The Academic Teams from Big Sandy and Camden Central High Schools participated in the Academic Quiz Bowl on Friday, Feb. 23, at the UTM Parsons Center.

This is the sixth year that the Quiz Bowl was held in Parsons. It is the largest high school academic contest in West Tennessee outside of Memphis.

Guided by teacher Kevin Brewer, six students comprised the Big Sandy team, including Taylor Foust, Maggie Heathcott, Jaden Johnson, Cody Mayberry, Courtney Steinbuck, and Shelby Stolz.

Competing for the CHS team were Matt Blow, Davis Hopkins, Eden Pafford, James McCampbell, and Victoria Redland. Teacher Adam Blackburn mentored the CHS team.

Congratulations to all of the Benton County team members who made the effort to compete at the annual Academic Quiz Bowl.
UTM hosting precollege piano competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its Pre-College Piano Competition on March 17 in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts building. The deadline for entries is March 7.

Performances are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will include solo and ensemble competitions. The solo competition includes three categories: grade six and below; grades seven to nine; and grades 10-12. The piano ensemble competition is for any combination of players for one or two pianos. Each entrant or ensemble will perform two contrasting pieces.

The judge for the competition will be Dr. Terry McRoberts, professor of piano at Union University. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

The participation fee is $30 for each solo entrant and each ensemble entry. Directions for payment are available at utm.edu/departments/piano/competition.php.

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Hariss, competition coordinator and professor of piano, at 731-881-7411 or elaineh@utm.edu.

UTM offers ACT prep course

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, until March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.


The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.
UTM band performing
with Henry County

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Big Band will perform a joint concert with the Henry County High School Jazz Band at 6:30 p.m., March 13, at the Krider Performing Arts Center in Paris. The performance will include the music of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie and Charles Mingus. The event is free and open to the public. The Krider Performing Arts Center is located at 650 Volunteer Drive in Paris. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

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Charles Lewis and Drs. Elizabeth Aleksander and Douglas Owens will perform Brandon’s compositions. Lewis, Aleksander and Owens make up the LCD Trio on flute, clarinet and bassoon, respectively. Dr. Amy Yeung will join the ensemble as a vocal soprano.

Concert selections include “Starry Night” for solo clarinet, “Goldfish Songs” for solo flute and “In the City at Night” for solo English horn. The performance will end with the world premiere of Brandon’s newest composition for soprano and oboe, “Multitudinous Stars and Spring Waters” – a set of songs on Chinese poems commissioned by Yeung.

Brandon will lead a pre-concert talk about her work at 6:30 p.m., also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. This in-depth look at her pieces will give the audience a chance to connect more closely with the musical selections and the performers.

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UTM's Deal receives 2018 UT President's Award

UTM's Dr. Charley Deal recently received a high honor from the University of Tennessee System. SUBMITTED
higher education more accessible to all groups. He and his family annually fund a group of students from their home in Hickman County to visit UT Martin for a day-long campus experience.

"Charley wants these students in higher education because of what it will mean to them, their families and their shared community," wrote Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of UT Martin enrollment services and student engagement. "He values this so much that he is willing to introduce them to the opportunity using his own money."

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Deal holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from UT Martin and a doctoral degree in learning and leadership from UT Chattanooga. He has worked for UT Martin in some capacity for the past 25 years.

UT Martin nominees have been chosen for at least one UT President’s Award each year since the award’s inception. Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music, and David McBeth, professor of art, received two of the three inaugural awards in 2016 in the "educate" and "connect" categories, respectively. Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science, received the 2017 award in the "educate" category.

UT Martin’s other nominees for the 2018 awards were Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications, in the "educate" category, and Dr. John Oelrich, director of UT Martin bands, in the "connect" category.

Dr. Trevor Sweatman, professor of pharmacology and medical education at the UT Health Science Center, received the 2018 award in the "educate" category for his redesign of the professional and graduate curricula for medical students at the institution.
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Cocca to speak at UTM

Dr. Carolyn Cocca, associate professor in the department of politics, economics and law at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, will present a seminar titled “Underrepresented and Underdressed: Female Superheroes in Popular Culture” at 6 p.m., March 15, in Watkins Auditorium, located inside the Boling University Center.

Cocca is the author of “Jailbait: The Politics of Statutory Rape Laws in the United States” and various articles and book chapters about gender and superheroes. She recently published “Superwomen: Gender, Power, and Representation,” which won the 2017 Eisner Award in the “Best Academic/Scholarly Work” category and a 2017 Prose Awards Honorable Mention for media and cultural studies.

