Award.

Colby Evans of Bradford received the Marvin L. Downing Lower Division History Award.

Joanna Ferguson of Trenton received the Geoscience ECOS Student Award.

Meleah Gateley of Humboldt was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Courtney Jackson of Bradford was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Mahala Perry of Humboldt received the Daughters of the American Colonists Award and the Collie Pitts ROTC Scholarship Award.

Hohner Porter of Trenton received the Outstanding Music Student Award.

Jordan Reynolds of Bradford was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Samuel Walgren of Milan received the Geoscience ECOS Student Award and the George and Ruth Horton Curricula Award for the humanities.

Keaton Wilson of Humboldt was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.
UT Martin names local students to chancellor's honor roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with the selection of the spring 2019 chancellor’s honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for the recognition, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail grades 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).

**Bradford** - Kelsey S. Bratton, Highest Honors; Alexander H. Cantrell, Honors; Paxton M. Carr, Highest Honors; Anna C. Eaton, Highest Honors; William C. Evans, Highest Honors; Sarah K. Hester, Highest Honors; Bethany M. Morris, Highest Honors; Brian C. Perrick, Highest Honors; Jordan D. Reynolds, Honors; Anna M. Sison, Highest Honors; Frederick J. Spain, Highest Honors; Mary E. Wollam, Highest Honors.

**Dyer** - Cody S. Brennan, Highest Honors; Sydney D. Inman, Honors; Erin T. Lannom, Highest Honors; Rebecca L. Lee, Highest Honors; Summer F. Lindsey, High Honors; Hallie N. McCurdy, Highest Honors; Brandt G. Wright, Highest Honors.

**Gibson** - Hope E. Newell, Highest Honors.

**Humboldt** - Karen N. Allen, Highest Honors; Jonathan M. Andrews, Highest Honors; Crystal D. Boggs, Highest Honors; William G. Boling, Highest Honors; Anna G. Brown, High Honors; Abigail H. Comer, Highest Honors; Morgan N. Conder, High Honors; Gerrard E. Cox, Honors; Kendyll S. Gateley, High Honors; Meleah Gateley, Highest Honors; Seth D. Gibson, Honors; Mark D. Hawkins, High Honors; Joan L. Jones, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Kudla, Highest Honors; Leah J. Miller, High Honors; Jamie L. Potts, High Honors; Mary K. Thompson, High Honors; Chandler B. Whitaker, Highest Honors; Keaton B. Wilson, Highest Honors.

**Kenton** - Julie B. Allen, Highest Honors; Cole E. Davis, Highest Honors; Andrea L. Penn, Honors.

**Medina** - Trevor L. Banks, High Honors; Reilly C. Brownling, Highest Honors; Chandler H. Carey, Highest Honors; Zachary M. Case, High Honors; Chloe G. Cates, Highest Honors; Kristen B. Dabbs, High Honors; Bentley A. Davis, Highest Honors; Ariel A. Dunavan, Highest Honors; Anna C. Lax Gatti, Highest Honors; Shaelyn M. Horner, High Honors; Keanna F. Kramer, Honors; Magdalena I. Martinez, Honors; Amy A. Polk, High Honors; Gage M. Schweitzer, Highest Honors; Rachel K. Smith, High Honors; Kyle M. Trompew, Honors.

**Milan** - Brooke M. Allen, Highest Honors; Megan Black, High Honors; Sydney C. Blackburn, Highest Honors; Lucas B. Bledsoe, High Honors; Madison C. Crocker, Highest Honors; Madison B. Dowdy, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. Easterday, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Fransen, Highest Honors; Karen M. Gaunt, Highest Honors; James E. Hatfield, High Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, Highest Honors; Catherine D. Ing, Highest Honors; Olivia J. Patrick, High Honors; Jonathan C. Prescott, Honors; Daniel J. Schafer, Highest Honors; Jessica R. Schafer, Highest Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Courtney G. Smith, Honors; Sarah E. Staley, Highest Honors; Jaxon D. Stringer, High Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, Highest Honors; Samuel M. Walgren, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Highest Honors; James L. Wren, Honors.

**Rutherford** - Daphne Z. LaGrone, Highest Honors; Logan C. Rahm, Highest Honors; Jessica C. Rogers, Highest Honors.

**Trenton** - Hayden P. Barnett, Honors; Tyson I. Bartholomew, Highest Honors; Desiree B. Brooks, Honors; Emily M. Campbell, Highest Honors; Zach Coomer, High Honors; Sarah E. Dodd, Highest Honors; Sable L. Estes, Honors; Joanna C. Ferguson, Honors; Lillian M. Forester, Highest Honors; Billy W. Gibson, Honors; Caleb A. Greene, High Honors; Hannah B. Hutchinson, Highest Honors; John K. Leuter, High Honors; Logan W. Morris, High Honors; Carl R. Nowell, Highest Honors; Hohner K. Porter, Highest Honors; Chelsea C. Ratliff, Honors; Adrian M. Rodriguez, Highest Honors.

In addition, Chancellor's Honor Roll honorees with ties to Gibson County include:

**Beech Bluff** - Connor J. Alley, High Honors.

**Jackson** - Brittelee A. Crosser, Honors; Mallory C. Wray, Highest Honors.

**Martin** - Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Remington L. Burch, Highest Honors; Holly K. Faulkner, Highest Honors; Josten B. Jones, Honors; Hannah R. Mooney, Honors; C. A. Pemberton, Highest Honors; Katherine L. Smith, Honors; Shelby J. Temple, Honors; Eli M. Todd, Highest Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, Honors; Matthew D. Wicker, Highest Honors.

**Sharon** - Aubrie E. Croom, Honors.

(Continued on page 3)
Proposed tuition and fee increases released for UT Martin

By Jasmine Adams | June 5, 2019 at 11:41 AM CDT - Updated June 5 at 11:41 AM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - For the fifth year, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees are going to consider low tuition increases according to university staff.

The tuition and fee increases will be the topic of conversation at the Board's June 21 meeting.

UT Martin has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, which is $236 more from fiscal year 2018-2019 to fiscal year 2019-2020. This is expected to cover the growth in costs of providing programs to the university's students.

Learn more on the proposed increases for each UT campus here.

Staff said the University released the proposed tuition increases for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin on June 5 and requested feedback from students and the public. This action is in preparation for the meeting and will meet new legislative guidelines.

The proposed increases range from 2 to 2.5 percent across each campus. The percentages are within the range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission according to university staff.

These are the first five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3 percent or less in 51 years.

For more information, contact Jennifer Sicking, assistant director of media relations for the UT System, at jsicking@tennessee.edu or 865-974-5179.

Sellers recognized at UT Martin

tstratton  Jun 5, 2019

Chad Sellers, of Henderson, received the Outstanding Interdisciplinary Studies Student Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2019 semester.
Fisher transfers to UT Martin

tstratton  Jun 5, 2019

The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed transfer and adult students to campus for a special orientation event May 31. Jesse Fisher, of Henderson, registered for fall courses at UT Martin during orientation. He and other attendees were also able to learn about student organizations, housing and meal plan options, financial aid and other aspects of university life. Fisher is a transfer student from the University of Memphis Lambuth campus in Jackson. For more information about UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or visit utm.edu.

UT Martin Reading Center Open

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will remain open through the month of June to help students in second through 12th grades retain skills and comprehension during summer vacation. Students will be individually tested and assigned to a course of study based on skill level and existing knowledge gaps. The registration fee is $100 for two meetings per week and $200 for four meetings per week, depending on the student’s individual needs. An additional $25 workbook may be assigned as necessary. All Reading Center instructors are experienced professionals. To register online, visit utm.edu/readingclinic. For more information or for assistance, contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104.
STUDENT REGISTERS — Transfer and adult students were welcomed to the University of Tennessee at Martin campus recently for a special orientation event. Carson Hutchison (left) of Troy, a transfer student from Dyersburg State Community College, registered for fall courses during orientation. She was joined by her mother, Teresa Hutchison. Miss Hutchison and other attendees were also able to learn about student organizations, housing and meal plan options, financial aid and other aspects of university life.

COLLEGE BOUND — Destiny Alexander (left) of Obion recently visited the University of Tennessee at Martin to participate in the first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year. She is a graduate of Obion County Central High School. She was joined by her mother, Carolyn Parkinson. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community.
VISIT UTM — Delaney Grinder (left) of Union City visited the University of Tennessee at Martin recently to participate in one of the first Summer Orientation and Registration sessions of the year. The Union City High School graduate was joined by her mother, Joanie Grinder. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community.

FINISH VET TECH — Elizabeth Gibson (left) of Union City and Marissa Howard of Rives recently completed the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program’s academic requirements and are now qualified to complete a six-week field internship with a veterinary clinic or research facility. They will receive their bachelor’s degrees in December.

REGISTERS AT UTM — The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed transfer and adult students to campus for a special orientation event recently. Among them was Elizabeth Phillips of Union City, who registered for fall courses. She and other attendees were also able to learn about student organizations, housing and meal plan options, financial aid and other aspects of university life.
Four UT Martin programs ranked in top 20 nationally

Four degree programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been ranked among the top 20 programs in the nation for their respective fields in recent publications.

The online master of business administration degree is ranked fifth in the country by OnlineCourseReport.com in the site's recent list of "the best 50 online MBA programs." This ranking considers U.S. News & World Report standings as well as hourly tuition rates, available specializations within the degree program, online flexibility and both regional and AACSB accreditation status. AffordableSchools.net ranks the UT Martin MBA program eighth among their top 25 most affordable master's degrees in the country, considering average cost of attendance and college ranking. UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee school on both these websites.

UT Martin's online master's degree in education with a major in school counseling places 18th among the top 30 programs of this type nationwide, according to TopCounselingSchools.org. This ranking considers factors such as graduate tuition rates, student-to-faculty ratio, accreditation, support services and internship or practicum opportunities. UT Martin is the second Tennessee school on this list, with the University of Memphis ranked in 11th place.

The same program ranks 20th among the "best online master's in school counseling programs" according to BestColleges.com, which considers tuition rates and student debt information, admission and retention rates, and the results of a national institution survey circulated in summer 2018.

UT Martin is number one among the "best-ranked nursing programs in Tennessee" for 2019 by RNCareers.org. The program currently has a 100 percent pass rate for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

The undergraduate graphic design program, housed within the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, is ranked sixth among the "top 10 design school programs in Tennessee" for 2019.

UT Martin is the highest ranked West Tennessee institution on this list, with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville taking first place.

This ranking, published by AnimationCareerReview.com, considers criteria such as academic reputation, admission selectivity, value (as it relates to tuition and student loan statistics) and the depth and breadth of the program. More than 720 schools were considered.

At the college level

Several students from Obion County were recently recognized with individual academic and merit awards during the spring semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

They included:
• Taylor Gansert of Kenton, who received the Outstanding Food and Nutrition Student Award.
• James Hudspeth, who received the Outstanding German Minor Award.
• Grant Larcom, who received the Allison Nelson Award.
• Amanda Mayo, who received the Geology Student Leadership Award, the Outstanding Geosciences Major Student Award and the William T. McCutchen Geology Award.
• Leandra Moore of Troy, who received the Outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences Education Student Award and the Faculty Women's Club Scholarship Award.
• Ivey Moran, who received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Sciences Award.
• Zachary Parker, who received the Louise Knifley Memorial Scholarship Award.
• Taylor Prueett, who received the Outstanding Gerontology Student Award.
• Rebecca Strickland of Rives, who received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Sciences Award.
• Daniel Slove, who received the Outstanding Freshman in Family and Consumer Sciences Award.
• William Thralls, who received the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award, the Sons of the American Revolution Award, the USAA Spirit Award, the National Defense Transportation Association Award and the Col. Jerry Bussell ROTC Scholarship Award.
• Zackary Williamson, who received the John E. McHahm Horticulture Award.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee.

Wednesday, June 5, 2019
**Area students can attend UTM’s video game camp**

Area students ages 8-14 can enroll in “Make Your First Video Game Camp” this summer at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to noon (ages 8-10) or 1-4 p.m. (ages 11-14) June 24-28 on the main campus.

Registration is $175 per student and seats are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants will learn the steps to designing a two-dimensional platform video game, including conceptualization, play experience, level design, graphics, sounds and simple coding. Programs created by students will be available for testing by friends and family via a password-protected website at the end of camp.

All games will be designed for PC computers, but programs can be converted to Mac-compatible versions for $15. Students work in pairs and teams.

No previous experience with game coding is necessary. However, returning students are encouraged to participate as well and build upon skills learned in previous years.

Online registration is required to reserve a space. Visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php and choose “game coding” from the list of camps for children and youth.

**Committee explores educational opportunities**

During the May 28th meeting of the Weakley County Economic Development Board, members discussed the educational opportunities available for local high school and college students and how the expansion of facilities at UT Martin will improve the educational outlook for those entering the workforce.

In the Professional Services, Health & Education Committee report, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said, “This fall will be the beginning of our new engineering concentration. We’ll be offering manufacturing engineering. A lot of new students are interested in that. A lot of industries are happy that is coming to UT Martin. It’s the only manufacturing engineering course within 250 mile radius of Martin. However, the University of Memphis has announced it will be offering it next fall. We’ll just make sure ours is better.”

Carver said, “UTM’s garage project is now in the design phase. We’re working with TLM out of Jackson on our new engineering building. We should break ground on that in January. We’re already doing infrastructure work on that site.

“In addition to that, we wanted to have a companion building that will allow agriculture and engineering to have bays to work on projects, and, also some public - private partnerships so local industry will be able to come in and utilize that to try something new.” He explained, rather than an industry having to shut down one of their manufacturing lines to try something different, they could simulate the process inside a bay at UTM’s engineering building, which would prevent them from losing production in their plants.

“With Randy Boyd coming in as our new president, we’re talking earlier this year about some of the workforce development needs in this area. And, we’ve decided...”

See COMMITTEE, Page 2
we’re going to expand that project and take it to an exciting new area. We’ll still do what we’ve talked about with educating our students and working with local industry. But, we’ve reached out to our friends at the TCAIs (Tennessee College of Applied Technology) and community colleges, and we’re going to offer several degrees there under one roof.” He explained that UTM will award TCAT certificates and community college courses leading to two-year associate degrees.

“We’ll also be able to provide mechatronics training to Weakley County High School students. It will be a nice, higher education workforce development center right on our campus. We’ll own the building. Instead of competing with groups for these students, let’s bring them all under the same roof and share equipment and resources. It will be our number one capital projects request for next year. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the governor are excited about it. Let’s just hope the state budget holds and we’re able to come in and make a difference.”

Mechatronics, which is also called mechatronic engineering, is a multidisciplinary branch of engineering that focuses on the engineering of both electrical and mechanical systems, and also includes a combination of robotics, electronics, computer, telecommunications systems, control, and product engineering. As technology advances over time, various subfields of engineering have succeeded in both adapting and multiplying. The intention of mechatronics is to produce a design solution that unifies each of these various subfields. Originally, the field of mechatronics was intended to be nothing more than a combination of mechanics and electronics; however, as the complexity of technical systems continued to evolve, the definition broadened to include more technical areas.

According to Dr. Carver, Charlie Deal is spearheading the project. “He is currently working with the TCAs. He and I are going to begin community college meetings next week.”

Charlie Deal stated the project has two components - economic development and education. He said, “I think it’s important to point out that one of the key aspects of this project is economic development. Someone walks in with a dream and work with our folks to set up a company. Then, they get funding to take that dream into a format that can be produced in the garage area, and walk out the back side with a project in hand. That’s when we can say that we’re meeting our mission of providing service to the region.”

“The education component is highly sought after as well,” Deal continued. “You can teach theory in the classroom all day long, but until you literally go out and get your hands dirty, that’s when theory becomes real.”

Deal said the new facility “could be a game changer, not only for UTM, but for the entire region.”

The two-year community college students will be allowed to stay in the residence halls, eat in dining hall, and utilize recreational and all other facilities at UTM the same as traditional four-year students.

Chairman Alex Bynum stated UTM’s garage project will be a good thing for Weakley County.

Chancellor Keith Carver commented on the status of enrollment at UT Martin and how birth rates can affect the number of traditional students entering college. Additionally, he discussed how enrollment can be improved.

“Freshman registrations are up for the third straight year,” Carver said. “I really want to tip my hat to Weakley County’s four high schools for supporting us with incredible numbers. What we do in the summer is make sure these students don’t decide to go somewhere else. It’s called ‘summer melt’ and typically, you can lose up to 2 percent of your freshman class, if you’re not careful. We’ll call and write to them in the summer. It looks like most of our competitors will be down this summer. So, we don’t think that up tick for granted. It looks like we’ll be slightly flat on transfer students, and that’s good, because there aren’t nearly as many community college students graduating and going on the college. If we get around 500 transfer students, that would be great.”

“Looking at enrollment over the next 10 years, we are about to crest out in our state for new, traditional college freshmen,” Chancellor Carver said. He stated, due to a decline in the birth rate several years ago, there will be fewer students attending college. “So, we’re really going to have to look at other areas to bolster enrollment. We’re starting in July with an enrollment plan. We’re going to be hosting in four areas.

“One is graduate students. We currently have 238 grad students at UT Martin, and that’s not acceptable, we can do more than that. So, we’re going to bolster our recruiting and also adding some new master’s programs. We’re excited about that.”

Dr. Carver stated the second area is recruiting out-of-state students. He noted the tuition in bordering states is climbing to record levels, and UTM is remaining relatively flat with only about a 2 to 3 percent tuition increase. Dr. Carver said recruiting efforts to bring out-of-state students to UT will concentrate on the bordering states of Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri.

Another aspect of expanding the educational opportunities offered by UTM is they already have regional centers in five West Tennessee cities outside of Martin. “We’re going to make a concentrated push for adult learners in those communities.”

Online courses are also offered by UTM, including a “complet-er degree” for those who have completed some of their college credit requirements, and want to complete their degree.

Director of Weakley County Schools Randy Frazier said, “We partnered with Dyer and Lake counties and submitted a USDA Rust Grant, which is a technology grant. We won’t know if we get it until this fall. But, if we get the grant, it will allow us to add our distance learning equipment and camera feed, which includes big screens that allow us to have instruction phased into our high schools from universities and offer courses from school to school. If we get that, we’re looking at expanding and adding another classroom in all four high schools.” Frazier stated it’s an 85/15 percent matching grant, but he believes the school budget has sufficient funds available to cover the local match required.

Additionally, Frazier announced Weakley County received a Volkswagen grant that will provide $330,000 over the next 18 months, which will pay for approximately 50 percent of the cost of purchasing seven new propane buses.

By increasing educational opportunities in the Weakley County area efforts by high school and college leaders hope to provide students with better paying jobs and futures.
Locals win UTM awards

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized three Lauderdale County residents with individual academic and merit awards during the spring 2019 semester. The following students were recognized:

- Ellary Gillon of Halls received the Mathematics Award.
- Chad Lewis of Gates received the Sam and Gladys Siegel Agricultural Award.
- Anjalee Patel of Ripley was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

For more information about UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.

University of Tennessee eyes tuition increases at 3 campuses

June 6, 2019

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – The University of Tennessee is considering tuition increases at its Knoxville, Martin and Chattanooga campuses.

A news release Wednesday says the board will consider the increases of 2 to 2.5% at a June 21 meeting. The university says it began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015, and this would mark the first five straight years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3% or less in 51 years.

The increases would be 2%, or $258, in Knoxville; 2.5% in Chattanooga, or $216; and 2.5% in Martin, a $236 increase.

The UT Promise scholarship will also begin in fall 2020. The program offers free tuition and fees for students with a family household income under $50,000 after other financial aid is received.
University of Tennessee eyes tuition increases at 3 campuses

Updated: Jun 06, 2019 04:38 AM EDT

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The University of Tennessee is considering tuition increases at its Knoxville, Martin and Chattanooga campuses.

A news release Wednesday says the board will consider the increases of 2 to 2.5% at a June 21 meeting. The university says it began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015, and this would mark the first five straight years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3% or less in 51 years.

The increases would be 2%, or $258, in Knoxville; 2.5% in Chattanooga, or $216; and 2.5% in Martin, a $236 increase.

The UT Promise scholarship will also begin in fall 2020. The program offers free tuition and fees for students with a family household income under $50,000 after other financial aid is received.

UT system releases proposed tuition and fee increases

KNOXVILLE — The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will be considering a record fifth year of low tuition increases when it meets on June 21.

In preparation of that meeting and to meet new legislative guidelines, the university on Wednesday released the proposed tuition increases for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin and requested feedback from students and the public. The proposed increases range from 2 to 2.5 percent, which are within the up to 2.5 percent range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UT began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015 and has not had five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3 percent or less in 51 years.

"The University of Tennessee continues to do all that it can to make sure that higher education is accessible for all Tennesseans," UT interim president Randy Boyd said. "From keeping our tuition low to establishing UT Promise, we want to help ease the financial burden for our students and their families."

UT Knoxville has proposed a 2 percent increase, which is a $258 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-19 to Fiscal Year 2019-20. The majority of the increase is for tuition, but also includes a $26 increase to the student programs and services fee, which will be used toward a future recreational sports project anticipated for Fiscal Year 2023-24. The rate also includes a $10 library fee increase, which will be used to help offset annual inflation rates.

UT Chattanooga has proposed a 2.5 increase, which would result in a $216 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-19 to Fiscal Year 2019-20. UT Chattanooga also has proposed a new tuition structure called Soar in Four for new students starting in fall 2019. Students entering under the Soar in Four program, similar to programs already established at UT Knoxville and UT Martin, will pay a flat rate of $9,656 for 15 credit hours or more a semester rather than the current rate based on 12 hours a semester. By taking at least 15 hours a semester, students should be able to graduate in four years.

UT Martin has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, which is $236 more from Fiscal Year 2018-19 to Fiscal year 2019-20. The proposed increase will cover the growth in costs of providing programs to its students.

Earlier this year, UT unveiled the UT Promise scholarship, which will start during the fall of 2020. It is a last-dollar scholarship program that will guarantee free tuition and fees for students with a family household income of under $50,000 and after other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants, HOPE Scholarship or other institutional scholarships). Students must qualify for the Hope Scholarship and meet the academic qualifications for the institution to be eligible for this new scholarship. To help ensure success, students will be matched with volunteer mentors and will complete four hours of service learning each semester.

Proposal and comment forms may be found at: https://trustees.tennessee.edu/tuition-and-fee-proposals/.

The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis; the UT Space Institute in Tullahoma; the UT Institute of Agriculture with a presence in every Tennessee county; and the statewide Institute for Public Service.
UTM names county students to spring honor roll

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

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UTM, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and earn a 3.2 (B) GPA. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2-3.49), high honors (3.5-3.79) or highest honors (3.8-4.0). Below are lists of Chancellor’s Honor Roll students who are from or have ties to Benton County:

**BIG SANDY** - Highest Honors: Angel Green, Lindsay Moore. **High Honors:** Hannah Morgan, Rachael Wade.


**EVA** - Highest Honors: Samantha Grainger, Dylan Kelley, Johnathan Wright. **High Honors:** Brody Seaton.

**HOLLADAY** - Highest Honors: Dylan Furr, Candy Patterson, Emma Ulderich, Casey Wright. **High Honors:** Kerri Arnold, Dustin Baker. **Honors:** Jessie Conrad, Kayla Joyner, Crystal Perez.

**OTHER AREAS** - Highest Honors: Delilah Presson (Springville). **High Honors:** Makenzi Brewer (Paris), Haley Mathews (Parsons), Baylee Pafford (Puryear). **Honors:** Marissa Cawthon (Bruceton), Abigail Holladay (Martin).

**OTHER AWARDS** - UTM also recognized the following Camden resident with an individual academic honor during the spring 2019 semester. Cheyanna Eben Hargis was inducted into the UTM chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Kid College returns to UTM Parsons in June

Parents of children entering kindergarten through fifth grade can register their children for Kid College, to be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., June 24-27, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center. Kid College is a great opportunity for youngsters to make new friends in a fun, relaxed learning environment.

