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

The following students were honored: Samantha J. Knight, High Honors, Adams; Trisha N. Crutcher, High Honors, Cedar Hill; William T. Gregory, High Honors; Torger O. Torgersen, Highest Honors; Gabrielle M. Zizzi, Highest Honors, all of Cross Plains; Christopher Barrow, Highest Honors; Gwendalynn M. Bracey, Honors; Timothy J. Littrell, Honors, all of Goodlettsville; Kenneth A. Abel, Honors; Emily A. Masencup, High Honors, both of Greenbrier; Chelsea E. Frase, Honors; Shelby R. Guffey, Honors, both of Pleasant View; William M. Alexander, High Honors; Trey D. Hinton, High Honors; Elizabeth F. Sapp, Highest Honors, all of Portland; Tamara L. Beard, Highest Honors; Cleve A. Birdwell, Honors; Kelsey A. May, High Honors; Alexandra J. Proffitt, High Honors; Ragan L. Sloan, High Honors all of Springfield; Arianna L. Howell, Honors; Rebekah J. Mansfield, Highest Honors; Cassandra L. Winslow, Highest Honors; Annabella G. Zizzi, Highest Honors, all of White House.

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

Digital Photography class

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an introductory course offered from 6-9 p.m., Mondays, Mar. 13-Apr. 3, at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

The course is designed to cover camera features and functions, exposure, composition, depth of field, focus, photography ideas and exercises in lighting, portrait, action and close-up shots. The registration fee for this course is $125 per person. Students are required to bring their personal camera, operations manual and tripod. Print and email handouts will be available. Email and class evaluations of student images will also be utilized.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant set Saturday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo Booster Club will sponsor the Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant Saturday, March 4 at Watkins Auditorium in the University Center on the campus of UTM. The pageant is open to all girls, ages 0-20. Contestants will be judged in formal/evening gown only. Doors open at 12 p.m. with pageants as follows:

- 0-12 months at 1 p.m.,
- 1-3 years at 1:30 p.m.,
- 4-6 years at 2 p.m.,
- 7-9 years at 2:30 p.m.,
- 10-12 years at 3 p.m.,
- 13-15 years at 3:30 p.m.,
- 16-20 years at 4 p.m.

Registration is at the door only, $25 for beauty only with side categories available for additional cost. Winner of the 16-20 division is required to participate in UTM Rodeo Week activities and is eligible to compete in Territorial Queens Review/Strawberry Festival. Junior, Teen, and Miss Division Queens will be recognized at UTM Rodeo Performances April 6, 7, and 8. For more information, contact Beth Weldon at (731) 225-1227.

LLOYD ATTENDS UTM JUNIOR/SENIOR DAY: Tyler Lloyd (left), of Dyersburg, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Junior/Senior Day on Feb. 20. This event allows prospective students to meet with professors and students in their chosen major, experience college life inside the classroom and tour the UT Martin campus. Lloyd, a senior at Dyersburg High School, is pictured with his mother, Stephanie Stallings. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit

UTM Reed Center to host workshop on connecting with millennials Mar. 7

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a public workshop on connecting with millennials in the workplace from 6-8 p.m., March 7, at the center.

This workshop, taught by Dr. Sean Walker, associate professor of management at UT Martin, will address generational attrition in the workplace and new situations that may arise when working with millennials. Walker will provide practical solutions for bridging the generation gap and managing situations in a way that will foster a positive work environment.

Walker holds both master's and doctoral degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and
Medical certification courses to be offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering medical certification courses for future pharmacy technicians, phlebotomy technicians and clinical medical assistants.

The pharmacy technician program, to be held from 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays March 13-May 1, is a comprehensive 50-hour course designed to prepare students to enter the pharmacy field. Students will learn dosage calculations, IV flow rates, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement. The course will prepare students to take the board’s exam.

The registration fee is $1,199 and includes textbooks and supplies.

The 90-hour phlebotomy technician program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely.

The course will meet from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays March 14-May 23 and from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturdays April 8, 22 and May 13.

The registration fee is $1,799 and includes textbooks and supplies. The certification exam is given at the end of class and is an additional $105.

Rankings include UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s undergraduate program in general agriculture and master’s degree program in school counseling have been recognized on a national scale, according to two recently-released rankings.

"CollegeFactual.com recognized UT Martin as a top-five school nationally for veterans wishing to pursue degrees in general agriculture. UT Martin is ranked fourth on this national list and first in the state of Tennessee.

This is the second consecutive year that UT Martin has topped the statewide ranking.

According to the ranking website, “These rankings were developed to highlight schools that offer quality outcomes in a specific major while also offering support and resources to help veterans and active-duty military students thrive.”

BestColleges.com also ranked UT Martin 19th on its list of the “Best Online Master’s in School Counseling Programs for 2017.” UT Martin is the only Tennessee school included in this top-25 national list. According to the ranking profile, the list is based on a variety of academic criteria, including courses offered, available specializations, student outcomes and career-support services.
Students invited to preview

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on March 18 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's first Spring Preview Day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin's campus.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by a student panel discussion at 10. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45 and campus tours will start at 11:30.

A second Spring Preview Day will be held May 13 for those who are unable to attend the March 18 session. Visit utm.edu/springpreview to register for either date. There is no fee to attend.

Intro photography focus of UTM class

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an introductory course offered from 6:30-9 p.m. Mondays March 13-27 on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dr. Tom Gallien, course instructor, will provide clear concise explanations to help students take control of their digital cameras. Participants will learn about the various camera functions and how to use them to take better pictures.

The registration fee for this course is $99 per person. Students are required to bring their cameras and their associated instruction manuals to class.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
NASHVILLE — From working on nuclear security to operating a regional biocontainment laboratory to active shooter response training and more, the University of Tennessee is helping keep America safe.

During the 11th UT Day on the Hill recently, students and faculty shared the message that every UT campus and institute plays a role in ensuring America's safety. The yearly event is intended to boost legislative awareness of the work of students and entities across the UT System to fulfill the university's mission to educate, discover and connect.

Rebecca Beebe, a junior nursing major at UT Chattanooga, knows her participation in the ROTC program has helped her with the nursing program's competitive entry and her future career serving in the nation's military.

"The Army gives me so many opportunities to get training in the medical field," she said. "You can pair up with an officer who is already an Army nurse so you get more field training than simply in the nursing program."

Carey Whitworth, UT director of advocacy, believes such students' stories demonstrate a return on investment of state dollars. The university plays a significant role in public safety with projects that span across the campuses and institutes.

At UT Knoxville, the Institute of Nuclear Security with Howard Hall, Governor's Chair for Global Nuclear Security, developed mobile radiation technology, which helps guard against radioactive threats. The Sim Center at UT Chattanooga has worked on multiple projects in aerospace and weapons design for federal agencies and industrial companies.

UT scientists research biodefense and emerging infectious diseases at UT Health Science Center's Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, one of only 12 such facilities nationwide. UT Martin is one of just three partners of the American Security Project, which immerses select students in national security policy analysis and research.

The UT Institute of Agriculture's Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness works to protect the nation's food supply from terrorist threats and promotes safe food production. The Institute for Public Service's Law Enforcement Innovation Center is responding to increased requests for active shooter response training, which is offered for both law enforcement personnel and businesses.

A $1 million investment by the state of Tennessee is helping the UT Space Institute build a new Mach 4 wind tunnel, which will be among the largest high-speed tunnels in universities and is critical to researching hypersonic systems — those that travel more than five times the speed of sound. Hypersonic systems play a vital role in national defense and future space access.

"Aerospace defense is increasingly important in the state of Tennessee. It's the fourth largest driver in Tennessee's economy. UTSI is gearing up to support the state with new discoveries and innovative technologies that will ensure that aerospace defense will flourish in Tennessee," said John Schmisseur, H.H. Arnold Chair in Computational Fluid Dynamics and B.H. Goethert Professor with the UT Space Institute.

UT 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. The system manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory through its UT-Battelle partnership; enrolls about 50,000 students statewide; produces about 10,000 new graduates every year; and represents more than 370,000 alumni around the world.
Local UTM band members meet State Rep. Gant

Tennessee State Representative Ron Gant met with McNairy Central graduates and University of Tennessee at Martin band members Emma Foret, Jerry Emmons and Will Latham last week during a visit to the Martin campus.
Reed Center To Host Workshop

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a public workshop on connecting with millennials in the workplace from 6-8 p.m., March 7, at the center.

This workshop, taught by Dr. Sean Walker, associate professor of management at UT Martin, will address generational attrition in the workplace and new situations that may arise when working with millennials. Walker will provide practical solutions for bridging the generation gap and managing situations in a way that will foster a positive work environment.

Walker holds both master’s and doctoral degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and his primary teaching areas assess the impact of psychological phenomena on human resources and organizational behavior.

There is no fee to attend this workshop, but pre-registration is required to reserve a seat. Contact the UT Martin REED Center at 731-587-7333 or visit tsbdc.org/utm to register. The UT Martin REED Center is located at 406 S. Lindell St in Martin, next to the police station.

UTM To Host Preview Day, March 18

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it’s like to be a Skyhawk on March 18 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Spring Preview Day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level 1 Certified Arboretum.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by a student panel discussion at 10. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45 and campus tours will start at 11:30.

A second Spring Preview Day will be held May 13 for those who are unable to attend the March 18 session. Visit utm.edu/springpreview to register for either date. There is no fee to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.

THE FAYETTE FALCON

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

UT Martin Chancellor Visits Fayette-Ware Comprehensive High School

University of Tennessee Martin’s Chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver, visited Fayette-Ware Comprehensive High School to meet seniors who have been accepted to UTM for the fall semester. Dr. Carver took office in January 2017 and is taking an active role in meeting prospective students for both the University of Tennessee Martin campus and the new University of Tennessee Martin center in Somerville. Pictured: Fayette-Ware seniors who will be attending UTM next fall with UT Chancellor Keith Carver (front center) and Dr. Diane Watkins, Chancellor of FWCHS (back right).
Hollianne Carver to be keynote speaker

'what women want' workshop slated for March 20

By TANNA NORMAN
Special to the Press

Calling all women: this will be an event that you do not want to miss! What are you wanting out of life? Is it to be healthy, rich, and wise? How about happy, empowered, beautiful and independent? The first "what women want" event hosted by WLJT and Tennova Healthcare will help you find what you want and is sure to be a program like no other.

Attendees can expect an escape from their daily lives that can be both beneficial and rejuvenating. Many useful, fun and unique vendor booths will be present and will include everything from home décor gifts to financial advisors to hair salons to information on continuing education and getting fit. Hollianne Carver, UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver’s wife, will be delivering an inspirational message, and the night will be completed with an enticing dinner, amazing door prizes and an exciting fashion show for everyone to see, by Dr. Carver, Monica Reese, WLJT general manager and CEO, says, “This will be a wonderful opportunity for people in the community to come and meet the Carvers and learn more about them.” Attendees can be sure to have a great time and to walk away feeling that they’ve invested their time wisely.

The event will be held Monday, March 20, at the University of Tennessee at Martin University Center. Vendor booths will open at 4:30 p.m., and the dinner, fashion show and guest speaker will begin at 6 p.m. The cost to attend is $30 per person, or an entire table that seats eight can be purchased for $225. Tickets can be bought now at WLJT, in the basement of Clement Hall on the campus of the University of Tennessee, at Martin. All proceeds will go to WLJT—Public Media That Matters to provide local programming, educational and community outreach service to the community. For more information, you can call 731-881-7561.

The fundraiser is the first of its kind for WLJT and Tennova Healthcare. As a non-profit organization, WLJT is always on the lookout for successful fundraisers. After growing out of a venue hosting a wedding shows a few years ago, the television station knew it was time for a change. Since the local hospital quit doing its successful women’s event, WLJT joined forces with Tennova Healthcare to create this “what women want” event.

“Tennova is excited to co-sponsor What Women Want—a fun event that not only offers the chance for women to hear from the First Lady of UTM, but also highlights the wide range of women’s health services available right here in our community,” Darrell Blaylock, CEO at Tennova, explained.

The best part about it all, while having fun and learning

See Women, Page 13
UTM medical certification course spaces now open

The University of Tennessee at Martin is now offering medical certification courses through its main campus for future pharmacy technicians, phlebotomy technicians and clinical medical assistants. The courses are open for enrollment and spaces are first-come, first-served.

The pharmacy technician program, held from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, March 13-May 1, is a comprehensive 50-hour course designed to prepare students to enter the pharmacy field. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement. The course will prepare students to take the Pharmacy Technician Board’s exam.

The registration fee for this course is $1,199 and includes textbooks and supplies. An optional 80-hour clinical is also available.

The 90-hour phlebotomy technician program prepares professionals to collect blood specimens from clients for the purpose of laboratory analysis. Classroom and lab work includes terminology, anatomy and physiology, blood collection procedures, hands-on practice, and training techniques to perform puncture methods safely.

The course will meet from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 14-May 23, and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays, April 8, 22 and May 13.

Photography course offered

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an introductory course offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Mondays, March 13-27, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dr. Tom Gallien, course instructor, will provide clear concise explanations to help students take control of their digital cameras. Participants will learn about the various camera functions and how to use them to take better pictures.

The registration fee for this course is $99 per person. Students are required to bring their cameras and their associated instruction manuals to class.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
University of Tennessee is helping keep America safe

From working on nuclear security to operating a regional biocontainment laboratory to active shooter response training and more, the University of Tennessee is helping keep America safe.

During the 11th UT Day on the Hill, held Feb. 22, students and faculty shared the message that every UT campus and institute plays a role in ensuring America's safety. The yearly event is intended to boost legislative awareness of the work of students and entities across the UT System to fulfill the university's mission to educate, discover and connect.

Rebecca Beebe, a junior nursing major at UT Chattanooga, knows her participation in the ROTC program has helped her with the nursing program's competitive entry and her future career serving in the nation's military.

"The Army gives me so many opportunities to get training in the medical field," she said. "You can pair up with an officer who is already an Army nurse so you get more field training than simply in the nursing program."

Carey Whitworth, UT director of advocacy believes such students' stories demonstrate a return on investment of state dollars.

The university plays a significant role in public safety with projects that span across the campuses and institutes.

At UT Knoxville, the Institute of Nuclear Security with Howard Hall; Governor's Chair for Global Nuclear Security, developed mobile radiation technology, which helps guard against radioactive threats. The Sim Center at UT Chattanooga has worked on multiple projects in aerospace and weapons design for federal agencies and industrial companies.

UT scientists research biodefense and emerging infectious diseases at UT Health Science Center's Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, one of only 12 such facilities nationwide.

UT Martin is one of just three partners of the American Security Project, which immerses select students in national security policy analysis and research.

The UT Institute of Agriculture’s Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness works to protect the nation's food supply from terrorist threats and promotes safe food production.

The Institute for Public Service’s Law Enforcement Innovation Center is responding to increased requests for active shooter response training, which is offered for both law enforcement personnel and businesses.

A $1 million investment by the state of Tennessee is helping the UT Space Institute build a new Mach 4 wind tunnel, which will be among the largest high-speed tunnels in universities and is critical to researching hypersonic systems – those that travel more than five times the speed of sound.

Hypersonic systems play a vital role in national defense and future space access.

"Aerospace defense is increasingly important in the state of Tennessee. It's the fourth largest driver in Tennessee's economy. UTSI is gearing up to support the state with new discoveries and innovative technologies that will ensure that aerospace defense will flourish in Tennessee," said John Schmisser, H. H. Arnold Chair in Computational Fluid Dynamics and B. H. Goethert Professor with the UT Space Institute.

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.

The UT system manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory through its UT-Battelle partnership; enrolls about 50,000 students statewide; produces about 10,000 new graduates every year; and represents more than 370,000 alumni around the world.
French part of UTM WestStar class

Henry County Trustee Randi French is a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 2017 class. French is vice president of the West Tennessee Trustee Association. She is a member of the Tennessee Association of Property Tax Professionals, Tennessee County Trustee Association and County Officials Association of Tennessee.

She is a Leadership Henry County graduate. She is also a certified public administrator and a 2016 graduate from the Local Government Leadership Program through the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service.

The WestStar Leadership Program, created in 1989, is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program.

Basic Photography Course offered at UTM Parsons Center

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an introductory course offered from 6-9 p.m., Mondays, Mar. 13-Apr. 3, at the UTM Parsons Center.

The course is designed to cover camera features and functions, exposure, composition, depth of field, focus, photography ideas, and exercises in lighting, portrait, action, and close-up shots.

Roger Hughes will instruct the course. Hughes is a retired special agent in charge of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and has spent years photographing major crime scenes. He began studying fine art imaging at the University of Tennessee and the Rocky Mountain School of Photography under the mentorship of three acclaimed wildlife and nature photographers. Samples of his work may be viewed at www.nwtpc.org.

The registration fee for this course is $125 per person. Students are required to bring their personal camera, operations manual and tripod. Print and email handouts will be available. Email and class evaluations of student images will also be utilized.

For more information or to register, contact the UTM Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HELPS KEEP AMERICA SAFE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - From working on nuclear security to operating a regional bioccontainment laboratory to active shooter response training and more, the University of Tennessee is helping keep America safe.

During the 11th UT Day on the Hill, held Feb. 22, students and faculty shared the message that every UT campus and institute plays a role in ensuring America's safety. The yearly event is intended to boost legislative awareness of the work of students and entities across the UT System to fulfill the university's mission to educate, discover and connect.

Right, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver greets Scott Gilmer, chief of staff for Speaker of the House Beth Harwell, during 11th-annual UT Day on the Hill, an event which showcases the accomplishments of the University of Tennessee System.

Wave of Automobile Thefts at UTM

There has been a wave of automobile thefts at UT Martin this week.

Lieutenant Jerry Garcia says there have been four reports of vehicle burglary at the Cooper Hall parking lot on campus.

The Martin Police Department says several cars have had items stolen in the campus area the past few nights.

The UTM Department of Public Safety reminds everyone to always lock your vehicle and to never leave valuable items in plain sight.

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/
The University of Tennessee at Martin has officially launched a national search for a new director of intercollegiate athletics, and the search committee includes UT Martin faculty and staff, current coaches, students, alumni, and community members.

Review of applications began Tuesday, and the committee will recommend a short list of acceptable candidates to UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver in the coming months. A new director is expected to begin work July 1.

The committee members are:

- Charley Deal, committee chairman, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving;
- Julie Hill, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Music;
- John Schommer, professor, UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics;
- Margaret Toston, UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs;
- Carol Williams, interim director, UT Martin Division of Finance and Administration;
- Brooke Kennedy, a senior from Bath Springs and member of the Skyhawk softball team;
- Demonta Daniel, a senior from Dickson and member of the Skyhawk football team;
- Marybeth Kennedy, a senior from Franklin and secretary general of the Student Government Association;
- Andy Collins, chief lending officer, Security Bank and Trust Company;
- Todd Hampton, financial adviser, Edward Jones;
- Wayne McCreight, chief executive officer, Hamilton-Ryker.

Julio Freire served as UT Martin’s director of intercollegiate athletics from January 2014 until accepting a position with the University of Pittsburgh in March 2016. Kevin McMillian and Mike Swaim have since served as interim directors, and Swaim will continue in the post until the position is filled.

UT Martin is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference and competes in NCAA Division I in both men’s and women’s sports and the Football Championship Subdivision. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at (731) 881-7660.
Former UT Martin chancellor to retire

1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president.

Rakes was originally appointed UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named the university’s provost in 2005 and elected the university’s ninth chancellor two years later by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

When he decided to return to teaching 2 years ago, he said, “I am proud to have been a part of this university. I believe this is an exciting time for UT Martin and look forward to seeing the campus move forward under new leadership.”

Milestones during Rakes’ administration included the university’s highest-ever enrollment of 8,469 students in the fall of 2010, the opening of a new Student Recreation Center during that same year, opening of the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university’s dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2014 in the Boling University Center.

Expansions were also completed at UT Martin centers in Parsons, Ripley and Selmer. A new Jackson Center location opened in fall 2011.

Rakes' retirement will be effective Aug. 1.

Reading clinic at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students from second through 12th grade who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards. The last available session will meet from Mar. 23-Apr. 26.

Students will meet with their mentor twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 per session (not per meeting), plus $25 for a required workbook.