This presentation is part of UT Martin’s Academic Speakers Program, which annually features top speakers who meet with students from UT Martin Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public.

For more information contact Dr. Lionel Crews, co-director, UT Martin Honors Programs, at 731-881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu. The complete list of 2017-2018 speakers is available online at utm.edu/departments/honors/events.php.
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Retirement Reception — The College of Business and Global Affairs hosted a retirement reception for Dr. Ron Kilgore, professor of accounting, on Feb. 28 in the Boling University Center. Kilgore (front) is pictured with current and former colleagues (from left) Drs. Ross Dickens, Ernie Moser, Tom Noble, Ed Knight and Parker Cashdollar.
Soybean Festival garners 12 awards in regional competition

The Tennessee Soybean Festival won 12 awards at the recent Kaleidoscope Awards Ceremony in Murfreesboro at the Southeast Festivals and Events Association Annual Conference. Festivals represented were from Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Arkansas and Mississippi.

City officials submitted in 16 out of the 18 categories. No other festival received more than four awards.

Awards won by the TSF were:

**GOLD**
Best Festival or Event Website (Twin Oaks Technology)
Best Print Ad
Best Children’s Programming (unanimous) (third year in a row)
Best Social Media Marketing
Best Vendor: Coca Cola of Union City
Best TV Ad
Best Marketing Campaign

**SILVER**
Best Festival or Event Program
Best Creative Idea... The Minecraft Challenge (Twin Oaks Technology)
Best Event within an Event: The Homegrown Supper
Best Volunteer: Dr. John Oelrich, The Martin Community Band

**BRONZE**
Best Festival in the South
The Tennessee Soybean Festival is an example of how an event can help give your community recognition,” Martin Mayor Randy Brundige said. “Festivals bring community together and also attract others to visit and check out our part of the world. Even last year, we had people attend our festival from 10 different states and three different countries.”

“I am so glad that the Tennessee Soybean Festival found the Southeast Festivals and Events Association,” said David Belote in the 2018 festival program. “At the end of the day all of our efforts are directed toward improving the quality of life. Being around like-minded people for a few days was and is uplifting. It makes our efforts even more worthy knowing there are others out there working to bring joy to others in some very creative ways.”

“Not only is the Tennessee Soybean Festival about creating ‘wow’ moments for all to celebrate, but also the festival has a tremendous economic impact locally,” said Brad Thompson, director of economic and community development. “In fact, local options sales tax collections for the month of September is second only to December [Christmas shoppers], which is a direction reflection on the Tennessee Soybean Festival.”

Camille Noe, marketing manager for the City of Martin, said, “The children’s events are my favorite part of the festival to be involved. It is very rewarding to see our efforts recognized as a model for others in the southeast region for Best Children’s Festival Programming. However, that recognition is miniscule when you see the children’s faces light up at our events, creating memories that will last them a lifetime.”

**PLANTING TREES** — The University of Tennessee at Martin participated in 250K Tree Day on Feb. 27. This event is the Tennessee Environmental Council’s fourth-annual statewide tree-planting event and has grown from 50,000 trees in 2015 to become the largest tree-planting event in the nation. Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, helped plant one of 100 new trees designated for the UT Martin campus. More than 1,000 trees have been distributed throughout Weakley County. Local tree-planting efforts were coordinated by the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network. Pictured are (from left) Chris Virgin, head of UT Martin greenhouse and grounds services; Jake Bynum, mayor of Weakley County; Carver; Ashley Kite-Rowland, Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network; Dr. Joaquin Goyret, associate professor of biology; and Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Gray T. Batey, son of James and Tracey Batey, of Rives, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

- Benjamin Harris Beard, son of Bentley and Celene Beard, of Union City, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

- Gage Bailey Kimmons, of South Fulton, son of Amanda Kimmons and Danny Joyner and Donna Joyner, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

- Thomas Paul Mathis, son of Tommy and Sandra Mathis, of Union City, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

- Keenan B. Miller, son of Dr. Johnny and Tonna Miller, of Union City, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Lillian Rosa Moore, of Rives, daughter of Michael and Melissa France, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

- Daniel A. Slove, son of Thomas and Jennifer Slove, of Union City, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.

- Rebecca L. Strickland, of Rives, daughter of Ted and Ruth Barnett, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

In addition, the following student has ties to Obion County and has requested that your paper receive notification that she received a scholarship award from the University of Tennessee at Martin:

- Annalise Hope Bing, of Martin, daughter of Tracie Bing and Chuck Bing, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040 (tel:(731)%20881-7040).
UTM Radio Station Wins 8th Platinum Award

MARTIN, Tenn. – The student-run radio station on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin—WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” – claimed its eighth consecutive Platinum Award from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System during the organization’s annual conference March 2-4 in New York City, New York. This is the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System’s highest peer-reviewed distinction for college radio stations.