Kid College has been a successful summer program for children in West Tennessee for 25 years and continues to be an exciting adventure for children in grades K-5. Whatever interest a child may have, they will find something fun and educational to do at UTM’s Kid College.

Students will be divided into small groups based on grade level. Each group will rotate through courses on animal habitats, outdoor adventures, theatre, and recycled crafts.

Registration is $95 per child and includes a Kid College T-shirt. Additional details are available at utm.edu/kidcollege, where parents can register online, see a complete list of course options, and find extended information.

Parents will be sent an email the week prior to Kid College containing additional information for this year’s activities. For assistance or if you register but do not receive the email, call UTM at 731-881-7104.
Nursing students travel to learn

In May, a group of 27 nursing students, faculty, and chaperones from the University of Tennessee at Martin traveled to Great Britain to introduce students to historical and global aspects of nursing. To date, this was the largest nursing travel group ever coordinated by UTM.

Led by Alissa Parrish, Assistant Professor of Nursing at UTM, and Nicole Blackburn, a lecturer at the UTM Parsons Center, the 10-day trip to England, Scotland, and Wales served to complete the UTM course “Topics in Nursing.”

Offered during the 2019 spring semester, the course and travel study emphasized the importance of competence with global healthcare culture. By visiting historical and cultural sites, the trip allowed students exploration into the rich history of nursing in the British Isles.

CARDIFF CASTLE – The entire UTM nursing travel group poses together in front of Cardiff Castle in Wales on May 18.

UT-M HONORS

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized three Lauderdale County residents with individual academic and merit awards during the spring 2019 semester including Ellary Gillon, of Halls, received the Mathematics Award; Chad Lewis, of Gates, the Sam and Gladys Siegel Agricultural Award; and Anjalee Patel, of Ripley, inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.
UTM offers game design camp

The University of Tennessee at Martin plans a Make Your First Video Game camp June 24-28 on the main campus, open to students ages 8-14. Registration is $175 a student. Participants ages 8-10 will attend camp from 9 a.m. to noon; 11-14-year-olds from 1-4 p.m. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants are not required to have coding experience, but returning students can build on skills they’ve learned previous summers.

Students will learn the processes involved in designing a two-dimensional platform video game. They will learn skills associated with graphics, level design, conceptualization, play experience, sounds and simple coding.

The programs built will be available for testing by friends and family on a password-protected website once camp ends. Games will be made for PC computers but can be converted to Mac versions for $15.

Another iteration of the camp will be offered from July 15-19 at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Swafford recognized by UT Foundation Board of Directors

The University of Tennessee Foundation Board of Directors has chosen Jeanna Swafford, assistant vice chancellor for development and planned giving at the University of Tennessee at Martin, as the recipient of the 2019 Board of Directors Award. This award recognizes outstanding performance and achievement by members of the UT Foundation staff.

Swafford has worked with the UT Martin Division of Advancement since 1992 and has risen through the ranks from assistant director of development. She established and currently directs the campus planned giving program and oversees 150 major gift prospects for the university. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Murray State University.

The award will officially be presented June 13 during the UT Foundation Board of Directors' reception and dinner in Knoxville.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7612.
The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will be considering a record fifth year of low tuition increases when it meets on June 21, according to a press release issued by the system this week.

In preparation of that meeting and to meet new legislative guidelines, the University released the proposed tuition increases for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin and requested feedback from students and the public. The proposed increases range from 2 to 2.5 percent, which are within the up to 2.5 percent range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UT began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015 and has not had five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3 percent or less in 51 years.

"The University of Tennessee continues to do all that it can to make sure that higher education is accessible for all Tennesseans," UT Interim President Randy Boyd said.

"From keeping our tuition low to establishing UT Promise, we want to help ease the financial burden for our students and their families."

UT Martin has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, which is $236 more from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The proposed increase will cover the growth in costs of providing programs to its students.

UT Knoxville has proposed a 2 percent increase, which is a $258 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The majority of the increase is for tuition, but also includes a $26 increase to the Student Programs and Services Fee, which will be used toward a future recreational sports project anticipated for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The rate also includes a $10 library fee increase, which will be used to help offset annual inflation rates.

UT Chattanooga has proposed a 2.5 increase, which would result in a $216 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. UT Chattanooga also has proposed a new tuition structure called Soar in Four for new students starting in fall 2019.

Students entering under the Soar in Four program, similar to programs already established at UT Knoxville and UT Martin, will pay a flat rate of $9,656 for 15 credit hours or more a semester rather than the current rate based on 12 hours a semester.

By taking at least 15 hours a semester, students should be able to graduate in four years.

Earlier this year UT unveiled the UT Promise scholarship, which will start during the fall of 2020.

It is a last-dollar scholarship program that will guarantee free tuition and fees for students with a family household income of under $50,000 and after other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants, HOPE Scholarship, or other institutional scholarships).

Students must qualify for the Hope Scholarship and meet the academic qualifications for the institution to be eligible for this new scholarship. To help ensure success, students will be matched with volunteer mentors and will complete four hours of service learning each semester.

Proposal and comment forms may be found at https://trustees.tennessee.edu/tuition-and-fee-proposals. Feedback from students, parents and the public is requested.

For more information, contact Jennifer Sicking, assistant director of media relations for the UT System, at jsicking@tennessee.edu or (865)-974-5179.

About the UT System
The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis; the UT Space Institute in Tullahoma; the UT Institute of Agriculture with a presence in every Tennessee county; and the statewide Institute for Public Service.
Local students recognized by UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized several Weakley County residents with individual academic and merit awards during the spring 2019 semester. The following students are from Martin unless otherwise noted:

- Chandler Beasley, of Gleason, received the Outstanding Social Work Student Award.
- Avery Blanchard was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.
- Guy Brawley received the Outstanding Mathematics Student Award.
- Aleya Brent, of Dresden, received the Outstanding Psychology Student Award.
- Emma Bruner was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.
- Brett Capps, of Greenfield, received the Award for Academic Promise in Geology.
- Adrian De Sagon received the Muriel D. Tomlinson Scholarship Award.
- Gian Garma received the Harry Neal Memorial Award.
- Teyah Giannetta was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.
- Sarah Jane Gillespie received the Outstanding Spanish Minor Award.
- Chris Gunlefinger was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

For more information about UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.

UT Martin announces chancellor’s honor roll

Staff Report  Jun 7, 2019

http://www.dailystarjournal.com/

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin announced the Spring 2019 chancellor’s honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for the chancellor’s honor roll, 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 with a 3.2 through 3.49 GPA, high honors 3.5 through 3.79 GPA or highest honors 3.8 through 4.0 GPA.

Kendall L. Muhn of Knob Noster make the honor roll with honors.
‘Everywhere You Look, UT’ campaign unveils in Sharon

June 7, 2019 by Julia Ewoldt

SHARON, Tenn. — There is a University of Tennessee graduate in all 95 counties in Tennessee, and UT is celebrating that with a new campaign, “Everywhere You Look, UT.”

“Today is the announcement and unveiling of a great sort of advocacy campaign, ‘Everywhere You Look, UT,’” UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said at the ceremony.

The 46-feet-tall by 66-feet-wide mural was unveiled Friday in Sharon.

“It really honored us by allowing us to put this very public display on their farm, but I think it really shows how families are intertwined with the university,” he said.

The family who owns the grain bin it’s painted on has deep roots in the UT system.

“I'm a UT alumni, my dad was, I've got two children [who] graduated from there, my in-laws went to school there,” Keith Fowler, president and manager of Robinson and Belew Grain, said.

He says it didn’t take them long to agree to the plan.

“I think it’s great that the University of Tennessee and agriculture come together in this campaign to promote UT and promote agriculture, and we wanted to be a part of it,” Fowler said.

The grain bin also overlooks Highway 45, only seven miles south of UT Martin.

“People come up and down Highway 45 and they see the mural, that they’ll think of the impact UT has on the state and also what impact agriculture has on the state,” Fowler said.

Interim President of the University of Tennessee Randy Boyd says this mural was paid for by gifts and interest funds, not taxpayer dollars or student tuition. The first mural was unveiled six months ago on a water tower he owns in Knoxville.
University of Tennessee eyes tuition hikes at three campuses

KNOXVILLE (AP) — The University of Tennessee is considering tuition increases at its Knoxville, Martin and Chattanooga campuses.

A news release Wednesday says the board will consider the increases of 2 to 2.5 percent at a June 21 meeting. The university says it began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015, and this would mark the first five straight years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3 percent or less in 51 years.

The increases would be 2 percent, or $258, in Knoxville; 2.5 percent in Chattanooga, or $216; and 2.5 percent in Martin, a $236 increase.

The UT Promise scholarship will also begin in fall 2020. The program offers free tuition and fees for students with a family household income under $50,000 after other financial aid is received.
UT Martin names local students to Chancellor's Honor Roll

SUBMITTED  Jun 8, 2019

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

To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). Students named include from Cedar Hill – Brittany D. Edwards, High Honors; from Cross Plains – Peyton R. Judkins, High Honors and Torger O. Torgersen, High Honors; from Greenbrier – Hunter W. Boguskie, Honors and Madelyn M. Dycus, Highest Honors; from Springfield – Christopher A. Avallone, Honors, Brooklyinne E. Barnhill, High Honors, Shelby L. Batson, Highest Honors, Abby M. Covington, Honors, Allyson M. DeNote, Highest Honors, Alexandra J. Proffitt, High Honors and Keylea E. Richardson, Highest Honors; from White House – Rebekah J. Mansfield, Highest Honors, Jason P. Repath, Highest Honors and Cassandra L. Winslow, Highest Honors; and from Pleasant View – Shelby R. Guffey, Highest Honors and Timothy C. Minton, Highest Honors.
“Everywhere You Look, UT”: Even On Sharon Grain Bin

PHOTO: UT Martin Chancellor Carver and UT System Interim President Randy Boyd are shown in front of the new mural painted on the side of a grain bin at Robinson & Belew Inc. in Sharon.

MARTIN, Tenn. – A 65-foot-tall grain bin serves as the latest canvas for the University of Tennessee System’s 46-feet-high by 66-feet-wide mural aimed at educating Tennesseans on the significant impact the university has across the state.

The “Everywhere You Look, UT” mural was celebrated today in Sharon just seven miles south of the UT Martin campus. The grain bin is owned by Robinson & Belew Inc., a family-run business founded in 1950 that ships corn, soybeans and wheat around the world.

“I thought this was something that we could do to help UT and help UT Martin and just give back a little bit,” said Keith Fowler, president of Robinson & Belew, who, along with his wife Linda Robinson Fowler, is a 1985 graduate of UT Martin.

As the company’s history goes, Bob Robinson established a small business selling strawberries and coal near the railroad tracks in Sharon, Tennessee, during the first half of the 20th century. He used the railroad to ship sweet potato slips throughout the United States. In 1950, he purchased the Sharon Feed Mill with his partner and brother-in-law, A.L. Belew, and Robinson & Belew Grain was born. Robinson’s son, Robert Dean “R.D.” Robinson, who earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from the UT Martin in 1961, expanded the business even further.

The Robinson family boasts three generations of UT Martin ties beginning with R.D. and including his sister, Betty Robinson Eddings (’72); his wife, Dianne Palmer Robinson (’71); the Fowlers, and two of the Fowlers’ three children: Chris in 2012 and Rachel in 2015. R.D. and Dianne Robinson recently established the R.D. and Dianne Robinson Agriculture Scholarship for students attending UT Martin. Fowler’s father, Larry Fowler, also graduated from UT in 1960 and his mother, Mary Fowler, worked at the UT Martin bookstore for 33 years.
"UT Martin means a lot to me and my family, and it plays a vital role in our community," Fowler said. So, when (the University of Tennessee) asked (to paint the mural), I thought it was something we definitely wanted to be a part of to help promote UT and UT Martin."

UT System Interim President Randy Boyd said during his time leading UT, he's learned how the university serves Tennesseans across the state.

"I realized everywhere you look, there's UT," Boyd said. "Having murals all across the state will help reinforce the message. People will see the murals and then realize, 'You know, they're right. Everywhere you look, I do see UT.'"

Plus, there's another aspect of the mural that excites Boyd.

"My family is from West Tennessee and so having a mural in West Tennessee, about 30 miles from where my ancestors all grew up, including my father, is pretty cool," he said.

The mural site is about 500 feet from US-45E with unobstructed visibility from the highway. Information compiled by the Tennessee Department of Transportation estimates annual average daily traffic counts total 5,385—thus, it's possible the mural will be seen by as many as 1.9 million people a year.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said the mural will be a powerful statement of the Fowler family's belief in the university and its impact across Tennessee to all who pass.

"Oftentimes when we think about higher education, we think about a campus or we think about a building, but having it in a rural area, in an agrarian community, on the side of a huge grain bin, it's just a reminder that UT is not just on a campus, but it's in the communities, it's in our farms, it's helping transportation," Carver said.

The Robinson and Belew grain bin is the second installment of the UT System statewide marketing campaign. In August 2018, the first mural was painted on a water tower in the heart of downtown Knoxville on a property owned by Boyd.

The water tower—overlooking Jackson Avenue just east of the Old City and is visible from I-40 and Hall of Fame Boulevard—catches the attention of every passerby and yields an estimated 6.4 million impressions a year. The mural is approximately 15 feet wide by 30 feet high.

The UT System continues to look for high-traffic, high-visibility properties for future mural campaigns. Preferred locations include Tennessee interstates, highways and waterways, or nestled in the center of town. For more information and to submit ideas for other locations, please visit everywhere.tennessee.edu/murals/campaign.
Teenagers attend Tennessee Teen Institute at UT Martin

June 10, 2019 by Julia Ewoldt (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/juliaewoldt/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — All is quiet at the University of Tennessee at Martin this week, until you go inside the University Center.

“There’s a gamut of things this week as roughly 500 kids from across the state come together to learn how to live safer lives,” said Barry Cooper, executive director of Jackson Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

The kids, ages 14 to 18, are gathered for the Tennessee Teen Institute.

“When I came, I had a blast — the best week of my life,” Charlee Ownby, a peer leader liaison, said.

While these kids do have a lot of fun at the camp, they also sit down and learn things to take back home with them.

“Kids will hear motivational speakers from across the state, and the things they’ll hear will be things about anti-bullying, anti-tobacco use, anti-drug and alcohol, but they’ll also be taking away some of the leadership skills they’ll gain this week,” Cooper said.

Many kids keep coming back year after year.

“I heard a whole bunch of stuff, a lot of stories, but the biggest thing I learned was that I had a support system across the state,” Ownby said.

And organizers hope they’ll put it to good use.
"Here they learn their voice, they practice their voice, they find their mission," said Mary Harding, coordinator of coordinated school health at Lenoir City Schools. "Then once you've practiced that in a safe environment, then you feel a lot more confident you can do that in your school where it's not so sometimes safe and comfortable."

The course continues through Friday.

**Four locals recognized by UTM**

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized students from Henry County with various academic and merit awards for the spring 2019 semester.

- Mason Crosser of Paris received the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award, as well as the Skyhawks' Education, Readiness and Valor Award.
- Kara Hoskins of Springville received the John E. McCluskey Literary Award in Scholarly/Critical Paper.
- Emily Hudgins of Paris received the Outstanding First-Time College Student in Agriculture Award.
- Shelby Susewitt of Springville received the Outstanding Child and Family Studies Student Award.
UT Martin Grads Already Accepted To Veterinary School

JUNE 11, 2019 AT 8:42 AM POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Photo: Dr. Danny Walker, associate professor of animal science, is shown teaching a course at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Walker, a licensed veterinarian, is one of the primary faculty members in the UT Martin veterinary science program.

MARTIN, Tenn. – Thirteen members of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2019 graduating class have already been accepted into veterinary schools across the region, including a graduate from Rives in Obion County.

Marissa Howard, of Rives, and Megan Thomas, of Adamsville, will both begin at the Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine; and Amanda Harrell, of Smyrna, is enrolling at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Meera Patel, of Arlington, will become UT Martin’s first student to attend the Louisiana State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Samantha Drury, of Ashland City; Kamryn Gitchell, of Ripley; Erin Keenan, of Greenbrier; and Olivia Trasolini, of Newbern, will all begin classes at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville this fall. Brady Brown, of Lawrenceburg; Hannah Haynes, of Gallatin; and Caylin Potter, of Glendale Height, Illinois, are all incoming students at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Katelynn Hacker, of Atoka, was accepted into Lincoln Memorial University, and Savanna Metheny, of Weston, West Virginia, was accepted to both Virginia Tech and Mississippi State University’s colleges of veterinary medicine, although both have decided to defer and reapply next year.
The Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine recently announced that Brown received one of 12 Bardsley Scholarships for the class of 2023. Bardsley Scholarship applications are reviewed by a panel and evaluated for both academic and extracurricular activities as well as leadership potential. Recipients must maintain a 3.5 grade point average during their time in the college of veterinary medicine.

"UT Martin’s veterinary science program prepares students for veterinary school with a good balance of classroom preparation and experiential learning opportunities. The students have many opportunities to apply concepts learned in the classroom while working with veterinary professionals in a clinical setting on the UT Martin teaching and demonstration farm," said Roberts. "We are fortunate to have both veterinarians and veterinary technicians with years of private practice experience who are now teaching these students to excel. The yearly success rate of students being accepted to veterinary school speaks to the quality of the preparation at UT Martin."

For more information about the UT Martin animal science program and pre-veterinary track, contact Roberts at jroberts@utm.edu or 731-881-1071.
Thirteen UT Martin grads accepted to veterinary school

Thirteen members of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2019 graduating class have been accepted into veterinary schools across the region, according to Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science. Samantha Drury, of Ashland City; Kamryn Gitchell, of Ripley; Erin Keenan, of Greenbrier; and Olivia Trasolini, of Newbern, will all begin classes at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville this fall. Brady Brown, of Lawrenceburg; Hannah Haynes, of Gallatin; and Caylin Potter, of Glendale Heights, Illinois, are all incoming students at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Marissa Howard, of Rives, and Megan Thomas, of Adamsville, will both begin at the Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine; and Amanda Harrell, of Smyrna, is enrolling at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Meera Patel, of Arlington, will become UT Martin’s first student to attend the Louisiana State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Katelynn Hacker, of Atoka, was accepted into Lincoln Memorial University, and Savanna Metheny, of Weston, West Virginia, was accepted to both Virginia Tech and Mississippi State University’s college of veterinary medicine, although both have decided to defer and reapply next year. The Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine recently announced that Brown received one of 12 Bardsley Scholarships for the class of 2023. Bardsley Scholarship applications are reviewed by a panel and evaluated for both academic and extracurricular activities as well as leadership potential. Recipients must maintain a 3.5 grade point average during their time in the college of veterinary medicine. “UT Martin’s veterinary science program prepares students for veterinary school with a good balance of classroom preparation and experiential learning opportunities. The students have many opportunities to apply concepts learned in the classroom while working with veterinary professionals in a clinical setting on the UT Martin teaching and demonstration farm,” said Roberts. “We are fortunate to have both veterinarians and veterinary technicians with years of private practice experience who are now teaching these students to excel. The yearly success rate of students being accepted to veterinary school speaks to the quality of the preparation at UT Martin.” For more information about the UT Martin animal science program and pre-veterinary track, contact Roberts at jroberts@utm.edu or 731-881-1071.
UT mural in Sharon celebrates agri-partnership

By SABRINA BATES
News Producer

What started as a small-town farmer's means to support his family has resulted in a legacy of agribusiness as well as a visible partnership with an institute of higher learning. On Friday, community members celebrated that legacy and partnership on the side of the highway with Robinson & Belew Grain Co. in Sharon serving as a backdrop.

Betty Robinson Eddings said her father Robert Robinson, affectionately known as "Bob," created his small agribusiness at that location many years ago. Bob would sell strawberries and coal near the railroad tracks in Sharon during the first part of the 20th Century. He also used the railroad to ship sweet potato slips throughout the United States.

In 1950, he purchased the Sharon Feed Mill with his partner and brother-in-law, A.L. Belew. Robinson & Belew Grain was born and since, has been a leading agribusiness in Weakley County and Northwest Tennessee. It ships corn, soybeans and wheat around the world.

Eddings said her father passed away in 1995, but her brother Robert Dean "R.D." Robinson helped carry on the grain business that began at that location in 1950. He earned his degree in agriculture from UT Martin in 1961. Eddings said the family history of Robinson & Belew includes a long-term relationship with the local university.

"It was very nice of them to want to partner with the family business for this," Eddings said Friday morning as dignitaries with the University of Tennessee system, family members, farmers and city and county leaders gathered to celebrate a piece of art on display on one of the company's grain bins. The mural — "Everywhere You Look, UT" — is a reminder in West Tennessee of the continuous partnership the system has with its neighboring communities.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver told the audience the mural, which is approximately 46 feet high by 66 feet wide, is symbolic of the relationships formed between the university, families and communities. Carver emphasized how the UT system is deeply rooted in agriculture and family connections. Locating the mural at an agribusiness with a family history of not just agriculture, but higher education at UT Martin, was representative of the types of partnerships UT has with its communities.

Keith Fowler serves as the current president of Robinson & Belew. He is married to Linda Robinson Fowler and is a 1985 graduate of UT Martin.

The Robinson family boasts three generations of UT Martin ties beginning with R.D. and including his sister, Betty Robinson Eddings ('72); his wife, Dianne Palmer Robinson ('71); the Fowlers, and two of the Fowlers' three children: Chris in 2012 and Rachel in 2015.

R.D. and Dianne Robinson recently established the R.D. and Dianne Robinson Agriculture Scholarship for students attending UT Martin.

Fowler's father, Larry Fowler, also graduated from UT in 1960 and his mother, Mary Fowler, worked at the UT Martin bookstore for 33 years.

"UT has always been a part of our lives and it plays a vital role in our community." Fowler noted at Friday's event. He added he has always been proud of the culture of UT and the system's emphasis on the importance of agriculture.

UT Interim President Randy Boyd said during his time leading UT, he's learned how the University serves Tennesseans across the state.

"I realized everywhere you look, there’s UT," Boyd said. "Having murals all across the state will help reinforce the message. People will see the murals and then realize, ‘You know, they’re right. Everywhere you look, I see UT.’"

Plus, there's another aspect of the mural that excites Boyd.

"My family is from West Tennessee and so having a mural in West Tennessee, about 30 miles from where my ancestors all grew up, including my father, is pretty cool," he said.

The mural site is about 500 feet from US-41E with unobstructed visibility from the highway. Information compiled by the Tennessee Department of Transportation estimates annual average daily traffic counts total 5,385 — thus, it's possible the mural will be seen by as many as 1.9 million people a year.

"Oftentimes when we think about higher education, we think about a campus or we think about a building, but having it in a rural area, in an agrarian community, on the side of a huge grain bin, it’s just a reminder that UT is not just on a campus, but it's in the communities, it’s in our farms, it's helping transportation," Carver added.

Troy Freeman of Springfield, Illinois began the mural project the Sunday afternoon before the unveiling event in Sharon. With grain bins and silos part of his portfolio of completed mural projects, the UT logo on the grain bin at Robinson & Belew is one of many large-scale pieces of art in Freeman's collection. Freeman said he finished up the painting in less than a week, although wet weather dampened progress some days.

Freeman said working with the UT system and the grain company on the project was pleasant as team members were accommodating, generous and overall, helpful.

The Robinson and Belew grain bin is the second installment of the UT System statewide marketing campaign.

In August 2018, the first mural was painted on a water tower in the heart of downtown Knoxville on a property owned by Boyd.

The water tower — overlooking Jackson Avenue just east of the Old City and is visible from I-40 and Hall of Fame Boulevard — catches the attention of every passerby and yields an estimated 6.4 million impressions a year. The mural is approximately 15 feet wide by 30 feet high.