Students are individually tested to determine specific needs in phonics and reading comprehension before being placed into a course of study designed to fill gaps in their skills and strategies. All lessons are taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Program.

Reading

Continued from Page 18

at Community Montessori School when they held their parade.

Community Montessori School Librarian Jessica Peccolo-Donnell said children at Community Montessori were talking about the parade all week and planning their costumes.

“The kids really look forward to it because we do wear uniforms,” she said, “so any day they get to wear something special adds excitement.”

Like their South Elementary counterparts, Montessori teachers also got into character. Several of them dressed up as crayons to perform in “The Day the Crayons Came Home,” a sequel to the hit they did as part of last year’s parade.

“(The parade is) important because it’s a celebration of literacy and it gets kids excited,” said Peccolo-Donnell.

“And it makes them think about books that they’ve connected with, because most of the costumes the children chose to wear were books they’ve read and enjoyed.”

Reach C.B. Schmelter at (731) 425-9690, cschmelter@jacksonsun.com, or on Twitter: @cbschmelter
UT pays millions to administrators-turned-faculty

Trustees have expressed concern about practice

RACHEL OHM
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Former University of Tennessee Chancellor Jimmy Cheek will earn $340,650 annually as a professor, which is 75 percent of his chancellor's salary and nearly double that of the next highest-paid faculty member in the department.

Cheek’s contract does not stipulate a point in time when his salary would revert to department standards. In other words, the arrangement is for an unlimited time period.

UT President Joe DiPietro, who currently earns an annual salary of $465,618, has a similar deal for when he leaves his administrative position. He’s contracted to earn 75 percent of his final base salary as president should he move to a 12-month faculty position in the College of Veterinary Medicine. His contract also specifies no time limit. That could change after the News Sentinel published a story online Friday morning and DiPietro, later that morning, suggested to the board of trustees that his contract be amended to a four-year cap.

Retreat salaries, allowing higher education administrators to move to faculty positions, are common, especially for university leaders with an academic background, according to the American Council on Education.

These arrangements at UT currently add up to nearly $1.5 million in pay at the Knoxville campus for former administrators including Cheek and five others. That’s about $450,000 more than UT pays in total to the highest-earning faculty members in each of those administrator’s respective departments.

A Washington, D.C., lawyer who specializes in higher education and administrator contracts said that while paying retreat salaries is typical, it is highly unusual to set them at 75 percent of an administrative salary for an unlimited period of time.

In addition, former UT system President Jan Simek also moved to a faculty position in 2011 under a contract that paid him a salary of $300,000 annually, or 75 percent of the $400,000 he earned as president.

He currently earns $340,956 as a professor and department head of the Department of Anthropology, about double the highest faculty salary in the department, which is $171,359. Simek teaches one undergraduate course, heads a graduate committee mentoring doctoral students, and supervises one graduate independent study.

“Am I paid more than some of my colleagues here? Yes, I am. That’s a fact and that’s the result of the fact that I went and did that administration (job). I stepped out of my career in order to take on those jobs,” said Simek, who also served as an interim chancellor in Knoxville.

He added that he does not get paid an additional stipend for serving as department head and that many of his colleagues in the department are younger. While his post is for nine months, Simek said he and other faculty members often do research year-round.

“I’m not saying it couldn’t be done a better way, but that’s for the (UT board of trustees) to decide. I’m not going to begrudge them however they decide it,” Simek said.

Cotton said some administrators who become professors should simply be paid as faculty members are paid.

“You can move that individual up to the highest-paid faculty person in the department,” Cotton said. “There’s nothing wrong with that. But taking a percentage of the (administrative salary) can create problems within the department among other faculty members, who will point out what I just said, which is, ‘The person is not an administrator anymore. Why are they getting a percentage of an administrator’s salary?’

The Knoxville campus also uses a similar formula to that of the UT system in figuring out retreat salaries for senior administrators, generally offering them 75 percent of their former salaries for an unlimited time for nine-month appointments.
Karen Simsen, director of media and internal relations for the Office of Communications and Marketing at UT Knoxville, said, “It’s important to note that teaching load alone does not paint the clearest picture of a faculty member’s responsibility.”

Board expresses concerns

The UT board of trustees has raised concerns about how retreat salaries are negotiated, though there are no plans right now to institute a policy or change the board bylaws, according to Gina Stafford, assistant vice president and director of communications for the University of Tennessee.

However, the contracts for new UT-Knoxville Chancellor Beverly Davenport, who replaced Cheek, and UT Institute of Agriculture Chancellor Tim Cross have a four-year limit on earning 75 percent of their administrative salaries.

After that, their salaries would be adjusted to the average base salary of full-time professors in the department. The average salary for a full-time professor at UT-Knoxville across all departments is $136,000.

Davenport currently earns a base annual salary of $585,000 while Cross earns $333,000.

The issue is something that’s likely to come up in the next few months at the campus level, as Davenport stands to appoint five administrators in her cabinet and would likely negotiate the terms of retreat salaries at the time of the appointments.

Stafford said in an email that last year the board of trustees’ Executive and Compensation Committee “expressed concern” about the practice of setting the base salary for administrators who move to faculty positions at 75 percent for an unlimited period of time and recommended the practice be discontinued with new hires.

Minutes from an August 2016 board meeting also state that the committee “discussed not making this a standard practice.”

David Smith, director of communications for Gov. Bill Haslam, who is also the chair of the UT board of trustees, said in an email that the committee had concerns about “whether the practice was fiscally responsible” but did not elaborate when asked what prompted the concern.

Raja Jubran, vice chair of the board of trustees, as of Friday morning declined to comment to the News Sentinel when questioned, and deferred to Stafford when asked about the board’s specific concerns.

Stafford did not respond when asked whether it has been a long-standing practice for former administrators to retain 75 percent of their administrative salaries. There are no board policies that speak to retreat salaries.

Davenport and UT system President DiPietro also did not respond to requests for comment before as of Friday. Cheek also did not respond to requests for comment.

DiPietro, at Friday’s board of trustees meeting, asked trustees to amend his contract to a four-year limit on a retreat salary that would bring it in line with the contracts for Davenport and Cross. After the four years, he would revert to the average salary for faculty in his department.

At the meeting, Jubran said, “What Joe is doing is the right thing from his perspective, not the fair thing. The fair think is to go by the contract. What I would tell Joe is we duly appreciate because it sets the tone and we appreciate that.”

The terms of Cheek’s retreat salary were negotiated at the time he was appointed chancellor in 2008. He announced in June that he would be stepping down from the job after an eight-year period in which he made strides toward institutional improvement and becoming a Top 25 public research university but also faced high-profile controversies about sexual assault, athletics and diversity issues.

The contract for Keith Carver, the new chancellor of the University of Tennessee Martin, does not include any provisions for a potential move to a faculty position.

Carver, who comes from an administrative background rather than academic, follows Tom Rakes, who moved to a position as a professor of education in 2015 in the midst of accreditation problems for the university.

As an instructor he was contracted to earn $185,520 for a nine-month appointment, or 75 percent of the $247,360 he earned as chancellor, for an unlimited period of time.
The Commercial Appeal  Sunday, March 5, 2017

UT pays millions to top execs

Trustees express concerns about practice

RACHEL OHM
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Former University of Tennessee Chancellor Jimmy Cheek will earn $340,650 annually as a professor, which is 75 percent of his chancellor's salary and nearly double that of the next highest-paid faculty member in the department.

Cheek's contract does not stipulate a point in time when his salary would revert to department standards. In other words, the arrangement is for an unlimited time period.

UT President Joe DiPietro, who currently earns an annual salary of $465,618 has a similar deal for when he leaves his administrative position. He's contracted to earn 75 percent of his final base salary as president should he move to a 12-month faculty position in the College of Veterinary Medicine. His contract also specifies no time limit. That could change after the News Sentinel published a story online Friday morning and DiPietro, later that morning, suggested to the board of trustees that his contract be amended to a four-year cap.

Retreat salaries, allowing higher education administrators to move to faculty positions, are common, especially for university leaders with an academic background, according to the American Council on Education.

These arrangements at UT currently add up to nearly $1.6 million in pay at the Knoxville campus for former administrators including Cheek and five others. That's about $450,000 more than UT pays in total to the highest-earning faculty members in each of those administrators' respective departments.

A Washington, D.C., lawyer who specializes in higher education and administrator contracts said that while paying retreat salaries is typical, it is highly unusual to set them at 75 percent of an administrative salary for an unlimited period of time.

Cheek's appointment as a tenured faculty member in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies will be for nine months a year, as opposed to the 12 months he worked as chancellor.

He won't accrue annual leave or sick leave as an administrator would, but he will be paid while on academic leave for the remainder of the spring semester before returning in the fall to teach a course load that hasn't been determined yet.

In addition to retaining 75 percent of his chancellor's salary for an indefinite period, Cheek will get four tickets to a Neyland Stadium skybox, four tickets to men's basketball games; four tickets to women's basketball games, and a parking permit for football and basketball games. He'll also hold an adjunct faculty appointment in the UT Institute of Agriculture, and like other faculty members across the system, he'll be expected to engage in community service.

Raymond D. Cotton, a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in Washington, D.C., said Cheek's $340,650 salary as a faculty member would be at the "highest end of the scale" of what a chancellor or president would earn upon returning to a faculty position.

"It's 75 percent of it, but he's only working 75 percent of the year," Cotton said. "If you annualize it, he's getting the same amount he gets now, which is unusual... basically he's getting his chancellor's salary."

Cotton said there's a range of what administrators get paid if they move back to the faculty, and that typically if they earn a percentage of their administrative salary, it would only be for a set period of time.

As of October, the highest salary in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at UT was $180,000 — a figure that is nearly half of what Cheek will earn.

"For a state like Tennessee, where it's not considered a rich state and its salaries are not the highest in the nation, for a state university to pay this amount of money is quite unusual in my experience," Cotton said.

In addition, former UT system President Jan Simek also moved to a faculty position in 2011 under a contract that paid him a salary of $300,000 annually, or 75 percent of the $400,000 he earned as president.

He currently earns $340,956 as a professor and department head of the Department of Anthropology, about double the highest faculty salary in the department, which is $171,359.

Simek teaches one undergraduate course, heads a graduate committee mentoring doctoral students, and supervises one graduate independent study.

"Am I paid more than some of my colleagues here? Yes, I am. That's a fact and that's the result of the fact that I went and did that administration (job). I stepped out of my career in order to take on those jobs," said Simek, who also serves as an interim chancellor in Knoxville. He added that he does not get paid an additional stipend for serving as department head and that many of his colleagues in the department are younger. While his post is for nine months, Simek said he and other faculty members often do research year-round.

"I'm not saying it couldn't be done a better way, but that's for the (UT board of trustees) to decide. I'm not going to begrudge them however they decide it," Simek said.

Cotton said some administrators who become professors should simply be paid as faculty members are paid.

"You can move that individual up to the highest-paid faculty person in the department," Cotton said. "There's nothing wrong with that. But taking a percentage of the (administrative) salary can create problems within the department among other faculty members, who will point out what I just said, which is, The person is not an administrator anymore. Why are they getting a percentage of an administrator's salary?"

The Knoxville campus also uses a similar formula to that of the UT system in figuring out retreat salaries for senior administrators, generally offering them 75 percent of their former salaries for an unlimited time for nine-month appointments.

Karen Simonsen, director of media and internal relations for the Office of Communications and Marketing at UT Knoxville, said, "It's important to note that teaching load alone does not paint the clearest picture of a faculty member's responsibiltiy."

Board expresses concerns

The UT board of trustees has raised concerns about how retreat salaries are negotiated, though there are no plans right now to institute a policy or change the board bylaws, according to Gina Stafford, assistant vice president and director of communications for the University of Tennessee.

However, the con-
tracts for new UT-Knoxville Chancellor Beverly Davenport, who replaced Cheek, and UT Institute of Agriculture Chancellor Tim Cross have a four-year limit on earning 75 percent of their administrative salaries.

After that, their salaries would be adjusted to the average base salary of full-time professors in the department.

The average salary for a full-time professor at UT-Knoxville across all departments is $136,000.

Davenport currently earns a base annual salary of $585,000 while Cross earns $333,000.

The issue is something that’s likely to come up in the next few months at the campus level, as Davenport stands to appoint five administrators in her cabinet and would likely negotiate the terms of their contracts at the time of the appointments.

Stafford said in an email that last year the board of trustees’ Executive and Compensation Committee “expressed concern” about the practice of setting the base salary for administrators who move to faculty positions at 75 percent for an unlimited period of time and recommended the practice be discontinued with new hires.

Minutes from an August 2016 board meeting also state that the committee “discussed not making this a standard practice.”

David Smith, director of communications for Gov. Bill Haslam, who is also the chair of the UT board of trustees, said in an email that the committee had concerns about “whether the practice was fiscally responsible” but did not elaborate when asked what prompted the concern.

Raja Jubran, vice chair of the board of trustees, as of Friday morning declined to comment to the News Sentinel when questioned, and deferred to Stafford when asked about the board’s specific concerns.

Stafford did not respond when asked whether it has been a long-standing practice for former administrators to retain 75 percent of their administrative salaries. There are no board policies that speak to the contract to a four-year limit on a re-treat salary that would bring it in line with the contracts for Davenport and Cross.

After the four years, he would revert to the average salary for faculty in his department.

At the meeting, Jubran said, “What Joe is doing is the right thing from his perspective, not the fair thing. The fair thing is to go by the contract. What I would tell Joe is we duly appreciate because it sets the tone and we appreciate that.”

The terms of Cheek’s re-treat salary were negotiated at the time he was appointed chancellor in 2008.

He announced in June that he would be stepping back from the job after an eight-year period in which he made strides toward institutional improvement and becoming a Top 25 public research university but also faced high-profile controversies about sexual assault, athletics, and diversity issues.

The contract for Keith Carver, the new chancellor of the University of Tennessee Martin, does not include any provisions for a potential move to a faculty position. Carver, who comes from an administrative background rather than academic, follows Tom Rakes, who moved a position as a professor of education in 2015 in the midst of accreditation problems for the university. As an instructor he was contract-ed to earn $185,520 for a nine-month appointment, or 75 percent of the $247,360 he earned as chancellor, for an unlimited period of time.

Value of move to faculty

About 20 percent of university presidents and chancellors will move or return to faculty positions at the end of their posts, according to Terry Hartle, senior vice president for the American Council on Education Division of Government and Public Affairs.

“University presidents are mostly externally focused, so they’re people who have spent a lot of time off campus and have a much better sense than might otherwise be possible of what funders want, what employers want, what students and families are looking for,” Hartle said. “At the end of the day it’s going to be very positive for the university.”

John Zomchick, interim provost and senior vice chancellor for the University of Tennessee Knoxville, echoed those words in speaking about the contributions Cheek will bring to UT’s faculty.

As provost, Zomchick oversees the terms of re-treat salaries for other high-ranking administrators at the campus level, and said without re-treat salaries it can be hard to attract candidates from around the nation to fill top jobs at UT.

“Cheek has been an extraordinary leader for us and I know he will continue to be an advocate for the university and continue to help us raise both friends and funds as we continue our journey towards the goals that are articulated in the vision for 2020,” Zomchick said.
Four former administrators currently working at campus level

- Susan Martin earns $250,860 compared to the $334,480 she earned as an administrator.
- Carolyn Hodges earns $149,223 compared to the $194,964 she earned as an administrator.
- Sally McMillan earns $151,367 compared to the $197,866 she earned as an administrator.
- Doug Blaze earns $217,525 compared to the $261,080 he earned as an administrator.

President Joe DiPietro, right, and Chancellor Jimmy Cheek lead the faculty procession during the 2013 Winter Commencement ceremony, at the University of Tennessee.
UT Martin graduate student works on the future of precision agriculture

MARTIN — Patton Webb of Milan earned his bachelor’s degree in business management from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2015. However, his career path took an unexpected turn when he started a job on the UT Martin farm. Now he is poised to help influence the future of precision agriculture and, ultimately, the amount of food produced by farmers across the nation and around the world.

“I wanted to take what I had learned in my undergraduate (degree) and be able to apply that to agriculture, particularly information systems and overall management,” he said. “One thing I’ve always loved is operating equipment. I can drive anything with wheels. When I heard that UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) were starting to become integrated into agriculture, I really became interested and wanted to fly those as well.”

Webb, now a UT Martin graduate student, operates an unmanned aerial system, which includes not only a drone but a camera and other equipment, as well. The system is used to monitor and evaluate row crops and cattle herds on the UT Martin farm, as well as provide assistance to small farmers in the area.

“If you have row crops and you’re trying to assess your crop health, the only imagery you have might be dated two weeks or a month before from a satellite. But with a UAV, you can have imagery from that day,” explained Webb. “At any point that you want to assess your crop health, you’re at an advantage with an aerial view. That allows you to see 100 percent as opposed to what you can see on the ground, which is usually less than 10 percent.”

Up-to-date aerial views can help producers evaluate irrigation issues and crop treatment plans, as well as decide where and how to plant certain types of row crops. Agricultural manufacturers also benefit from aerial information that can help them determine the effectiveness of their products over time and provide consumers with updated information to help them make informed decisions for their fields.

This type of information gathering is part of precision agriculture, which helps farmers gather the right type of data and respond effectively. Webb says precision agriculture, which includes not only drones but GPS planting methods and treatment applications, is the necessary future of the agriculture industry.

“We have to increase the amount of food that we produce between now and 2050. So, 33 years to produce more food than all of mankind has in history,” said Webb. A growing national and global population demands a dramatically increased production of food, and supply can only keep up with demand if precise data collection and evaluation leads to more effective, efficient farming methods.

Webb will finish his master’s degree in the summer of 2017 and hopes to continue down a path that includes unmanned aerial vehicles.

“I’d like to keep being at the forefront of this UAV integration, and not just UAVs, but precision agriculture as a whole,” he said. “Commodity prices have been down over the past five to 10 years, and people are slow to adopt these new practices. I understand that it’s because it is expensive, but for us to be able to feed the (number) of people we’re going to have to (feed) in the coming years, we’re going to have to start adopting precision agriculture at a much faster rate. I hope to help with that.”
UT Martin turns Senior Night into Mother’s Day for Martinez

The Senior Night festivities that occurred before the men’s basketball game at the Elam Center on Saturday meant just a little more for UT Martin player Javier Martinez.

Martinez, the Virgin Islands native who was named to the 2017 All-Ohio Valley Conference team, was all smiles as he was accompanied by his mother Gumercinda Lopez.

Eight hours earlier, Martinez had just seen his mother for the first time since 2010. The reunion was part of a scheme devised by the Skyhawk coaching staff.

“To be able to provide that opportunity for her to see her child — who is now a man — having success on the court and is going to graduate in the summer, you can’t ask for more,” UT Martin head coach Anthony Stewart said. “That’s what it’s about — touching lives, helping others and paying it forward.”

Lopez arrived in Martin on Friday evening but had to wait until Saturday morning to see her son. It was then that Stewart called an impromptu “Senior Night” meeting with Martinez while Lopez was waiting behind a closed door just outside Stewart’s office.

When Stewart’s door swung open, Martinez and Lopez shared a special moment that was full of emotions. Tears were flowing as the mother and son embraced for several minutes.

“It was the happiest and most emotional moment of my life,” Martinez said. “When coach opened the door and I saw my Mom, I looked up and I was like, ‘No, this can’t be real.’”

“I told him, ‘I love you, I miss you.’” Lopez said. “Anytime he speaks to me, it’s the same thing. He says, ‘Mom, I’m going to make it for you.’”

Martinez departed his hometown of St. Croix in 2010 before relocating to Delaware for two years. He then moved to Missouri to play at St. Louis Christian Academy, which is where he caught the attention of the UT Martin coaching staff.

Fast forward four years and Martinez has developed into one of the best players in the OVC. His 67.7 field goal percentage ranks fifth in the nation while he posted a league-high 10 double-doubles in 16 OVC games this season.

With his mother cheering him on from the stands for the first time in seven years, Martinez shot 9-of-10 from the floor for 19 points while hauling in a game-high 12 rebounds in a win over Murray State on Saturday. The win clinched the Skyhawks’ second straight OVC West division championship but the victory meant so much extra for Martinez.