The UT system continues to look for high-traffic, high-visibility properties for future mural campaigns. Preferred locations include Tennessee interstates, highways and waterways, or nestled in the center of town. For more information and to submit ideas for other locations, visit everywheretennessee.edu/murals/campaign.
EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK — University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd talks about the importance of the message, "Everywhere You Look, UT," that was painted on a mural last week on the side of a grain bin at Robinson & Belew Grain Co. in Sharon, while UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver revealed a photograph gifted to the agribusiness. For details and more photos, see Page 2.

PROUD TRADITION — Members of the Robinson and Fowler families are pictured in front of the new mural painted on the side of a grain bin at Robinson & Belew Grain Co. in Sharon Friday morning in celebration of the partnership the UT System has with its local communities. The families are descendants of Robinson & Belew's co-founders, Robert "Bob" Robinson and A.L. Belew.
WARM WELCOMES — Betty Robinson Eddings (left), daughter of Sharon's Robinson & Belew co-founder Bob Robinson greeted University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver Friday morning to the agribusiness for celebration of the UT System mural.

AGRI-PARTNERSHIP — President of Robinson & Belew Grain Co. of Sharon Keith Fowler (left) spends a few moments with University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd at the celebration announcing the second UT mural in the state on a grain bin at the agribusiness.

LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver (left) was joined by UT System President Randy Boyd at the reveal of the second UT System mural, displayed on a grain bin at Robinson & Belew Grain Co. in Sharon Friday morning.
"Everywhere You Look, UT" is the second University of Tennessee System mural highlighting the partnership between UT schools and their local communities. The mural is approximately 46 feet tall and 66 feet wide.

It was painted by Troy Freeman of Springfield, Illinois. The mural project took the artist nearly a week to complete.

Robinson & Belew Grain Co. in Sharon was founded in 1950 by Robert "Bob" Robinson and partner and brother-in-law A.L. Belew after the pair purchased the Sharon Feed Mill. The agribusiness now ships wheat, corn and soybeans across the globe and is a leader in agriculture in Weakley County with a legacy in ag.

A LEGACY CONTINUES — Betty Robinson Eddings, daughter of Robert "Bob" Robinson, joined family members Friday to celebrate the UT System mural, "Everywhere You Look, UT." proudly displayed on a grain bin at her late father's agribusiness Robinson & Belew Grain Co. in Sharon. The mural is the second in the state publicly displaying the partnership between the University of Tennessee and the surrounding communities. Robinson & Belew was founded in 1950 by Robinson and his partner and brother-in-law A.L. Belew.
UT releases proposed tuition & fee increases

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will consider a record fifth year of low tuition increases when it meets June 21. In preparation of that meeting and to meet new legislative guidelines, the University released the proposed tuition increases for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin on June 5 and requested feedback from students and the public. The proposed increases range from 2 to 2.5%, which are within the range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UT began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015, and these are the first five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3% or less in 51 years.

"The University of Tennessee continues to do all that it can to make sure that higher education is accessible for all Tennesseans," said UT System Interim President Randy Boyd. "From keeping our tuition low to establishing UT Promise, we want to help ease the financial burden for our students and their families."

UT Knoxville has proposed a 2% increase, which is a $258 increase from fiscal year 2018-2019 to fiscal year 2019-2020. The majority of the increase is for tuition, but also includes a $28 increase to the student programs and services fee, which will be used toward a future recreational sports project anticipated for fiscal year 2023-2024. The rate also includes a $10 library fee increase, which will be used to help offset annual inflation rates.

UT Chattanooga has pro-

(Continued on page 10)

Earlier this year UT unveiled the UT Promise scholarship, which will start during the fall of 2020. It is a last-dollar scholarship program that will guarantee free tuition and fees for students with a family household income of under $50,000 after other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants, HOPE Scholarship or other institutional scholarships). Students must qualify for the HOPE Scholarship and meet the academic qualifications for the institution to be eligible for the UT Promise scholarship. To help ensure success, students will also be matched with volunteer mentors and complete four hours of service learning each semester.

Proposal and comment forms can be found at trustees.tennessee.edu/tuition-and-fee-proposals. Feedback from students, parents and the public is requested.

For more information, contact Jennifer Sicking, assistant director of media relations for the UT System, at jsicking@tennessee.edu or 865-974-5179.

UT releases...

(Continued from page 9)

posed a 2.5%, which would result in a $216 increase from fiscal year 2018-2019 to fiscal year 2019-2020. UT Chattanooga also has proposed a new tuition structure called Soar in Four for new students starting in fall 2019. Students entering under the Soar in Four program, similar to programs already established at UT Knoxville and UT Martin, will pay a flat rate of $9,656 for 15 credit hours or more a semester rather than the current rate based on 12 hours a semester. By taking at least 15 hours a semester, students should be able to graduate in four years.

UT Martin has proposed a 2.5% increase, which is $236 more from fiscal year 2018-2019 to fiscal year 2019-2020. The proposed increase will cover the growth in costs of providing programs to its students.
UT celebrates second mural in West Tennessee

SHARON — A 65-foot-tall grain bin serves as the latest canvas for the University of Tennessee System’s 46-feet-high by 66-feet-wide mural painted by a large group of Tennesseeans on the significant impact the University has across the state.

The “Everywhere You Look, UT” mural was celebrated last week in Sharon, just seven miles south of the UT Martin campus. The grain bin is owned by Robinson & Belew Inc., a family-run business founded in 1950 that ships corn, soybeans and wheat around the world.

“I thought this was something that we could do to help UT and help UT Martin and just give back a little bit,” said Keith Fowler, president of Robinson & Belew, who, along with his wife Linda Robinson Fowler, is a 1985 graduate of UT Martin.

As the company’s history goes, Bob Robinson established a small business selling strawberries and coal near the railroad tracks in Sharon during the first half of the 20th century. He used the railroad to ship sweet potato slips throughout the United States. In 1950, he purchased the Sharon Feed Mill with his partner and brother-in-law, A.L. Belew. And Robinson & Belew Grain was born. Robinson’s son, Robert Dean “R.D.” Robinson, who earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from UT Martin in 1961, expanded the business even further.

The Robinson family boasts three generations of UT Martin ties beginning with R.D. and including his sister, Betty Robinson Eddings (’72); his wife, Dianne Palmer Robinson (’71); the Fowlers, and two of the Fowlers’ three children: Chris in 2012 and Rachel in 2015. R.D. and Dianne Robinson recently established the R.D. and Dianne Robinson Agriculture Scholarship for students attending UT Martin.

Fowler’s father, Larry Fowler, also graduated from UT in 1960 and his mother, Mary Fowler, worked at the UT Martin bookstore for 33 years.

“UT Martin means a lot to me and my family, and it plays a vital role in our community,” Fowler said. So, when (the University of Tennessee) asked (to paint) the mural, I thought it was something we definitely wanted to be a part of to help promote UT and UT Martin.”

UT interim president Randy Boyd said during his time leading UT, he’s learned how the University serves Tennesseans across the state.

“I realized everywhere you look, there’s UT,” Boyd said. “Having murals all across the state will help reinforce the message. People will see the murals and then realize, ‘You know, they’re right. Everywhere you look, I do see UT.’”

Plus, there’s another aspect of the mural that excites Boyd.

“My family is from West Tennessee and so having a mural in West Tennessee, about 30 miles from where my ancestors all grew up including my father, is pretty cool,” he said.

The mural site is about 500 feet from US-45E with unobstructed visibility from the highway. Information compiled by the Tennessee Department of Transportation estimates annual average daily traffic counts total 5,385 — thus, it’s possible the mural will be seen by as many as 1.9 million people a year.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said the mural will be a powerful statement to all who pass of the Fowler family’s belief in the University and its impact across Tennessee.

“Oftentimes when we think about higher education, we think about a campus or we think about a building, but having it in a rural area, in an agrarian community, on the side of a huge grain bin, it’s just a reminder that UT is not just on a campus, but it’s in the communities, it’s in our farms, it’s helping transportation,” Carver said.

The Robinson and Belew grain bin is the second installment of the UT System statewide marketing campaign. In August 2018, the first mural was painted on a water tower in the heart of downtown Knoxville on a property owned by Boyd.

The water tower — overlooking Jackson Avenue just east of the Old City and is visible from I-40 and Hall of Fame Boulevard — catches the attention of every passerby and yields an estimated 6.4 million impressions a year. The
mural is approximately 15 feet wide by 30 feet high. The UT System continues to look for high-traffic, high-visibility properties for future mural campaigns. Preferred locations include Tennessee interstates, highways and waterways or nestled in the center of town. For more information and to submit ideas for other locations, visit https://everywhere.tennessee.edu/murals/campaign/.

SUPPORTING UT — Ron Kirkland (left) and Bill Latimer were on hand in support of the unveiling of the second University of Tennessee system mural in Sharon Friday morning. Dignitaries, family members of the Robinson & Belew company, and representatives of the UT system celebrated the “Everywhere You Look, UT” mural recently painted by Troy Freeman of FreeSky Studios on a grain bin at the Sharon agribusiness. The mural stretches approximately 46 feet high by 66 feet wide about 500 feet from US-45E, with an estimated visibility by 1.9 million traffic-goers each year. Robinson & Belew Grain of Sharon was founded along the railroad tracks by Bob Robinson, who purchased the Sharon Feed Mill in 1950 with his partner and brother-in-law, A.L. Belew.
Local Students Recognized With UT Martin Awards

Left, MARTIN (April 25) — Laura Killen of Atwood was recognized as a faculty scholar for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs during a Thursday awards banquet. Faculty members in this college each select one student to receive this distinction every year. Right, MARTIN (April 22) — Amanda Steele of Yuma received the Outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassador Award from the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a Monday ceremony. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu. Photos courtesy UT Martin.

Local Students Recognized by UT Martin

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized several Carroll County residents with individual academic and merit awards during the spring 2019 semester. The following students were recognized:

Samantha Barrow of Atwood received the Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation Student Award and the GIS Student Award. She was also inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Ellen Bell of Cedar Grove received the Norman Lilligard Outstanding Philosophy Student Award.

Ethan Maddox of Huntingdon received the Outstanding Japanese Minor Award.

Jordan Mosele of McKenzie received the Outstanding Visual and Theatre Arts Student Award for graphic design.

Macy Watkins of McKenzie received the Madeline Hall Pritchett Award.

For more information about UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.
Wortham Recognized For Teaching Excellence

MARTIN (May 1) — Megan Wortham (right) of Hollow Rock, received the Jodi Woods Special Education Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies during a Wednesday reception. This award was established in memory of the late Jodi Woods, a special education major who died June 24, 2006. It is given each semester to one graduating special education major who excels in student teaching by including and building self-esteem in students with special needs. Wortham is pictured with Dr. Beth Stratton, UT Martin assistant professor of educational studies. Photo courtesy UT Martin

Brown Graduates As University Scholar

MARTIN (May 4) — Meredith Brown (left) of Trezevant graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin Saturday with the distinction of “University Scholar.” This honor indicates a student was selected to participate in an exclusive honors curriculum and has completed and defended a two-year research thesis alongside a faculty mentor. Brown earned her bachelor’s degree in computer science. She completed her undergraduate thesis with the assistance of Dr. Kathleen Erison (right), assistant professor of computer science. For more information on the University Scholars Program, contact Dr. John Glass, director of UT Martin Honors Programs, at jglass@utm.edu. Photo courtesy UT Martin
Local Families Visit UT-Martin

Left, MARTIN (May 20) — Joseph Richardson (right) of Huntingdon visited the University of Tennessee at Martin Monday to participate in the first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year. He is a graduate of Huntingdon High School and is pictured with family members (from left) Bianca and Windie Richardson. Right, MARTIN (May 21) — Allie Watson (left) of McKenzie visited the University of Tennessee at Martin Tuesday to participate in one of the first Summer Orientation and Registration sessions of the year. She is a graduate of McKenzie High School and is pictured with her mother, Amanda Watson. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT-Martin campus community. Future SOAR sessions for accepted students are scheduled for June 7 and 21 and July 12 and 22. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen. For more information, visit utm.edu/soar or contact the UT-Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7612. Photo courtesy UT-Martin
Summer orientation sessions to continue at UT Martin

MARTIN — Summer orientation and registration sessions for freshman, transfer and adult students will continue throughout the months of June and July at the University of Tennessee at Martin. SOAR is required for all incoming freshman students, and sessions are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 21, July 12 and July 22. Students must have received an official acceptance letter from UT Martin to attend orientation. Registration is $45 per student and $20 for each additional guest, including parents, guardians, siblings and friends. No tuition or fee payments are due until the start of the fall semester.

Orientation begins with check-in and an administrative fair, and an official welcome will begin at 9 a.m. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, choosing a major and preparing for academic success will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions on the transition to college, housing and meal plans, travel-study and study-abroad opportunities will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty advisor to register for classes.

Visit utm.edu/soar to register.

Transfer and Adult Orientation is optional for students in those categories, and sessions are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday and July 19. Special interest sessions on similar topics will be held from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and academic advising with faculty advisors will begin at 10:45. Optional campus tours will leave the Boling University Center at 1 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register.

For more information or registration assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020.

UTM names local students to Chancellor’s Honor Roll

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

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must have at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the 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).

• Hornbeak — Brianna M. Hinton, High Honors; Marli M. Hogg, Honors; Parker W. Kendall, High Honors; and Matthew G. LaMastus, Honors.

• Kenton — Mason T. Chandler, Honors; Cody G. Little, Honors; and Brayden S. Williams, High Honors.

• Obion — Heather L. Baggett, Honors; Kieman S. Coursey, Highest Honors; Christina M. Hinton, Honors; Lyndsey K. Patterson, High Honors; Jonah M. Pittman, High Honors; Madison S. Pitts, High Honors; Axl D. Powers, High Honors; Ericka R. Reaves, Highest Honors; Bethany L. Walsh, Highest Honors; Madison L. Winchester, Highest Honors; and Megan E. Winchester, High Honors.

• Rives — Gray T. Batey, Honors; Sheridan B. Bugg, High Honors; Carson H. Cary, Honors; Hayden G. Cary, Highest Honors; Kathryn G. Crockett, High Honors; Marissa H. Howard, Honors; Wesley P. Sisco, Highest Honors; Bailey B. Wisener, Highest Honors; and Claire E. Wisener, Highest Honors.

• South Fulton — Casey P. Allen, Highest Honors; Kevin W. Bartholomew, High Honors; Jasmine D. Rodríguez Bonilla, Highest Honors; Mallory P. Brown, Highest Honors; Hunter C. Burton, Highest Honors;
Hannah G. Carlisle, High Honors; Trajin A. Cheirs, Honors; Riley K. Davis, Highest Honors; James B. Hutchens, Highest Honors; Hayden W. Kelly, High Honors; Ryanne B. Kessel, Highest Honors; Ariabella E. Kinney, High Honors; Chandler B. Malray, Honors; Destinee B. Mayo, Highest Honors; Caitlyn A. McClain, Highest Honors; Slade C. Murray, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, Highest Honors; Justin B. Sowell, Honors; Benjamin R. St. Onge, Honors; and Kelly A. White, Honors.

**Troy** — Juliane E. Albright, Highest Honors; Jayden E. Campbell, Honors; Kaleigh E. Flowers, Honors; Diana G. Franco, Honors; Ashlynn R. Hamm, High Honors; Courtney R. Heuck, Honors; Mason N. Hoffman, Highest Honors; Jaye B. Jennings, Highest Honors; Helen E. Kendall, High Honors; Sara J. Kendall, Highest Honors; John I. Kennedy, Highest Honors; Kathryn G. Kerr, Highest Honors; Anna D. Logan, Highest Honors; Ceclile A. Morris, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Parnell, Highest Honors; Rebecca L. Robb, Highest Honors; Alexandria E. Sharp, Highest Honors; Alli K. Shaw, High Honors; Richard M. Underwood, Honors; and Grant K. Yates, High Honors.

**Union City** — Audrey M. Adams, Highest Honors; Chelsea B. Anderson, Highest Honors; Benjamin H. Beard, Highest Honors; Levi H. Beard, Highest Honors; Breanna N. Bell, High Honors; Mirna J. Borrages, Honors; Taylor C. Bowling, Highest Honors; Carly E. Bramlett, Honors; Abby C. Bruff, Highest Honors; Kayla D. Bryant, Highest Honors; Chambray L. Callicott, Honors; Caroline J. Chism, Highest Honors; Catherine A. Clancy, Honors; Olivia G. Davis, Honors; Aaron J. Dyer, Honors; Macy S. Earley, Highest Honors; Matthew A. Edmaiston, Honors; Hannah X. Fulbright, Honors; Brendan L. Galbraith, High Honors; Lauren E. Ganserrett, High Honors; Magen B. Gargus, High Honors; Jack S. Garrett, High Honors; Elizabeth J. Gibson, High Honors; Andrew B. Glover, High Honors; Klayton J. Hagan, Honors; Taylor J. Heathcock, Highest Honors; Madison L. Hicks, High Honors; Macy M. Horner, Highest Honors; James F. Hudspeh, Honors; Darrell L. Huff, High Honors; Jacob T. Hyde, High Honors; Grace A. Kennedy, Honors; Cruz M. Kepner, Honors; Brooke N. Killebrew, Honors; Audrey E. Long, Highest Honors; Mario R. Mandujano, High Honors; Thomas P. Mathis, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Mayo, High Honors; Clayton M. Mize, Honors; Shelby N. Mosley, Highest Honors; Jordan P. Murdock, Highest Honors; Kursten H. Orsborne, High Honors; Katy Parker, High Honors; Avery A. Partin, High Honors; Erica S. Phipps, Honors; Tucker M. Pounds, High Honors; Stella D. Preuett, Highest Honors; Hillary R. Rousseau, Highest Honors; Barbara P. Russell, High Honors; Emily G. Searcy, High Honors; Leah A. Simmons, Highest Honors; Hailey E. Slaughter, Highest Honors; Daniel A. Slove, High Honors; Jenna M. Smith, Highest Honors; Eric S. Stromblad, Honors; William E. Tomlinson, High Honors; Ariana G. Warner, High Honors; Erika S. Willett, Honors; and Jasmine M. Youngblood, Highest Honors.

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

**Bogota** — Courtney G. Berry, High Honors.

**Martin** — Parker E. Albright, High Honors; Anna D. Barnes, High Honors; Garrett L. Hay, Highest Honors; Laken D. Kirk, Highest Honors; Grant W. Larcam, High Honors; Mason S. Parker, Honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, Highest Honors; Samantha M. Simbeck, Honors; and Zackary A. Williamson, Honors.

**Springville** — Morgan A. Martin, High Honors.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 18 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
UTM names honor roll students from Lauderdale County

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

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). Local students on the list include Lakenia S. Jones of Gates, High Honors; Chad A. Lewis of Gates, Highest Honors; Callie E. Belton of Halls, High Honors; Brianna B. Burse of Halls, Honors; Ellary J. Gillon of Halls, Highest Honors; Zachary Harris of Halls, Highest Honors; Quishonda A. Moses of Halls, High Honors; Alan B. Smith of Halls, Honors; James T. Wright of Halls, Highest Honors; Erin N. Young of Henning, Highest Honors; Symoane T. Demoss of Ripley, Highest Honors; Steven R. Dodson of Ripley, Highest Honors; Emily M. Ferrell of Ripley, High Honors; Emily K. Fisher of Ripley, High Honors; Erica L. Hicks of Ripley, High Honors; Mahima J. Mahida of Ripley, Highest Honors; Bethany N. McCaslin of Ripley, High Honors; Roger V. Mills of Ripley, Highest Honors; Anjalee S. Patel of Ripley, High Honors; Sarah M. Perry of Ripley, Honors; Tammy M. Umbra of Ripley, Highest Honors; and Allison P. Webb of Ripley, Highest Honors.

Several students from Halls High School attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s African American Leadership Conference held May 7 in Jackson. The event featured Dr. Glenda Baskins Glover, President of Tennessee State University in Nashville, a keynote speaker. Pictured, from left, are students Cedarius Halfacre and Jamyra Harris, Cynthia Lacey-Jane, business education teacher; and students Kenyon Stafford and Brianna Jones. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.
RHS students attend WestStar event

Several students from Ripley High School attended the WestStar Leadership Program's African American Leadership Conference held May 7 in Jackson. The event featured Dr. Glenda Baskins Glover, President of Tennessee State University in Nashville, as keynote speaker. Pictured, from left, are students Brian Taylor, Kameron Currie, Nylesha Gingery and Tatyana Simmons. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Four UTM Programs Ranked Top 20 Nationally

Four degree programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been ranked among the top 20 programs in the nation for their respective fields in recent publications. The online Master of Business Administration degree is ranked fifth in the country by OnlineCourseReport.com in the site's recent list of “the best 50 online MBA programs.” This ranking considers U.S. News & World Report standings as well as hourly tuition rates, available specializations within the degree program, online flexibility, and both regional and AACSB accreditation status.

AffordableSchools.net ranks the UT Martin MBA program eighth among their top 25 most affordable master's degrees in the country, considering average cost of attendance and college ranking. UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee school on both these websites.

UT Martin's online master's degree in education with a major in school counseling places 18th among the top 30 programs of this type nationwide, according to TopCounseling-Schools.org. This ranking considers factors such as graduate tuition rates, student-to-faculty ratio, accreditation, support services and internship or practicum opportunities. UT Martin is the second Tennessee school on this list, with the University of Memphis ranked in 11th place.

The same program ranks 20th among the “best online master's in school counseling programs” according to BestColleges.com, which considers tuition rates and student debt information, admission and retention rates, and the results of a national institution survey circulated in summer 2018.

UT Martin is number one among the “best-ranked nursing programs in Tennessee” for 2019 by RNCareers.org. The program currently has a 100 percent pass rate for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

The undergraduate graphic design program, housed within the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, is ranked sixth among the “top 10 design school programs in Tennessee” for 2019. UT Martin is the highest ranked West Tennessee institution on this list, with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, taking first place. This ranking, published by AnimationCareerReview.com, considers criteria such as academic reputation, admission selectivity, value (as it relates to tuition and student loan statistics), and the depth and breadth of the program. More than 720 schools were considered.
Weakley County Students Recognized by UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized several Weakley County residents with individual academic and merit awards during the spring 2019 semester. The following students are from Martin unless otherwise noted:

**Chandler Beasley**, of Gleason, received the Outstanding Social Work Student Award.

**Avery Blanchard** was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

**Aleya Brent**, of Dresden, received the Outstanding Psychology Student Award.

**Emma Bruner** was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

**Brett Capps**, of Greenfield, received the Award for Academic Promise in Geology.

**Adrian De Sagon** received the Muriel D. Tomlinson Scholarship Award.

**Gian Garma** received the Harry Neal Memorial Award.

**Teyah Giannetta** was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

**Sarah Jane Gillespie** received the Outstanding Spanish Minor Award.

**Chris Gunlefinger** was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

**James Jarboe** received the John E. McCluskey Scholarly Essay Award.

**Yi-An Jian** received the Ted Mosch Award.

**Sara Ketis** received the Scholarly Essay in a Modern Foreign Language Award.

**Ashley Kite-Rowland** was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

**Amy McGivern** received the Student-athlete Award for soccer.

**Robert Mehlhorn** received the Military Order of World Wars Award, the Reserve Officers Association Award, the Brig. Gen. G.H. Weems Memorial ROTC Scholarship and the National Society of U.S. Daughters of 1812 Award.

**Ashley Mendez**, of Sharon, received the Outstanding Dietetics Student Award and the American Association of University Women Margaret Weaver Award of Excellence.

**Kinlee Moore**, of Sharon, was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

**Kaylin Patel** received the Outstanding Freshman Engineering Award.

**Joseph Pelten** received the Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award.

**Jemima Potter**, an international student from Great Britain currently residing in Martin, received the Student-athlete Award for tennis.

**Olivia Reagan**, of Dresden, was inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

**Hunter Reeves** received the Outstanding Meteorology Student Award.

**Kaitlyn Sanders**, of Greenfield, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, the Outstanding Hospitality and Food Service Management Student Award, the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Student Group Senior Award, and the Outstanding Phi Upsilon Omicron Member Award.

**Darya Stein**, of Dresden, received the Geology Student Service Award.

**Nathan Williamson** received the David S. Loebbaka Award.

**Chelsea Willis**, of Greenfield, received the League of Striving Artists Achievement Award.

**Enrico Zoboli** received the Outstanding Sophomore Engineering Award.
Brian Dunn hired to lead UTM softball team

Brian Dunn has been named the fourth head coach in the University of Tennessee at Martin softball history, athletics director Kurt McGuffin announced on Tuesday.

Dunn brings over 26 years of championship experience at both the high school and collegiate level including two state championships and four national titles. He replaces longtime head coach Donley Canary, who retired after the 2019 season as the program's all-time winningest coach.

"I am very humbled and excited about this opportunity and I am thankful for the support of Chancellor Carver and athletics director McGuffin," Dunn said. "The Lord has blessed me beyond measure and I give Him all the glory for any good thing in my life. I look forward to partnering with these student-athletes and working together to build a family atmosphere and a championship culture at UT Martin."

Hailed as the winningest softball coach in West Tennessee history, Dunn comes to UT Martin with a compiled record of 1,143 wins and 303 losses in 34 varsity seasons at the high school and college level.

Dunn has posted 857 career victories in 26 seasons as a head softball coach while also adding 286 wins as a volleyball coach at both Union University and the University School of Jackson.

As a whole, he has overseen 63 team championships.

"I could not be more excited to welcome Brian to UT Martin," McGuffin said. "He has a decorated résumé that includes championships at the highest level. Combine that with his high values and I am confident that he will be able to continue the success and foundation that is already in place and elevate our program amongst the league's elite."

Dunn's most recent coaching stop has seen him turn USJ into a perennial state tournament threat since 2005 by accumulating a 344-102 record.

During his tenure with the Bruins, the program won TSSAA state titles in 2010 and 2012, finished as the runner-up twice, and claimed numerous district and region titles.

His path to success was quick as he led the program to its first district championship in his fourth year before a state championship in his fifth season at the helm.

Prior to Dunn's illustrious career at USJ, he transformed Union University's softball program into a legitimate national title contender. He led the Lady Bulldogs softball program to a 449-108 record (.803 winning percentage) over a nine-year period.

During his tenure, Union posted seven straight top-10 national rankings while earning six TranSouth Conference championships, four conference tournament championships, and four NAIA Region XI championships.

The Lady Bulldogs reached the pinnacle with three NCCAA National Championships and six NAIA World Series appearances, including a third-place finish in 2001 with a school record 63 wins.

In addition to coaching a top-ranked softball program, Dunn guided the Union volleyball program to a 243-62 record over its first seven seasons, including the inaugural season in 1998.

Dunn led Union to three TranSouth regular season championships, two conference tournament championships, and six straight NCCAA MidEast Region Titles while capturing the 2003 NCCAA National Volleyball Championship and finishing runner-up in 2001. In his final season, he led the team to the NAIA National Tournament with a top-10 NAIA finish.

During Dunn's eight-year tenure as a coach at Union, he coached 32 all-conference, 49 all-region, 28 All-American and 35 scholar-athlete award winners.

Included in that list are 14 conference Players of the Year, nine region Players of the Year and two national Players of the Year. Individually, he claimed five NCCAA National Coach of the Year honors.

Dunn began his coaching career at Riverside High School where he led the Lady Panther softball team to their first-ever appearance in the TSSAA AA state tournament and a 64-25 record in three seasons.

Along with his numerous coaching achievements, Dunn has garnered 32 various Coach of the Year honors while being inducted into the Tennessee Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2014), USJ Softball Hall of Fame (2016), Jackson Madison Country Sports Hall of Fame (2018) and Union University Sports Hall of Fame (2018).

Dunn is a 1989 graduate of San Diego State University, where he helped lead the baseball team to a Western Athletic Conference Championship and a top-25 national ranking.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history before completing his master's in education in 1998 from Union.

Dunn is married to the former Emily Garrett, as the couple resides in Jackson. They have two daughters, Addison and Ashlee.
UT Martin Summer Orientation Slated

Summer orientation and registration sessions for freshman, transfer and adult students are scheduled to continue throughout the months of June and July at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

SOAR is required for all incoming freshman students, and sessions are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. through 2 p.m., June 21st, July 12th, and July 22nd. Students must have received an official acceptance letter from UT Martin to attend orientation. No tuition or fee payments are due until the start of the fall semester.

Orientation begins with check-in and an administrative fair, and an official welcome will begin at 9 a.m. Breakout sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, choosing a major and preparing for academic success will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions on the transition to college, housing and meal plans, travel-study and study-abroad opportunities will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty advisor to register for classes.

Visit utm.edu/soar to register.

Transfer and Adult Orientation is optional for students in those categories, and sessions are scheduled from 8 a.m. through 1 p.m., June 18th and July 19th. Special interest sessions on similar topics will be held from 9 a.m. through 10:30 a.m., and academic advising with faculty advisors will begin at 10:45 a.m. Optional campus tours will leave the Boling University Center at 1 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register.

For more information or information on registration fees or registration assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

TUITION INCREASE

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will consider a record fifth year of low tuition increases when it meets June 21st.

In preparation of that meeting and to meet new legislative guidelines, the University released the proposed tuition increases for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin June 5th and requested feedback from students and the public. The proposed increases range from 2 to 2.5 percent, which are within the range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UT began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015, and these are the first five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3 percent or less in 51 years.

“The University of Tennessee continues to do all that it can to make sure that higher education is accessible for all Tennesseans,” said UT System Interim President Randy Boyd. “From keeping our tuition low to establishing UT Promise, we want to help ease the financial burden for our students and their families.”

UT Knoxville has proposed a 2 percent increase, which is a $258 increase from fiscal year 2018-2019 to fiscal year 2019-2020. The majority of the increase is for tuition, but also includes a $26 increase to the student programs and services fee, which will be used toward a future recreational sports project anticipated for fiscal year 2023-2024. The rate also includes a $10 library fee increase, which will be used to help offset annual inflation rates.

UT Chattanooga has proposed a 2.5 increase, which would result in a $216 increase from fiscal year 2018-2019 to fiscal year 2019-2020. UT Chattanooga also has proposed a new tuition structure called Soar in Four for new students starting in fall 2019. Students entering under the Soar in Four program, similar to programs already established at UT Knoxville and UT Martin, will pay...
Earlier this year UT unveiled the UT Promise scholarship, which will start during the fall of 2020. It is a last-dollar scholarship program that will guarantee free tuition and fees for students with a family household income of under $50,000 after other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants, HOPE Scholarship or other institutional scholarships). Students must qualify for the Hope Scholarship and meet the academic qualifications for the institution to be eligible for the UT Promise scholarship. To help ensure success, students will also be matched with volunteer mentors and complete four hours of service learning each semester.

Proposal and comment forms can be found at trustees.tennessee.edu/tuition-and-fee-proposals. Feedback from students, parents and the public is requested. For more information, contact Jennifer Sicking, assistant director of media relations for the UT System, at jsicking@tennesssee.edu or 865-974-5179.

a flat rate of $9,656 for 15 credit hours or more a semester rather than the current rate based on 12 hours a semester. By taking at least 15 hours a semester, students should be able to graduate in four years.

UT Martin has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, which is $236 more from fiscal year 2018-2019 to fiscal year 2019-2020. The proposed increase will cover the growth in costs of providing programs to its students.
UTM to continue summer orientation

Summer orientation and registration (SOAR) sessions for freshman, transfer, and adult students will continue throughout the months of June and July at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen, and sessions will be held on June 21, July 12, or July 22 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on each date. Students must have received an official UTM letter of acceptance in order to attend SOAR.

Registration is $45 per freshman and $20 for each guest, including parents, guardians, siblings, and friends. No tuition or fee payments are due until the start of the fall semester.

Orientation begins with check-in and an administrative fair, and an official welcome will begin at 9 a.m. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, choosing a major, and preparing for academic success will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions on the transition to college, housing and meal plans, travel-study and study-abroad opportunities will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty advisor to register for classes.

Orientation and registration for transfer and adult students is optional. For those students in those categories who want to attend, sessions are scheduled for June 18 or July 19, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. each session. Special interest sessions on similar topics will be held from 9-10:30 a.m., and academic advising with faculty advisors will begin at 10:45 a.m. Optional campus tours will leave the Boling University Center at 1 p.m. There is no cost to attend these sessions. No tuition or fee payments are due until the start of the fall semester.

Freshmen can visit utm.edu/soar to register, while transfer or adult students may visit utm.edu/transferorientation. For more information or registration assistance, contact the UTM Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020. If an incoming freshman is unable to attend any of the scheduled dates, contact UTM to make other arrangements to complete the orientation and registration requirement.

UT system to raise tuition

The UT Board of Trustees will consider a record fifth year of low tuition increases when it meets June 21. UT began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015, and these are the first five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of three percent or less in 51 years.

In preparation of that meeting and to meet new legislative guidelines, the University released the proposed tuition increases for its three locations on June 5 and requested feedback from students and the public. The proposed increases range from 2-2.5 percent, which are within the range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Earlier this year UT unveiled the UT Promise scholarship, which will start in 2020. A "last-dollar" scholarship program for students with a family household income of less than $50,000, it will cover any remaining tuition or fees after all other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants or other scholarships).

For the coming 2019-20 school year, UTM has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, which is $236 more than last year. The proposed increase will cover the growth in costs of providing programs to its students.

Proposal and comment forms can be found at trustees.tennessee.edu/tuition-and-fee-proposals. Feedback from students, parents, and the public is requested. For more information, contact Jennifer Sicking at jsicking@tennessee.edu or 865-974-5179.
UT releases proposed tuition and fee increases

Press Release  Jun 15, 2019

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will be considering a record fifth year of low tuition increases when it meets on June 21.

In preparation of that meeting and to meet new legislative guidelines, today the University released the proposed tuition increases for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin and requested feedback from students and the public. The proposed increases range from 2 to 2.5 percent, which are within the up to 2.5 percent range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UT began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015 and has not had five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3 percent or less in 51 years.
"The University of Tennessee continues to do all that it can to make sure that higher education is accessible for all Tennesseans," UT Interim President Randy Boyd said. "From keeping our tuition low to establishing UT Promise, we want to help ease the financial burden for our students and their families."

UT Knoxville has proposed a 2 percent increase, which is a $258 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The majority of the increase is for tuition, but also includes a $26 increase to the Student Programs and Services Fee, which will be used toward a future recreational sports project anticipated for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The rate also includes a $10 library fee increase, which will be used to help offset annual inflation rates.

UT Chattanooga has proposed a 2.5 increase, which would result in a $216 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. UT Chattanooga also has proposed a new tuition structure called Soar in Four for new students starting in fall 2019. Students entering under the Soar in Four program, similar to programs already established at UT Knoxville and UT Martin, will pay a flat rate of $9,656 for 15 credit hours or more a semester rather than the current rate based on 12 hours a semester. By taking at least 15 hours a semester, students should be able to graduate in four years.

UT Martin has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, which is $236 more from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal year 2019-2020. The proposed increase will cover the growth in costs of providing programs to its students.

Earlier this year UT unveiled the UT Promise scholarship, which will start during the fall of 2020. It is a last-dollar scholarship program that will guarantee free tuition and fees for students with a family household income of under $50,000 and after other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants, HOPE Scholarship, or other institutional scholarships). Students must qualify for the Hope Scholarship and meet the academic qualifications for the institution to be eligible for this new scholarship. To help ensure success, students will be matched with volunteer mentors and will complete four hours of service learning each semester.
JACKSON, Tenn—“I will be a lifelong fan,” said Ivy Lane Wyatt, fan of Miss Tennessee pageants.

Wyatt says she’s been a fan since she was 9-years-old.

“I can tell you about anything you want to know about this year’s contestants,” said Wyatt.

Wyatt said meet and greets for the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant gives her a chance to see the contestants in person.

“My favorite part about the meet and greet is probably just getting to talk and getting to know all the contestants,” Wyatt said.

“My favorite is Miss UT Martin. I’m wearing her pin. She is my favorite because she is very confident in herself and her talents are very strong, she plays violin and she’s so sweet,” Wyatt said.

Wyatt said she thinks pageants are more than just glitz and glam.

“Most of my friends know me as the pageant fanatic. It’s not only based on how pretty you are, but based on your smarts,” Wyatt said.
The Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant will be held at the Carl Perkins Civic Center from June 19 through June 22nd nightly at 8 p.m.

UT partners with alumni to paint murals across Tennessee

Author: Press Release
Published: 11:37 AM EDT June 17, 2019
Updated: 11:41 AM EDT June 17, 2019

The latest mural is the second installment of UT's statewide campaign aimed at educating Tennesseans on the impact the university has across the state.

TENNESSEE, USA — The University of Tennessee System recently unveiled a 65-foot piece of art in Sharon, just seven miles from the UT Martin campus.

It is the second installment of UT's statewide marketing campaign aimed at educating Tennesseans on the significant impact the university has across the state.

The canvas for this artwork comes in the form of a grain bin owned by Robinson & Belew, Inc., a family-run business founded in 1950 that ships locally grown corn, soybeans and wheat around the world.
Keith Fowler, president of Robinson & Belew, and his wife Linda Robinson Fowler, are both proud 1985 graduates of UT Martin. The Robinson and Fowler families have long-standing ties to UT that span several generations, and they were recently featured for their contribution to the marketing campaign.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the newest mural could be seen by as many as 1.9 million people a year. In August 2018, the inaugural mural was painted on a water tower in the heart of Downtown Knoxville, yielding an estimated 6.4 million impressions a year.

According to a release from interim President Randy Boyd, having murals strategically placed across the state reinforces the impact UT has across the state.

"People will see our murals and realize, 'You know, they're right. Everywhere you look, I do see UT,'" Boyd's note said.

UT is continuing to look for high-visibility properties for future mural campaigns.

If you have a recommendation for properties along Tennessee interstates, highways and waterways, or nestled in the center of town, use the campaign's online form to submit your ideas or suggestions.
Six UTM students competing in Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant

Posted on June 17, 2019 by Steve James in Local News

Six UT Martin students are competing this week in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

Preliminary competitions will begin Wednesday night and run through Friday night, with the final competition set for Saturday night.

Amanda Mayo, a senior geoscience major currently living in Union City, will represent the university as Miss UT Martin. Her platform is "Stand for STEM – Promoting Earth Science Education in the Classroom." Mayo, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, was named Miss UT Martin 2019 during the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant in November 2018.

Kerri Arnold, a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Holladay, will compete as Miss Scenic City, a title based in Hamilton County. She is using her platform to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major also from Holladay, will compete as Miss Greater Weakley County. Duffy's platform promotes "U Fit N" in support of personal fitness and wellness. She attends classes at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Sable Estes, a senior family and consumer sciences major from Trenton, will compete as Miss Northwest Tennessee, a title based in Obion County. Her platform promotes "All Help Matters."

Morgan Martin, a spring 2019 UT Martin alumna from Springville, is preparing to begin classes at the Union University College of Pharmacy this fall. She graduated from UT Martin with a degree in health and human performance and is using her platform to promote "Operation Stand Down." Martin will compete as Miss Mid-South, a title based in Tipton County.

Madison Sisco, a sophomore communications major from Mercer, will compete as Miss Heritage, a title based in Gibson County. Her platform promotes Alzheimer's awareness.

The winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer title will work as Governor Bill Lee's official representative for character education and spend the next year traveling the state to visit with schoolchildren and community members on his behalf.
Emmie Barnett, of Talbolt, is attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

She is one of 56 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year.

Tennessee Governor's Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas. UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June.
University of Tennessee at Martin summer orientation is June 18, 21

Summer orientation and registration sessions for freshman, transfer and adult students will continue throughout the months of June and July at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

SOAR is required for all incoming freshman students, and sessions are scheduled from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., June 21, July 12 and July 22. Students must have received an official acceptance letter from UT Martin to attend orientation. Registration $45 per student and $20 for each additional guest, including parents, guardians, siblings and friends. No tuition or fee payments are due until the start of the fall semester.

Orientation begins with check-in and an administrative fair, and an official welcome will begin at 9. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, choosing a major and preparing for academic success will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions on the transition to college, housing and meal plans, travel-study and study-abroad opportunities will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty advisor to register for classes.

Visit utm.edu/soar to register.

Transfer and Adult Orientation is optional for students in those categories, and sessions are scheduled from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., June 18 and July 19. Special interest sessions on similar topics will be held from 9-10:30 a.m., and academic advising with faculty advisors will begin at 10:45. For more information or registration assistance, contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office at 731-881-7020.
TGSAS students and governor tour

Yeargin Farms

Each year, high school juniors and seniors participate in a month-long program that exposes them to the various aspects of agriculture and natural resources. The program, known as the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agriculture Sciences (TGSAS), provides opportunities for hands-on learning in the classroom as well as off campus at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Classes are taught by Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources faculty. TGSAS scholars apply for the four-week program by Dec. 1 of each year and are chosen by February of the following year. Candidates are selected based on criteria that include academic performance, teacher recommendations, personal resume, interpersonal skills, and an interest indicative of agriculture.

Dresden High School student Erin Mallory was among the 34 high school juniors and seniors chosen to participate in TGSAS. Scholars earn a three-hour college credit through the program and select a Group Study Project from the following subjects — Precision Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Natural Resources Management or Agricultural Business.

Highlights of TGSAS include visits to regional farms and animal processing centers. Scholars recently visited Yeargin Farms in Greenfield, where they met with Gov. Bill Lee and State Sen. John Stevens. Lee spoke about the importance of agriculture to the state and national economies.

Yeargin Farms is a family farm owned by Ronnie and Janie Yeargin and Jay and Alice Ann Yeargin. They raise cattle, corn, wheat and soybeans on the Greenfield farm. Jay Yeargin is a graduate of UT Martin with a degree in Ag Business. He participates in the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association, having served on the board of directors. Ronnie, Janie and Alice Ann are also UT Martin graduates.

TGSAS, led by Dr. Joey Mehlhorn of UT Martin, concludes June 28. The Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences is funded under agreement with The Tennessee Department of Education, Division of Special Programs.


For more information about the program, call (731) 881-7211. UT Martin also hosts the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities.
GOVERNOR OFFERS AG IMPACT — As part of the annual Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (TGSAS), Gov. Bill Lee (second from right) spoke with scholars about the importance of agriculture to the state and federal economies. Lee was on hand for the students' farm tour visit to Yeargin Farms in Greenfield. Joining him on the farm tour were (from left) Jay Yeargin, Ronnie Yeargin, Alice Ann Yeargin, Sen. John Stevens and John Woolfolk.

STUDENTS VISIT YEARGIN FARMS — Thirty-four high school juniors and seniors, as part of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, recently toured Yeargin Farms in Greenfield. The four-week long school is hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin and treats students to hands-on learning experiences, along with classroom lessons. Yeargin Farms is a family farm that raises cattle, wheat, corn and soybeans. It is owned by Jay and Alice Ann Yeargin and Ronnie and Janie Yeargin.
UNIVERSITY REPRESENTED AT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE — Several faculty and staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin attended the WestStar Leadership Program's African American Leadership Conference held May 7 in Jackson. The 2019 event featured Dr. Glenda Baskins Glover, president of Tennessee State University in Nashville, as keynote speaker. Pictured are (front row, from left) Jordan Gardner, WestStar Leadership Program; Ruby Black, Department of Nursing; Brittany Henderson, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs; Debra Craig, Department of Educational Studies; John'Na Webster, Office of Student Health and Counseling; Yalanda Parr, Ripley Center; Deborah Boyd, Office of Business Services; Dr. Annie Jones, Office of Career Planning and Development; Virginia Grimes, WestStar Leadership Program; (back row) Andre Temple, UT Institute of Public Service; Charley Deal, Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development; Petra McPhearson, Division of Finance and Administration; Diedra Walker, Office of Undergraduate Admissions; Persempathy Harrell, Healthy Start Program; Dr. Andy Lewter, Division of Student Affairs; Jason Holloway, Ripley Center; and Renee Anderson, an employee at Second Glance Consignment in Union City.
STOP AND SMELL THE ... MUSHROOMS — UT Martin Professor of Wildlife Biology and Sustainability Center Coordinator Dr. Eric Pelren led a group of nature enthusiasts on an edible plant tour of the Brian Brown Memorial Greenway in Martin Saturday morning. Dr. Pelren identified edible and native plants along the trail and provided info such as health benefits and what are the safe parts of a plant to eat. He is pictured smelling a mushroom the group found along the trail as Sullivan Stooksberry, son of Amiee and Patrick Stooksberry looks on. The event was in collaboration with UT Martin’s Sustainability Center, the City of Martin, the Martin Farmers Market and the Local Food Network.

Photo by Jennifer Cross
Locals attend leadership conference

Several government officials from Henry County attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s African American Leadership Conference May 7 in Jackson. The event featured Glenda Baskins Glover, president of Tennessee State University in Nashville, as keynote speaker. Those attending (from left) were Leroy Morris, James Copeland, Kenneth Humphreys and James Travis. The WestStar Leadership Program is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Miss Faulkner attends Governor’s School

Leah Beth Faulkner of South Fulton is attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Union City High School student is one of 34 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year, which includes visits to regional farms and animal processing centers. Tennessee Governor’s Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas.

UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June. For more information, contact the Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences program office at (731) 881-7211.

WestStar graduation set

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will graduate members of its 2019 class June 25 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. A reception will begin at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner and a graduation ceremony.

The program is in its 30th year and has 828 graduates to date, most of whom are from West Tennessee. The 2019 class includes 30 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

The public is welcome to purchase tickets to attend the graduation reception, ceremony and dinner. Tickets are $20 per person and can be purchased from the WestStar Office in room 321 of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on the UT Martin main campus.

For more information on this event or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298.
New Dresden football coach has ties to UT Martin, McNairy County

By RANDY CAVIN
Special to The Messenger

It is not a rebuilding year for Dresden High School football but it is a new beginning for the program.

Dresden principal Chuck West announced Thursday the hiring of Wes Johnson as the new head coach of the Lions. Johnson will be replacing Levi Estes, who resigned in May to take an assistant coaching position at Lassiter High School in Georgia after guiding the Lions for two years and being with the program for three.

This is Johnson’s first attempt as a head coach. So, it is a new start for both him and the Lions. This may be his first head coaching job, but he is not without coaching credentials in both the high school and college ranks, and he is familiar with high school football in this area.

“He grew up in McNairy County, and he went to school at UT Martin,” West said. “He was a student assistant at UTM, and he had a couple of high school jobs. The last couple of years he went to Southern Methodist University as a graduate assistant for Chad Morris. The most recent thing is he was a quality control coach at the University of Arkansas when Chad Morris went up there.”

Johnson was a student assistant coach under UTM head coach Jason Simpson. He graduated with a degree in education and moved to Morristown East High School, where he coached wide receivers. Johnson then moved back to Selmer and was the offensive and defensive line coach at McNairy Central before becoming a defensive graduate assistant coach at SMU.

He will be taking over a team that won five games last season but missed the playoffs for the first time since 2009 when the Lions played in the Cumberland River Bowl against Jackson County.

The new head coach will also have a squad that will be without a Yates on the football field for the first time since the 2012 season. Dylan Yates played from 2013-16 and Drake Yates had his senior season cut short with a serious knee injury in last year in Week 4.

Johnson knows there is a lot of work to do before the season begins on Aug. 23 against Westview. However, he is eager to see what he has in returning players and the upcoming freshmen. Johnson wants to keep building on the tradition of Dresden football winning games.

“This is a dream come true,” he said. “I told the guys when I met them that this has been my dream since I was their age. Since I was 16 years old I wanted to be a high school head football coach. Every decision I have made throughout my life has led up to this point. There is a lot of tradition here and it seems like it has been since the beginning of time. It goes back to Popeye Jones to Dresser Winn and all of those other guys. This program is rich in tradition.”