“My mom is my role model,” Martinez said. “She raised me the right way to love people, serve people and to be respectful of others. If you do good, good is going to come back to you.”

Medical certification courses available through UT Martin Jackson Center

MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin is now offering medical certification courses through the UT Martin Jackson Center for future pharmacy technicians, dental assistants and clinical medical assistants. The courses are open for enrollment and spaces are first-come, first served.

The pharmacy technician program, held from 6-9:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, March 13-May 1, is a comprehensive 50-hour course designed to prepare students to enter the pharmacy field. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement. The course will prepare students to take the Pharmacy Technician Board’s exam.

The registration fee for this course is $1,199 and includes textbooks and supplies. An optional 80-hour clinical is also available.

The 60-hour dental assistant program, held from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 14-May 9, prepares students for entry-level positions through familiarization with areas of administrative and clinical responsibilities. The course includes introduction to the dental office, history of dentistry and dental assisting, legal policies and guidelines, oral anatomy, dental operations and dental equipment.

The registration fee for this course is $1,199 and includes textbooks and supplies. An optional 40-hour clinical is also available.

The clinical medical assistant program, held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturdays, March 18-Sept. 9, trains students to assist physicians by performing functions related to the clinical responsibilities of a medical office. Instruction includes preparing patients for examination and treatment, routing laboratory procedures, diagnostic testing, technical aspects of phlebotomy and the cardiac life cycle. Upon successful completion of this program, students will be eligible to sit for the National Healthcareer Association certified clinical medical assistant national examination.

The registration fee for this course is $2,599 and includes textbooks and supplies.

A clinical externship opportunity at a local healthcare provider is also available to eligible students who complete the 140-hour program, submit to a thorough background check and drug screening, and meet other requirements.

For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Dr. Jerry Gresham, professor emeritus of animal science, died March 2 following a battle with cancer.

"I had the honor of meeting Dr. Jerry Gresham in the winter of 2006. His love for family, agriculture, students, his colleagues and the Martin community was evident in every aspect of his professional and personal life," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "Dr. Gresham was the ultimate ambassador for the UT Martin campus and Northwest Tennessee."

Gresham, a native of Altus, Okla., earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Oklahoma State University. Following completion of his undergraduate degree, he served four years in the U.S. Army, including a year in Vietnam, and earned the rank of captain before returning to Oklahoma State to complete his education. He and his wife, Carolyn, relocated to Martin in 1973, when he began his tenure as an assistant professor of animal science. The Greshams raised two children, Darcia, who lives in Nashville, and Darryl, of Memphis. "I knew Dr. Gresham and Carolyn long before assuming my current position, but I was especially grateful for the opportunity to work closely with Jerry when he..."
Spring Preview Day set March 18

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on March 18 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's first Spring Preview Day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarship opportunities, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin's campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9 to 9:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by a student panel discussion at 10. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45 and campus tours will start at 11:30.

A second Spring Preview Day will be held May 13. Visit utm.edu/springpreview to register for either date. There is no fee to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE — Four students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the third-annual National Model Congress Conference held Feb. 23-25 in Washington, D.C. Pictured with their award certificates are (from left) John Hayes, a sophomore from Hendersonville; Drew Cagle, a senior from Dyersburg; Dr. Anderson Starling, UT Martin assistant professor of political science; Marcus Vancleave, a senior from Dresden; and Erica Little, a sophomore from Gleason.

UTM brings home Outstanding Delegation Award

Four students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the third-annual National Model Congress Conference held Feb. 23-25 in Washington, D.C. The UT Martin delegation brought home the "Outstanding Delegation Award," which is the highest honor given during the conference.

The students represented real-world senators and representatives in writing, amending and passing bills through committees and in floor sessions. A limited number of bills are introduced during the mock Congressional session, and this year only three were passed by both chambers and signed by the student president. UT Martin students Erica Little, a sophomore from Gleason, and Marcus Vancleave, a senior from Dresden, sponsored two of these three bills.

John Hayes, a sophomore from Hendersonville, was named an outstanding representative; Drew Cagle, a senior from Dyersburg, was named a distinguished senator; and Vancleave was named an honorable representative. The students were accompanied by Dr. Anderson Starling, assistant professor of political science.

For more information on the National Model Congress, visit www.nationalmodelcongress.org/ or contact Starling at 731-881-7305 or by email at astarling@utm.edu.
‘The Hawk’ takes top honors in Southern radio for sixth time

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s student-run radio and television stations and campus newspaper received numerous awards at the 2017 Southeast Journalism Conference held Feb. 16-18 on the University of Mississippi’s campus in Oxford.

WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” UT Martin’s student-run campus radio station, was named “Best College Radio Station in the South” for the third consecutive year. The station has received this honor six times in the past eight years and has ranked in the top three every year since 2007.

WUTM also received first place in the “Best College Audio News (Podcast)” category for the second consecutive year. The station has placed in the top three positions in this category since it was created in 2011.

“The station staff set a goal to be named the best college radio station in the South again this year,” said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. “They worked hard, and the station was so honored by the Southeastern Journalism Conference. I believe this demonstrates a real commitment from our students to make our station the best that it can be.”

Individual students also submitted material in a variety of categories prior to the conference for third-party review. A total of 29 students were honored:

- Best Radio Hard News Reporter: Natalia King, a senior from Paducah, first place;
- Best Radio News Feature Reporter: Ashley Shores, a junior from Lebanon, fourth place;
- Best Television Hard News Reporter: Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, fourth place;
- Best Opinion/Editorial Writer: Ashton Priest, a junior from Obion, eighth place;
- Best Special Event Reporter/Editor: Rachel Moore, a sophomore from Ashland City, fifth place;
- Best College Website: The Pacer- Newspaper Website, seventh place.

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

For more information about the UT Martin Department of Communications, call the department at 731-881-7546, or email Dr. Robert Nanney, department chair, at nanney@utm.edu.

Dr. Rakes retires after a long career marked by expansion

Dr. Tom Rakes, chancellor for the University of Tennessee at Martin from July 1, 2007, until May 31, 2015, is retiring from his teaching position at the university effective Aug. 1. He returned to the educational studies faculty following his service as chancellor.

During his long career in higher education, Rakes held various administrative positions during his 23-year tenure at the University of Memphis through 1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president.

Rakes was originally appointed UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named the university’s provost in 2005 and elected the university’s ninth chancellor two years later by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Milestones during Rakes’ administration included the university’s highest-ever enrollment of 8,469 students in the fall of 2010, the opening of a new Student Recreation Center during that same year, opening of the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university’s dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2014 in the Boling University Center.

Expansions were also completed at UT Martin centers in Parsons, Ripley, and Selmer. A new Jackson Center location opened in fall 2011.
Patton Webb of Milan earned his bachelor’s degree in business management from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2015. However, his career path took an unexpected turn when he started a job on the UT Martin farm. Now, he is poised to help influence the future of precision agriculture and, ultimately, the amount of food produced by farmers across the nation and around the world.

“I wanted to take what I had learned in my undergraduate [degree] and be able to apply that to agriculture, particularly information systems and overall management,” he said. “One thing I’ve always loved is operating equipment. I can drive anything with wheels. When I heard that UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles] were starting to become integrated into agriculture, I really became interested and wanted to fly those as well.”

Webb, now a UT Martin graduate student, operates an unmanned aerial system, which includes not only a drone but a camera and other equipment as well. The system is used to monitor and evaluate row crops and cattle herds on the UT Martin farm, as well as provide assistance to small farmers in the area.

“If you have row crops and you’re trying to assess your crop health, the only imagery you have might be dated two weeks or a month before from a satellite. But with a UAV, you can have imagery from that day,” explained Webb. “At any point that you want to assess your crop health, you’re at an advantage with an aerial view. That allows you to see 100 percent as opposed to what you can see on the ground, which is usually less than 10 percent.”

Up-to-date aerial views can help producers evaluate irrigation issues and crop treatment plans, as well as decide where and how to plant certain types of row crops. Agricultural manufacturers also benefit from aerial information that can help them determine the effectiveness of their products over time and provide consumers with updated information to help them make informed decisions for their fields.

This type of information gathering is part of precision agriculture, which helps farmers gather the right type of data and respond effectively. Webb says precision agriculture, which includes not only drones but GPS planting methods and treatment applications, is the necessary future of the agriculture industry.

“We have to increase the amount of food that we produce between now and 2050. So, 33 years to produce more food than all of mankind has in history,” said Webb. “We’re going national and global population demands a dramatically increased production of food, and supply can only keep up with demand if precise data collection and evaluation leads to more effective, efficient farming methods.”

Webb will finish his master’s degree in the summer of 2017 and hopes to continue down a path that includes unmanned aerial vehicles.

“I’d like to keep being at the forefront of this UAV integration, and not just UAVs, but precision agriculture as a whole,” he said. “Commodity prices have been down over the past five to 10 years, and people are slow to adopt these new practices. I understand that it’s because it’s expensive, but for us to be able to feed the [number] of people we’re going to have to [feed] in the coming years, we’re going to have to start adopting precision agriculture at a much faster rate. I hope to help with that.”
UTM begins search for new vice chancellor

The University of Tennessee at Martin has begun a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. Jerald Ogg, who has held the dual position since 2011, will return to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communication once a suitable candidate is found.

"Dr. Jerald Ogg has served as vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2007 and took on the added role of university provost in 2011," said Chancellor Keith Carver. "UT Martin could not be more grateful for his service and dedication to this post, and I wish him well as he returns to the faculty in the Department of Communications. The person selected to follow him will have big shoes to fill, and we are dedicated to finding the right person to advance UT Martin's academic goals."

The vice chancellor for academic affairs is UT Martin's chief academic officer. This position articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university's core academic mission. The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor's absence.

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management in the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, met for the first time earlier this week to discuss the search process, timeline, position requirements and expectations for qualified candidates.

The committee includes UT Martin faculty, staff and student representation. Serving on the search committee with Smartt are Bob Bradley, Faculty Senate president; Dr. Chris Brown, professor of philosophy; Heidi Busch, assistant professor, Paul Meek Library; Josh Ditz, Student Government Association president; Dr. Nell Gullett, professor of finance; Dr. Louis Kolitsch, professor of mathematics; Dr. Jamie Manto, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement; Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology; and Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, is serving as executive recruiter for this position.

The committee hopes to begin conducting interviews for this key leadership position in April.

For more information or to nominate a candidate or express interest, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.

UTM to host first Spring Preview Day March 18

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on March 18 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's first Spring Preview Day of the year.

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin's campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by a student panel discussion at 10. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45 and campus tours will start at 11:30.

A second Spring Preview Day will be held May 13 for those who are unable to attend the March 18 session. Visit utm.edu/springpreview to register for either date. There is no fee to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
Four students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the third-annual National Model Congress Conference held Feb. 23-25 in Washington, D.C. Pictured with their award certificates are pictured from left: John Hayes, a sophomore of Hendersonville; Drew Cagle, a senior of Dyersburg; Dr. Anderson Starling, UT Martin assistant professor of political science; Marcus Vancleave, a senior of Dresden; and Erica Little, a sophomore of Gleason.

**UT Martin Model Congress Students named outstanding delegation**

MARTIN – Four students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the third-annual National Model Congress Conference held Feb. 23-25 in Washington, D.C. The UT Martin delegation brought home the “Outstanding Delegation Award,” which is the highest honor given during the conference.

The students represented real-world senators and representatives in writing, amending and passing bills through committees and in floor sessions. A limited number of bills are introduced during the mock Congressional session, and this year only three were passed by both chambers and signed by the student president. UT Martin students Erica Little, a sophomore from Gleason, and Marcus Vancleave, a senior from Dresden, sponsored two of these three bills.

John Hayes, a sophomore from Hendersonville, was named an outstanding representative; Drew Cagle, a senior from Dyersburg, was named a distinguished senator; and Vancleave was named an honorable representative. The students were accompanied by Dr. Anderson Starling, assistant professor of political science.

For more information on the National Model Congress, visit www.nationalmodel-congress.org/ or contact Starling at 731-881-7305 or by email at astarlin@utm.edu.
Good-bye, Dr. Gresham

Like a lot of you, funerals make me cry. Even during a funny story about the deceased, I still wipe a few tears. But a good funeral is not just sadness and grief. No. A good funeral inspires those of us who are still on this side of eternity to honor God by investing in the lives of people. Monday we attended the funeral for Dr. Jerry Gresham. He profoundly changed the lives of students and faculty for the better.

In August 2003, Dr. Gresham became Philip’s boss. We moved from College Station, Texas, to the University of Tennessee at Martin with our kindergartner and second-grader in tow. Dr. Gresham and Mrs. Carolyn took our family out for pizza when we first arrived. Their friendly, engaging hospitality gave our whole family a sense of great comfort during the transition.

Among many things our boys have learned from Dr. Gresham over the years, one of the most poignant is the importance of being on time. Dr. Gresham believed the only way to be on time was to be 15 or 20 minutes early to everything. Recently, when our son arrived early to work, he explained it with the simple phrase, “I operate on Gresham time.”

Right before Dr. Gresham retired, Philip wrote him a letter. I’d like to end this column with some excerpts from that letter. I hope it encourages you to use the rest of your earthly life to bless others.

Dr. Gresham,

When we came to interview at UTM, we prayed a very simple prayer that morning, ‘If this is not the right place, just help them not to like me and help me not to like them.’ God answered that prayer. I liked you right away. I liked your vision for classroom teaching, the emphasis on student development and the no-nonsense way you dealt with life and work. I had been surrounded by ‘academic types’ for so long and I really wanted to work with some regular, hard-working, no-nonsense kind of people, people who knew how to do a day’s work and who weren’t so ridiculously proud of it after they did it. I had all but given up hope that this was possible in the world of academia.

Dr. Gresham, you gave me hope that it was, indeed, possible. From the moment I started the interview process, UTM and this department felt like home. It still does.

After working under your leadership for many years, I have an even greater appreciation for the way you operate. I’ve never doubted your integrity or your interest in putting student needs above all else. I also want to thank you for your support for me and my family. You made me believe I could be a good teacher. I wanted to live up to that expectation.

Today begins a new era. I guess it’s all part of the cycle of life. But before all the changes take place, I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate every-thing you’ve done for me and everything you’ve done for this department. You’ve left all of us with an impressive legacy.

So, dear reader, in retirement and in death, leave a legacy worth sharing. We grieve, but not as those without hope. Christ has provided a glorious reunion for those who trust in Him. We will see you again, Dr. Gresham. And don’t worry. We’ll be right on time.

Reading clinic slated at UTM

Every student has different reading abilities and some need more assistance than can be provided during a normal school day.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

The last available session will meet March 23-April 26. Students will meet with their mentors twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 per session (not per meeting), plus $25 for a required workbook.

Students are tested to determine specific needs in phonics and reading comprehension before being placed into a course of study designed to fill gaps in their skills and strategies.

There will be no class meetings March 27-30.

Contact the Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.
Women's Studies Symposium set for March 28 at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Women’s Center will host the sixth annual Women’s Studies Symposium and seventh annual EqualiTEA event beginning at 1 p.m. March 28 in Boling University Center. The symposium will begin with keynote speaker Daryl Chansuthus, executive director of the WoMen’s Resources and Rape Assistance Program, in Watkins Auditorium. Participants can then choose preferred topics for the two break-out sessions following Chansuthus’ address at 2 and 3 p.m., respectively.

The first session includes discussions of women’s suffrage, women and aging, as well as AAUW: Advocacy and Women in the Media. Options for the second session include social media, women directors, bystander intervention and women’s self-defense. Symposium participation is limited to the first 150 registered attendees.

The EqualiTEA will begin at 4 p.m. in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. High tea will be served with finger foods and desserts. Seating is limited to the first 120 registered participants.

There is no charge to attend the symposium sessions. UT Martin students, faculty and staff members may attend the EqualiTEA event at no additional charge, but tickets are $10 for outside community members. Pre-registration is required for both events. Registration materials must be received by the UT Martin Women’s Center before March 22 to reserve a seat at either event.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact Dr. Teresa Collard, co-director of the UTM Women’s Center, at tcollard@utm.edu.

Cruisin’ With Carver tour hailed as a huge success

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently completed his “Cruisin’ With Carver” tour of West and Middle Tennessee.

Carver began his duties as the university’s 10th chancellor Jan. 3 and embarked on the whirlwind tour two days later, ultimately spending 46 hours on the road.

One of Carver’s first priorities as chancellor was to meet faculty, staff and students at the five UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, as well as donors, alumni, potential students and members of the working media across the region. That goal was accomplished during visits to 17 cities in 13 counties between Jan. 5 and Feb. 23.

Carver visited 19 schools during his travels, including high schools, community colleges and universities, and met with about 870 students, total. Many of these students are high school seniors who have already accepted offers of admission to UT Martin, but Carver also spoke with juniors and dual enrollment students in some areas.

“These students represent the future of our state and region,” Carver said. “I feel it’s important for them to know they are important to us and that we are grateful they’ve decided to start their college journeys with us in the fall. These students will make up my first UT Martin freshman class as chancellor and, in a way, I’ll be a freshman right along with them. I look forward to our journey together.”

The UT Martin chancellor also made 11 stops at major businesses and met with industry leaders across West Tennessee to create relationships with these partners that could benefit UT Martin students in the future. University donors and community members were also able to interact with Carver during 15 donor events and public receptions held throughout the tour.

While the official “Cruisin’ With Carver” tour has ended, Carver is still making stops at high schools in other areas as time allows.
Former UT Martin chancellor retiring from teaching position

Dr. Tom Rakes — chancellor for the University of Tennessee at Martin from July 1, 2007, until May 31, 2015 — is retiring from his teaching position at the university, effective Aug. 1.

He returned to the educational studies faculty after his service as chancellor.

During his long career in higher education, Rakes held various administrative positions, including his 23-year tenure at the University of Memphis through 1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president.

Rakes was originally appointed UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named the university’s provost in 2005 and elected the university’s ninth chancellor two years later by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Milestones during Rakes’ administration included the university’s highest-ever enrollment of 8,469 students in the fall of 2010 and the opening of a new Student Recreation Center during that same year; the opening of the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013; and a major renovation and remodeling of the university’s dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2014 in the Boling University Center.

Expansions were also completed at UT Martin centers in Parsons, Ripley and Selmer.

A new Jackson center location opened in fall 2011.

UT Martin, Bethel announce agreement

The University of Tennessee at Martin and Bethel University in McKenzie have finalized a guaranteed interview agreement for UT Martin students wishing to enter the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program at Bethel.

UT Martin students who have completed prerequisite coursework required by the Bethel program, have a cumulative GPA at or above Bethel’s average accepted GPA from the previous year, take the GRE and receive a bachelor’s degree before Sept. 1 of the application year are eligible for a guaranteed interview to the physician assistant program.

This means students who meet these criteria and apply through the central application service for physician assistants will be able to bypass the initial screening process normally conducted by Bethel University. Students are not automatically offered acceptance into the program but will be able to advance immediately to the interview stage.

The central application service for physician assistants, a third-party verification service, will open for the 2017-18 application cycle in April for students hoping to begin school in the fall of 2018.

For more information, contact Kristina Pitz at UT Martin at (731) 881-7478 or Jeff Wilbert at Bethel University at (731) 407-7659.
DPA partners with UTM on science project

By KATHY FELLMAN Special to The Messenger

Discovery Park of America has been partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin for a monthly educational series named Saturday Morning Science.

Discovery Park hosts this free program for guests on the third Saturday of every month. It gives families a chance to experience a morning of science experiments and education without having to pay to get into the park.

This is a new program for Discovery Park of America and UT Martin and they both have great enthusiasm for the growth of this program.

Chris Gunlefinger, assistant educational director at Discovery Park of America, says, “It’s something new and exciting for us here at Discovery Park. We can’t wait to watch this program expand and we look forward to continuing our partnership with UTM through the whole process.”

There have been two programs so far within this series. Those programs con-
Continued from Page 1

"I am so proud to be able to attend this event. I can only be thankful for the encouragement and support of my parents, my advisors, and my teachers for all that they do for me daily. Most importantly, I owe all my success to God. In all I do, I strive to bring glory to the Lord. 1 Corinthians 10:31 'So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.'