Johnson met the team Wednesday and had the players lifting weights Thursday. He is already impressed with what he has seen from them in just two days.

One thing he likes about the players is their approach to the game and the excitement each of them has for it.

Local student attends Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences

Parks Johnson, of Dyersburg, is attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Dyersburg High School student is one of 34 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year, which includes visits to regional farms and animal processing centers. Tennessee Governor's Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas. UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June. For more information, contact the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences program office at 731-881-7211.
Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin will compete in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

Preliminary competitions will begin today and run through Friday. The entire competition will be broadcast live on EPlusTV6 and eplusv6.com at 8 each evening.

Amanda Mayo of Union City, a senior geoscience major, will represent the university as Miss UT Martin. Her platform is “Stand for STEM — Promoting Earth Science Education in the Classroom.” Miss Mayo, originally from Atlanta, was named Miss UT Martin 2019 during the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant in November 2018.

Sable Estes of Trenton, a senior family and consumer sciences major, will compete as Miss Northwest Tennessee, a title based in Obion County. Her platform promotes “All Help Matters.”

Kerri Arnold of Holladay, a junior interdisciplinary studies major, will compete as Miss Scenic City, a title based in Hamilton County. She is using her platform to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Kailey Duffy also of Holladay, a junior nursing major, will compete as Miss Greater Weakley County. Miss Duffy’s platform promotes “U Fit N” in support of personal fitness and wellness. She attends classes at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Morgan Martin of Springville, a spring 2019 UT Martin alumna, is preparing to begin classes at the Union University College of Pharmacy this fall. She graduated from UT Martin with a degree in health and human performance and is using her platform to promote “Operation Stand Down.” Miss Martin will compete as Miss Mid-South, a title based in Tipton County.

Madison Sisco of Mercer, a sophomore communications major, will compete as Miss Heritage, a title based in Gibson County. Her platform promotes Alzheimer’s awareness.

The winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer title will work as Gov. Bill Lee’s official representative for character education and spend the next year traveling the state to visit with schoolchildren and community members on his behalf.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7612.

BEAUTY QUEENS — Six University of Tennessee at Martin students are competing this week in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant in Jackson. They include (from left) Miss UT Martin Amanda Mayo, Miss Mid-South Morgan Martin, Miss Greater Weakley County Kailey Duffy, Miss Scenic City Kerri Arnold, Miss Heritage Madison Sisco and Miss Northwest Tennessee Sable Estes. The women received their titles while current students at UTM, with Miss Martin earning her degree in the spring. They are shown giving the “Skyhawk” hand sign.
LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES – Leah Beth Faulkner, of South Fulton, is attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Union City High School student is one of 34 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year, which includes visits to regional farms and animal processing centers. Tennessee Governor's Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas. UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June. For more information, contact the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences program office at 731-881-7211. (Photo submitted)

UTM recognizes members of 2019 Class of Who's Who

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently recognized the members of the 2019 class of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

There were 37 juniors, seniors and graduate students included from UT Martin this year, including three students from Obion County.

Brianna Hinton, of Hornbeak, Tenn., is a junior majoring in art education; James Hutchens, of South Fulton, is a senior majoring in both accounting and finance; and Helen Kendall, of Troy, Tenn., is a junior studying agricultural education.

Who's Who Among Students, established in 1934, is a national honor society based on academic and community service merit rather than financial ability to participate.

For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
A group of 30 local elementary school students participated in Kid College 2019 at the UT Martin Somerville Center. They are pictured at the center with their camp instructors.

UT Martin Kid College Hosts 30 Local School Children

The University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center hosted 30 Fayette County elementary school students during Kid College activities June 3-7. Rising first through sixth-graders were able to participate in a variety of summer camp courses taught by local instructors.

Students conducted scientific experiments on the world around them during "kid science explorers" taught by Donna Burrus, created unique art during "having a blast with art" taught by Cathy Stanz, and learned about the structure of stories in different literary genres during "wild about reading" taught by Megan Burnett.

Julian Stanz taught a course called "learning across America: hiking along a trail of discovery," which allowed campers to learn about how the state of Tennessee fits into the region and the nation and discover unique facts about different areas of the country.

For more information about summer opportunities at the UT Martin Somerville Center, contact Kara Tapp, center director, at 731-881-7313.

Fayette Schools: UT Martin Kid College Soars with FCPS Educators

UT Martin Kid College was an amazing learning experience for elementary aged kids who wanted to learn and have adventures at the same time! Young learners rotated through several classes daily, a few of which were led by Fayette County Public School educators, to explore various topics such as reading, science, art, and facts about our state and nation. Up next-- UTM's Robotics Camp June 17-21 and June 24-28. Don't miss out!
Jacob Cronogue Receives Scholarship

Jacob Cronogue, recent graduate from Fayette Academy Class of 2019, received the Annual Shelby County Scholastic Clay Target Association Scholarship of $1000 this past weekend during the SCTP Region 1 Championship Competition. Jacob was one of two winners of this year's scholarship which is selected based on Academic and Shooting Excellence. Jacob plans to attend The University of Tennessee at-Martin in the fall to major in Biology with a focus on Pre-Med and Minoring in Music.

Fayette Schools: East Teachers Attend STEM Training

Professional development is a way educators can increase their knowledge and skills as well as collaborate with others within their field. Staying on top of your professional game is important when it comes to teaching, as our students are developing and changing at a rapid pace. Karisa Garner and Joni Taylor, both teachers from East Junior High, enjoyed the STEM training at UT Martin in Ripley, TN. No doubt their students will reap the benefits!
Dresden High School will have a new Head Football Coach in the upcoming season after Levi Estes left for a job in Georgia. Selmer native Wes Johnson will head the team in the upcoming season. Johnson and his wife, Hannah, are both from the Selmer, TN area. Wes played football and graduated from McNaury Central and he went on to study at UT-Martin, earning a bachelor's in Education.

While at UT-Martin, Johnson worked as a student assistant under Jason Simpson and Jordan Hankins. He then worked two years in high schools and three years at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. While working there, Johnson received a masters degree. He then went to the University of Arkansas as a defensive assistant under coach John Chavis. Johnson and his wife are also expecting their first child, daughter Lucy Kate, in July. Coach Johnson said “I am extremely excited about the opportunity here at Dresden. There are a lot of talented young men on this team and there is a lot of passion in the community. Dresden High School has a rich football legacy and I look forward to being a part of its continued success.”

Weakley Co. Students Named to Who’s Who

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently recognized the members of the 2019 class of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Thirty-seven juniors, seniors and graduate students were included from UT Martin this year, including 12 students from Weakley County. The following students were inducted. The students are from Martin unless otherwise noted.

Richard Brawley is a senior studying health and human performance.

Morgan Curlin is a senior studying marketing.

Dalil Lampkins, of Gleason, is a senior majoring in political science.

Amanda Lund is a senior studying animal science.

Tess McDunn is a senior majoring in marketing.

Tiffany McDunn is a senior majoring in management.

Alisa Quayle is a senior majoring in both accounting and finance.

Kaitlyn Scott is a senior majoring in communications.

Morgan Simmons, of Greene- field, is a junior majoring in biology.

Cameran Taylor is a senior majoring in biology.

Grace White is a senior majoring in biology.

Who’s Who Among Students, established in 1934, is a national honor society based on academic and community service merit rather than financial ability to participate.

Harris Attends Governor’s School for Humanities

Hanna Harris, of Martin, is attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is one of 56 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year. Tennessee Governor’s Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas. UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June.
WestStar Leadership Program
Graduation Set For June 25

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program will graduate members of its 2019 class June 25 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. A reception will begin at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner and a graduation ceremony.

The program is in its 30th year and has 828 graduates to date, most of whom are from West Tennessee. The 2019 class includes 30 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

The public is welcome to purchase tickets to attend the graduation reception, ceremony and dinner. Tickets are $20 per person and can be purchased from the WestStar Office in room 321 of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on the UT Martin main campus.

For more information on this event or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

UTM Represented at Leadership Conference

Several faculty and staff members from the University of Tennessee at Martin attended the WestStar Leadership Program's African American Leadership Conference held May 7 in Jackson. The 2019 event featured Dr. Glenda Baskins Glover, president of Tennessee State University in Nashville, as keynote speaker. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Jordan Gardner, WestStar Leadership Program; Ruby Black, Department of Nursing; Brittany Henderson, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs; Debra Craig, Department of Educational Studies; John'Na Webster, Office of Student Health and Counseling; Yalanda Parr, Ripley Center; Deborah Boyd, Office of Business Services; Dr. Annie Jones, Office of Career Planning and Development; Virginia Grimes, WestStar Leadership Program; (back row) Andre Temple, UT Institute of Public Service; Charley Deal, Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development; Petra McPhearson, Division of Finance and Administration; Diedra Walker, Office of Undergraduate Admissions; Persempathy Harrell, Healthy Start Program; Dr. Andy Lewter, Division of Student Affairs; Jason Holloway, Ripley Center; and Renee Anderson, an employee at Second Glance Consignment in Union City.
UT Releases Proposed Tuition and Fee Increase

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will be considering a record fifth year of low tuition increases when it meets on June 21.

In preparation of that meeting and to meet new legislative guidelines, today the University released the proposed tuition increases for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin and requested feedback from students and the public. The proposed increases range from 2 to 2.5 percent, which are within the up to 2.5 percent range set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

UT began self-limiting tuition increases in 2015 and has not had five consecutive years of undergraduate tuition increases of 3 percent or less in 31 years.

"The University of Tennessee continues to do all that it can to make sure that higher education is accessible for all Tennesseans," UT Interim President Randy Boyd said. "From keeping our tuition low to establishing UT Promise, we want to help ease the financial burden for our students and their families."

UT Knoxville has proposed a 2 percent increase, which is a $258 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The majority of the increase is for tuition, but also includes a $26 increase to the Student Programs and Services Fee, which will be used toward a future recreational sports project anticipated for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The rate also includes a $10 library fee increase, which will be used to help offset annual inflation rates.

UT Chattanooga has proposed a 2.5 increase, which would result in a $216 increase from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020. UT Chattanooga also has proposed a new tuition structure called Soar in Four for new students starting in fall 2019. Students entering under the Soar in Four program, similar to programs already established at UT Knoxville and UT Martin, will pay a flat rate of $9,656 for 15 credit hours or more a semester rather than the current rate based on 12 hours a semester. By taking at least 15 hours a semester, students should be able to graduate in four years.

UT Martin has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, which is $236 more from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal year 2019-2020. The proposed increase will cover the growth in costs of providing programs to its students.

Earlier this year UT unveiled the UT Promise scholarship, which will start during the fall of 2020. It is a last-dollar scholarship program that will guarantee free tuition and fees for students with a family household income of under $50,000 and after other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants, HOPE Scholarship, or other institutional scholarships). Students must qualify for the Hope Scholarship and meet the academic qualifications for the institution to be eligible for this new scholarship. To help ensure success, students will be matched with volunteer mentors and will complete four hours of service learning each semester.

Proposal and comment forms may be found at: https://trustees.tennessee.edu/tuition-and-fee-proposals.
UT Martin students to compete in Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant

Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin will compete in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant at 8 p.m., June 22, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. Preliminary competitions will begin June 19 and run through June 21. The entire competition will be broadcast live on EPlusTV6 and eplustv6.com at 8 p.m. each evening.

Amanda Mayo, a senior geoscience major currently living in Union City, will represent the university as Miss UT Martin. Her platform is “Stand for STEM – Promoting Earth Science Education in the Classroom.” Mayo, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, was named Miss UT Martin 2019 during the combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant in November 2018.

Kerri Arnold, a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Holladay, will compete as Miss Scenic City, a title based in Hamilton County. She is using her platform to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major also from Holladay, will compete as Miss Greater Weakley County. Duffy’s platform promotes “U Fit N” in support of personal fitness and wellness. She attends classes at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Sable Estes, a senior family and consumer sciences major from Tren ton, will compete as Miss Northwest Tennessee, a title based in Obion County. Her platform promotes “All Help Matters.”

Morgan Martin, a spring 2019 UT Martin alumna from Springville, is preparing to begin classes at the Union University College of Pharmacy this fall. She graduated from UT Martin with a degree in health and human performance and is using her platform to promote “Operation Stand Down.” Martin will compete as Miss Mid-South, a title based in Tipton County.

Madison Sisco, a sophomore communications major from Mercer, will compete as Miss Heritage, a title based in Gibson County. Her platform promotes Alzheimer’s awareness.

The winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer title will work as Gov. Bill Lee’s official representative for character education and spend the next year traveling the state to visit with schoolchildren and community members on his behalf.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7612.
UT Martin student returns from unique leadership training program

It is an experience that Brady Heath of Paris, Tennessee will never forget, and one he is excited to share with others. The University of Tennessee at Martin junior attended a one-off, a-kind leadership-training program through his fraternity in Richmond, Virginia, from June 12-16. The program, called the Frank J. Ruck Leadership Institute, is a five-day interactive immersion experience with fellow undergraduate members of Sigma Phi Epsilon and alumni facilitators.

Heath is the Vice President of Member Development of his chapter, having previously served as the Vice President of Communications. The program focused on guiding attendees through personal leadership exploration, while encouraging them to make a positive impact in their campus community back home. The fraternity builds leaders like Heath by encouraging them to be leaders both within the organization and on campus. His experience with Ruck provided valuable perspective on his roles in and outside the classroom.

"This past week has changed my life," Heath said. "When I first arrived in Virginia, I had absolutely no clue what my vision was for myself and my chapter and how I would look like. I left with a clear understanding and a support network that will help me execute that vision."

Heath was selected as one of the top 150 undergraduates in the country, out of more than 13,000 SigEp members. The Ruck Leadership Institute focuses on the leadership practices espoused in one of the best-selling leadership books of all time, "The Leadership Challenge," co-written by Barry Posner, a nationally renowned leadership expert and SigEp alumnus. The program is one of the ways SigEp lives up to its mission: building balanced men.

Participants were divided into smaller groups of about 20. They attended interactive classroom sessions as well as team building events, such as a high-ropes course and cooperative exercises to demonstrate the core theme of the week: For "the few to impact the many."

"Brady's experience at Ruck is the kind of leadership development we want for all of our members as they prepare for life after college," SigEp's local alumni association president Stephen Yeargin said. "Our alumni and volunteer organization is incredibly proud of him and the example he sets for his fellow members."

Brady's strong academic performance earned him a spot on the Chancellor's Honor Roll and helped his chapter achieve a 3.16 GPA for the spring semester, ranking it first among the seven Interfraternity Council (IFC) organizations on campus and beat the all-male average at UT Martin by nearly half a point.

SigEp is a pioneer in the fraternity world by being among the first national fraternities to eliminate the traditional "pledge model" for membership, instead granting full rights and responsibilities to members the day they join. Prospective members are invited to join the fraternity throughout the year.

About Ruck Leadership Institute

The Ruck Leadership Institute is named in honor of Frank J. Ruck, a former Grand President of SigEp and a visionary in developing leaders. He was an inspiration for many generations of SigEp members to reach their full potential as leaders in all aspects of their lives.

About Sigma Phi Epsilon

Sigma Phi Epsilon, established in 1901, is one of the nation's largest fraternities, with over 13,000 undergraduates on 210 campuses across the United States. Its mission is building balanced men, which is achieved through a four-year member development program that has contributed to a fraternity-wide GPA of over 3.0, a focus on the principles of Sound Mind and Sound Body, and service learning efforts that allow members to develop leadership skills while giving back to the community.
Dr. Elaine Harriss receives Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Elaine Atkins Harriss, Professor of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association at their annual conference awards banquet held at MTSU in May. Dr. Harriss has been on the faculty at UTM since 2001. She is pianist with the University Trio and serves as advisor to UTM’s Sigma Alpha Iota chapter, chairs UTM’s annual piano competition, and directs UTM’s weeklong piano camp each summer. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Vanderbilt University and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Harriss was named TMTA’s Teacher of the Year and was honored as a Foundation Fellow by the Music Teachers National Association in 2013. A past president of TMTA, she has also served as president for two local associations, state conference chair, state senior piano chair, state competitions coordinator, and has been a member of TMTA’s executive board for 20 years. Dr. Harriss is also a past president of the Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs and has served several terms as president of NFMC’s Martin Philharmonic Music Guild.

Dr. Harriss maintains a pre-college music studio, and for 19 years directed Kindermusik of Martin, which served more than 1,500 children birth through age seven. She is the featured pianist on “A Soul at Play-Voices from Three Continents,” a 2 CD set released in 2018 of selected poetry by Shizue Ogawa read in Japanese, French and English. Dr. Harriss has taught over 50 workshops on five continents and has made presentations at meetings and conventions of the National Piano Pedagogy Conference, the Music Educators National Conference, the Kindermusik Educators Association, the Australian Kindermusik Educators Association, the Hawaiian International Conference on Arts and the Humanities, Serbia’s 10th World Piano Conference, and the Tennessee Music Teachers Association. Harriss presents the “Break for Bach” program at Martin’s annual Soybean Festival, organizes Martin’s “Bach in the Subway” event, is pianist for Trinity Presbyterian Church, and is a past member of the Martin Historic Zoning Commission and the Martin Beautiful Committee.
STUDENTS, Cassie Lewis, left, of Gates, and James Rankin, right, of Henning, are attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Lewis, a student at Halls High School, and Rankin, a student at Brighton High School, are among 34 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year, which includes visits to regional farms and animal processing centers. Tennessee Governor's Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas. UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June. For more information, contact the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences program office at 731-881-7211.
Two locals among six representing UT Martin at state pageant

Six students from the University of Tennessee at Martin will compete in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant at 8 p.m., June 22, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. Preliminary competitions will begin June 19 and run through June 21. The entire competition will be broadcast live on EPlusTV6 and eplustv6.com at 8 p.m. each evening.

Two local women are among the beauties competing for the state title and also attending the same college. Kerri Arnold, a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Holladay, will compete as Miss Scenic City, a title based in Hamilton County. She is using her platform to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major also from Holladay, will compete as Miss Greater Weakley County. Duffy's platform promotes "U Fit N" in support of personal fitness and wellness. She attends classes at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

Other contestants include, Amanda Mayo, a senior geoscience major, Sable Estes, a senior family and consumer sciences major, Morgan Martin, a spring 2019 UT Martin alumna, and Madison Sisco, a sophomore communications major from Mercer.

The winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer title will work as Gov. Bill Lee's official representative for character education and spend the next year traveling the state to visit with schoolchildren and community members on his behalf.

Competition begins on Wednesday. The Camden Chronicle will attend the pageant and bring up-to-date information as to Arnold and Duffy's experiences. Benton County extends well wishes to both ladies and are proud of them and all of their accomplishments.

Please see PAGEANT, page 3A
UTM online MBA program ranked highest in state

U.S. News & World Report has ranked the UTM online Master of Business Administration program as tied for 34th place in the country in the most recent ranking of more than 300 online MBA programs. UTM is the top-ranked online MBA program in Tennessee, with the next state institution coming in 70th place on the U.S. News list.

This ranking is based on a variety of factors, including student and professor engagement in courses; selective admissions processes; faculty credentials and training; available student services, technologies, and resources; and the opinion of experts in the academic world. Institutional data was self-reported through statistical questionnaires distributed in the fall of 2018.

UTM's program is also first in the state and 11th overall among the top 30 accelerated online MBA programs for 2019 by CollegeValuesOnline.com. UTM is the only Tennessee program to be included on this particular list.

The UTM MBA program is delivered in both online and hybrid formats with an additional concentration option in agricultural business. The AACSB International accredited MBA program typically takes only 20 months to complete and is regularly ranked on national and regional lists.

For more information on the UTM MBA program, visit utm.edu/mba or contact Dr. Christie Chen, MBA coordinator and associate professor of management, at 731-881-7208 or mba@utm.edu.

WestStar Leadership Program graduation is June 25

The UTM WestStar Leadership Program will graduate members of its 2019 class on Tuesday, June 25, at the Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. A reception will begin at 5:15 p.m., followed by dinner and a graduation ceremony.

The 2019 class includes 30 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. From Benton County, Jenna Cole-Wilson and Justin Hargrove will be among this year's graduates.

The program is in its 30th year and has had 828 graduates to date, most of whom are from West Tennessee. Past Benton County graduates include Margaret Crafton, Yana Dicus, Jennifer Hayden, Brent Hedge, Bill Kee, Sara Kilgore, Brett Lashlee, Ben Marks, Mary Lou Marks, and Donna Vick.

The public is welcome to purchase tickets to attend the graduation reception, ceremony, and dinner. Tickets are $20 per person and can be purchased from the WestStar Office in room 321 of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on the UTM main campus.

For more information on this event, the WestStar Leadership Program, or the new WestTeach Program, contact program coordinator Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298.
UTM grads accepted to vet schools

Thirteen members of the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring 2019 graduating class have been accepted into veterinary schools across the region, according to Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science. One student was accepted at two different schools.

"UTM's animal science program prepares students for veterinary school with a good balance of classroom instruction and experiential learning opportunities," said Roberts. "The yearly success rate of students being accepted to vet schools speaks to the quality the UTM program."

In the U.S., there are only 30 accredited colleges of veterinary medicine, so competition is always fierce. The schools that admitted UTM students for the fall include Lincoln Memorial University (3 admissions), Louisiana State University (1), Mississippi State University (4), the University of Missouri (1), UT Knoxville (4), and Virginia Tech (1). Two students chose to defer and reapply next year.

"Animal science students have many opportunities to apply concepts learned in the classroom while working with veterinary professionals in a clinical setting on the UTM farm," Roberts said. "We are fortunate to have both vets and vet techs with years of private practice experience who are teaching our students to excel."

For more information about the UTM animal science program, the pre-veterinary track, or the veterinary technician track, contact Roberts at jroberts@utm.edu or 731-881-1071.
UTM offers new path for law school hopefuls

Students hoping to attend the UT College of Law in Knoxville now have two new pathways through UTM’s 3+3 legal studies concentrations. These programs, designed for majors in either English or political science, allow qualified UTM students to begin law school during their senior year of undergraduate school and complete both undergraduate and juris doctor degrees in six years.

“We’re proud to offer these new options to our students and hope they will make use of the opportunity to finish two degrees in a shorter amount of time,” said Dr. Philip Cavalier, UTM provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Beginning with the fall 2019 semester, UTM students choosing to major in English or political science can add a concentration in legal studies through their respective departments. This path will include three years of general education and upper-division courses before students take the law school admissions test in their junior year.

Those who meet admissions criteria for the UT College of Law will transfer to Knoxville to complete their fourth year of undergraduate school and begin their juris doctor degrees. They would then complete two additional years of law school. Any student who does not qualify for early admission to the UT College of Law can complete a different concentration and reapply to law school after finishing their traditional four-year degree.

“We look forward to this expansion of our 3+3 program, helping us attract really talented students and paving the way for enhanced educational opportunities for students who live in West Tennessee,” said Melanie Wilson, dean of the UT College of Law. “Our 3+3 partnership with Martin is the first with another UT campus and reflects our great relationship with UTM.”

Students who participate in the 3+3 program will still earn a UT undergraduate degree and be UTM alumni even though their final undergraduate hours will be completed at UT Knoxville.

While law school hopefuls are often political science or history majors, this new path will also benefit English majors who can apply their writing and communications education to the legal profession.

“Law school has always been an attractive option for English majors at UT, but the new legal studies option places them on a more direct path from here to a top law school in the state,” said Dr. David Carithers, associate professor and chair of the UTM Department of English. “UT Knoxville has a program like this on their campus, but it is only for B.S. degrees. Ours is unique in its basis in the humanities.”

For more information on legal studies within the English major, contact Carithers at 731-881-7300 or dcarithers@utm.edu. For more information on legal studies within the political science major, contact Dr. Chris Baxter at 731-881-7367 or cbaxter@utm.edu.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program will graduate members of its 2019 class June 25 at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. A reception will begin at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner and a graduation ceremony.