"Agriculture holds a very special place in my heart. I was first introduced to the agriculture industry during my 8th-grade year when I began helping my stepdad, Barry Cottrell, on our cattle farm. Since, I have branched out and discovered a love and passion for agriculture. For FFA, you must complete a supervised agriculture experience." TGSAS is a 4-week summer program designed to promote an atmosphere of learning, multicultural diversity dialogue, and respect among students. Students participating in the program will be exposed to various aspects of agriculture and natural resources both in and out of the classroom.

All classes are instructed by members of the Dept. of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources [AGN] faculty. Upon completion of the program, Koone will receive two college-credit classes including choices of precision agriculture, veterinary science, natural resource management, or agricultural business.

"For my SAE, I focused on the area of Diversified Livestock Production. My project encompasses commercial cattle, registered Charolais cattle, market hogs, and Boer goats. Working with livestock has taught me responsibility and developed in me a strong work ethic," said Koone.

"FFA has also developed my love for public speaking and drive for success. Over the past three years, I have competed in nine competitions, all of which include public speaking in some form. These contests include Horse Evaluation, Dairy Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Parliamentary Procedure, Extemporaneous Speaking, Creed Speaking, Floriculture, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and Agricultural Sales. Each contest teaches me a new set of skills that will help me in my future."

Illustrating the diverse number of roles she plays within DCHS' FFA program, as well her appreciation for her support from family, as well as the DCHS faculty staff and administration, Koone said, "I have acquired leadership skills by serving as both reporter and vice president of our chapter. This has allowed me to be an agriculture advocate on a new level. I believe that the greatest part of FFA is being able to inform my community and peers about agriculture and the effects it has on our lives. It gives me an opportunity to meet people from all across Tennessee and the United States who share a common love for agriculture."

"My granddad, Dennis Peckenaugh, was one of the most important people in my life. He instilled in me a love for Christ, music, and agriculture. He too was an FFA member in high school. Growing up, I remember hearing stories of his time in the FFA and how it helped develop his morals."

"This was an inspiration to me to continue on in my path to carry on the American tradition that is agriculture. The National FFA Creed states in its last paragraph: 'I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.'"

"I have worked diligently to accomplish just this. "Being a part of the largest youth organization in the world is absolutely amazing as well as rewarding. It is a privilege to wear my blue corduroy jacket just as many generations of FFA members have. I am proud to represent Dyer County High School and my community through FFA and by representing them at the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences this summer."

"I hope to obtain more knowledge on the agriculture industry and bring it back to our community. I also hope that this summer will allow me to further promote agriculture as I study and travel with this program."

"I am thankful for the support and encouragement that I have received throughout my time at Dyer County High School thus far and the support that I will receive in the future. Once again, this is an honor and I hope I can represent our community and myself in the best way possible."
KATHY FELLMAN
Special to the State Gazette

Discovery Park of America has been partnering up with the University of Tennessee at Martin for a monthly educational series named “Saturday Morning Science”.

Discovery Park hosts this free program for guests on the third Saturday of every month. It gives families a chance to experience a morning of science experiments and education without having to pay to get into the park.

This is a new program for Discovery Park of America and UTM and they both have great enthusiasm for the growth of this program.

Chris Gunlefinger, assistant educational director at Discovery Park of America, says “It’s something new and exciting for us here at Discovery Park. We can’t wait to watch this program expand and we look forward to continuing our partnership with UTM through the whole process.”

There have been two programs so far within this series. Those programs contained experiments dealing with lights and lasers, thermodynamics, liquid nitrogen, and chemical reactions.

The next program within the Saturday Morning Science series is Earth and Planetary Science, which will focus on volcanoes and how they affect the environment.

This month’s Saturday Morning Science will be on March 18 from 9-10 a.m. in the Life Enrichment Center at Discovery Park of America. For more information, visit the park’s website at www.discoveryparkofamerica.com.
ON TOUR — South Fulton High School teacher Allen Pounds (right) visited with University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver during the chancellor’s visit to the school last month. Carver, who began his official duties as chancellor Jan. 3, visited neighboring Obion County as part of his “Cruisin’ With Carver” tour which took him throughout the region in January and February.

‘Cruisin’ with Carver’ campaign proves a success

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently completed his “Cruisin’ with Carver” tour of West and Middle Tennessee. Carver began his duties as the university’s 10th chancellor Jan. 3 and embarked on the whirlwind tour two days later, ultimately spending 46 hours on the road.

One of Carver’s first priorities as chancellor was to meet faculty, staff and students at the five UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville as well as donors, alumni, potential students and members of the working media across the region. That goal was accomplished during visits to 17 cities in 13 counties between Jan. 5 and Feb. 23.

Carver visited 19 schools during his travels, including high schools, community colleges and universities, and met with approximately 870 students total. Many of these students are high school seniors who have already accepted offers of admission to UT Martin, but Carver also spoke with juniors and dual enrollment students in some areas.

“These students represent the future of our state and region,” said Carver. “I feel it’s important for them to know they are important to us and that we are grateful they’ve decided to start their college journeys with us in the fall. These students will make up my first UT Martin freshman class as chancellor, and in a way, I’ll be a freshman right along with them. I look forward to our journey together.”

The UT Martin chancellor also made 11 stops at major businesses and met with industry leaders across West Tennessee to create relationships with these partners that could benefit UT Martin students in the future. University donors and community members were also able to interact with Carver during 15 donor events and public receptions held throughout the tour.

While the official “Cruisin’ with Carver” tour has ended, Carver is still making stops at high schools in other areas as time allows.

CARVER VISITS LIONS — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver (left) made a stop at Dresden High School on March 1 to visit with students who have accepted offers of admission from UT Martin. Carver is pictured with P.K. Kelley (center), Dresden High School counselor, and Chuck West, principal.
UTM to coordinate with Bethel for physician assistant program

The University of Tennessee at Martin and Bethel University have finalized a guaranteed interview agreement for UT Martin students wishing to enter the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program at Bethel University.

UT Martin students who have completed prerequisite coursework required by the Bethel program, have a cumulative GPA at or above Bethel’s average accepted GPA from the previous year, take the GRE and receive a bachelor’s degree before Sept. 1 of the application year are eligible for a guaranteed interview to the physician assistant program.

This means students who meet these criteria and apply through the central application service for physician assistants will be able to bypass the initial screening process normally conducted by Bethel University.

Students are not automatically offered acceptance into the program but will be able to advance immediately to the interview stage.

“Over the years, we have had many UT Martin graduates enter our program, and they’ve all performed exceptionally well and gone on to become competent and successful physician’s assistants,” said Jeff Wilbert, Bethel University director of clinical education. “UT Martin graduates have a good track record with us, and we want to help them succeed in their careers.”

The central application service for physician assistants, a third-party verification service, will open for the 2017-18 application cycle in April for students hoping to begin school in the fall of 2018.

For more information, contact Kristina Pitz, UT Martin health science preprofessional coordinator, at 731-881-7478, or Wilbert at 731-407-7659.
Last Thursday the department of engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated Engineers' Day. Seven area schools — Bruceton High, Dresden High, Greenfield High, Grove High, Martin Middle, Trinity Christian Academy and Westview High — competed in the egg drop competition. Mrs. Angela Farlow is the eighth-grade science teacher of all three winning teams. Her motto is, "If I can believe it, I can achieve it," and these students truly achieved excellence.

First-place winners were the Chem Squad, consisting of J.B. Newsom and Marquis Taylor; Grace Giffen, Zowie Walker, Brice Pettit and Lane Pierpoint (pictured above lower left); The Atom Team, took second place; Third place was won by the Periodic Panthers: Sean McCoy, James McGregor and Austin Mount. Pictured are (clockwise, from top left) Kylin York, Dustin McKeel, Jared Jordan, Kaden Bruceton, Dustin McKeel and Jack Nanney.

Photos by Emily Anderson
TOWN AND GOWN MEMBERS MEET — Members of the UT Martin/City of Martin Town and Gown Association met for breakfast March 2 in the University of Tennessee at Martin Dunagan Alumni Center. Pictured are representatives from the various member businesses: (front row, from left) Nassar Nassar, Savant Learning Systems Inc.; Todd Hampton, Edward Jones Financial Services; Brenna Wilkins, Miss UT Martin 2017; Randy Brundige, City of Martin mayor; Jennifer Hampton, Edward Jones Financial Services; Sandy Brundige, Tennova Specialists — Martin; Darrell Blaylock, Tennova Heathcare — Volunteer Martin; (back row) Dustin Frazier, First Community Bank; Landy Fuqua, UT Martin REED Center; Tommy Legins, Savant Learning Systems Inc.; Scott Taylor, State Farm Insurance; and Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.
STUDENTS in Lauderdale County visited with Dr. Keith Carver February 23rd during his “Cruisin’ With Carver” tour through West Tennessee. While in Lauderdale County, he made stops at Ripley High and Halls High schools and spoke to students at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center. Carver is the new chancellor of the University. He met with staff and faculty members as well as donors, alumni, and members of the community.
Retires

DR. TOM RAKES, chancellor for the University of Tennessee at Martin from July 1, 2007, until May 31, 2015, is retiring from his teaching position at the university effective August 1st. He returned to the educational studies faculty following his service as chancellor. During his long career in higher education, Rakes held various administrative positions during his 23-year tenure at the University of Memphis through 1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president. Rakes was originally appointed UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named the university's provost in 2005 and elected the university's ninth chancellor two years later by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Milestones during Rakes' administration included the university's highest-ever enrollment of 8,469 students in the fall of 2010, opening of the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, the opening of a new student Recreation Center during that same year, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university's dining facilities and bookstore in the fall of 2014. Expansions were also completed at UT Martin centers in Parsons, Ripley, and Selmer. A new Jackson Center location opened in fall 2011.
UT MARTIN CHANCELLOR CARVER TOURS STATE

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently completed his "Cruisin' with Carver" tour of West and Middle Tennessee. Carver began his duties as the university's 10th chancellor Jan. 3 and embarked on the whirlwind tour two days later, ultimately spending 46 hours on the road.

One of Carver's first priorities as chancellor was to meet faculty, staff and students at the five UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, as well as donors, alumni, potential students and members of the working media across the region. That goal was accomplished during visits to 17 cities in 13 counties between Jan. 5 and Feb. 23.

Carver visited 19 schools during his travels, including high schools, community colleges and universities, and met with approximately 870 students. Many of these students are high school seniors who have already accepted offers of admission to UT Martin, but Carver also spoke with juniors and dual-enrollment students.

"These students represent the future of our state and region," Carver said. "I feel it's important for them to know they are important to us and that we are grateful they've decided to start their college journeys with us in the fall. These students will make up my first UT Martin freshman class as chancellor, and in a way, I'll be a freshman right along with them. I look forward to our journey together."

The UT Martin chancellor also made 11 stops at major businesses and met with industry leaders across West Tennessee.
Clinical Medical Assistant Program available at UTM Parsons Center

Community members seeking careers in the health-care field are encouraged to register for a 140-hour clinical medical assistant program offered from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturdays, March 18-Sept. 23, at the UTM Parsons Center.

This program will train students to assist physicians by performing functions related to the clinical responsibilities of a medical office. Instruction includes preparing patients for examination and treatment, routine laboratory procedures, diagnostic testing, technical aspects of phlebotomy, and the cardiac life cycle.

Students will be eligible to sit for the National Health Career Association certified clinical medical assistant national examination upon successful completion of this program. The registration fee for this course is $2,599 and includes textbooks and supplies.

A clinical externship opportunity at a local healthcare provider is also available to eligible students who complete the 140-hour program, submit to a thorough background check and drug screening, and meet other requirements.

For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UTM Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Discovering ‘Saturday Morning Science’
KATHY FELLMAN  
UTM INTERN AT DISCOVERY PARK OF AMERICA

Discovery Park of America has been partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin for a monthly educational series, “Saturday Morning Science.”

Discovery Park hosts this free program for guests on the third Saturday of each month. It gives families a chance to experience a morning of science experiments and education without having to pay to get into the park.

This is a new program for Discovery Park of America and UTM, and they both have great enthusiasm for the growth of this program.

Chris Gunlefinger, assistant educational director at Discovery Park of America, said, “It’s something new and exciting for us here at Discovery Park. We can’t wait to watch this program expand, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with UTM through the whole process.”

There have been two programs so far within this series. Those programs contained experiments dealing with lights and lasers, thermodynamics, liquid nitrogen and chemical reactions.

The next program in the series is Earth and Planetary Science, which will focus on volcanoes and how they affect the environment. This “Saturday Morning Science” will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday in the Life Enrichment Center at Discovery Park of America.

For more information, visit the park’s website at www.discoveryparkofamerica.com.
APPLE BITES

**ACT prep course through UT Martin Jackson Center**

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course, 8 a.m. to noon March 25, offered through the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Alex Beene, course instructor, will prepare students for the test by working through each section and teaching time management. He will also address the most commonly missed questions and give advice on how to answer them correctly.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

UT Martin, Bethel announce guaranteed interview agreement

The University of Tennessee at Martin and Bethel University have finalized a guaranteed interview agreement for UT Martin students wishing to enter the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program at Bethel University.

UT Martin students who have completed prerequisite coursework required by the Bethel program, have a cumulative GPA at or above Bethel's average accepted GPA from the previous year, take the GRE and receive a bachelor's degree before Sept. 1 of the application year are eligible for a guaranteed interview to the physician assistant program.

This means students who meet these criteria and apply through the central application service for physician assistants will be able to bypass the initial screening process normally conducted by Bethel University. Students are not automatically offered acceptance into the program but will be able to advance immediately to the interview stage.

The central application service for physician assistants, a third-party verification service, will open for the 2017-18 application cycle in April for students hoping to begin school in the fall of 2018.

For more information, contact Kristina Pitz, UT Martin health science pre-professional coordinator, at (731) 881-7478, or Wilbert at (731) 407-7639.
UT Football Camp
This picture was taken somewhere around 1970 at an Archie Manning football camp at University of Tennessee Martin. Three people from Selmer participated: Ricky Thompson, top row second from the right, Robert Lee, third row from bottom next to Archie Manning, and last, but not least, Joe Page, second row from bottom, third from the right with his elbow on his knee. Next to Archie was Julian Nunamaker as most of you should remember. The coaches on the left are L-R Vernon Prather, Ross Elder, and Bob Carroll.

UTM, Bethel Announce Interview Agreement
The University of Tennessee at Martin and Bethel University have finalized a guaranteed interview agreement for UT Martin students wishing to enter the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program at Bethel University. UT Martin students who have completed prerequisite coursework required by the Bethel program, have a cumulative GPA at or above Bethel’s average accepted GPA from the previous year, take the GRE and receive a bachelor’s degree before Sept. 1 of the application year are eligible for a guaranteed interview to the physician assistant program.

This means students who meet these criteria and apply through the central application service for physician assistants will be able to advance immediately to the interview stage.

“Over the years, we have had many UT Martin graduates enter our program, and they’ve all performed exceptionally well and gone on to become competent and successful physician’s assistants,” said Jeff Wilbert, Bethel University director of clinical education. “UT Martin graduates have a good track record with us, and we want to help them succeed in their careers.”

The central application service for physician assistants, a third-party verification service, will open for the 2017-18 application cycle in April for students hoping to begin school in the fall of 2018.

For more information, contact Kristina Pitz, UT Martin health science pre-professional coordinator, at 731-881-7478, or Wilbert at 731-407-7659.
Women in engineering to be speaker’s focus

Dr. Amy Bix, associate professor of history at Iowa State University, will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin March 23 as part of the spring 2017 Academic Speaker Series.

She will give a presentation on “Girls Coming to Tech: A History of American Engineering Education for Women” beginning at 6 p.m. in the Boiling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

Dr. Bix, who also serves as director of Iowa State University’s Center for Historical Studies of Technology and Science, holds a doctorate in the history of science from Johns Hopkins University. She has been with ISU since 1993 where she teaches courses in women’s history and the histories of technology, medicine, popular culture and women in science, among other topics.

She won the Betty Vetter Award for Research from the Women in Engineering ProActive Network in 2014. That same year, she published her most recent book, which shares the title of her presentation.

TOWN AND GOWN — Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin/City of Martin Town and Gown Association met for breakfast recently at the UT Martin Dunagan Alumni Center. On hand were representatives from the various member businesses, including (from left, front row) Nassar Nassar, Savant Learning Systems Inc.; Todd Hampton, Edward Jones Financial Services; Brenna Wilkins of Union City, Miss UT Martin 2017; Randy Brundige, mayor of the City of Martin; Jennifer Hampton, Edward Jones Financial Services; Sandy Brundige, Tennova Specialists, Martin; Darrell Blaylock, Tennova HealthCare-Volunteer Martin; (back row) Dustin Frazier, First Community Bank; Landy Fuqua, UT Martin REED Center; Tommy Legins, Savant Learning Systems Inc.; Scott Taylor, State Farm Insurance; and Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.
Evaskis-Garrett, who grew up in Burns and graduated from Dickson County High School in 2004, has been working tirelessly since that year - if not sooner with teenage afternoon viewings, aka, practice - to be on the show.

She’s taken the online test five times over the last 12 years. Four of those test scores enabled her to take part in the next step of the Jeopardy! application, an in-person tryout and, yes, another test. Once completed, including a mock game that’s filmed, all the potential contestants remain in a candidate pool for 18 months. They may receive a call, they may not.

All of which begs a more straight-forward, non-Jeopardy!-like question: Why?

“It’s really a love of trivia,” Evaskis-Garrett said. “There is something cool about knowing little goofy things about a little bit of everything.”

“In the trivia world, there are different competitions, but there is not the one ring,” said Evaskis-Garrett, comparing trivia to chess or Scrabble where a true national tournament takes place – while also making a Hobbit reference. “So, Jeopardy is it,” Evaskis-Garrett said.

Jeopardy! was also an Evaskis bonding experience.

“That was always a thing that we did as a family,” Evaskis-Garrett said. “It was fun. You would always learn something new.”

Her parents, Steve and Freida Evaskis, still live in Burns. Her sister, Julia, is a student at Western Kentucky University after graduating from DCHS in 2015.

Evaskis-Garrett’s college experience is ultimately what led her from Tennessee many miles north. After earning her undergraduate degree from UT-Martin, Evaskis-Garrett decided she wanted to be an archivist – a person in charge of organizing and maintaining records and information.

“I said, ‘OK, I want to go on adventure for grad school,’” Evaskis-Garrett said. “So I applied to Michigan and they said, ‘Cool, we will let you in.’”

“So I moved up to Michigan...met my husband, and now I am stuck,” she added, laughing.

Audition

At her most recent and successful Jeopardy! audition, which took place in Detroit, Evaskis-Garrett said 50 people were vying for spots. And she said two more auditions took place that day, likely with the same number of people. Then three more auditions took place the next day.

A contest coordinator told the group that in the previous three years, about 700,000 people had taken the online test. From that amount, 2,500 to 3,000 contestant applicants are brought in for an in-person audition. About 400 are ultimately chosen to be on the show.

“(The coordinator) said, ‘You have already won the trivia lottery,’” Evaskis-Garrett said.

Game(show) day

Evaskis-Garrett described the show day as “kind of like a whirlwind.” She noted that five episodes are filmed in one day.

“My day of filming...I showed up super early, they put you through makeup. They make you practice your anecdote. You have to sign paperwork,” Evaskis-Garrett said. “Then they start filming episodes.”

“It just moves so quickly,” she added.

Her mom and husband, Robert, accompanied her on the trip to L.A. for filming.
"When he comes out, that's the first time that the contestants actually see him," Evaskis-Garrett said.

So, does Evaskis-Garrett feel that her appearance made for good TV?

"I certainly hope so," she said.

Her work is hosting a "watch party" for the Monday 5 p.m. show and likely Dickson County will have a few such parties taking place, too.

"Jeopardy has always been it for me," Evaskis-Garrett said.

**Show time**

**What:** Jeopardy!

**When:** Monday, March 20, 5 p.m.

**Channel:** WZTV Fox 17

---

**Hollianne Carver - speaker at What women want.**

By **TANNA NORMAN**

**Special to The Press**

You might have heard her referred to as "First Lady" recently after Hollianne Carver’s husband, Dr. Keith Carver, was named University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor in January. She has been chosen as the speaker of WLJT’s What women want event, and will make an appearance there.

Hollianne, a 43-year-old native of Lexington, and Keith, a 46-year-old native of Alamo, are happy to be making a homecoming after the school year is complete. The Carvers’ three children – daughter, Carson, 18, and sons, Jack Thomas, 15, and Britton, 11 – are currently attending school in Knoxville, but they will soon be moving their mom to join their beloved father in Martin to call it home. After moving with her husband to a number of states, Hollianne says they are "so excited" to be moving to the Martin community, because "it just feels like home."

Not only is Hollianne excited about the move, she is excited for the chance for her husband to be a part of the UT Martin higher education community. Having taught as an adjunct instructor in the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies for a short time before making the move to East Tennessee in 2010 with her husband, she has a passion for UT Martin, too. In addition, she has performed grant work for the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Hollianne said she plans not to work for salary after she and her children make the move. Instead, she wants to focus her energies on supporting the Martin community through volunteer work and by lending a hand to her husband and activity in her children’s schools. She has invested her time in higher education, because she believes it changes lives.

"It's just all about opportunity. Everybody deserves the opportunity to an education and to better their lives," she says.

Hollianne and Keith both attended the former Memphis State University where they met and graduated with degrees in education. She obtained her bachelor’s degree from MSU and went on to get her master’s degree in education from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In addition to working at UT Martin, she taught pre-kindergarten through eighth grade for 11 years.

When Hollianne isn't hard at work, you can find her reading, hiking and spending time with her extended family. She also enjoys attending her children’s sporting and school organization’s events.

Long-distance running is another passion of hers. After being selected out of her first race lottery, she completed the New York City Marathon in 2014. In 2013, Keith also completed the race. She said running this marathon is something of a family tradition.

Join Hollianne as she speaks at what women want event Monday beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.
CARVER

MARTIN
supports WLJT and Rehnsa Volunteer Martin's event
What Women Want
UTM First Lady Hollanne Carver, guest speaker

Mark your calendar for WestStar's annual Working Women's Conference Feb. 9, 2018.
Wade brings interior design to Martin

By EMILY ANDERSON
Special to The Press

Claire Wade grew up in Martin, attending the University of Tennessee at Martin. She knew that she was interested in interior design at a young age, so after graduation she obtained an internship in Memphis that led to a full-time job in the field. Wade immersed herself in this job, eager to use her degree, and learning as much about the interior design profession and being an entrepreneur as possible.

When she was younger she had worked in locally-owned businesses. Because of all those experiences, she returned to Martin, equipped with the knowledge about managing and owning a developing business. After working three years out of her home, Wade decided to repurpose one of Martin's historic downtown properties at 202 Main St. It is hard to believe it used to be a gas station. In its infancy, the store was simply a meeting place. Through the years, the merchandise and purpose has evolved. While it began and continues to offer furnishings for the home, Wade has also expanded into upscale gifts and personal accessories like apparel, jewelry and bags. This evolution was designed to fit the needs of her customers and for the growth of the business. "Listening to my customers has been the best decision I've made in growing and changing my business."

Wade's mission is to accessorize the home and the person. To keep with the "whole person" concept, the shop now offers a new brand of makeup and skin care. Elements of interior design find expression in these new products. "Makeup is like a color story, changing from person to person," she explains.

Not only does she give back to the community through her business, but also as a volunteer and community leader. She is a member of Martin Business Association and is heavily involved with the UT Alumni System. She is honored to be the appointed chair of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Women's Council this year. She is also involved with Town and Gown, whose purpose is to bring together UTM administration with local business partners.

Having begun this journey 20 years ago, Wade feels lucky to have a business with roots in a town she's always loved, sharing her passion of design and bringing merchandise together under one roof for her customers. "I sell things I love. I spend a lot of time seeking the right items for all aspects of my business. I cannot help but be excited to share with my customers," Wade explains.

Because of her personal touch in all aspects of the business, there is something for everyone in her store, Claire & Schuster.
Dr. Joyce Swan, associate professor of Educational Studies (pictured left), has taught teacher education students for UT Martin since the university began offering courses in McNairy County. A bulletin board in the McNairy County Center/Selmer features the names of all teacher education graduates from the center, starting with those who received degrees in 2006. Including the most recent graduates, more than 150 students have earned teacher education degrees through the center. Chancellor Keith Carver thanked Dr. Swan for her work and accomplishments through the local center during a recent visit to the center.

The BlueSHIFT Percussion Quartet will give a public concert at 2 p.m., March 24, in the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building’s percussion rehearsal hall. BlueSHIFT Percussion was founded in 2015 and is dedicated to the performance of modern works for percussion. The concert will feature the world premieres of three different percussion compositions and will give audience members the chance to hear music that has never been performed in public before.

The quartet’s members have all been doctoral students under the direction of University of Kentucky professor Dr. James Campbell, and they will also present an instructional masterclass during their UT Martin visit.

Also, student members of UT Martin’s flute studio will give a performance beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday in the university’s Blankenship Recital Hall. Studio members will perform compositions by Bach and Mozart, among others.

Both performances are free and open to the public.
World Bizarre fundraising event at UT Martin

By FOX 23 Monday, March 20th 2017
MARTIN, TN (Heartland News at 9) -

The annual World Bizarre fund raising event will be hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio on March 31 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Soleil Garden Center, 2317 Nailling Drive in Union City.

Tickets are $10 for the event which includes live music, food and drinks throughout the night.

Students and faculty members from UT Martin will perform a variety of music from around the world and international students currently attending UT Martin will also perform their native musical works.

A silent auction featuring gift certificates, artwork, instruments and other items will be held that night and door prizes will be available throughout the evening.

Door prize tickets are $1 each and all proceeds from this event support student study-abroad opportunities, community outreach projects, guest educators and the purchase and repair of percussion instruments and sheet music.

Contact Dr. Julie Hill, director of percussion studies, at 731-881-7418 or email jhill@utm.edu for more information.

Shooting in Martin near UTM

Posted on March 21, 2017 by Thunderbolt Digital in Local News

UT Martin on lockdown. Police have one in custody others still being sought.
Man charged in shooting that led to UTM lockdown

March 21, 2017 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, is accused of firing a gun at several people at apartments in the 300 block of Hannings Lane, according to a release from the Martin Police Department.

No injuries have been reported.

UTM police reported a physical altercation involving multiple people Tuesday afternoon in the University Center.

Everyone left the area after the fight ended, but the altercation resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

That's when police say Fuller fired the gunshots.

He then reportedly left in a white SUV and was taken into custody on Mt. Pelia Road near University Street. Multiple weapons were located in his vehicle, according to police.

A second vehicle has been identified as a two door black 2005 Mazda with license plate K28-98Y occupied by three people involved in the altercation.

The investigation is ongoing and more charges may be forthcoming.

Fuller has been charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

He will be held at the Weakley County Detention Center.
Police and university work to keep students safe after shots fired near UTM

Posted: Mar 21, 2017 9:23 PM CDT
Updated: Mar 21, 2017 10:22 PM CDT
By Ashley Sanchez
http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

MARTIN, TN - A quick reaction by University of Tennessee at Martin and Martin city police kept students safe after shots were reported Tuesday afternoon near campus.

"As soon as they caught wind of what happened, they locked everything down and instructed students to get to safety," said TJ Crabtree, who witnessed the fight that led to gunfire on Hannings Lane.

Police say UT Martin student Tommy Fuller fired a gun. Fuller is charged with felonies, including reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

"It was a definite surprise more than anything," said Crabtree.

Crabtree says the fight happened near his fraternity house, and he called campus administration after hearing a gun shot.

"That was our concern, was campus, worrying about everyone not involved, being involved by someone's quick decisions," Crabtree said.

Shortly after he and other students reported the fight, the campus took action.

"It's just very scary, because today was a very active day on campus," said university spokesman Bud Grimes.

Grimes says that's why Martin police were on the scene quickly to make an arrest, the campus locked its main building entrances, and UTM officers patrolled the university's main parking lots.

The UTM Office of Public Safety sent students a text alert to notify them the campus was on lock down.

During a lock down, students are told go inside their classrooms or dorms and lock the doors until they get an all clear. It's a protocol students learn during orientation, but hope they never have to use.

"You never think something like this is going to happen. In my 25-plus years here, we've had two lock downs," Grimes said.

"It was a quick jolt of fear," Crabtree said.

It's thanks to students, like Crabtree, who alerted campus authorities that word got out quickly.

Only university employees who have contacted UTM Safety and Security and have a valid permit can carry a gun on campus, and they must conceal-carry.

Students cannot carry guns or keep them in their cars. Martin and campus police say they believe three others involved were traveling in a 2005 black Mazda with a K2898Y license plate. Police are looking for that vehicle.

Officers say more charges may come as the investigation continues.

Student Arrested in Shooting Near UTM Campus

Posted on March 21, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News

A shooting near the UT Martin campus led to a student being placed into custody, as the university went into lockdown Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Chief Communications Officer Bud Grimes says a family altercation ended in a shooting on Hannings Lane near college dorms on campus, where no injuries were reported.

Grimes says only one shot was fired during the incident.

An unidentified UT Martin student was arrested, while two men who aren't students are wanted and believed to be traveling south in a two-door black Mazda.

Grimes also says there are extra policeman patrolling the university for added security.

Lockdown at UT Martin was lifted as an ALL-CLEAR message was sent out at 1:37.

The Martin Police Department is currently investigating this case.
A UT Martin student has been arrested after a shooting took place near the UTM campus on Hannings Lane.

UT Martin Police report the shooting stemmed from a physical altercation involving multiple people inside the University Center Tuesday afternoon, where the fight then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Martin Police Captain Phillip Fuqua says 21-year-old UTM student Tommy Fuller of Grove Apartments in Martin, allegedly fired a weapon at several people in apartments located at 302-304 Hannings Lane.

Fuller left the area in a white Chevrolet SUV headed northbound on Mt. Pelia Road before officers arrested him on University Street, where multiple weapons were found inside the vehicle.

No injuries have been reported in this case as the Martin and UTM Police Departments continue their investigation.

Martin Police say a two door black 2005 Mazda with the license plate K2898Y is currently occupied by three people involved in the altercation.

Fuller is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony, and will be lodged in the Weakley County Detention Center.

No one else has been charged in this incident, but more charges may be filed as the Martin and UTM Police Departments continue this investigation.
Taylor takes first place in international music competition

Darius Taylor of Jackson recently placed first in his age group in the First Annual Great Composers Competition – Best Schubert Performance, a series of international music competitions for young performers. Taylor, a senior music education major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received first place among men ages 23-25.

Taylor discovered the competition through Dr. Roberto Mancusi, UT Martin associate professor of music and Taylor’s vocal coach. As luck would have it, Taylor had performed music by composer Franz Schubert at his senior voice recital, and he submitted those recordings for consideration. He was surprised to be asked to audition for the final round and even more shocked to see his name on the list of winners.

“I was just on the website to see how everything was going because I didn’t know if I would place or not,” he said. “I saw they had a page up for winners already, so I scrolled down, and I saw my name. I just sat there in shock. I thought, ‘Wait a minute, this can’t be right!’

Sure enough, a winning certificate arrived via email a few days later, and Taylor is humbled to receive international validation of his career choice.

“I’ve learned this is definitely something I want to pursue and continue doing. I’ve invested so many years of training to get to this point, and to see some fruits come back from that only bolsters my belief in what I’ve been taught,” he said. “It really makes me want to move forward and really give it my all to continue in this profession.”

Taylor plans to graduate from UT Martin in December 2017 and intends to pursue a master’s degree in opera performance and gain professional experience before returning to share his love of music in a classroom.

“I’ve always had a passion to teach music because that was one part of school where I really thrived, and I felt something within me telling me to keep going with that. It made me feel alive,” he said. “I want to be one of those people who helps someone discover, ‘Hey, I have a knack for (music). I can move other people with this, and this really moves me emotionally and spiritually.’”

Taylor’s primary goal is to teach in a high school music setting, but he sees a need for music teachers at lower grade levels as well to help students develop a love of music and work through common challenges that face the middle school age group.

“I’ve found there should be an importance placed on middle school choir directors, so I wouldn’t mind trying my hand at that. That’s a very crucial point for a lot of people when it comes to singing because your voice is changing and you’re trying to adapt to new things,” Taylor explained. “I personally would like to see more male involvement in choir. I’m one of only five male vocal majors (at UT Martin), and I believe it all starts there in middle school because guys’ voices are going through a much more dramatic change there. ... I’d really like to be there to step in and let them know that it’s going to be alright; you’re going to settle down and learn to harness this new instrument, and it’s going to be nothing like what you’ve had before.”

Taylor sees music and fine arts education as a crucial component to the development of young children and adults alike, and he hopes to encourage his future students to appreciate all forms of music not only for their sound but also for the effect music can have on the soul and personality.

“I think being involved in music and the finer edges of who we are as people and the kinds of things we enjoy.”

Taylor plans to continue performing and competing in the coming years as his career takes flight, and encourages other students of all majors to take the same chances and venture beyond their comfort zones.

“Whether you receive an accolade or not, there’s always something to learn,” he said. “Whether you succeed or you fail, you have to take (that experience) and grow from it. It’s a hard lesson to learn, and it took me four years.”

The Shubert competition is Taylor’s first foray into the world of international vocal competition.
Dr. Amy Bix, associate professor of history at Iowa State University, will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin on March 23 as part of the spring 2017 Academic Speaker Series.

Bix will give a presentation on "Girls Coming to Tech: A History of American Engineering Education for Women" beginning at 6 p.m. in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Bix, who also serves as director of Iowa State University's Center for Historical Studies of Technology and Science, holds a doctorate in the history of science from Johns Hopkins University.

She has been with ISU since 1993 where she teaches courses in women's history and the histories of technology, medicine, popular culture and women in science, among other topics.

She won the Betty Vetter Award for Research from the Women in Engineering ProActive Network in 2014 for notable achievement in research related to women in the engineering profession. That same year, she also published her most recent book, which shares the title of her presentation, through MIT Press.

Her presentation is free and open to the public. The annual Academic Speaker Series is sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs. For more information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, director of UT Martin Honors Programs, at lcrews@utm.edu.
FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD — Jalen Ware, a freshman from Union City, is shown performing with the UT Martin World Percussion Ensemble during the 2016 Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Percussion Studio to hold fundraiser

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio will host its annual World Bizarre fundraiser beginning at 7 p.m. March 31 at the Soleil Garden Center in Union City.

A $10 ticket includes live music, food and drinks throughout the night. UT Martin music students and faculty members will perform a variety of music from around the world. International students currently attending UT Martin will also appear to perform their native musical works alongside the ensemble.

The event will also include a silent auction featuring gift certificates, artwork, instruments and other items. Door prizes will also be available throughout the evening. Door prize entry tickets are $1 each. Proceeds from this event support student study-abroad opportunities, community outreach projects, guest educators, and the purchase and repair of percussion instruments and sheet music.

The Soleil Garden Center is located at 2317 Nailling Drive in Union City.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, director of percussion studies, at 731-881-1418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.

Reading clinic to be held at UT Martin

Every student has different reading abilities, and some need more assistance than can be provided during a normal school day. The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

The last available session will meet from March 23 to April 26. Students will meet with their mentor twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 per session (not per meeting), plus $25 for a required workbook.

Students are individually tested to determine specific needs in phonics and reading comprehension before being placed into a course of study designed to fill gaps in their skills and strategies. All lessons are taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center.

There will be no class meetings March 27-30.

Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.
UTM NURSING PROGRAM IN TENNESSEE’S TOP 10

ERIN CHESNUT
UT MARTIN

MARTIN – The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing has been ranked eighth in Tennessee by RegisteredNursing.org. The website evaluated 41 nursing programs statewide and determined UT Martin’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program to be one of the best.

The website looked primarily at pass rates for the National Council Licensure Examination when determining ranking placement. The UT Martin Department of Nursing’s 2016 graduating class achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN as first-time test takers last year, and previous classes have achieved similarly high results.

“I am always proud of our graduates and the hard work they put into preparing for the NCLEX-RN. This ranking highlights the tradition of success we have at UT Martin,” said Dr. Mary Radford, chair of the UT Martin Department of Nursing. “I look forward to seeing current and future students be successful not only on the licensure exam, but through service and professional growth in their nursing careers.”

The UT Martin BSN clinical program includes more than 900 hours of hands-on clinical experience in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state. The UT Martin Department of Nursing maintains partnerships with facilities throughout Tennessee, providing students with one of the widest varieties of clinical experiences available in the region.

According to RegisteredNursing.org, the nursing industry is growing in Tennessee, and the state is expected to hire an estimated 1,800 new nurses per year for the next five years.

For more information on the UT Martin Department of Nursing, contact the department at (731) 881-7131 or email nursing@utm.edu.

Students in the UT Martin nursing program practice skills in an on-campus laboratory.
WEAKLEY COUNTY, Tenn. — The 21-year-old man accused of shooting into a crowd of people, sparking a lockdown Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin, appeared Wednesday morning in court to be formally charged.

Investigators said Fuller fired a weapon in the middle of a fight near the UTM campus.

"There is something that you need to understand, that this is a very serious case," Judge Moore said.

University officials said it started with a fight between family members in the University Center.

"The only thing we know is that it came out of some type of family situation. It actually spilled into some private apartments," UTM Communications Director Bud Grimes said.
Investigators say after the fight broke up, they moved into the parking lot of apartments on Hannings Lane, just across the street from campus and a gun shot was reported around 10 minutes later.

“According to Mr. Fuller, they got into another altercation and one of the occupants of that Mazda vehicle produced a handgun,” Martin Police Department Capt. Phillip Fuqua said.

Capt. Fuqua said that’s when Fuller produced and fired his weapon. Police have been interviewing one of the other people involved in the fight, and Fuqua said they are still trying to find and interview the others involved. He says there could be more charges.

“It was an apartment complex. It was a city street, and any time you have a firearm discharge, anyone in the vicinity is in danger, but the intent was just among the small group,” Capt. Fuqua said.

Fuller’s bond was set at $15,000. He is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Grimes says that acting within the university’s current code of conduct, the individual in question is no longer a UTM student.
Several local undergraduate students have been honored with publication of the Fall 2016 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The following students were honored: Samantha J. Knight, High Honors, Adams; Trisha N. Crutcher, High Honors, Cedar Hill; William T. Gregory, High Honors; Torger O. Torgersen, Highest Honors; Gabrielle M. Zizzi, Highest Honors, all of Cross Plains; Christopher Barrow, Highest Honors; Gwendalynn M. Bracey, Honors; Timothy J. Littrell, Honors, all of Goodlettsville; Kenneth A. Abel, Honors; Emily A. Masencup, High Honors, both of Greenbrier; Chelsea E. Frase, Honors; Shelby R. Guffey, Honors, both of Pleasant View; William M. Alexander, High Honors; Trey D. Hinton, High Honors; Elizabeth F. Sapp, Highest Honors, all of Portland; Tamara L. Beard, Highest Honors; Cleve A. Birdwell, Honors; Kelsey A. May, High Honors; Alexandra J. Proffitt, High Honors; Ragan L. Sloan, High Honors all of Springfield; Arianna L. Howell, Honors; Rebekah J. Mansfield, Highest Honors; Cassandra L. Winslow, Highest Honors; Annabella G. Zizzi, Highest Honors, all of White House.

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

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, April 1, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center.

Rosemary Livingston, ACT prep facilitator at Riverside High School in Decaturville, will give participants insight into improving performance and boosting scores. Students will learn about test structure, time management and other test-taking tips. Students are highly encouraged to purchase "The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition" and bring the book to class.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person plus the cost of the optional textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

Shots fired lead to UTM lockdown

BY CHANCE FARMER
POST-INTELLIGENCER

A Tuesday afternoon lockdown at the University of Tennessee at Martin ended with no injuries, one suspect in custody and at least two others at large and wanted for questioning.

The UTM campus was initially placed on lockdown about 1 p.m. Tuesday, according to a campuswide text and email alert.

The alert stated that gun shots had been fired on Mount Pelia Road near the Boling University Center. At that time, the suspect had not been found.

The campus was placed on lockdown, and campus security, the Martin Police Department and Weakley County Sheriff's Department, searched the scene.

According to Bud Grimes, director of university relations, a family altercation ended in a shooting on Hannings Lane, just off of Mount Pelia Road, near the university campus.