The program is in its 30th year and has 828 graduates to date, most of whom are from West Tennessee. The 2019 class includes 30 participants who were competitively selected to learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

The public is welcome to purchase tickets to attend the graduation reception, ceremony and dinner. Tickets are $20 per person and can be purchased from the WestStar Office in room 321 of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on the UT Martin main campus.

For more information on this event or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Tuition at each of the University of Tennessee campuses will increase next academic year.

The Board of Trustees approved a 2% tuition increase at the Knoxville campus and a 2.5% increase at the Chattanooga and Martin campuses at its quarterly meeting on Friday. These are some of the lowest tuition increases in the university's history.

The board also approved the $2.5 billion operating budget for 2019-2020, as well as voted to combine the UT Institute of Agriculture with the UT-Knoxville campus and to create the Oak Ridge Institute to further the university's partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Interim System President Randy Boyd called the Oak Ridge Institute and combining UTIA with UT-Knoxville leadership historic.

"In combination, not only do they transform who we are today, but they transform us for years to come," Boyd said.

Tuition increases approved

With the tuition hikes approved Friday, tuition will increase by $258 at the Knoxville campus, $216 at the Chattanooga campus and $236 at the Martin campus.

Tuition increases at the Knoxville campus have ranged between zero and 12% in the last 10 years. This is the fifth year in a row that UT has raised tuition by less than 3%.
The board also approved creating a partnership between UT and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, called the Oak Ridge Institute, or ORI. ORI "will serve as UT's administrative umbrella for all joint activities and will allow coordinated expansion of graduate education programs," according to the meeting materials.

University of Tennessee Board of Trustees Chair John Compton, left, during the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees meeting held at the UT Conference Center in downtown Knoxville on Friday, June 21, 2019. (Photo: Brianna Paciorka/News Sentinel)

ORNL, which is managed by UT, has partnered with the university in several areas prior to the institute.

A plan for ORI will be presented at the November board meeting with more details about the institute and hiring faculty.

Thomas Zacharia, director of ORNL, said he supports the institute and continuing to work with UT.

"I look forward to working with the university to make this a reality," Zacharia said.

The institute would cost $100 million over the next 10 years, an average of $10 million each year, according to Stacey Patterson, UT's vice president for research, outreach and economic development. It will be funded through federal and state funds, as well as some funding from UT-Knoxville and other partners, Patterson said.

"The intent of the ORI would be to have people that are waking up every morning focused on the jointness (of UT and ORNL), and making the most of what we have in front of us," Patterson said.

Through ORI, the goal is to add an additional 500 graduate students over 10 years.

In a statement, U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander offered his support for ORI, and said he "will do everything I can as chairman of the U.S. Senate energy appropriations subcommittee to support this effort."

"The Oak Ridge Institute at the University of Tennessee is an inspired idea that will meet head on one of the most strategic needs of our country by creating a new pipeline of American-trained scientists and engineers to help the United States compete in the global economy," Alexander said.

**Combining UT-Knoxville and UTIA**

The board also approved a resolution to unite the UT Institute for Agriculture with UT-Knoxville. Chancellor Tim Cross, who is currently over UTIA, will become the senior vice chancellor and senior vice president for agriculture and serve in the president's Cabinet.
By combining the two institutions, UT-Knoxville and UTIA will increase their national rankings for research expenditure and will rank in the top 100, Patterson said.

The two groups will spend the next several months speaking with stakeholders about how to best combine the institutes and will present a plan to the board at the November meeting, said Boyd.

Cross said he has heard concerns from several faculty members and stakeholders, but believes if input is taken seriously, combining UT-Knoxville and UTIA will be positive.

"I am absolutely confident that will result in some great ideas," Cross said.

Board member Donnie Smith said the input will be taken seriously and if the plan proposed in November is not satisfactory, it will have to be reevaluated.

"We're going to listen, we're going to get input and that input is going to matter," Smith said.
Bill and Rosann Nunnelly believe in the value of education, and a bequest to the UT Martin will assure that future generations of students have the financial means to attend college.

A $22 million gift from the couple to the university was announced by University of Tennessee Interim President Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees Friday in Knoxville.

The gift is the largest ever made to UT Martin and will provide scholarships to students who attend the university.

Bill Nunnelly received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970 from UT Martin and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. The scholarship awards from the gift will give preference to students from Hickman County, Tennessee, where he was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm in the community that bears the family name.

Although the gift is a bequest and will not be realized until the couple is deceased, the financial benefits begin immediately when four Hickman County students receive UT Martin scholarships this fall.

Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible to receive future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually through the gift.

Nunnelly attended his first three years of high school at Columbia Military Academy in nearby Maury County before completing his senior year in Hickman County. So, it followed that the ROTC program became an important part of his UT Martin experience.

Nunnelly was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from UT Martin. He completed his military service, but instead of returning to the family farm, Nunnelly pursued various business interests over the years, became a successful entrepreneur and is now semi-retired. He and his brother, also a military veteran, maintained the family farm until selling it in 2010, but Nunnelly never forgot his Hickman County roots and sees the gift to UT Martin as "a wonderful way to give something back. ... That's just what my wife and I want to do," he said.
The University of Tennessee at Martin has received what the university says is its largest gift in history. Bill and Rosann Nunnelly's donation of $22 million will provide scholarships to students to attend the university.

The scholarships give preference to students from Hickman County in Tennessee, southwest of Nashville. Bill Nunnelly grew up on a farm in Hickman County. He received a bachelor's degree from UT Martin in 1970 and later earned a master's degree from Boston University.

Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible.

The gift will not be fully realized until the couple is deceased. But financial benefits will begin this fall when four students from Hickman County attend UT Martin. More than 90 students annually could receive scholarships.
MARTIN, TN — A University of Tennessee at Martin graduate has given his alma mater the largest gift in the university's history.

On Friday, UT Martin announced that Bill Nunnelly and his wife, Rosann, donated $22 million to the university for scholarships.

UT Interim President Randy Boyd said the Nunnelly family has opened doors for students from rural counties. He says the impact of the gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans.

Nunnelly says education is a pathway to a better life. "I think at a minimum one needs a degree unless you're going to be into the trades," he said. "In a lot of cases you need a master's degree. You can get a job with a degree, and I think that's what's important to young adults as they come to UT Martin."

The gift could fund more than 90 scholarships each year to eligible students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties, with a preference to students from Hickman County.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said, "Bill and Rosann Nunnelly have honored UT Martin with a transformation gift that will help many future generations of students attend the university." Chancellor Carver says he is grateful that the Nunnelly's have chosen to give back in this generous way.

Nunnelly was raised in Hickman County and graduated from UT Martin in 1970.
Alumnus Donates $22M For UT Martin Scholarships; Largest In School History

JUNE 21, 2019 AT 3:50 PM  POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn. – Bill and Rosann Nunnelly believe in the value of education, and a bequest to the University of Tennessee at Martin will assure that future generations of students have the financial means to attend college. A $22 million gift from the couple to the university was announced by University of Tennessee Interim President Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees on Friday in Knoxville.

The gift is the largest ever made to UT Martin and will provide scholarships to students who attend the university.

Bill Nunnelly is from Hickman County and the scholarship will give preference to students from there.

“We appreciate the Nunnelly family opening doors for students from rural counties to attend UT Martin,” Boyd said. "They are helping to change not only the lives of students, but also of families, communities and the state. The impact of their gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans."
Bill Nunnelly received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970 from UT Martin and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. The scholarship awards from the gift will give preference to students from Hickman County, where he was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm in the community that bears the family name. Although the gift is a bequest and will not be realized until the couple is deceased, the financial benefits begin immediately when four Hickman County students receive UT Martin scholarships this fall. Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible to receive future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually through the gift.

Nunnelly says education is a pathway to a better life. "I think at a minimum one needs a degree unless you're going to be into the trades," he said. "In a lot of cases you need a master's degree. You can get a job with a degree, and I think that's what's important to young adults as they come to UT Martin."

"Bill and Rosann Nunnelly have honored UT Martin with a transformational gift that will help many future generations of students attend the university," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "Bill's UT Martin experience shaped who he is as a person and successful entrepreneur, and we're grateful that he and his wife have chosen to give back in this generous way."

Nunnelly grew up working on the family farm and was drawn to the discipline of the military. His grandfather and father served in World War I and II respectively. His mother and father also attended UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin. Nunnelly attended his first three years of high school at Columbia Military Academy in nearby Maury County before completing his senior year in Hickman County. So, it followed that the ROTC program became an important part of his UT Martin experience.

"ROTC just kind of fit into my life well," he said. "I understood the military and what it offered.... I learned how to grow up at UT Martin, and it was a wonderful experience." Also important to Nunnelly was his involvement in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. "My fraternity experience at ATO was hugely important.... We had guys there that were interested in academics and good people that taught me how to be a man.... I grew up at UTM, and the fraternity experience helped set me on the road to success."

Nunnelly was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from UT Martin. He completed his military service, but instead of returning to the family farm, Nunnelly pursued various business interests over the years, became a successful entrepreneur and is now semi-retired. He and his brother, also a military veteran, maintained the family farm until selling it in 2010, but Nunnelly never forgot his Hickman County roots and sees the gift to UT Martin as "a wonderful way to give something back.... That's just what my wife and I want to do," he said.
Nunnellys bequest $22M to UT Martin

By Special to The Daily Herald

Posted Jun 22, 2019 at 12:01 AM
Updated Jun 22, 2019 at 5:51 PM

MARTIN — Bill and Rosann Nunnelly believe in the value of education, and a bequest to the University of Tennessee at Martin will assure that future generations of students have the financial means to attend college.

A $22 million gift from the couple to the university was announced by University of Tennessee Interim President Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees on Friday in Knoxville. The gift is the largest ever made to UT Martin and will provide scholarships to students who attend the university.

“We appreciate the Nunnelly family opening doors for students from rural counties to attend UT Martin,” Boyd said. “They are helping to change not only the lives of students, but also of families, communities and the state. The impact of their gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans.”

Bill Nunnelly received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970 from UT Martin and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. The scholarship awards from the gift will give preference to students from Hickman County where he was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm in the community that bears the family name. Although the gift is a bequest and will not be realized until the couple is deceased, the financial benefits begin immediately when four Hickman County students receive UT Martin scholarships this fall. Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible to receive future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually through the gift.

Nunnelly says education is a pathway to a better life.
"I think at a minimum one needs a degree unless you're going to be into the trades," he said. "In a lot of cases you need a master’s degree. You can get a job with a degree, and I think that’s what’s important to young adults as they come to UT Martin."

"Bill and Rosann Nunnelly have honored UT Martin with a transformational gift that will help many future generations of students attend the university," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "Bill’s UT Martin experience shaped who he is as a person and successful entrepreneur, and we’re grateful that he and his wife have chosen to give back in this generous way."

Nunnelly grew up working on the family farm and was drawn to the discipline of the military. His grandfather and father served in World War I and II respectively. His mother and father also attended UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin. Nunnelly attended his first three years of high school at Columbia Military Academy in Maury County before completing his senior year in Hickman County. So, it followed that the ROTC program became an important part of his UT Martin experience.

"ROTC just kind of fit into my life well," he said. "I understood the military and what it offered. ... I learned how to grow up at UT Martin, and it was a wonderful experience."

Nunnelly was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from UT Martin. He completed his military service, but instead of returning to the family farm, Nunnelly pursued various business interests over the years, became a successful entrepreneur and is now semi-retired. He and his brother, also a military veteran, maintained the family farm until selling it in 2010, but Nunnelly never forgot his Hickman County roots and sees the gift to UT Martin as "a wonderful way to give something back. ... That's just what my wife and I want to do," he said.
UT Martin Receives Largest Donation Ever
By West Kentucky Star Staff

MARTIN - Bill and Rosann Nunnelly believe in the value of education, and a bequest to the University of Tennessee at Martin will assure that future generations of students have the financial means to attend college. A $22 million gift from the couple to the university was announced by University of Tennessee Interim President Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees on Friday in Knoxville. The gift is the largest ever made to UT Martin and will provide scholarships to students who attend the university.

"We appreciate the Nunnelly family opening doors for students from rural counties to attend UT Martin," Boyd said. "They are helping to change not only the lives of students, but also of families, communities and the state. The impact of their gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans."

Bill Nunnelly received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970 from UT Martin and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. The scholarship awards from the gift will give preference to students from Hickman County, Tennessee, where he was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm in the community that bears the family name. Although the gift is a bequest and will not be realized until the couple is deceased, the financial benefits begin immediately when four Hickman County students receive UT Martin scholarships this fall. Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible to receive future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually through the gift.

Nunnelly says education is a pathway to a better life. "I think at a minimum one needs a degree unless you're going to be into the trades," he said. "In a lot of cases you need a master's degree. You can get a job with a degree, and I think that's what's important to young adults as they come to UT Martin."

"Bill and Rosann Nunnelly have honored UT Martin with a transformational gift that will help many future generations of students attend the university," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "Bill's UT Martin experience shaped who he is as a person and successful entrepreneur, and we're grateful that he and his wife have chosen to give back in this generous way."

Nunnelly grew up working on the family farm and was drawn to the discipline of the military. His grandfather and father served in World War I and II respectively. His mother and father also attended UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin. Nunnelly attended his first three years of high school at Columbia Military Academy in nearby Maury County before completing his senior year in Hickman County. So, it followed that the ROTC program became an important part of his UT Martin experience.

"ROTC just kind of fit into my life well," he said. "I understood the military and what it offered. ... I learned how to grow up at UT Martin, and it was a wonderful experience." Also important to Nunnelly was his involvement in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. "My fraternity experience at ATO was hugely important ... We had guys there that were interested in academics and good people that taught me how to be a man. ... I grew up at UTM, and the fraternity experience helped set me on the road to success."

Nunnelly was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from UT Martin. He completed his military service, but instead of returning to the family farm, Nunnelly pursued various business interests over the years, became a successful entrepreneur and is now semi-retired. He and his brother, also a military veteran, maintained the family farm until selling it in 2010, but Nunnelly never forgot his Hickman County roots and sees the gift to UT Martin as "a wonderful way to give something back. ... That's just what my wife and I want to do," he said.
UT Board Approves Tuition Increases for Campuses

Trustees have approved tuition increases at each of the University of Tennessee campuses for the next academic year.

By Associated Press, Wire Service Content  June 22, 2019, at 12:47 p.m.

KNOXVILLE, TENN. (AP) — Trustees have approved tuition increases at each of the University of Tennessee campuses for the next academic year.

Media outlets report the Board of Trustees approved a 2% tuition increase at the Knoxville campus and a 2.5% increase at the Chattanooga and Martin campuses at a Friday meeting.

Tuition will increase by $268 at the Knoxville campus, $216 at the Chattanooga campus and $236 at the Martin campus.

Tuition increases at the Knoxville campus have ranged between zero and 12% in the last 10 years. This is the fifth year in a row that UT has raised tuition by less than 3%.

The board also voted to combine the UT Institute of Agriculture with the UT-Knoxville campus and to create the Oak Ridge Institute to further the university's partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019: Camden's Kerri Arnold

Kyleah Dunn, Jackson SunPublished 12:08 a.m. CT June 23, 2019 | Updated 7:54 a.m. CT June 23, 2019

Miss Scenic City Kerri Arnold is now Miss Tennessee Volunteer Kerri Arnold.

Arnold, who is a junior at UT Martin, became the first winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer competition, crowned by the inaugural crown-holder Christine Williamson on Saturday night at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Downtown Jackson.

"I'm still in shock," Arnold said a little while after the win was announced and a long line of hugs, congratulations and pictures. "I was just glad to make the top 15, but then making the top 12 and 10 and five after that was even more of a shock.”

Arnold's local pageant is based in Chattanooga and has a good track record with producing winners at the state level.

"My pageant directors did a great job preparing me for this event and just showing me what I needed to do in each event, so I appreciate their help so much," Arnold said.

She's a native of Camden and Benton County also.

"I got a lot of support from home, and I'm glad my family was here to see this," Arnold said.

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

Jackson, Tenn.—Kerri Arnold from Holladay was crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer Saturday night after nights of preliminary competitions at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in downtown Jackson.

Arnold is a junior at UT Martin and was competing as Miss Scenic City.

At UT Martin, Arnold is an interdisciplinary studies major and used her platform to support the Make A Wish Foundation.

Six area students from UT Martin were among those competing: Amanda Mayo of Union City; Morgan Martin, Springville; Sable Estes, Trenton; Madison Sisco of Mercer and Kailey Duffy, who also is from Holladay.

Duffy and Arnold were classmates and both attend the Methodist Church in Holladay. Both were former Benton County Fairest of the Fair queens.

A number of people from Camden and Benton County attended the contest this week to support Duffy and Arnold.

Photo: Kerri Arnold hugs her grandfather Bobby Arnold after her win. (Bobby Melton photo).
Miss Scenic City Kerri Arnold Is Miss Tennessee Volunteer
8th Win In 16 Years For The Local Franchise
Sunday, June 23, 2019 - by Wendy King

Miss Scenic City Kerri Arnold became the first newcomer in 12 years to win the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant (formerly the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant and Miss America State Preliminary) on Saturday night in Jackson and the second consecutive representative from the Scenic City Pageants franchise and eighth overall to ascend to the state title since 2003.

The 21-year-old resident of Camden and junior at The University of Tennessee at Martin was crowned by outgoing titleholder Christine Williamson who won last year as Miss Chattanooga. Miss Arnold who sang the Martina McBride classic "Broken Wing" for her talent presentation will receive a $25,000 scholarship and will serve as the Governor's official spokesperson for Character Education when she embarks on her statewide schools tour in the Fall. The Interdisciplinary Studies major hopes to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and will promote The Make A Wish Foundation during her year of service.

Miss Chattanooga Samantha Havenstrite who won a swimsuit preliminary on Wednesday and the State Academic Award on Friday was a top 10 finalist. The junior at Southern Methodist University was awarded $5,000 in scholarships. Miss Tennessee Valley Blaire Terrell who is a junior at Lee University received a Non-Finalist Award and a total of $1,500 in scholarships. Miss Memphis Hannah Minear who also attends Lee was not among the top 15 finalists.

Miss Arnold's win continues the legacy of the Scenic City program whose three representatives (Scenic City, Chattanooga and Tennessee Valley) consistently excel at the state level.

Led by Rodney Hullender, Keith Brown and Mishana Paris the program has produced eight of the last sixteen state titleholders along with numerous runners-up, top 10 finalists and preliminary winners. The 2020 competition will be held on August 3rd at The Baylor School and since it is an open pageant contestants statewide are eligible to compete as what is one of the leading local preliminaries in the nation.

The Scenic City Pageants Miss Tennessee/Miss Tennessee Volunteer Winners
2003 - Jamie Ruth Marie Watkins Davenport
2006 - Blaire Pancake Koehl
2008 - Ellen Carrington Shelton
2012 - Chandler Lawson
2014 - Hayley Lewis
2015 - Hannah Robison Shellnut
2018 - Christine Williamson
2019 - Kerri Arnold
Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019, Kerri Arnold, is crowned by her predecessor, Christine Williamson. ArnolD was competing as Miss Scenic City, and she is from Camden. Read more about Arnold's win at jacksonsun.com. KENNETH CUMMINGS/THE JACKSON SUN
MARTIN, Tenn. — A couple is donating $22 million to provide scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Martin, marking the largest gift in campus history.

A news release says the gift by Bill and Rosann Nunnelly was announced during the University of Tennessee’s board meeting Friday. The donation will occur when the Nunnellys are deceased, although four Hickman County students will begin receiving scholarships this fall.

Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys county students could qualify for future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually.

Bill Nunnelly was raised on a farm in the Hickman County community bearing his family’s name.

The semi-retired entrepreneur earned an undergraduate education degree from UT Martin in 1970 and a Master of Education from Boston University. He served as an Army second lieutenant.
MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — A couple is donating $22 million to provide scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Martin, marking the largest gift in campus history.

A news release says the gift by Bill and Rosann Nunnelly was announced during the University of Tennessee's board meeting Friday. The donation will occur when the Nunnellys are deceased, although four Hickman County students will begin receiving scholarships this fall.

Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys county students could qualify for future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually.

Bill Nunnelly was raised on a farm in the Hickman County community bearing his family’s name.

The semi-retired entrepreneur earned an undergraduate education degree from UT Martin in 1970 and a Master of Education from Boston University. He served as an Army second lieutenant.
MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — A couple is donating $22 million to provide scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Martin, marking the largest gift in campus history.

A news release says the gift by Invoice and Rosann Nunnelly was announced during the University of Tennessee's board meeting Friday. The donation will occur when the Nunnellys are deceased, although four Hickman County college students will begin receiving scholarships this fall.

Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys county college students could qualify for future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually.

Bill Nunnelly was raised on a farm in the Hickman County community bearing his family's name.

The semi-retired entrepreneur earned an undergraduate education degree from UT Martin in 1970 and a Master of Education from Boston University. He served as an Army second lieutenant.
Couple Donating $22M for Scholarships at UT-Martin

A couple is donating $22 million to provide scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Martin, the largest gift in campus history.

By Associated Press, Wire Service Content  June 24, 2015, at 5:00 a.m.

MARTIN, TENN. (AP) — A couple is donating $22 million to provide scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Martin, marking the largest gift in campus history.

A news release says the gift by Bill and Rosann Nunnelly was announced during the University of Tennessee's board meeting Friday. The donation will occur when the Nunnellys are deceased, although four Hickman County students will begin receiving scholarships this fall.

Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys county students could qualify for future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually.

Bill Nunnelly was raised on a farm in the Hickman County community bearing his family's name.

The semi-retired entrepreneur earned an undergraduate education degree from UT Martin in 1970 and a Master of Education from Boston University. He served as an Army second lieutenant.
Couple donating $22M for scholarships at UT-Martin

June 24, 2019

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — A couple is donating $22 million to provide scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Martin, marking the largest gift in campus history.

A news release says the gift by Bill and Rosann Nunnelly was announced during the University of Tennessee's board meeting Friday. The donation will occur when the Nunnellys are deceased, although four Hickman County students will begin receiving scholarships this fall.

Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys county students could qualify for future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually.

Bill Nunnelly was raised on a farm in the Hickman County community bearing his family's name.

The semi-retired entrepreneur earned an undergraduate education degree from UT Martin in 1970 and a Master of Education from Boston University. He served as an Army second lieutenant.
Sahil Patel of Fayetteville is attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is one of 56 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year. Tennessee Governor's Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit, as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas. UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June.
UT Martin junior Kerri Arnold, from Holladay, was crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 Saturday night at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Downtown Jackson.

Arnold became the first winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer competition and was one of six UTM students competing in Saturday's pageant.

Arnold will now work as Governor Bill Lee's official representative for character education and spend the next year traveling the state to visit with schoolchildren and community members on his behalf.

Meanwhile, the official Miss America Organization Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant is this week in Knoxville, running Wednesday through Saturday.

The winner of that crown will go on to compete for the title of Miss America.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Krista Tunning of Paris, is one of many who are registering for fall semester courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin during an orientation session June 18. Tunning is planning to study family and consumer sciences and is pictured with her husband, Nathan Tunning.

Transfer and Adult Orientation is designed to help incoming students in those categories find more information about the academic, social and financial aspects of attending UT Martin and receive assistance registering for fall semester courses. Another orientation will be held July 19 for transfer and adult students who have not yet attended. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Dr. S.K. Airee, longtime UTM chemistry professor, dies at 84

Posted on June 25, 2019 by Steve James in Local News, Obituaries

Dr. S.K. Airee, a longtime chemistry professor at UT Martin, died Sunday in Nashville at the age of 84.

Dr. Airee retired in May after 54 years at UTM.

He was also a member of the Martin Kiwanis Club.

Funeral services will be Friday at 2:00 in Martin.

UT Martin’s Longest Serving Faculty Member Dr. S.K. Airee Passes Away

MARTIN, Tenn. – Dr. S.K. Airee, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin, died June 23 at the age of 84. He retired from UT Martin on May 31 after serving the university for 54 years and is UT Martin’s longest-serving faculty member to date.