An all-clear was issued by the university at 1:37 p.m. No injuries were reported.

An unidentified UTM student is in custody, and two black males who are not UTM students were at large. The two were believed to be traveling to Lauderdale or Madison County in a two-door black Mazda.

Locally, an alert for the two and their vehicle was issued by police radio shortly after 2:45 p.m.

Any information about the suspects should be reported to law enforcement officials.
**1-woman show set at UTM**

Kate Tombaugh, a performer based in Murray, Ky., will perform her one-woman show, “It Just Takes One,” at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts Building.

Ms. Tombaugh serves as producer and performer of the show, which explores the struggles of a young woman beginning a career as an opera singer while attempting to balance her social life.

The production features operatic performance, musical theatre, art song and a variety of musical selections from the 1930s and 40s.

UT Martin performers will close the performance week with two concerts April 2, with both to be located in Blankenship Recital Hall. Students in the UT Martin vocal studio will present their spring recital beginning at 3 p.m. and the University Trio will perform at 7:30 that evening.

Dr. Elaine Harriss and Charles Lewis, both music faculty members at UT Martin, and Dr. Krista Frye, a music faculty member at both Murray (Ky.) State University and Bethel University, make up the University Trio. The group will perform pieces written for piano, flute and clarinet.

All three performances are free of charge and open to the public.

**‘Charisma’ to feature ensemble**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will present their spring showcase, “Charisma,” at 8 p.m. March 30-31 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located in UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building.

This showcase includes student choreography, as well as work created by Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance. The LCD Faculty Woodwind Trio, comprised of Dr. Douglas Owens, Dr. Liz Aleksander and Charles Lewis, all faculty members in the UT Martin Department of Music, will collaborate with the ensemble to perform “Imperfections,” an original score by composer Michael Mathenia.

Visual effects by Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design, as well as the talents of the theater improv student group, led by Kevin Shell, assistant professor of theater and director of Vanguard Theatre, will also be incorporated.

Admission is $15 for the general public and $5 for students older than age 10. Children younger than age 10 will be admitted free.

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

**Percussion quartet to play at university on Friday**

The BlueSHIFT Percussion Quartet will give a public concert at 2 p.m. Friday in the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building’s percussion rehearsal hall.

BlueSHIFT Percussion was founded in 2015 and is dedicated to the performance of modern works for percussion.

The concert will feature the world premieres of three different percussion compositions and will give audience members the chance to hear music that has never been performed in public before.

The quartet’s members have all been doctoral students under the direction of University of Kentucky professor Dr. James Campbell and they will present an instructional masterclass during their UT Martin visit.

**Martin man arrested after shooting incident near UTM campus**

**By CHRIS MENEES**

**Staff Reporter**

A Martin man has been arrested on multiple charges after a shooting incident near the University of Tennessee at Martin that led to a campus lockdown Tuesday.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, a resident of Grove Apartments in Martin, was taken into custody after allegedly firing a weapon at several people at apartments on Hannings Lane.

He has been charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony, according to the Martin Police Department.

He was being held at the Weakley County Detention Center in Dresden after his arrest.

No injuries have been reported in the incident, which resulted in UT Martin being placed on lockdown for a brief time Tuesday afternoon while Martin and UT Martin police investigated a report of shots fired near the campus college. Public safety issued an all-clear for the campus after

A suspect, identified as a student, was in custody.

UT Martin police reported a physical altercation involving several people who had occurred inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all those involved left the area. However, the altercation resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Martin police said Fuller allegedly fired a weapon at several individuals at the apartments located at 302-304 Hannings Lane. He then left the area in a white car.

(See Page 5, Col. 3)
Shooting...
(Continued from Page 1)
Chevy SUV, traveling northbound on Mount Pelia Road, and police took him into custody after making contact with him at Mount Pelia Road and University Street. Multiple weapons were located inside the vehicle, Martin police Capt. Phillip Fuqua reported in a news release.

The incident remains under investigation by Martin police and UT Martin police.

Martin police had been looking for a second vehicle — a black 2005 Mazda — occupied by three men identified as allegedly being involved in the altercation. About 11 this morning, Fuqua reported the car was located in the city limits of Martin and one of the occupants was located.

That person was being interviewed by Martin police investigators at press time today.

So far, no charges have been filed on anyone else, but the investigation is ongoing and more charges may be forthcoming, according to Martin police.

UT Martin students win at journalism conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio and television stations and campus newspaper received numerous awards at the 2017 Southeast Journalism Conference held last month on the University of Mississippi's campus in Oxford.

WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," UT Martin's student-run campus radio station, was named Best College Radio Station in the South for the third consecutive year. The station has received this honor six times in the past eight years and has ranked in the top three every year since 2007.

WUTM also received first place in the Best College Audio News (Podcast) category for the second consecutive year. The station has placed in the top three positions in this category since it was created in 2011.

"The station staff set a goal to be named the best college radio station in the South again this year," said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. "They worked hard and the station was so honored by the Southeastern Journalism Conference. I believe this demonstrates a real commitment from our students to make our station the best that it can be."

Individual students also submitted material in a variety of categories prior to the conference for third-party review. A total of 29 schools from seven states participated in this portion of the conference.

Several UT Martin students earned individual awards in the 2017 Best of the South competitions, including:

- Best Radio Hard News Reporter: Natalie King, a senior from Paducah, Ky., first place;
- Best Radio News Feature Reporter: Ashley Shores, a junior from Lebanon, fourth place;
- Best Television Hard News Reporter: Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, fourth place;
- Best Opinion/Editorial Writer: Ashton Priest, a junior from Obion, eighth place;
- Best Special Event Reporter/Editor: Rachel Moore, a sophomore from Ashland City, fifth place;
- Best College Website: The Pacer Newspaper website, seventh place.

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

OC STUDENT HONORED — University of Tennessee at Martin senior Leah Hutchison (third from left), daughter of James and Teresa Hutchison of Obion County, was recently named the UT Martin Department of Behavioral Sciences Social Work Program’s 2016-17 Advanced Progression Student of the Year. On hand for the presentation of the award were (from left) Donald Jordan, assistant professor of social work for the UT Martin Social Work Program; Alicia Donaldson, associate professor of social work, co-director and field coordinator for the Social Work Program; Miss Hutchison; Daphne Henderson, associate professor of social work, chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and co-director of the UT Martin Social Work Program; Amy McLean, assistant professor of social work; and Shelby Stanton, instructor for the UT Martin Social Work Program.
UT Martin Placed On Lockdown
Following Report Of Shots Fired

As a result of a police investigation concerning a report of shots fired near the University of Tennessee at Martin, one suspect has been taken into custody and three others are being sought.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

According to Martin Police Capt. Phillip Fuqua, Martin and UTM Police are investigating shots fired near the UTM campus Tuesday afternoon.

UTM Police reported a physical altercation involving multiple individuals inside the University Center. After the fight ended, all parties left the area. The altercation then resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apts. in Martin, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, th
Tennessee Promise inspires new scholarship at UT

Rachel Ohm, USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee 4:52 p.m. ET March 23, 2017

The University of Tennessee Knoxville is offering a new scholarship for transfer students in an effort to attract graduates of the Tennessee Promise program.

Funding for the Volunteer Transfer Scholarship (http://transfer.utk.edu/financial-aid/), like other merit scholarships and need-based financial aid, will come through a tuition-based model and could benefit between 15 and 20 percent of UT’s student population, said Larry Long, an assistant director in undergraduate admissions who works with transfer students.

"The first group of students who took advantage of the Tennessee Promise program are now completing their community college studies and will be looking at four-year universities to complete their bachelor's degrees," Long said in a news release Thursday from UT. "We want Tennessee Promise students and other outstanding transfer students to continue their education at UT."

Tennessee Promise is the state's program that allows high school seniors who maintain a certain GPA to attend community college tuition-free for two years. Since its launch in 2014, the program has helped more than 33,000 students enroll in college (/story/news/education/2017/02/03/tennessee-promise-grows-enrollment-has-60-percent-retention-rate/97440870/) and contributed to an increase in the number of transfer students (/story/news/education/2017/02/17/education-leaders-discuss-growing-transfer-student-population/98044720/) seeking to continue their education at four-year universities.

Last fall, 1,367 transfer students enrolled at UT. Between 15 and 20 percent of the student population at any given time is made up of transfer students, Long said in an interview.

Transfer students, from both in and out of state, who want to continue their education at UT don't need to apply for the new scholarship. It will be applied automatically for up to four semesters or two years, the university said in its release.

Students must have at least a 3.25 UT-calculated GPA and an associate degree from a Tennessee Board of Regents community college to be eligible, and they must enroll in the fall or spring semester immediately after completing their associate degree. They also must maintain a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA while at UT to be eligible for the awards of between $1,500 and $5,000 annually.

The University of Tennessee at Martin also began offering a similar scholarship in fall 2016 for transfer students with at least 12 college credit hours and a minimum 3.0 GPA, Director of Admissions Destin Tucker said. She also said the scholarship was inspired by Tennessee Promise and that UT Martin currently has 20 percent more transfer students admitted for fall 2017 than they did for fall 2016.

Admissions officials at UT Chattanooga did not respond to requests for comment Thursday.

In general, Long said he thinks four-year institutions in Tennessee are seeing a change in the nature of the transfer student, with more traditionally-aged students seeking to transfer because of Tennessee Promise.

"We want to recognize our transfer students and make sure we're showing them they're important on our campus," Long said. "There are great students at community college, so it made sense to have a merit based scholarship model for transfer students to reward those that are going there and doing extremely well."
Man charged in shooting that led to UTM lockdown

MARTIN, Tenn. — A man is in custody after a Tuesday shooting near UT Martin sent the campus into lockdown.

Tommy D. Fuller, 21, is accused of firing a gun at several people at apartments in the 300 block of Hamings Lane, according to a release from the Martin Police Department.

No injuries have been reported.

UTM police reported a physical altercation involving multiple people Tuesday afternoon in the University Center.

Everyone left the area after the fight ended, but the altercation resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane.

That's when police say Fuller fired the gunshots.

He then reportedly left in a white SUV and was taken into custody on Mt. Pelia Road near University Street. Multiple weapons were located in his vehicle, according to police.

A second vehicle has been identified as a 2005 Mazda with license plate K2g-9gy occupied by three people involved in the altercation.

The investigation is ongoing and more charges may be forthcoming.

Fuller has been charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property and unlawful possession of a weapon in commission of a felony.

He will be held at the Weakley County Detention Center.

Former UTM QB Carr returns as coach

BRANDON SHIELDS
USA TODAY NETWORK — TENNESSEE

It was less than 10 years ago when Derek Carr was the quarterback at McKenzie High School and led the Rebels to the state championship game. He was named a finalist for Mr. Football.

In the decade since then, Carr went on to have a successful college career at UT Martin before serving as a graduate assistant coach and going to Temple University for a year.

He parlayed that into a job as an assistant coach at Tennessee Tech.

Carr's next move as a college coach has brought him back home to West Tennessee as he was recently hired as the wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator for UTM.

"It's great to be home and great to be back in a place where we know people and people know me and my wife," Carr said about the move. "I'm loving being back on campus here in Martin and glad to be back with (UTM head coach Jason Simpson.)"

Carr's connections through the Simpson coaching tree helped him land the job. Justin Rascati is the offensive coordinator at Chattanooga and held Carr's position before going to coach with the Mocs.

"He and I were on the phone talking ball a few weeks back, and he told me to hold on because Coach Simpson was calling him," Carr said. "The position had come open, and he asked me if I'd be interested.

"I was very interested in it, and he told me to give Coach Simpson a call."

Now with the Skyhawks set to start spring practice Thursday, Carr is wearing the UTM blue and orange again.

When Carr was at Tennessee Tech, the Golden Eagles landed a few prospects from West Tennessee, including Liberty's D.J. Wilkes and Trinity Christian Academy's Andrew Goldsmith.

Carr won't be the main recruiter for West Tennessee for UTM, but he will help in the northern areas closer to where he's from and in West Alabama.

"I'm looking forward to it because I love recruiting and meeting these guys that could become Skyhawks in the future," Carr said. "I'm glad to be back home helping out the place that helped me get my start."

Reach Brandon Shields at bjshields@jacksonsun.com or at 425-9751.
UT Martin senior wins vocal contest

Jackson native seeks career in opera and then music education

ERIN CHESNUT
UT MARTIN

Darius Taylor, of Jackson, recently placed first in his age group in the inaugural Great Composers Competition - Best Schubert Performance, a series of international music competitions for young performers. Taylor, a senior music education major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received first place among men ages 23-25.

Taylor discovered the competition through Roberto Mancusi, UT Martin associate professor of music and Taylor's vocal coach. As luck would have it, Taylor had performed music by composer Franz Schubert at his senior voice recital, and he submitted those recordings for consideration. He was surprised to be asked to audition for the final round and even more shocked to see his name on the list of winners.

"I was just on the website to see how everything was going because I didn’t know if I would place or not," he said. "I saw they had a page up for winners already, so I scrolled down and I saw my name. I just sat there in shock. I thought, ‘Wait a minute, this can’t be right!’"

Sure enough, a winning certificate arrived via email a few days later, and Taylor is humbled to receive international validation regarding his career choice.

"I’ve learned this is definitely something I want to pursue and continue doing. I’ve invested so many years of training to get to this point, and to see some fruits come back from that only bolsters my belief in what I’ve been taught," he said. "It really makes me want to move forward and really give it my all to continue in this profession."

Taylor plans to graduate from UT Martin in December and intends to pursue a master’s degree in opera performance and gain professional experience before returning to share his love of music in a classroom.

"I’ve always had a passion to teach music because that was one part of school where I really thrived, and I felt something within me telling me to keep going with that. It made me feel alive," he said. "I want to be one of those people who helps someone discover, ‘Hey, I have a knack for (music). I can move other people with this, and this really moves me emotionally and spiritually.’"

Taylor’s primary goal is to teach in a high school music setting to help students develop a love of music and work through common challenges that face the middle school age group.

"I’ve found there should be an importance (placed on) middle school choir directors, so I wouldn’t mind trying my hand at that. That’s a very crucial point for a lot of people when it comes to singing because your voice is changing and you’re trying to adapt to new things," Taylor explained. "I personally would like to see more male involvement in choir. I’m one of only five male vocal majors (at UT Martin), and I believe it all starts there in middle school because guys’ voices are going through a much more dramatic change there.... I’d really like to be there to step in and let them know that it’s going to be all right; you’re going to settle down and learn to harness this new instrument, and it’s going to be nothing like what you’ve had before.”

Taylor sees music and fine arts education as a crucial component to the development of young children and adults alike, and he hopes to encourage his future students to appreciate all forms of music, not only for their sound but also for the effect music can have on the soul and personality.

"I think being involved in music and the finer arts helps develop a person internally, and it’s not something you can put on paper," he said. "It sands the finer edges of who we are as people and the kinds of things we enjoy."

Taylor plans to continue performing and competing in the coming years as his career takes flight, and encourages other students of all majors to take the same chances and venture beyond their comfort zones.

"Whether you receive an accolade or not, there’s always something to learn," he said. "Whether you succeed or you fail, you have to take (that experience) and grow from it. It’s a hard lesson to learn, and it took me four years.”

The Schubert competition is Taylor’s first foray into the world of international vocal competition.
UTM marks 90 years in UT system

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

The University of Tennessee at Martin is marking its 90th anniversary this month.

Although the university traces its roots to 1900 and the beginnings of the Hall-Moody Institute, that college closed its operations in 1927, and the school's ties to the state university began.

At that time, the University of Tennessee, with help from the City of Martin and Weakley County, purchased the Hall-Moody property and its buildings, and another 80 acres adjoining the campus to the west.

On Feb. 10, 1927, a state Senate bill established the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin. On March 29, it was approved by Tennessee Gov. Austin Peay.

The college opened its doors in September with 120 students, most of whom were returning Hall-Moody students.

But as the Depression ravaged the nation, UTJC enrollment dropped to 96. Faculty members were released, salaries were reduced and athletic events were suspended.

The original chancellor was replaced by Paul Meek, and as the economy improved, so did UTJC enrollment. The number of students crested in 1940 at 336.

But history wasn't through with UTJC. With the beginning of World War II, enroll-

ANNIVERSARY,
FROM PAGE 1

ment again plummeted, especially among male students who were enlisting to fight for their country. By 1943, with only 115 students enrolled, there was talk of closing the college.

But a previous agreement with the Civil Aeronautics Administration allowed the campus to open a Navy pilot training program, shoring up the school's sagging finances.

But the GI Bill, which provided tuition for veterans, had the most dramatic effect on the college. Between the end of the war in the fall of 1945 and the beginning of the fall 1946, the student population tripled to 649, with the large majority being veterans.

UTJC was back on its feet. In 1951 it was approved as a four-year college known as the University of Tennessee, Martin Branch.

The 1960s brought another enrollment surge, from 1,123 students in 1960 to 4,197.

Faculty, curriculum and physical buildings increased proportionately as enrollment continue to grow.

And in 1967 it received its current name of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The football team won the Tangerine Bowl and UTM student Linda Sue Workman was crowned Miss Tennessee.

The university now receives national rankings for the quality of its programs each year, and degree programs offered continue to expand.
EQUALITY, 1945 — The first female member of the Engineers' Club (center) was admitted during the 1945-46 school year.

NAVY FLIGHT TRAINING CENTER — An artist's rendition of Gill-Dove Airways field was used for a poster. The Navy's use of the facility is said to be the origin of the team name "Skyhawks."

MEN'S DORMITORY — Lovelace Home for Young Men was named after W.N. Lovelace, who gave Hall-Moody Institute three acres of land, and in 1921 a dormitory was constructed on the site. Eventually this residence hall was renamed Freeman Hall. The building was demolished in the summer of 1973 to clear a site for the construction of Gooch Hall.
Report of shots fired on UTM campus leads to lockdown

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

The first people to know there was a problem on campus were probably people listening to their police scanners. But it was lunch time, and some drivers on University, Martin's busiest street, noticed a police stop near the Mt. Pelia Road intersection.

"There was a white car stopped, and stuff strewn all over the road," said one Martin resident.

Then the phone calls, emails and texts started.

Some called the Weakley County Press, as people who worked near the University of Tennessee at Martin realized something was wrong.

At 1 p.m. the university email system notified anyone on its mailing list that the campus was in lockdown after shots had been fired.

Over 6,000 students attend UTM, and many of them are locals who started calling their parents. In addition, 117 Westview freshmen and 13 teachers were on a campus field trip. They, too, were calling each other and their parents. Other Westview seniors were also on campus, job shadowing and taking tours.

According to Martin Police Department Capt. Phillip Fuqua, the altercation started at the University Center as an argument involving several people. The argument ended and all parties left the area, but the conflict resumed a few minutes later on Hannings Lane, which is near campus.

MPD said UTM student Tommy D. Fuller, 21, of Grove Apartments in Martin, allegedly fired a weapon at several individuals at apartments on Hannings Lane.

Fuller then reportedly left the area in a white Chevrolet SUV northbound on Mt. Pelia Road, where officers met him and took him into custody before he could leave campus. MPD said multiple weapons were found in Fuller’s vehicle.

At press time authorities were still searching for three individuals believed to be involved in the altercation. The black 2005 two-door Mazda they were reportedly traveling in was located midday in Martin and one of the subjects was being interviewed.

Fuller was charged with felony reckless endangerment, theft of property, and unlawful possession of a
weapon in commission of a felony. At press time he was being held in Weakley County Detention Center.

Jeremy Davidson, Westview's principal, said he happened to be near the UTM campus when the incident occurred. When a call to his school notified him the campus was on lockdown and the Westview students were in the Boling Center theater, he sought and was given permission to view the incident.

See LOCKDOWN, Page 13

LOCKDOWN, FROM PAGE 1

mission to go to the theater.

There he addressed the students and told them to text their parents where they were and that they were safe, "so there would be peace of mind, as much as there could be."

Davidson said Westview, like all Tennessee schools, practices lockdown drills each year, but this was the first time students had experienced the situation outside of their own building. He said it would give school officials "more to talk about" during the next drill.