Airee is survived by his wife and three children, Hans Airee, of Cary, North Carolina; Anita Airee, of Knoxville; and Richa Airee, of Brentwood. Funeral arrangements will begin at 2 p.m., June 28, at Murphy Funeral Home in Martin. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. Friday until funeral time.
“Dr. S.K. Airee was a tremendous asset to the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and that department and the chemistry degree program would not be what they are today without his influence and guidance over the past five and a half decades,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. “He leaves behind the kind of legacy an educator dreams about, with hundreds of former students impacting the field of chemistry around the world – many of them even educating a third or fourth generation of young scientists. Dr. Airee’s absence will be felt not only on campus but also throughout the region as others continue his work with the American Chemical Society and other organizations.”

Airee joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch and helped the UT Martin bachelor’s degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society. He also chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members of the American Chemical Society) in 1971. This chapter is the most decorated chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings, more than any chapter in the nation, and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.

Airee was affiliated with the American Chemical Society in one way or another for the past 61 years. In addition to his classroom work, he worked closely with the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS and served as chair in 1992 and councilor from 1999-2010. He was the recipient of numerous university, industry and community service awards, including the UT Distinguished Service Professorship Award in 2016, the Dr. Joe Johnson Lifetime Service Award from the University of Tennessee System in 2015, the UT Martin Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award in 2006 and Kiwanian of the Year in 1968.

The Airee family has initiated three endowment funds – the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service, the S.K. and Shashi Airee Scholarship, and the Monsanto SAACS Fund – to help UT Martin students fund their education. Airee is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, and he and his wife, Shashi, have three children, all of whom are UT Martin and UT Health Science Center alumni.
Estes competed in Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant

By Crystal Burns

A Trenton woman competed in the inaugural Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant last week in Jackson.

Estes

Sable Estes, a 2015 graduate of Peabody High School and a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, wore the crown of Miss Northwest Tennessee, a title she won in March. In her three months of preparation for Miss Tennessee Volunteer, Estes focused on honing her talent, taking care of herself and choosing her wardrobe.

Estes admitted it took her a whole week to pack. While the women competed in the evenings, their days were full of community engagement activities as well as rehearsals. For the week, Estes needed several cocktail dresses, referred to

(Continued on page 2)

Estes competed...

(Continued from page 1)

As “off the bus” dresses, her talent and swimsuit outfits, an evening gown, and dresses for the swimsuit production and opening and closing ceremonies.

“It’s been an adventure,” Estes said last week. Competitors were divided into groups. Estes completed her private interview on Tuesday. Her group competed in the evening gown and on-stage question portion of the pageant Wednesday night, took the stage for talent on Thursday night and wrapped up their group time with the swimsuit competition Friday. Finals were held on Saturday night.

For her talent, Estes played “Bourree” on the flute. George Frideric Handel composed the classical number.

Estes began band in sixth grade. She gave it up briefly in high school before rejoining the band as a sophomore at Peabody.

Her platform for Miss Tennessee Volunteer was “All Help Matters.” Each month, Estes selected a different charity to raise money for or serve through a project.

“I wanted to help as many people as I possibly could,” she said.

Estes, who is 22, said she was looking for experience in her first year at the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant as she hopes to get back to the Jackson stage. Women can compete in the pageant until they are 25.

“I’m really looking at my first time just for the experience,” she said.

Estes, the daughter of Will and Teresa Lowery, will graduate from UT Martin in December. She is majoring in family and consumer sciences with a concentration in child and family studies. Her goal is to work for OmniVision or Camelot, two organizations that help foster children and foster families.

“I was adopted by my step-dad, so I want to be a role model to as many children as possible,” she said.

Estes was one of six women from UT Martin competing in Miss Tennessee Volunteer. Miss Scenic City Kerri Arnold won the crown.

People’s Choice - Miss Austin Peay Allie Privitt, a South Gibson County High School alumna, finished in the Top 12 at the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant. Privitt, the daughter of Jerry and Mitzi Privitt, received the People’s Choice Award. She is the granddaughter of Glenda and Sonny Lane of Trenton.
Miss Tennessee Volunteer gets started as queen

Contestant takes a long road to dream come true

Brandon Shields Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Kerri Arnold sat at a table at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson on Sunday afternoon with the combined looks of happiness and fatigue on her face.

She'd been named Miss Tennessee Volunteer the night before, and sleep didn't come easy in the hours afterward.

"I did eventually crash, but even then, I kept waking up asking if this was real, if that really happened," said Arnold, sporting her new crown and sash. "I don't think it's totally set in yet, but it's for sure a dream come true."

Arnold started dreaming of this day years ago when 2006 Miss Tennessee winner Blaire Pancake visited her school.

"I first met her and heard her talk and realized the impact she can have on me and an entire group of kids at our school," Arnold said. "And I saw that this was something I could get involved with and work to accomplish myself.

"So I got involved with the teen program and said, 'I'm going to do this. I'm going to get there and reach for this goal that I have.'"

Representing Benton County

Benton County had never had a contestant in a statewide pageant before this year when two of their own competed for Miss Tennessee Volunteer.

Arnold made it as Miss Scenic City, a local pageant held in Chattanooga, and Kailey Duffy competed as Miss Greater Weakley County.

"It was already special that Kailey and I had grown up together and went to church together at Holladay First United Methodist Church, and it was great that we both got to compete together," Arnold said. "And she was great checking in with me (Saturday night) after they announced the top 15, making sure I had everything I needed and stuff."

"And being able to represent Benton County on a statewide level is such an honor for me because they showed both of us so much support during this process."

Representing the governor

While there are two pageants this year, with Miss Tennessee happening this week in Knoxville in conjunction with Miss America, Arnold will be the representative for Gov. Bill Lee's character education initiative, as the Miss Tennessee Volunteer organization was included in this year's plan by former Gov. Bill Haslam.

"I'm looking forward to that part because I remember the impact Blaire had on me 13 years ago and how it's really still affecting me," Arnold said. "And if I can have a similar impact on children, that's an exciting thought for me."

"(Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2018 Christine Williamson) set the bar high for me, speaking to more than 70,000 kids, but I look forward to trying to match that."

Arnold found out after she won that Williamson had already scheduled 14 appearances for her successor, and Arnold is ready to get going with the schedule.

"You think about this state and how big it is and how many places there are to try to visit and reach out to as many children as you can, and it can be a lot," Arnold said. "I just plan to reach out to as many as I can."
Kerri Arnold is crowned Miss Tennessee 2019 on Saturday at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.

Kerri Arnold was crowned Miss Tennessee 2019 on Saturday at the Carl Perkins Civic Center. KENNETH CUMMINGS/ THE JACKSON SUN
Q&A with Miss Tennessee Volunteer pageant director

Brandon Shields
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

While this may have been the 68th statewide beauty pageant in Jackson, this was the first one to be called the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant.

The pageant’s existence was the result of a lot of work mainly from its leadership — Jimmy Exum, Tom Hensley, Jane Alderson and Allison Alderson DeMarcus — and many of the volunteers who’ve helped with the event for years.

The look of exhaustion after a completed job was on all of their faces Sunday afternoon once all public pageant events were done and Kerri Arnold had been crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019.

DeMarcus answered a few questions about the pageant before leaving the Doubletree Hotel, where everyone associated with the pageant stayed last week.

Were you happy with how much Miss Tennessee Volunteer resembled Miss Tennessee pageants from previous years?

That was the goal for everything we did this week — to be very seamless in the transition from last year’s event to this year’s. There’s been a lot of change in the pageant since last year, and we felt it was important for the contestants to get reassurance from the consistency of the pageant.

Because you had to change the name of the pageant, does this affect future pageants? Does this group plan to continue coordinating pageants in Jackson?

Anyone who thinks there will be no pageant after this year is misinformed. I can tell you right now that Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2020 will be June 17-20 of next year, and tickets will go on sale in January. As far as making any changes, we’re always open to change. This pageant hasn’t been in Jackson for 67 years without going through some changes if it plans to continue to attract young women to compete in it every year. There are certain aspects that are rich in the traditions of the pageant that we plan to maintain, but this pageant will also continue to evolve.

How much different will Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 Kerri Arnold’s year be since she doesn’t have the obligation of the Miss America pageant to prepare for later in the year?

It’s really exciting to me what Kerri is now available for because we had to turn down events in the past in the first few weeks or months after the pageant because there was so much to do to prepare for Miss America. For instance, she’ll be at this week’s Exchange Club meeting on Tuesday right here in Jackson, and that was something we couldn’t do any of the years before. And before then, she’ll be doing interviews with TV here, radio in Johnson City, going to Nashville (on Monday) for an interview there, and I’m sure there will be plenty of events in Benton County as they celebrate their first titleholder, which is exciting for us too. And Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2018 Christine Williamson already had a few events lined up for her early in the school year that she couldn’t have done. So it’s exciting that she’s available earlier.

Will there be the same list of local pageants next year as this year?

I can tell you there have already been a few new local franchises establish themselves with plans to send contestants to Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2020, and the dates of all of our local pageants will be available hopefully soon.

How would you describe the support from Jackson and the surrounding areas in continuing to have the pageant?

It’s been overwhelming the support we’ve received over the past year, and particularly since January when we started working toward this specific event. Everybody thought we had more work to do because we started over with a new pageant, but in reality, we’ve always "started over" every year because we raise all this money from sponsors and then we give it all away in scholarships every year and then start raising money for the next year’s pageant. But Jackson has been great in continuing to support us, and that’s why we wanted to keep it here. I’m from here. My mother still lives here. Jackson is committed to us, and we’re committed to Jackson.

Reach Brandon Shields at bjsheils@jacksontimes.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorbrandon.
UTM receives historic $22 million gift

Bill and Rosann Nunnelly believe in the value of education, and a bequest to the University of Tennessee at Martin will assure that future generations of students have the financial means to attend college.

A $22 million gift from the couple to the university was announced by University of Tennessee Interim President Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees on Friday in Knoxville.

The gift is the largest ever made to UT Martin and will provide scholarships to students who attend the university. “We appreciate the Nunnelly family opening doors for students from rural counties to attend UT Martin,” Boyd said. “They are helping to change not only the lives of students, but also of families, communities and the state. The impact of their gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans.”

Bill Nunnelly received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970 from UT Martin and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. The scholarship awards from the gift will give preference to students from Hickman County, Tennessee, where he was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm in the community that bears the family name. Although the gift is a bequest and will not be realized until the couple is deceased, the financial benefits begin immediately when four Hickman County students receive UT Martin scholarships this fall. Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible to receive future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually through the gift.

Nunnelly says education is a pathway to a better life. “I think at a minimum one needs a degree unless you’re going to be into the trades,” he said. “In a lot of cases you need a master’s degree. You can get a job with a degree, and I think that’s what’s important to young adults as they come to UT Martin.”

“Bill and Rosann Nunnelly have honored UT Martin with a transformational gift that will help many future generations of students attend the university,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “Bill’s UT Martin experience shaped who he is as a person and successful entrepreneur, and we’re grateful that he and his wife have chosen to give back in this generous way.”

Nunnelly grew up working on the family farm and was drawn to the discipline of the military. His grandfather and father served in World War I and II respectively. His mother and father also attended UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin.

Nunnelly attended his first three years of high school at Columbia Military Academy in nearby Maury County before completing his senior year in Hickman County. So, it followed that the ROTC program became an important part of his UT Martin experience.

“ROTC just kind of fit into my life well,” he said. “I understood the military and what it offered. ... I learned how to grow up at UT Martin, and it was a wonderful experience.” Also important to Nunnelly was his involvement in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

“My fraternity experience at ATO was hugely important. ... We had guys there that were interested in academics and good people that taught me how to be a man. ... I grew up at UT Martin, and the fraternity experience helped set me on the road to success.”

Nunnelly was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from UT Martin. He completed his military service, but instead of returning to the family farm, Nunnelly pursued various business interests over the years, became a successful entrepreneur and is now semi-retired.

He and his brother, also a military veteran, maintained the family farm until selling it in 2010, but Nunnelly never forgot his Hickman County roots and sees the gift to UT Martin as “a wonderful way to give something back. ... That’s just what my wife and I want to do,” he said.
ATTENDS GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR HUMANITIES — Hanna Harris of Martin is attending the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities this month at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is one of 56 high school juniors and seniors participating in the program this year. Tennessee Governor’s Schools are offered in a variety of topics at several locations across the state and provide college courses for credit as well as extracurricular and hands-on activities in the chosen academic areas. UT Martin hosts both the humanities and agricultural science programs on its main campus in northwest Tennessee each June. For more information, contact the Governor’s School for the Humanities program office at 731-881-7975.

ROBLOX camps teach new coding language

A summer camp for coders and entrepreneurs will teach local students to create computer games in the Lua coding language while designing unique worlds in the online universe known as ROBLOX. Camp will be held from 9 a.m.-noon (for ages 8-10) and 1-4 p.m. (for ages 11-14), July 8-12 on the UT Martin main campus and July 22-26 at the UT Martin Jackson Center. Registration is $175 per student, and spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants will also learn to navigate the ROBLOX marketplace to publish and share their creations. Student-created games will be available for testing by family and friends through a password-protected website at the conclusion of camp. Students will work in pairs or teams for most of the program.

Online registration is required to reserve a space. To register at the UT Martin main campus, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/jackson.php. For assistance, contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104.
UTM to continue SOAR sessions in July

Summer orientation and registration sessions for freshman, transfer and adult students will continue throughout the months of June and July at the University of Tennessee at Martin. SOAR is required for all incoming freshman students, and sessions are scheduled from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., July 12 and July 22. Students must have received an official acceptance letter from UTM to attend orientation. Registration $45 per student and $20 for each additional guest, including parents, guardians, siblings, and friends. Tuition fee payments are not due until start of the fall semester.

Orientation begins with check-in and an administrative fair, and an official welcome will begin at 9. Break-out sessions discussing Greek life, student organizations, choosing a major and preparing for academic success will be held later in the morning.

Additional sessions on the transition to college, housing and meal plans, travel-study and study-abroad opportunities will follow lunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Students will then meet with a faculty advisor to register for classes.

Visit utm.edu/soar to register.

Transfer and Adult Orientation is optional for students in those categories, and sessions are scheduled from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., July 19. Special interest sessions on similar topics will be held from 9-10:30 a.m., and academic advising with faculty advisors will begin at 10:45. Optional campus tours will leave the Boling University Center at 1 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register.

For more information or registration assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Local students named to 2019 Who’s Who list

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently recognized the members of the 2019 class of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Thirty-seven juniors, seniors and graduate students were included from UT Martin this year, including 12 students from Weakley County. The students inducted were:

- Richard Brawley is a senior studying health and human performance.
- Morgan Curlin is a senior studying marketing.
- Dalis Lampkins, of Gleason, is a senior majoring in political science.
- Amanda Lund is a senior studying animal science.
- Tess McDunn is a senior majoring in marketing.
- Tiffany McDunn is a senior majoring in management.
- Alisa Quayle is a senior majoring in both accounting and finance.
- Kaitlyn Scott is a senior majoring in communications.
- Morgan Simmons, of Greenfield, is a junior majoring in biology.
- Cameren Taylor is a senior majoring in biology.
- Grace White is a senior majoring a biology.

Who’s Who Among Students, established in 1934, is a national honor society based on academic and community service merit rather than financial ability to participate. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
UT Board of Trustees set tuition, approve resolutions increasing collaborations

For a record-setting fifth year in a row, the University of Tennessee System Board of Trustees voted to keep tuition increases low. That decision marked the first time in System history that the undergraduate tuition increases were kept at three percent or lower for five consecutive years. The increases range from 2 percent for UT Knoxville to 2.5 percent for UT Chattanooga and UT Martin. The increases from Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to Fiscal Year 2019-2020 equal $258 for UT Knoxville, $216 for UT Chattanooga and $236 for UT Martin.

Keeping tuition low is part of the University’s efforts to make higher education affordable for all Tennesseans, UT Interim President Randy Boyd said.

“Land grant institutions were created to assist the working class and lower class to move up. We, at the University of Tennessee, are not about exclusion, but about inclusion. We are working to keep tuition low and with the creation of the UT Promise, which will start in 2020, to help families with yearly incomes of less than $20,000 to provide a ladder up to Tennesseans,” he said.

Trustees also approved developing stronger links between the UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Knoxville to increase collaboration between the two campuses and to raise the national rankings. In a presentation before the Education, Research and Service Committee, Vice President for Research Stacey Patterson noted that UT is the only university in the United States that reports its agricultural programs, including research, separately. By combining the two, the University would rise in national rankings.

With the approval, UTIA Chancellor Tim Cross’s title becomes senior vice president and senior vice chancellor for agriculture. He will report to Boyd and incoming UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman. Boyd noted that previously the two campuses were unified, but were separated in 2010.

“Agriculture is critical to our state. He will serve as the third highest ranking member at the University of Tennessee. He will make sure that the statewide agriculture voice is heard,” Boyd said of Cross.

Cross said it would be important to bring faculty, staff and stakeholders to help develop plans and ideas that will benefit UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Knoxville.

“We don’t want to lose what makes us special and unique, but we don’t want to stand in the way of progress,” Cross said. Trustee Bill Rhodes commended Cross. “It’s always remarkable when a person puts an organization above self,” Rhodes said.

Trustee Donnie Smith said it is important to recognize that UTIA has improved during the past 10 years and to make sure that the trustees listen to all of the stakeholders.

“We’re going to listen. We’re going to get input and that input’s going to matter,” he said.

In the coming days and weeks, Boyd will seek additional input from faculty, staff and other stakeholders regarding the partnership. He and officials with both campuses will continue to work on a detailed plan regarding the unification, which will be submitted to the trustees during their Nov. 8 meeting.

The realignment would allow UT to truly serve all Tennesseans while elevating the two campuses to become a leading and globally competitive research institution, Boyd said.

“For 50 years the UT Institute of Agriculture has been rooted in our communities in all of Tennessee’s 95 counties. It will continue to do so for the next 50 years and beyond,” Boyd said. “This unification will allow us to leverage the best of UTIA and UT Knoxville to truly serve all Tennesseans.”

Trustees also approved a resolution creating the Oak Ridge Institute to foster a stronger, more coordinated relationship between the University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Institute will move five joint UT and ORNL programs under a single administrative umbrella as both institutions seek to most effectively prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers for a global economy that demands interdisciplinary problem-solving, teamwork and innovation.

“The Oak Ridge Institute is making the most of the opportunity we have in front of us,” Patterson said.

Boyd pointed out that the new institute was co-created with ORNL.

ORNL Director Thomas Zacharia said students from a variety of universities come to ORNL for doctoral and post-doctoral work and that the new institute will ensure coordinated expansion of UT programs. Researchers with national lab experience go on to start companies, to do Nobel-winning research and to provide the leadership and expertise demanded by labs, universities and industries, he said.

“The most productive and profound research happens during the early part of the career,” Zacharia said. “The Institute will, in the fullness of time, provide 500 Ph.D. students who will challenge and enrich us.”

Those students would then continue to impact the world through new innovations and businesses, perhaps becoming Nobel Prize winners or staying at the lab or the University conducting research, Zacharia said.

Under the approved resolution, at the Nov. 8 Board meeting, Boyd will submit a detailed business plan for the Institute.

The Institute will strengthen a long-standing partnership, which has seen growth during the past 20 years with joint facilities, prominent research teams, a joint graduate program and interdisciplinary research initiatives.

UT Board Chair John Compton said in a career there are two to three decisions made that can be considered important.

“With the actions we’re taking today around research, I’m quite confident we’ll look back at this in six to 10 years as one of the most important decision we made,” he said.

During the meeting, UT Chief Financial Officer David Miller reported on the Task force for Effective Administration and Management (TEAM) findings. The task force, along with Deloitte Consulting, sought to clarify the roles and responsibilities between System and campus staff in five non-academic areas: capital projects, communications and marketing, human resources, information technology, and procurement and contracting.
From identifying opportunities for improvement to best practices in higher education and other industries, the task force looked for ways to streamline processes and reduce costs. Miller noted that Deloitte officials said to bridge the gap between best practices and UT’s current state will take strong governance, metrics, trust, proof of concept and leadership.

“All UT campuses benefit from standardizing operations as we prepare to move into the next generation of management technology,” Miller said. “It would save money and deliver services to students and faculty more effectively.”

After trustees endorsed the report, they charged Miller and the University administration to begin implementing solutions identified in the report. They requested that Miller report progress during upcoming Board meetings.

During Boyd’s remarks, he and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver announced a $22 million bequest from Bill and Rosann Nunnelly to UT Martin. The gift, the largest in UT Martin’s history, will provide scholarships to students. The scholarships will give preference to students from Hickman County, where Bill Nunnelly, a 1970 UT Martin graduate, was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm. While the gift will not be fully realized until after the couple’s deaths, the scholarships will begin immediately this fall for four Hickman County students. In the future, more than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually to qualified students from Hickman, Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties.

“We appreciate the Nunnelly family opening doors for students from rural counties to attend UT Martin,” Boyd said. “They are helping to change not only the lives of students, but also of families, communities and the state. The impact of their gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans.”

Trustees also approved authorizing the University to file a cy pres action in Knox County Chancery Court to sell the Eugenia Williams estate. After 20 years of exploring options to use the home located in Knoxville, this spring Boyd made the decision to seek approval to sell the property and use the proceeds to establish the UT Promise Dr. David Hitt Williams Endowment, in honor of Eugenia Williams’ father.

UT Promise is a last-dollar scholarship program that will guarantee free tuition and fees for students with a family household income of under $50,000 after other financial aid is received. UT Promise will enroll its first class of students in the fall of 2020.

In other business, trustees approved:

- Strategic plan refresh, 2019-2025 with its foundation of championing diversity and inclusive excellence and its goals of enhancing educational excellence, expanding research capabilities, fostering outreach and engagement, ensuring workforce and administrative excellence, and advocating for UT.

- A total operating budget of almost $2.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, which is 3.5 percent higher than the operating budget of Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The budget also includes faculty and staff salary increases for the coming year.

- $600 million in requested state funding for capital projects from Fiscal Year 2020-2021 through Fiscal Year 2024-2025, including for an audiology and speech pathology clinic for UT Health Science Center, a new nursing building for UT Knoxville and the Grove Multipurpose Center for UT Martin.

- $306.9 million in requested state funding for capital maintenance projects from Fiscal Year 2020-2021 through Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

- $76 million in revenue or institutionally-funded projects for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

- Lowering the out-of-state tuition rate for UT Chattanooga students from South Carolina and any state that borders Tennessee beginning in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

- Report on campus processes for determining programs to be funded by the Student
  Programs and Services Fee
  Tenure recommendations.
  UT Chattanooga’s voluntary retirement incentive plan.
UT Martin graduate makes largest gift in university history

MARTIN — Bill and Rosann Nunnelly believe in the value of education, and a bequest to the University of Tennessee at Martin will assure that future generations of students have the financial means to attend college.

A $22 million gift from the couple to the university was announced by University of Tennessee interim President Randy Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees on Friday in Knoxville. The gift is the largest ever made to UT Martin and will provide scholarships to students who attend the university.

“We appreciate the Nunnelly family opening doors for students from rural counties to attend UT Martin,” Boyd said. “They are helping to change not only the lives of students, but also of families, communities and the state. The impact of their gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans.”

Nunnelly received a bachelor of science degree in education in 1970 from UT Martin and later earned a master of education degree from Boston University. The scholarship awards from the gift will give preference to students from Hickman County, where he was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm in the community that bears the family name. Although the gift is a bequest and will not be realized until the couple is deceased, the financial benefits begin immediately when four Hickman County students receive UT Martin scholarships this fall. Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible to receive future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually through the gift.

Nunnelly says education is a pathway to a better life. “I think at a minimum one needs a degree unless you’re going to be into the trades,” he said. “In a lot of cases you need a master’s degree. You can get a job with a degree, and I think that’s what’s important to young adults as they come to UT Martin.”