"We're just glad nobody was hurt," Davidson said. "UT Martin students, faculty and staff are very grateful to local and county law enforcement for their quick response to Tuesday's shooting incident," Chancellor Keith Carver said Wednesday.

"What they did to protect the campus in a short time is amazing and speaks to the high level of professionalism in the law enforcement community. We are reviewing all that happened from the university's perspective in order to be even better prepared for emergency situations."

By 1:37 the lockdown had been lifted, but tens of thousands of people were visiting the Press' Facebook page to comment and share information. By Wednesday morning traffic on the page, where Press staff were posting updates throughout the afternoon, had increased over 800 percent. Page "likes" increased over 1,000 percent. Total post engagements were over 55,000.

SECURING THE SCENE — Martin police officers stop a man on UTM campus after shots were fired. This photo was submitted to the Press and there is no indication that the man had any involvement in the incident.

UTM football hires former QB Carr

The University of Tennessee at Martin football team has announced the hiring of former standout quarterback Derek Carr as the program's new pass game coordinator and wide receivers coach.

Carr joins the staff after a brief stint as quarterbacks coach at Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee Tech during the 2016 campaign. While assisting on the Golden Eagle staff, Carr oversaw Michael Birdsong who was named a recipient of the Robert Hill Johnson Award – Tech football's highest honor. Birdsong passes for 2,577 yards while tossing 17 touchdowns.

Prior to his stint at Tennessee Tech, Carr spent two seasons as a graduate assistant coach at Temple assisting with the team's offense.

Before joining Temple's staff, Carr spent a season as an offensive graduate assistant at UT Martin, working with the quarterbacks and wide receivers after graduation during the 2013 campaign.

Carr joins the staff at just the right time with spring drills starting today and the annual Pro Day is also set for today.

UT Martin will use the team's spring practices to not only refine its system, but continue to grow upon last season's strides.

Fans can see the Skyhawks in their first spring scrimmage of the year on Saturday, April 8. The game will serve as the first of three planned scrimmages with another on Friday, April 14. Saturday, April 22 caps off the practice schedule and serves as the annual Navy/White Spring Game at 10 a.m.
One-day ACT Prep Course offered at UTM Parsons Center

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT Prep Course offered from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 1, at the UTM Parsons Center.

Rosemary Livingston, ACT prep facilitator at Riverside High School in Decaturville, will give participants insight into improving performance and boosting scores. Students will learn about test structure, time management, and other test taking tips. Students are highly encouraged to purchase *The Real ACT, 3rd Edition* and bring the book to class.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person plus the cost of the optional textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For more information or to register, contact UTM at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

UTM Percussion Studio to host World Bizarre fundraiser March 31

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio will host its annual World Bizarre fundraiser beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at the Soleil Garden Center in Union City.

A $10 ticket includes live music, food, and drinks throughout the night. UTM music students and faculty members will perform a variety of music from around the world. International students currently attending UTM also will appear to perform their native musical works alongside the ensemble.

The event includes a silent auction featuring gift certificates, artwork, instruments, and other items. Door prizes will be available throughout the evening, with door prize raffle tickets available for $1 each. Proceeds from this event support student study-abroad opportunities, community outreach projects, guest educators, and the purchase and repair of percussion instruments and sheet music.

The Soleil Garden Center is located at 2317 Nailing Drive in Union City. For more information, contact Julie Hill, director of percussion studies, at 731-881-7418 or email at jhill@utm.edu.

PERCUSSION - Jalen Ware, a freshman from Union City, performs with the UTM World Percussion Ensemble.
Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference

Monday, March 27th 2017, 11:02 am CDT
Monday, March 27th 2017, 11:40 am CDT
Written by Noland Cook, Director
MARTIN, TN (KFVS) -

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s student-run radio station, WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," received 25 separate awards during the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference held in New York City.

The station’s long list of accolades includes a Platinum Award, the highest peer-reviewed distinction given to college radio stations by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. WUTM has received this award for seven consecutive years.

In the year prior to each annual conference, student broadcasters from across the nation submit material in a variety of award categories to compete for the “best of” titles in their chosen areas.

“No matter the category or content being provided, our judges consistently tell us that the material students at WUTM produce are some of the strongest entries they come across each year,” Chris Thomas, chairman of the board and president of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System, said. “The Hawk at the University of Tennessee at Martin, under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Richard Robinson, continues to be one of the top performers each and every year at our annual (Intercollegiate Broadcasting System) media awards.”

WUTM staff members received first-place awards in six categories. The winners are as follows:

- Best Newscast – Ashley Shores, a senior from Lebanon
- Best Spot News – Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, and Shores
- Best Sports Play-by-Play – Kelsey Bussell, a 2016 graduate from Cookeville; Chuck Hammer, a 2016 graduate from Martin; and Jared Peckenpaugh, a 2016 graduate from Finley
- Best Sports Director – Peckenpaugh
- Best Business Director – Holly Seng, a sophomore from Union City
- Best News Report – Tori Seng and Ashleigh Burton, a 2016 graduate from South Fulton. This award was received specifically for their work with the UTM-TV station. This is the first year entries from college television stations were accepted for consideration.

Fourteen UT Martin students also received top-five finishes in 18 categories. The finalists are as follows:

- Best Live Music Broadcast – Shane Wofford, a junior from Trenton, and King
- Most Creative Show – King
- Best Celebrity Interview – Tori Seng
- Best Morning Show – Shores and Julia Ewoldt, a junior from Savannah
- Best Newscast – Ben Albright, a senior from Millington
- Best News Feature Story – Peckenpaugh and Dennis Wallace, a senior from Martin
- Best Community News – Kait Scott, a sophomore from Martin, and Mac Doran, a senior from Dresden
- Best Political News Coverage – Shores and Rikki Erwin, a junior from Brighton
- Best Spot News Coverage – Kayla Harmon, a 2016 graduate from Lewisburg
- Best News Promo – King
- Best Station Promo – Burton
- Best Event Promo – Bussell
- Best Podcast – Tori Seng
- Best Men’s Basketball Play-by-Play – Peckenpaugh and Harmon
- Best Sports Update – Peckenpaugh
- Best Sports Pre- or Post-Game Show – Hammer and Harmon
- Best Promotions Director – Scott
Our communications students once again worked extremely hard and were honored for the quality of their work by an international college media organization,” Robinson, associate professor of communications and radio station adviser, said. “I believe this is a testament to their diligence, represents a commitment to excellence and speaks well for our broadcasting program.”

“I’m elated that our broadcasting students have yet again won so many national awards at (the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards). I don’t take that for granted, but I’m not surprised. I see each day the hard work and commitment to excellence of our talented radio and TV students and their advisers,” added Dr. Robert Nanney, chair of the UT Martin Department of Communications.

These awards come on the heels of WUTM’s success at the Southeast Journalism Conference where the station was named “Best College Radio Station in the South” for the third consecutive year and received first place in the “Best College Audio News (Podcast)” category for the second consecutive year. UT Martin students also won “best of” awards in the radio hard news, radio news feature, television hard news, opinion/editorial, special event reporting and college website categories.

For more information, you contact the department at (731)-881-7546.

Former UT Martin standout quarterback Derek Carr returns as coach

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

http://www.kfvs12.com/

MARTIN, Tenn. - Derek Carr was and is still one the most prolific quarterbacks in UT Martin history. Which is why when the Skyhawks needed a new passing coordinator and wide receivers coach, the first call Jason Simpson made was to his former signal caller.

"There was a certain swagger that we had here when he was our quarterback," said Simpson, who is entering his 12th season as UT Martin's head coach.

"It was a great opportunity that I couldn't pass up," Carr said. "Honestly, I didn't know I would be coming back this quick. I did always want to come back at some point in time and coach here."

Carr began his coaching career as a grad assistant at both UT Martin and Temple, then served as quarterbacks coach Tennessee Tech. And it's because of his experience outside of Martin that makes coming back now the perfect time.

"I had a lot of growing up I needed to do," he said. "I was good getting away and getting to see a bunch of different cultures and how college football is as a coach and how it should be treated."

Although he is less than a week on the job, it's as if he had never left.

"I believe we have had over 20 concepts installed in the first two days that we have had practice," said Carr. "So if somebody else new would have came in, they would have just been trying to swim and learn the concepts."

And if his job is done right, Carr’s records may fall soon.

"Well shoot, I know we have the guys here that can do it," he said. "The only reason I was successful was because of the guys I had around me."
WestStar announces plans to host African American Leadership Conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 19th annual African American Leadership Conference from 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. April 18 at the STAR Center, located at 1119 Old Humboldt Road in Jackson.

The registration fee is $20 for high school and college students and $35 for other attendees. The cost includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register with the WestStar Leadership Program office by April 12 and seating is limited.

The Rev. Keith Norman, pastor at First Baptist Church-Broad in the Binghamton community, will be the keynote speaker. He formerly served as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Memphis and as vice president of governmental affairs for Baptist Memorial Healthcare.

Attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. and will be welcomed at 8:30 by Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin associate vice chancellor of alumni relations. Norman will deliver his keynote address at 8:45, followed by Dr. Charlotte Fisher, director of operations and deputy superintendent for Tipton County Schools, and Paula Fuller, recruitment coordinator for Jackson State Community College, who will discuss educational issues at 9:30.

T. Ray Greer Jr., pastor at Salem Baptist Church, will discuss his book, "How to Edit Your Credit," at 10:30. Carrie Ann Knox, community outreach coordinator, Kirkland Cancer Center; Andrea Bond Johnson, chief executive officer, Golden Circle Insurance; and Kathy Moore Cowan Sr., community development specialist, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis-Memphis Branch, will address health concerns related to cancer at 11:15.

Following lunch, participants will hear from Dr. Robbie Melton, associate vice chancellor of mobilizing emerging technology with the Tennessee Board of Regents, regarding diversity in emerging technologies. Mark Gwyn, Nashville director for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, will close the conference with a discussion of crime in the African American community at 1:30 p.m.

Awards and door prizes will be presented following the final speaker.

Those interested in attending may send a check to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38237. Registration should include the names, businesses, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all participants. Registrants may also call (731) 881-3298 to pay via credit card.

For more information about the conference or registration process, contact Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative specialist, at (731) 881-3298 or email jone239@utm.edu.

Court of Appeals at UTM

Posted on March 27, 2017 by Charles Choate in Local News

UT-Martin will be hosting the Tennessee Court of Appeals next week at Watkins Auditorium.

On Tuesday, the court will hear oral arguments in four cases from 10:00 until 11:00, then from 1:00 until 2:00.

The Court of Appeals hears civil cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions.

The court has 12 members who sit in panels of three in monthly meetings in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville, and occasional alternate locations.

The Court does not include witnesses, juries or testimonies, but only attorneys from both sides presenting oral or written arguments to the judges.

At Martin, attorneys will have 15 minutes to present their arguments, with the remainder of each hour allotted to answer questions from UT Martin students.

A panel meeting on the campus will include Judge Steven Stafford and Judge Brandon Gibson from the Court of Appeals, along with Chancellor Micheal Maloan and Circuit Judge Jeff Parham.
Tennessee Court of Appeals to hear cases at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the Tennessee Court of Appeals April 4 in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

The court will hear oral arguments in four cases from 10-11 a.m. and at 1-2 p.m. Proceedings are open to the public.

The State of Tennessee has two intermediate-level appellate courts: the Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals.

The Court of Appeals, created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1925, hears civil cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. The court has 12 members who sit in panels of three and meet monthly in Nashville, Knoxville and Jackson. The court may occasionally meet in alternate locations.

Court of Appeals hearings do not include witnesses, juries or testimonies. Instead, attorneys from both sides present either oral or written arguments directly to the judges.

On April 4, participating attorneys in each case will have 15 minutes to present oral arguments. The remainder of each hour has been allotted to answer questions from UT Martin students.

The panel meeting on the UT Martin campus will include Judge Steven Stafford and Judge Brandon Gibson from the Court of Appeals, with Chancellor Michael Maloan and Circuit Judge Jeff Parham — both from the 27th Judicial District, which is Obion and Weakley counties — sitting as special judges. Stafford, Maloan and Parham are all UT Martin alumni.

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals heard cases on the UT Martin campus in September 2015.

The court is hosted by the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs.

For more information on the court’s on-campus session, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, professor of political science, at (731) 881-7367 or email cbaxter@utm.edu.

UTM chancellor at First Board of Trustees Meeting in Chattanooga

Posted on March 28, 2017 by Derek Kelley in Local News

Keith Carver

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver is attending his first UT Board of Trustees meeting in Chattanooga today and tomorrow.

The meeting begins this morning with committee meetings and a financial review, and UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro will give a report on the colleges within the UT system.

In other news, UT Chattanooga Chancellor Dr. Steven Angle should speak at this meeting held at his university.

The UT Board of Trustees meeting at UTC will continue tomorrow as all of the events will be webcast online.
Appeals court to hold special session at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the Tennessee Court of Appeals on Saturday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The court will hear oral arguments in four cases beginning at 10 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 2 p.m. Proceedings are open to the public.

The state of Tennessee has two intermediate-level appellate courts, the Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. The Court of Appeals, created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1925, hears civil cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. The court has 12 members who sit in panels of three and meet monthly in Nashville, Knoxville and Jackson. The court may occasionally meet in alternate locations.

Court of Appeals hearings do not include witnesses, juries or testimonies. Instead, attorneys from both sides present either oral or written arguments directly to the judges. On Saturday, participating attorneys in each case will have 15 minutes to present oral arguments.

The remainder of each hour has been allotted to answer questions from UT Martin students.

The panel meeting on the UT Martin campus will include Judge Steven Stafford and Judge Brandon Gibson from the Court of Appeals with Chancellor Michael Maloan and Circuit Judge Jeff Parham sitting as special judges. Stafford, Maloan and Parham are all UT Martin alumni.

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals heard cases on the UT Martin campus in September 2015.

The court is hosted by the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. For more information on the court’s on-campus session, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, professor of political science, at 731-881-7367 or email cbaxter@utm.edu.
OPEN COURT
AT UT MARTIN

Public invited to witness
TN Court of Appeals
in action live April 4

ERIN CHESNUT  UT MARTIN

MARTIN - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the Tennessee Court of Appeals on April 4 in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The court will hear oral arguments in four cases beginning at 10 and 11 a.m., and 1 and 2 p.m. Proceedings are open to the public.

The state of Tennessee has two intermediate-level appellate courts, the Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. The Court of Appeals, created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1925, hears civil cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. The court has 12 members who sit in panels of three and meet monthly in Nashville, Knoxville and Jackson. The court may occasionally meet in alternate locations.

Court of Appeals hearings do not include witnesses, juries or testimonies. Instead, attorneys from both sides present either oral or written arguments directly to the judges. On April 4, participating attorneys in each case will have 15 minutes to present oral arguments. The remainder of each hour has been allotted to answer questions from UT Martin students.

The panel meeting on the UT Martin campus will include Judge Steven Stafford and Judge Brandon Gibson from the Court of Appeals, with Chancellor Michael Maloan and Circuit Judge Jeff Parham sitting as special judges. Stafford, Maloan and Parham are all UT Martin alumni.

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals heard cases on the UT Martin campus in September 2015. The court is hosted by the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. For more information on the court's on-campus session, contact Dr. Chris Baxter, professor of political science, at (731) 881-7367 or email cbaxter@utm.edu.

From left. Judges Roger Page, Timothy Easter and John Everett Williams hear oral arguments during the 2015 Court of Criminal Appeals special session at UT Martin.
Lynn Watkins, president of McKenzie Rotary Club, Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of UT-M, and Will Rommel, president of the McKenzie Lions Club. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

UT-M Chancellor Carver Speaks to McKenzie Clubs

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (March 27) — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver was the featured speaker at a combined meeting of the McKenzie Rotary Club and McKenzie Lions Club on Monday, March 27. Carver was recently named chancellor of the local university. The Crockett County native is the 20th chancellor of the university. He has worked in administrative functions in the U.T. system.

Lions Club President Will Rommel welcomed everyone and Lions Member Bob Rutledge introduced Carver.

Carver said he is continuing with visits into area communities to bring UT-Martin to a planned 10 cities, but now has plans to extend the visits to other communities. The community visits are a time to visit with alumni, school officials, and city and county leaders. UT-Martin has suffered seven straight years of declining enrollment, said Carver. That decline is concurrent with population declines in the geographic region.

UT-Martin is placing more

See CLUBS on Page 3

Clubs

...From Front Page

emphasis on matching students with careers through its Career Development Center. The Center helps students to find internships with alumni or area companies. Students also learn skills in interviewing and resume writing.

Career Tracker software helps students determine career choices by providing some details of careers and the skills needed for those careers, and a personality profile of the student to better determine if the student's personality is well matched with the mandates of the career.

UT-Martin is a great value and provides classrooms with a small number of students. Eighty percent of the classrooms have fewer than 30 students, said the chancellor. There are approximately 7,000 students on campus.

Tennessee's Drive to 55 provides free tuition to community colleges and technology schools. Once those students complete their studies at a community college, UT-Martin works to provide courses of study for those students to attain a bachelor's degree. One way to assure success is through appropriate articulation agreements with the schools offering associate's degrees, said Carver.

The chancellor said he is looking forward to working the Bethel University and its president, Walter Butler.
Derek Carr Returns To UT-M Football

Named Pass Game Coordinator, Receivers Coach

Courtesy UT-Martin Sports Department

MARTIN (March 21) — The University of Tennessee at Martin football team announced the hiring of former McKenzie Rebel and Skyhawk standout quarterback Derek Carr as the program’s new pass game coordinator and wide receivers coach.

Carr joins the staff after a brief stint as quarterbacks coach at Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee Tech during the 2016 campaign.

While assisting on the Golden Eagle staff, Carr oversaw Michael Birdsong who was named a recipient of the Robert Hill Johnson Award – Tech football’s highest honor. Birdsong passed for 2,577 yards while tossing 17 touchdowns.

Prior to his stint at Tennessee Tech, Carr spent two seasons as a graduate assistant coach at Temple assisting with the team’s offense.

Before joining Temple’s staff, Carr spent a season as an offensive graduate assistant at UT Martin, working with the quarterbacks and wide receivers after graduation during the 2013 campaign.

A standout multi-sport athlete at McKenzie High School, Carr, the son of Kenny and Jackie Carr, posted prolific passing numbers en route to leading the Rebels to its first football state championship appearance his senior season prior to graduating in 2008.

Carr was a three-year captain at UT Martin where he set numerous quarterback records including school marks for career pass attempts (1,110), yards (8,428) and touchdowns (69) along with single-game touchdowns (seven). Carr also holds the record for single-game passing yards (560) and career 300-yard passing performances (10). He also set the NCAA record for passing efficiency in a game at Murray State in 2012, completing 42-of-46 passes for 560 yards and seven touchdowns.

Married to the former Shelly Jones, Carr graduated from UT Martin in 2013 with a degree in university studies.

See CARR on Page 3

Carr

...From Front Page

For Carr, the journey from small-town Tennessee to the college football big leagues has been nothing short of remarkable. After leading McKenzie High School to its first football state championship appearance his senior season prior to graduating in 2008, Carr enrolled at UT Martin, where he quickly established himself as one of the top quarterbacks in the country.

Over the course of his three-year career at UT Martin, Carr set numerous school records, including career pass attempts (1,110), yards (8,428) and touchdowns (69) along with a school-record seven single-game touchdowns. His senior season was particularly impressive, as he completed 287 of 469 passes for 3,386 yards and 29 touchdowns, while leading the Skyhawks to their first conference title.

Despite his才华和成就，Carr在UT Martin的时光并没有一帆风顺。他经历了一些困难时期，包括在2012年因伤错过了大部分赛季。但他并没有放弃，而是利用这段时间来学习和成长，最终在2013年重返赛场，并带领球队取得了巨大的成功。

Carr的足球生涯充满了挑战和机遇，但他始终保持着积极的态度和坚定的决心。他不仅在场上表现出色，而且在场下也是一位充满智慧和领导力的队友。无论是在大学还是在更高级别的比赛中，Carr都证明了自己的实力和价值。

Now, as Carr embarks on a new chapter in his football career at UT-Martin, he brings with him not only his athletic talent, but also a wealth of experience and a hunger for continued success. With his work ethic and determination, there is no doubt that he will continue to make a significant impact on the program and the community.
UTM nursing program ranks among top in state

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing has been ranked eighth in Tennessee by RegisteredNursing.org.