LARGEST UTM GIFT — Rosann and Bill Nunnelly are the benefactors of the largest gift ever to the University of Tennessee at Martin. It was announced Friday during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees in Knoxville by UT interim president Randy Boyd and UT Martin chancellor Keith Carver that the couple have bequested a $22 million gift for students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties to attend the university.

“Bill and Rosann Nunnelly have honored UT Martin with a transformational gift that will help many future generations of students attend the university,” said Carver. “Bill’s UT Martin experience shaped who he is as a person and successful entrepreneur, and we’re grateful that he and his wife have chosen to give back in this generous way.”

Nunnelly grew up working on the family farm and was drawn to the discipline of the military. His grandfather and father served in World War I and II, respectively. His mother and father also attended UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin. Nunnelly attended his first three years of high school at Columbia Military Academy in nearby Maury County before completing his senior year in Hickman County. So, it followed that the ROTC program became an important part of his UT Martin experience.

“ROTC just kind of fit into my life well,” he said. “I understood the military and what it offered. ... I learned how to grow up at UT Martin, and it was a wonderful experience.”

Also important to Nunnelly was his involvement in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. “My fraternity experience at ATO was hugely important. ... We had guys there that were interested in academics and good people that taught me how to be a man. ... I grew up at UTM, and the fraternity experience helped set me on the road to success.”

Nunnelly was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from UT Martin. He completed his military service, but instead of returning to the family farm, Nunnelly pursued various business interests over the years, became a successful entrepreneur and is now semi-retired. He and his brother, also a military veteran, maintained the family farm until selling it in 2010, but Nunnelly never forgot his Hickman County roots and sees the gift to UT Martin as “a wonderful way to give something back. ... That’s just what my wife and I want to do,” he said.
Area represented well at scholarship pageant; UT Martin student captures Volunteer title

The Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant held over the weekend in Jackson was an exciting one for the northwest Tennessee area.

Three competitors currently call Obion County home — Miss Fall Fest Anna Bright, Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Amanda Mayo and Miss Greene County Nadia Treadwell — while Sable Estes of Trenton, who is also a UTM student, represented Obion County as Miss Northwest Tennessee.

Four other competitors represented the area as UTM students or alumna. They included Miss Mid-South Morgan Martin of Springfield, Miss Greater Weakley County Kailey Duffy of Holladay, Miss Heritage Madison Sisco of Mercer and the eventual 2019 Miss Tennessee Volunteer Miss Scenic City Kerri Arnold of Holladay.

Miss Arnold, who was crowned by 2018 Miss Tennessee Volunteer Christine Electra Williamson, is a junior in interdisciplinary studies. Her career goal is to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. Her platform is The Make A Wish Foundation and she is a member of Chi Omega sorority. She will receive a $25,000 scholarship.

Joining her among the top five contestants were first runner-up, Miss Jackson Kailey Jordan; second runner-up, Miss Queen City Noelle Thompson; third runner-up, Miss Davidson County Addison Hadley; and fourth runner-up, Miss Middle Tennessee Valley Elise Stein.

Miss Bright and Miss Mayo were among the top 10 call-backs. Others included Miss Carter County Alley Morgan, Miss Rhythm & Blues DeLaney Timberman and Miss Chattanooga Samantha Havenstrite. Miss Johnson City Peyton Wilson and Miss Dixie PAC Katie Hodges also made the cut for top 12, while Miss Lane College Shannel DeFoe, Miss Nashville Megan Ski Hollingsworth and Miss Austin Peay Allie Privitt, the latter of whom was named the People’s Choice, rounded out the top 15.

Miss Mayo won Miss Congeniality and Miss Volunteer Kelsi Walters was the non-finalist interview recipient. They will both receive $1,000 scholarships.

Five non-finalist award recipients, who will receive a $500 scholarship, included Miss Martin, Miss Tennessee Valley Blair Terrell, Miss Riverview Pearl Clarkin, Miss Historic Jonesborough Annie Malcolm and Miss Watauga Valley Anne Sandelovich.

As Miss Tennessee Volunteer, Miss Arnold will work as Gov. Bill Lee’s official representative for character education and spend the next year traveling the state to visit with school children and community members on his behalf.

CROWNED QUEEN — Miss Scenic City Kerri Arnold (at left in each photo) of Holladay, who is a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 Saturday in Jackson by 2018 Miss Tennessee Volunteer Christine Electra Williamson (right in photos at center and right). The first runner-up was Miss Jackson Kailey Jordan. (Photo courtesy of Darren Lykes Photography.)
Couple donating $22M for scholarships at UT-Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — A couple is donating $22 million to provide scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Martin, marking the largest gift in campus history. A news release says the gift by Bill and Rosann Nunnelly was announced during the University of Tennessee's board meeting Friday. The donation will occur when the Nunnellys are deceased, although four Hickman County students will begin receiving scholarships this fall.

Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys county students could qualify for future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually.

Bill Nunnelly was raised on a farm in the Hickman County community bearing his family's name.

The semi-retired entrepreneur earned an undergraduate education degree from UT Martin in 1970 and a Master of Education from Boston University. He served as an Army second lieutenant.
Longtime UTM professor, recently retired, dies at 84

Dr. S.K. Airee, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin, died Sunday at the age of 84.

He had retired from UT Martin on May 31 after serving the university for 54 years and was UT Martin's longest-serving faculty member to date.

Airee is survived by his wife and three children.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Murphy Funeral Home in Martin.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the service hour Friday at the funeral home.

"Dr. S.K. Airee was a tremendous asset to the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and that department and the chemistry degree program would not be what they are today without his influence and guidance over the past five and a half decades," UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said.

"He leaves behind the kind of legacy an educator dreams about, with hundreds of former students impacting the field of chemistry around the world — many of them even educating a third or fourth generation of young scientists. Dr. Airee's absence will be felt not only on campus but also throughout the region as others continue his work with the American Chemical Society and other organizations."

Airee joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch and helped the UT Martin bachelor's degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society.

He also chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members of the American Chemical Society) in 1971. This chapter is the most decorated chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings — more than any chapter in the nation — and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Bill and Rosann Nunnelly believe in the value of education, and a bequest to the University of Tennessee at Martin will assure that future generations of students have the financial means to attend college. A $22 million gift from the couple to the university was announced by University of Tennessee interim President Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during the summer meeting of the UT Board of Trustees on Friday in Knoxville. The gift is the largest ever made to UT Martin and will provide scholarships to students who attend the university.

“We appreciate the Nunnelly family opening doors for students from rural counties to attend UT Martin,” Boyd said. “They are helping to change not only the lives of students, but also of families, communities and the state. The impact of their gift will reverberate through generations of Tennesseans.”

Bill Nunnelly received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1970 from UT Martin and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. The scholarship awards from the gift will give preference to students from Hickman County, Tennessee, where he was raised on a cattle and feed grain farm in the community that bears the family name. Although the gift is a bequest and will not be realized until the couple is deceased, the financial benefits begin immediately when four Hickman County students receive UT Martin scholarships this fall. Qualified students from Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties will also be eligible to receive future scholarships. More than 90 scholarships could be awarded annually through the gift.

Nunnelly says education is a pathway to a better life. “I think at a minimum one needs a degree unless you’re going to be into the trades,” he said. “In a lot of cases you need a master’s degree. You can get a job with a degree, and I think that’s what’s important to young adults as they come to UT Martin.”

“Bill and Rosann Nunnelly have honored UT Martin with a transformational gift that will help many future generations of students attend the university,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “Bill’s UT Martin experience shaped who he is as a person and successful entrepreneur, and we’re grateful that he and his wife have chosen to give back in this generous way.”

Nunnelly grew up working on the family farm and was drawn to the discipline of the military. His grandfather and father served in World War I and II respectively. His mother and father also attended UT Junior College, predecessor to UT Martin. Nunnelly attended his first three years of high school at Columbia Military Academy in nearby Maury County before completing his senior year in Hickman County. So, it followed that the ROTC program became an important part of his UT Martin experience.

“ROTC just kind of fit into my life well,” he said. “I understood the military and what it offered. ... I learned how to grow up at UT Martin, and it was a wonderful experience.”

Also important to Nunnelly was his involvement in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity: “My fraternity experience at ATO was hugely important. ... We had guys there that were interested in academics and good people that taught me how to be a man. ... I grew up at UTM, and the fraternity experience helped set me on the road to success.”

Nunnelly was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from UT Martin. He completed his military service, but instead of returning to the family farm, Nunnelly pursued various business interests over the years, became a successful entrepreneur and is now semi-retired. He and his brother, also a military veteran, maintained the family farm until selling it in 2010, but Nunnelly never forgot his Hickman County roots and sees the gift to UT Martin as “a wonderful way to give something back. ... That’s just what my wife and I want to do,” he said.

Rosann and Bill Nunnelly
UT-Martin student crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer

MARTIN, Tenn. – Kerri Arnold, of Holladay, was crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 on June 22 in Jackson. Arnold is a junior interdisciplinary studies major at the University of Tennessee at Martin and will spend the next year serving as Gov. Bill Lee’s character education spokesperson to schoolchildren across the state.

Arnold competed in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant as Miss Scenic City, a title based in Hamilton County. This is her first pageant appearance since participating in Miss Tennessee Teen while still in high school. She is using her new role to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Miss Tennessee Volunteer wins a $25,000 academic scholarship, the use of a new car for travel to and from her appearances and a public wardrobe from JoAnn’s in Union City for the next year.

Four other UT Martin students and one spring graduate also competed in the pageant. Amanda Mayo, currently of Union City and originally from Atlanta, Georgia, competed as Miss UT Martin and advanced to the top 10 contestants. She was also selected as Miss Congeniality by her fellow pageant competitors.

Mayo is a senior geoscience major at UT Martin.

Morgan Martin, a spring 2019 alumna from Springville, received one of five non-finalist awards during the pageant. Martin graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance and is preparing to begin classes at the Union University College of Pharmacy this fall.

Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major from Holladay; Sable Estes, a senior family and consumer sciences major from Trenton; and Madison Sisco, a sophomore communications major from Mercer, also competed in the pageant.

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

Harriss Receives Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Elaine Atkins Harriss, Professor of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was honored as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association at their annual conference awards banquet held at MTSU in May. Dr. Harriss has been on the faculty at UTM since 2001. She is pianist with the University Trio and serves as advisor to UTM’s Sigma Alpha Iota chapter, chairs UTM’s annual piano competition, and directs UTM’s weeklong piano camp each summer.

She received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Vanderbilt University and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Harriss was named TMTA’s Teacher of the Year and was honored as a Foundation Fellow by the Music Teachers National Association in 2013.

A past president of TMTA, she has also served as president for two local associations, state conference chair, state senior piano chair, state competitions coordinator, and has been a member of TMTA’s executive board for 20 years. Dr. Harriss is also a past president of the Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs and has served several terms as president of NFMC’s Martin Philharmonic Music Guild.

Dr. Harriss maintains a pre-college music studio, and for 19 years directed Kindermusik of Martin which served over 1,500 children birth through age seven. She is the featured pianist on “A Soul at Play-Voices from Three Continents,” a 2 CD set released in 2018 of selected poetry by Shizue Ogawa read in Japanese, French, and English.

Dr. Harriss has taught over 50 workshops on five continents and has made presentations at meetings and conventions of the National Piano Pedagogy Conference, the Music Educators National Conference, the Kindermusik Educators Association, the Australian Kindermusik Educators Association, the Hawaiian International Conference on Arts and the Humanities, Serbia’s 10th World Piano Conference, and the Tennessee Music Teachers Association. Harriss presents the “Break for Bach” program at Martin’s annual Soybean Festival, organizes Martin’s “Bach in the Subway” event, is pianist for Trinity Presbyterian Church, and is a past member of the Martin Historic Zoning Commission and the Martin Beautiful Committee.
Dr. S.K. Airee (second from left) is pictured April 27 at his retirement reception with (from left) Dr. Charles Harding, professor emeritus of chemistry; Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus; and Cathy Dunagan, wife of Nick Dunagan. Airee died June 23 at the age of 84.

Longtime Professor of Chemistry Dies at Age 84

MARTIN, Tenn. — Dr. S.K. Airee, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin, died June 23 at the age of 84. He retired from UT Martin on May 31 after serving the university for 54 years and is UT Martin’s longest-serving faculty member to date.

Airee is survived by his wife and three children, Hans Airee, of Cary, North Carolina; Anita Airee, of Knoxville; and Richa Airee, of Brentwood. Funeral arrangements will begin at 2 p.m., June 28, at Murphy Funeral Home in Martin. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. Friday until funeral time.

“Dr. S.K. Airee was a tremendous asset to the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and that department and the chemistry degree program would not be what they are today without his influence and guidance over the past five and a half decades,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. “He leaves behind the kind of legacy an educator dreams about, with hundreds of former students impacting the field of chemistry around the world — many of them even educating a third or fourth generation of young scientists. Dr. Airee’s absence will be felt not only on campus but also throughout the region as others continue his work with the American Chemical Society and other organizations.”

Airee joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch and helped the UT Martin bachelor’s degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society. He also chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members of the American Chemical Society) in 1971. This chapter is the most decorated chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings, more than any chapter in the nation, and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.

Airee was affiliated with the American Chemical Society in one way or another for the past 61 years. In addition to his classroom work, he worked closely with the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS and served as chair in 1992 and councillor from 1999-2010. He was the recipient of numerous university, industry and community service awards, including the UT Distinguished Service Professorship Award in 2016, the Dr. Joe Johnson Lifetime Service Award from the University of Tennessee System in 2015, the UT Martin Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award in 2006 and Kiwanian of the Year in 1968.

The Airee family has initiated three endowment funds — the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service, the S.K. and Shashi Airee Scholarship, and the Monsanto SAACS Fund — to help UT Martin students fund their education. Airee is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, and he and his wife, Shashi, have three children, all of whom are UT Martin and UT Health Science Center alumni.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Stovall attends Governor’s School

Jun 27, 2019 Updated 3 hrs ago

Huntland High School rising senior Natalie Stovall, fourth from left, is attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee-Martin. She said she was honored to meet Tennessee's Governor Bill Lee, center, as he joined the students for a tour followed by dinner. Pictured, from left, are Parks Johnson, Savannah Scott, Gov. Lee, Stovall, Rebekah Callis and Olivia Escher.

Huntland High School rising senior Natalie Stovall is attending the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

The goal of the TGSAS is to offer a unique learning experience to high school students to inspire their interest in agriculture and natural resources by providing classes and experimental learning opportunities in a college setting.
Stovall is enjoying the opportunity to expand her knowledge of agriculture. Her future plans are to become a veterinarian.

She is also receiving hands-on experiences not only in the classroom, but at various farms, businesses and greenhouses.

Stovall has traveled on numerous field trips to the Tennessee Capitol, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the headquarters of Farm Bureau Insurance and Agricenter International in Memphis, among other destinations.

She said she was honored to meet Tennessee Governor Bill Lee as he joined the students for one tour. Gov. Lee also joined them for dinner following the tour.

The TGSAS is also treating students to several fun activities such as paintball, movies and a Nashville Sounds baseball game.

Local UT student attends leadership training

Brady Heath of Paris attended a leadership training program this month through his University of Tennessee at Martin fraternity. Heath is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon at UTM.

The Frank J. Ruck Leadership Institute is a five-day program in Richmond, Va., geared to undergraduate members of SigEp.

The program included team-building activities such as a high-ropes course and cooperative exercises that were built around a theme of "the few to impact the many."

Heath is the vice president of member development for his chapter of the fraternity, and he has previously served as vice president of communications.

Heath was chosen as one of the top 150 undergraduates in the country from more than 13,000 SigEp members.

Heath said the week changed his life. "When I first arrived in Virginia, I had absolutely no clue what my vision for myself and my chapter would look like," he said. "I left with a clear understanding and a support network that would help me execute that vision."

Heath's academic performance this year earned him a spot on the Chancellor's Honor Roll and assisted his chapter in achieving an average GPA of 3.16 for the spring semester.

This meant that SigEp ranked first among the seven Interfraternity Council organizations on campus.

"Brady's experience at Ruck is the kind of leadership development we want for all of our members as they prepare for life after college," Sigma Phi Epsilon Local Alumni Association President Stephen Yeargin said. "Our alumni and volunteer organization is incredibly proud of him and the example he sets for his fellow members."
UT Martin student named Miss Tennessee Volunteer

Kerri Arnold of Holladay was crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 on June 22 in Jackson. She is a junior interdisciplinary studies major at the University of Tennessee at Martin and will spend the next year serving as Gov. Bill Lee’s character education spokes-person to schoolchildren across the state.

Arnold competed in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant as Miss Scenic City, a title based in Hamilton County. This is her first pageant appearance since participating in Miss Tennessee Teen while still in high school. She is using her new title to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Miss Tennessee Volunteer wins a $25,000 academic scholarship, the use of a new car for travel to and from her appearances and a public wardrobe from JoAnn’s in Union City for the next year.

Four other UT Martin students and one spring graduate also competed in the pageant. Amanda Mayo, currently of Union City and originally from Atlanta, Georgia, competed as Miss UT Martin and advanced to the top 10 contestants. She was also selected as Miss Congeniality by her fellow pageant competitors. Mayo is a senior geoscience major at UT Martin.

Morgan Martin, a spring 2019 alumna from Springville, received one of five non-finalist awards during the pageant. Martin graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance and is preparing to begin classes at the Union University College of Pharmacy this fall.

Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major from Holladay; Sable Estes, a senior family and consumer sciences major from Trenton; and Madison Sisco, a sophomore communications major from Mercer, also competed in the pageant.

CONTINUES EDUCATION AT UTM

— Donna Flagg-Brown, originally from Boston, Massachusetts, registered for fall semester courses at the UTM during an orientation session June 18. She already holds four degrees from various institutions and has held positions in many fields, including 30 years in the international tourism industry. She and her husband recently relocated to Martin and she is continuing her love of education with a few UT Martin classes this fall. Transfer and Adult Orientation is designed to help incoming students in those categories find more information about the academic, social and financial aspects of attending UT Martin and receive assistance registering for fall semester courses. Another orientation will be held July 19 for transfer and adult students who have not yet attended.
Longtime UTM professor of chemistry passes at 84

Dr. S.K. Airee, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin, died Sunday at the age of 84. He retired from UT Martin May 31 after serving the university for 54 years and is UT Martin’s longest-serving faculty member to date.

Airee is survived by his wife and three children, Hans Airee of Cary, North Carolina; Anita Airee of Knoxville; and Richa Airee of Brentwood. Funeral arrangements will begin at 2 p.m. Friday at Murphy Funeral Home in Martin. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. that day until funeral time.

“Dr. S.K. Airee was a tremendous asset to the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and that department and the chemistry degree program would not be what they are today without his influence and guidance over the past five and a half decades,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. “He leaves behind the kind of legacy an educator dreams about, with hundreds of former students impacting the field of chemistry around the world — many of them even educating a third or fourth generation of young scientists. Dr. Airee’s absence will be felt not only on campus but also throughout the region as others continue his work with the American Chemical Society and other organizations.” Airee joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch and helped the UT Martin bachelor’s degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society. He also chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members), and Airee chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings, more than any chapter in the nation, and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.

Airee was affiliated with the American Chemical Society in one way or another for the past 61 years. In addition to his classroom work, he worked closely with the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS and served as chairman in 1992 and councilor from 1999-2010.

He was the recipient of numerous university, industry and community service awards, including the UT Distinguished Service Professor Award in 2016, the Dr. Joe Johnson Lifetime Service Award from the University of Tennessee System in 2015, the UT Martin Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award in 2006 and Kiwanian of the Year in 1968.

The Airee family has initiated three endowment funds — the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service, the S.K. and Shashi Airee Scholarship, and the Monsanto SAACS Fund — to help UT Martin students fund their education. Airee is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, and he and his wife, Shashi, have three children, all of whom are UT Martin and UT Health Science Center alumni.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.

For the complete obituary, see Page 5.
MISS TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER 2019 – Kerr Arnold was crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 by her predecessor, Christine Williamson, after she and 15 other contestants competed in the four-day statewide pageant in Jackson last week. Arnold is a Campbell resident of Delight and the daughter of Karen and Kerren Arnold. Scan NewsPlay icon to watch Kerr perform in talent competition. See more pageant coverage on page 4A.
She did it!
Kerri Arnold crowned Miss Tennessee Volunteer

pamelaMIRABELLA
Editor

Kerri Arnold is Miss Tennessee Volunteer after beating out 35 other women vying for the title in Jackson on Saturday night. Immediately after being crowned, Arnold was met with countless interviews and an escort by the Tennessee Highway Patrol who whisked her away to the local DoubleTree Hotel. On Sunday, Arnold met with her newly named business manager and held a press conference introducing her as the first winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer of the newly formed pageant.

Arnold, the former Miss Scenic City, is a lifelong resident of Holladay and the youngest daughter of Keith and Karren Arnold.

Arnold said, “Saturday night was a dream come true. I set a goal a long time ago and all that hard work paid off. I am your new Miss Tennessee Volunteer and I am truly over the moon excited. I could not have done it without my wonderful directors, coaches, friends and family. I want to say thank you to everyone who has called, texted, or sent congratulations and well wishes. I feel so incredibly blessed to be loved and supported by so many. I am so excited to work hard and try to fill the shoes that Christine Williamson has left.”

Arnold’s dad, Keith Arnold said the entire family was ecstatic and they could not thank the hometown community enough for all of their support and backing of his daughter through the years. “Our family has come away with amazing memories from this entire experience,” Keith said. “Kerri is unbelievably humbled by everyone’s support and she is thrilled at the prospect of representing the state this year.”

The competition
While Arnold dazzled the crowd in a beautiful gown ensemble during the evening gown competition and a bright pink bikini in the fitness category, it was when she sang “A Broken Wing” a song written by James House, Sam Hogin and Phil Barnhart and made famous by country music artist Martina McBride, that she solidified her position from many viewpoints.

Arnold hit the high notes as eloquently as any famous singer could, leaving the more than 40 supporting family members and friends beaming with pride and all rising on their feet to cheer. Arnold won the crowd over when she was asked to demonstrate a “live auction” as her on-stage question and she did so with the ease of a seasoned auctioneer.

Arnold was named Top 15 as the crowd entered the Carl Perkins Civic Center for Saturday night’s final competition. Shortly thereafter, she was called out as Top 10. It was when the count dwindled down to the Top 5 that supporters were overcome with adrenaline. All the while,

CROWN
Arnold kept her poise and made eye contact with the judging panel.

Arnold’s final on-stage question asked about female empowerment and how she has showed it in her own life. Arnold responded, “I have been empowered in my own life by getting out of my box. I had no idea there were so many people hungry in my own community and looking for a way to find food every day. That’s when I got involved with Second Harvest Food Bank and I was empowered to continue that work and get others involved as well.”

One-by-one the last five contestants learned their final placements until it was down to two, Arnold and Miss Jackson Kailey Jordan.

History making pageant
For the first time in the history of the state pageant, Benton County had not only one, but two contestants in the statewide pageant. In addition to Arnold, Holladay resident, Kailey Duffy also competed. Duffy represented Miss Greater Weakley County. The two ladies grew up together attending Holladay First United Methodist Church and graduated from Camden Central High School the same year.

The Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant
The Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant broke away from the Miss Tennessee pageant late last year after the Miss America pageant fell under new leadership and disagreed with the direction of the Jackson based pageant. In addition, the Miss America Organization also withdrew licenses from at least seven other states that disagreed with new regulations. The original Miss Tennessee in Jackson under Executive Director Allison DeMarcus, has now become Miss Tennessee Volunteer and Miss Tennessee under the Miss America Organization is doing a separate pageant in Knoxville. The winner of the Knoxville pageant will advance to Miss America, while Arnold, the winner of Miss Tennessee Volunteer will now resume the role under the Governor’s Character of Education and receive a $25,000 scholarship, among other prizes.

The Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant will remain in Jackson at the Carl Perkins Civic Center.