The website evaluated 41 nursing programs statewide and determined UT Martin’s bachelor of science in nursing degree program to be one of the best.

The website looked primarily at pass rates for the National Council Licensure Examination when determining ranking placement. The UT Martin Department of Nursing’s 2016 graduating class achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN as first-time test takers last year and previous classes have achieved similarly high results.

“I am always proud of our graduates and the hard work they put into preparing for the NCLEX-RN. This ranking highlights the tradition of success we have at UT Martin,” said Dr. Mary Radford, chair of the UT Martin Department of Nursing.

“I look forward to seeing current and future students be successful not only on the licensure exam, but through service and professional growth in their nursing careers.”

The UT Martin BSN clinical program includes more than 900 hours of hands-on clinical experience in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state. The UT Martin Department of Nursing maintains partnerships with facilities throughout Tennessee, providing students with one of the widest varieties of clinical experiences available in the region.

According to RegisteredNursing.org, the nursing industry is growing in Tennessee and the state is expected to hire an estimated 1,800 new nurses per year for the next five years.

For more information on the UT Martin Department of Nursing, contact the department at (731) 881-7131 or email nursing@utm.edu.
Carr returns to UT Martin to coordinate pass game

If Dresden senior and UT Martin signee Dresser Winn is to shatter the passing records at the school during his approaching football career, he will have to listen to the man who set them.

The UTM football team announced the hiring of former standout quarterback Derek Carr as the program’s new pass game coordinator and wide receivers coach.

Carr joins the staff after a brief stint as quarterbacks coach at Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee Tech during the 2016 campaign.

While assisting on the Golden Eagle staff, Carr oversaw Michael Birdsong who was named a recipient of the Robert Hill Johnson Award – Tech football’s highest honor. Birdsong passed for 2,577 yards while tossing 17 touchdowns.

Prior to his stint at Tennessee Tech, Carr spent two seasons as a graduate assistant coach at Temple assisting with the team’s offense.

Before joining Temple’s staff, Carr spent a season as an offensive graduate assistant at UT Martin, working with the quarterbacks and wide receivers after graduation during the 2013 campaign.

Carr was a three-year captain at UT Martin where he set numerous quarterback records including school marks for career pass attempts (1,110), yards (8,428) and touchdowns (69) along with single-game touchdowns (seven). Carr also holds the record for single-game passing yards (560) and career 300-yard passing performances (10). He also set the NCAA record for passing efficiency in a game at Murray State in 2012, completing 42-of-46 passes for 560 yards and seven touchdowns.

A native of McKenzie, Carr graduated from UT Martin in 2013 with a degree in university studies. He is married to the former Shelly Jones.

West Tennessee Men's Chorale To Perform April 3

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its guest artist concert series with a performance by the West Tennessee Men’s Chorale at 12:15 p.m., April 3, in the Blankenship Recital Hall inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The concert will include arrangements of familiar hymns and gospel songs along with new hymn settings and traditional male sacred compositions. The group consists of more than 20 male musicians from Baptist churches throughout West Tennessee. The chorale performs multiple concerts each year and sings for senior adult groups, assisted living centers and nursing homes. They recently sang the national anthem at a Union University basketball game.

Local musicians who sing with the group include Elwood Doss, junior minister of music at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Martin; Jackie Vaughn, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Greenfield; Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of Communications; and Judge Tommy Moore, pianist at First Baptist Church in Dresden.

The event is free and open to the public.
WestStar To Hold Annual Leadership Conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 19th-annual African American Leadership Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., April 18, at the STAR Center, located at 1119 Old Humboldt Road in Jackson.

The registration fee is $20 for high school and college students, and $35 for other attendees. The cost includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register with the WestStar Leadership Program office by April 12, and seating is limited.

Reverend Keith Norman, pastor at First Baptist Church-Broad in the Binghamton community, will be the keynote speaker. Norman formerly served as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Memphis and as vice president of governmental affairs for Baptist Memorial Healthcare.

Attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. and will be welcomed at 8:30 by Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin associate vice chancellor of alumni relations. Norman will deliver his keynote address at 8:45, followed by Dr. Charlotte Fisher, director of operations and deputy superintendent, Tipton County Schools, and Paula Fuller, recruitment coordinator, Jackson State Community College, who will discuss educational issues at 9:30.

T. Ray Greer Jr., pastor at Salem Baptist Church, will discuss his book “How to Edit Your Credit” at 10:30. Carrie Ann Knox, community outreach coordinator, Kirkland Cancer Center; Andrea Bond Johnson, chief executive officer, Golden Circle Insurance; and Kathy Moore Cowan Sr., community development specialist, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis-Memphis Branch, will address health concerns related to cancer at 11:15.

Following lunch, participants will hear from Dr. Robbie Melton, associate vice chancellor of mobilizing emerging technology with the Tennessee Board of Regents, regarding diversity in emerging technologies. Mark Gwyn, Nashville director, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, will close the conference with a discussion of crime in the African American community at 1:30. Awards and door prizes will be presented following the final speaker.

Those interested in attending may send a check to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38237. Please include the name, business address, phone number and email address of all participants. Registrants may also call 731-881-3298 to pay via credit card.

UT Martin golf blends technology with talent

http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/

MARTIN, Tenn. – When the Rhodes Golf Center was built on the campus of UT Martin in 2013 there was one piece of technology that had to be included with the facility. It's called Flightscope.

"Mr. Bill Rhodes was one of our major donors that really made this place possible," UT Martin golf coach Jerry Carpenter said. "He said 'I want a launch monitor and Flightscope in the building.'" Carpenter happily agreed.

Since then the Skyhawks won their first-ever OVC title along with back to back individual championships.

"Compared with some other schools in the conference it's top of the line," UT Martin senior golfer Austin Swafford said.

Not only does the technology measure 27 different swing parameters, but it also allows the Skyhawks to practice in any kind of weather.

"We can get a lot of stuff done in bad weather that we used to not be able to get done," UT Martin senior golfer Gavin Shellnut said.

And the results show just that.

Added Carpenter: "I told the guys when we opened this thing up... I said 'Alright guys now there's no excuses.'"

Catch 'Charisma' at UT Martin

Keinesia Mason, a sophomore from Memphis, is shown performing in the spring 2016 dance ensemble showcase. The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will present its spring showcase, “Charisma,” at 8 p.m. today and Friday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, in UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building. Admission is $15 for the general public and $5 for students over 10 years of age. Children ages 10 and younger are admitted free. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual Arts at (731) 881-7400.
‘The Hawk’ wins 25 more awards for broadcast distinction

WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the University of Tennessee at Martin’s student-run radio station, received 25 separate awards during the recent Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference held in New York City.

The station’s long list of accolades includes a Platinum Award, the highest peer-reviewed distinction given to college radio stations by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. WUTM has received this award for seven consecutive years.

In the year prior to each annual conference, student broadcasters from across the nation submit material in a variety of award categories to compete for the “best of” titles in their chosen areas.

“No matter the category or content being provided, our judges consistently tell us that the material students at WUTM produce is some of the strongest entries they see each year,” said Chris Thomas, chairman of the board and president of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

“The Hawk at the University of Tennessee at Martin, under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Richard Robinson, continues to be one of the top performers each and every year at our annual (Intercollegiate Broadcasting System) media awards.”

WUTM staff members received first-place awards in six categories. The winners are as follows:

- Best News Cast – Ashley Shores, a senior from Lebanon;
- Best Spot News – Tori Seng, a senior from Union City, and Shores;
- Best Sports Play-by-Play – Kelsey Bussell, a 2016 graduate from Cookeville; Chuck Hammer, a 2016 graduate from Martin; and Jared Peckenaug, a 2016 graduate from Finley;
- Best Sports Director – Peckenaug;
- Best Business Director – Holly Seng, a sophomore from Union City;
- Best News Report – Tori Seng and Ashleigh Burton, a 2016 graduate from South Fulton. This award was received specifically for their work with the UTM-TV station. This is the first year entries from college television stations were accepted for consideration.
- Fourteen UT Martin students also received top-five finishes in 18 categories. The finalists are as follows:
  - Best Live Music Broadcast – Shane Wofford, a junior from Trenton, and King;
  - Most Creative Show – King;
  - Best Celebrity Interview – Tori Seng;
  - Best Morning Show – Shores and Julia Ewoldt, a junior from Savannah;
  - Best Newscast – Ben Albright, a senior from Millington;
  - Best News Feature Story – Peckenaug and Dennis Wallace, a senior from Martin;
  - Best Community News – Kait Scott, a sophomore from Martin, and Mac Doran, a senior from Dresden;
  - Best Political News Coverage – Shores and Rikki Erwin, a junior from Brighton;
  - Best Spot News Coverage – Kayla Harmon, a 2016 graduate from Lewisburg;
  - Best News Promotion – King;
  - Best Station Promo – Burton;
  - Best Event Promo – Bussell;
  - Best Podcast – Tori Seng;
  - Best Men’s Basketball Play-by-Play – Peckenaug and Harmon;
  - Best Sports Update – Peckenaug;
  - Best Sports Pre- or Post-Game Show – Hammer and Harmon;
  - Best Promotions Director – Scott;
  - Best News Director – King.

“Our communications students once again worked extremely hard and were honored for the quality of their work by an international college media organization,” said Robinson, associate professor of communications and radio station adviser. “I believe this is a testament to their diligence, represents a commitment to excellence and speaks well for our broadcasting program.”

“I’m elated that our broadcasting students have yet again won so many national awards [at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards]. I don’t take that for granted, but I’m not surprised. I see each day the hard work and commitment to excellence of our talented radio and TV students and their advisers,” added Dr. Robert Nunney, chair of the UT Martin Department of Communications.

These awards come on the heels of WUTM’s success at the Southeast Journalism Conference, where the station was named “Best College Radio Station in the South” for the third consecutive year and received first place in the “Best College Audio News (Podcast)” category for the second consecutive year. UT Martin students also won “best of” awards in the radio hard news, radio news feature, television hard news, opinion/editorial, special event reporting and college website categories.

For more information, contact the department at 731-881-7546.
Skyhawk Summer Academy to begin April 24

The University of Tennessee at Martin is launching its first Skyhawk Summer Academy, which will allow individuals ages 16 and older to complete a hybrid college course in one of four academic areas. The six-week courses, beginning April 24, have both online and on-campus components and are designed to introduce participants to an area of interest. They are not applied toward a degree.

Participants can choose to study small animal veterinary science, precision agriculture (including drone technology), equestrian science and horsemanship, or the culinary arts. Each six-week course is completed online April 24-June 2 and culminates in a three-day on-campus experience June 9-11. These days will be used to acquire hands-on experience in the chosen area and apply knowledge gained during online coursework.

The fee is $250 per course participant, which covers tuition as well as room and board fees during the three-day campus visit. Minors must be accompanied on campus by an adult. The room-and-board fee for a non-student chaperone is $125.

Students choosing to study small animal veterinary science will learn about small animal nutrition and feeding, the care and handling of small animals, facility management, use of common veterinary equipment and the techniques of diagnostic testing, among other topics. Students will also be able to observe a small-animal surgery.

Those studying precision agriculture will learn how unmanned aerial systems — often called drones — are becoming an important tool in the agriculture, construction and landscaping fields. Students will also learn about Federal Aviation Administration regulations regarding the use of drones, how to plan flight patterns and the basics of remote sensing using images obtained from an unmanned aerial system.

The equine course is designed to provide horse enthusiasts with practical information on the health and welfare of horses, as well as the opportunity to improve handling and riding techniques. Areas of focus in this course include horse behavior, nutrition, facilities, selection and evaluation. Participants of all experience levels are welcomed.

Those choosing to study the culinary arts will put emphasis on the steps involved in food preparation, from selecting and harvesting suitable crops to serving a finished meal. The course will focus on basic cooking skills and give background on basic food science and nutrition.

While courses taken during the Skyhawk Summer Academy are not applied toward a degree, those wishing to pursue bachelor’s degrees in agriculture, veterinary science or the culinary arts can do so through UT Martin’s regular degree programs. Bachelor’s degrees are available in all three fields with online options offered in agribusiness and farm and ranch management, as well as a veterinary science completion option.

For more information on the Skyhawk Summer Academy, visit utm.edu/summeracademy or call Dr. Adam Wilson, director of UT Martin Online, at 731-881-7764. Courses are enrolling now through April 24.

Last to discuss museum’s photography exhibit

Lane Last, professor of art at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will discuss his Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave project, titled “Stone Between Earth and Sky,” at 7 p.m., April 11, in UT Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum, located inside the Paul Meek Library.

Last’s presentation will focus on his photography and Hiroaki City, Japan, where the photographs currently on display were taken. His trip to Hiroaki City in fall 2014 served as inspiration for the photographs and stereoscopic images that comprise the exhibit he assembled in spring 2016.

“My leave project developed out of an idea I had upon returning stateside to turn a selection of the pictures I took into 3D-like form to share a more vivid experience. I recommend that people go look at the stereoscopic images — there are two sets of 20 cards and viewers — at the library during a quiet time of their day and let the pictures tell the story,” said Last.

Community members can view this exhibit from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays, now through April 20 in UT Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Parking permits for visitors are available at no cost from the Paul Meek Library Circulation desk staff.

For more information, contact the J. Houston Gordon Museum at 731-881-7464 or by email at speccoll@utm.edu.
African-American Leadership set for April

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 19th-annual African American Leadership Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., April 18, at the STAR Center, located at 1119 Old Humboldt Road in Jackson.

The registration fee is $20 for high school and college students, and $35 for other attendees. The cost includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register with the WestStar Leadership Program office by April 12, and seating is limited.

Reverend Keith Norman, pastor at First Baptist Church-Broad in the Binghamton community, will be the keynote speaker. Norman formerly served as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Memphis and as vice president of governmental affairs for Baptist Memorial Healthcare.

Attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. and will be welcomed at 8:30 by Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin associate vice chancellor of alumni relations. Norman will deliver his keynote address at 8:45, followed by Dr. Charlotte Fisher, director of operations and deputy superintendent, Tipton County Schools, and Paula Fuller, recruitment coordinator, Jackson State Community College, who will discuss educational issues at 9:30.

T. Ray Greer Jr., pastor at Salem Baptist Church, will discuss his book “How to Edit Your Credit” at 10:30. Carrie Ann Knox, community outreach coordinator, Kirkland Cancer Center; Andrea Bond Johnson, chief executive officer, Golden Circle Insurance; and Kathy Moore Cowan Sr., community development specialist, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis-Memphis Branch, will address health concerns related to cancer at 11:15.

Following lunch, participants will hear from Dr. Robbie Melton, associate vice chancellor of mobilizing emerging technology with the Tennessee Board of Regents, regarding diversity in emerging technologies. Mark Gwyn, Nashville director, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, will close the conference with a discussion of crime in the African American community at 1:30. Awards and door prizes will be presented following the final speaker.

Those interested in attending may send a check to WestStar, UT Martin, 321 Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38237.

Please include the name, business, address, phone number and email address of all participants. Registrants may also call 731-881-3298 to pay via credit card.

For more information about the conference or registration process, contact Jordan Jones, WestStar administrative specialist, at 731-881-3298 or email jjone239@utm.edu.

Stewart up for Coach of the Year

From Sports Information

BOSTON, Mass. – Anthony Stewart, head men’s basketball coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has been identified as one of 21 finalists for the 2017 Ben Jobe National Coach of the Year Award.

The Ben Jobe Award is presented annually to the top minority coach in the NCAA Division I men’s basketball rankings. Stewart is best known as the head coach at Southern University, where he won 11 Southwestern Athletic Conference championships in 12 seasons and helped lead the Jaguars to a win over Georgia Tech at the 1993 NCAA Tournament, which stands as one of the great upset stories in the history of the event.

Stewart directed UT Martin to one of its best seasons in school history in 2016-17. The Skyhawks tied the school record for victories (22) and became the only Ohio Valley Conference team to win a postseason game in each of the last three seasons. UT Martin shattered program single-season records for points (2,693), field goals (966), rebounds (1,312) and assists (555).

The Skyhawks won their first-ever outright OVC West division championship in 2016-17, advancing to the OVC Tournament championship game before taking part in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. Along the way, UT Martin’s 14 home wins and 10 nonconference victories were the most for the program since joining the Division I ranks in 1992.

Of the 29 first-year head coaches in Division I basketball, Stewart’s 22 wins were the third-highest total behind only New Mexico State’s Paul Weir (28) and Valparaiso’s Matt Lottich (24). Since Stewart joined the program as an associate head coach in 2014, the Skyhawks have generated three straight 20-win seasons, a feat that had never been accomplished at UT Martin. The Skyhawks’ 63 victories during that stretch are the most in any three-year span in program history.

The recipient of the 2017 Ben Jobe Award will be announced at the Final Four this weekend in Phoenix, Ariz. Stewart joins Tommy Amaker (Harvard), Mike Anderson (Arkansas), Rod Barnes (CSU Bakersfield), Jamion Christian (Mount St. Mary’s), Mike Davis (Texas Southern), Johnny Dawkins (UCF), Earl Grant (Charleston), Leonard Hamilton (Florida State), Ron Hunter (Georgia State), James Jones (Yale), Robert Jones (Norfolk State), Kevin Keatts (UNC Wilmington), Danny Manning (Wake Forest), Ritchie McKay (Liberty), LeVelle Moton (North Carolina Central), King Rice (Monmouth), Montez Robinson (Alcorn State), Kelvin Sampson (Houston), Dedrique Taylor (Cal State Fullerton) and Willis Wilson (Texas A&M Corpus Christi) on the prestigious list.
AMONG THE ELITE — UT Martin men’s basketball head coach Anthony Stewart along with senior guard Jacoby Mobley during the Ohio Valley Conference tournament semifinals. Stewart is among the 21 finalists for the 2017 Ben Jobe National Coach of the Year Award, which is presented to the top minority coach in NCAA Division-I men’s basketball.

Photo from Sports Information
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing has been ranked eighth in Tennessee by RegisteredNursing.org. The website evaluated 41 nursing programs statewide and determined UTM's Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program to be one of the best.

The website looked primarily at pass rates for the National Council Licensure Examination when determining ranking placement. The UTM Department of Nursing's 2016 graduating class achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN as first-time test takers last year, and previous classes have achieved similarly high results.

"I am always proud of our graduates and the hard work they put into preparing for the NCLEX-RN. This ranking highlights the tradition of success we have at UTM," said Dr. Mary Radford, chair of the UTM Department of Nursing. "I look forward to seeing current and future students be successful not only on the licensure exam, but through service and professional growth in their nursing careers."

The UTM BSN clinical program includes more than 900 hours of hands-on clinical experience in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state. The UTM Department of Nursing maintains partnerships with facilities throughout Tennessee, providing students with one of the widest varieties of clinical experiences available in the region.

According to RegisteredNursing.org, the nursing industry is growing in Tennessee, and the state is expected to hire an estimated 1,800 new nurses per year for the next five years. For more information on the UTM Department of Nursing, contact the department at 731-881-7131 or nursing@utm.edu.
UTM Spring Rodeo Honors Fallen UTM Competitor

The 49th Annual UT Martin Spring College Rodeo is honoring one of its fallen competitors Friday night April 7th at 7:30.

Former UTM Rodeo member Coy Lutz was hurt in a New Jersey rodeo event last May and later passed away from his injuries.

UTM Rodeo Coach John Luthi says Friday’s rodeo gives the audience a chance to honor the memory of Coy Lutz.

The parents of the deceased UTM Rodeo member are in charge of the Coy Lutz Memorial Scholarship, which will go to the rodeo competitor of their choice to virtually any college.

Former UTM Interim Chancellor recognized as Official Chancellor

A former UT Martin Interim Chancellor has now been recognized as the university’s official tenth chancellor.

Dr. Bob Smith, who served as the UTM Interim Chancellor from June 2015 until January of this year, was recognized with the official title at the UT Board of Trustees meeting Wednesday at UT Chattanooga.

Dr. Smith lead the university through a difficult time when it was on academic probation, until it received full accreditation status in December.

Meanwhile, UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, who was originally named the college’s tenth chancellor, is now the college’s eleventh to hold this position, and he attended his first UT Board of Trustees meeting this week at UTC.