Several students from the local area also received awards, including Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, a winner for best event promotion.
The station was also recognized as a national finalist in four categories: best college radio station for schools with under 10,000 student enrollment, best station facilities, best documentary and best use of video in the radio studio.

Station staff members also performed well in the “best of” competitions across a variety of categories. Students enrolled during the 2016-17 academic year were eligible to submit material for consideration.

Natalie King, a 2017 graduate from Paducah, and Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, both received national awards for best program director and best event promotion, respectively. King and Wofford were chosen from a national pool of competitors and recognized as the “best of the best” in their chosen categories.

Several students were recognized as national finalists in their respective competitions, which means they placed in the top-five nationally.

King was a finalist in the competitions for best newscast, best community news coverage and best on-air personality. John Thornton, a sophomore from Atoka, was a finalist for best overall sports coverage and best sports interview. Kait Scott, a junior from Martin, was a finalist in both the best press release and best promotions director categories.

Two staff teams placed in the competition for best sports play-by-play. WUTM alumni Kayla Harmon, of Lewisburg, and Jared Peckenaugh, of Finley, both 2016 UT Martin graduates, were finalists for coverage of a Skyhawk women’s basketball game; and Olivia Johnston, a senior from Hampshire, and Tanna Norman, a senior from Williamsport, were recognized for UT Martin rodeo coverage.

Martin residents Emma Bruner, a junior, and Ashley Shores, a senior, were also finalists in the best business director and best celebrity interview categories, respectively.
For more information, contact Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser, at 731-881-7555 or rrobins@utm.edu.

Photo: WUTM staff members Olivia Johnston (left), news director; Ashley Shores (center, left), program director; and Kait Scott (right), support and development director, are pictured with Dr. Richard Robinson (center, right), associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser. (UTM photo).

Piano competition set at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its Pre-College Piano Competition March 17 in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts building.

Today is the deadline for entries.

Performances are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will include solo and ensemble competitions.

The solo competition includes three categories: grade 6 and below; grades 7-9; and grades 10-12. The piano ensemble competition is for any combination of players for one or two pianos. Each entrant or ensemble will perform two contrasting pieces.

The judge for the competition will be Dr. Terry MeRoberts, professor of piano at Union University in Jackson. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

The participation fee is $30 for each solo entrant and each ensemble entry. Directions for payment are available at utm.edu/departments/piano/competition.php. For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Harriss, competition coordinator and professor of piano, at (731) 881-7411 or elaineh@utm.edu.

Submissions being accepted for Weakley County Filmfest

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honors Society will host Weakley County Filmfest at 7 p.m. April 28 in the Little Theatre, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The event will feature live screenings of submitted films from local producers. The submission deadline for short film entries is March 16.

Submitted films should be shot entirely in Weakley County with a total run time of three to five minutes. Winners will be notified by April 16, and the director of the first-place film will receive $100 and a commemorative plaque. Second- and third-place winners will receive $50 and $25, respectively.

Films can be shot in any genre, but there are some restrictions on content and copyrighted material. Complete rules and submission guidelines can be found at filmfreeway.com/WeakleyCountyFilmFestival.

The submission fee is $10 per entry, and any funds not used to finance cash prizes will be donated to the UT Martin Alpha Psi Omega chapter.

All submissions should be entered online at filmfreeway.com/WeakleyCountyFilmFestival.

There is no charge to attend the screening.

For more information, contact Kevin Shell, festival director and UT Martin assistant professor of theatre, at (731) 881-7487 or kshell1@utm.edu.
John Tanner records made available to public

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted a reception recently to honor John Tanner — former U.S. representative for Tennessee's 8th District — and thank him for the donation of his Congressional papers to the university's Alliene and Jimmie S. Corbitt Special Collections.

Tanner's documents have been digitized and are now available online for research use around the world.

Tanner hopes this record of his work with the U.S. House of Representatives and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will help future generations learn from the past.

"I hope this collection of papers and so forth will benefit young people in the future," Tanner said. "We live in a different time, perhaps, than some of the work that I did through NATO, but if people can look back and see what happened then, it might give them a better perspective of what happens now."


"It is our mission to conserve, preserve and make available the historical record of this university and West Tennessee," said Sam Richardson, university archivist and head of the Corbitt Special Collections.

"We here at the Corbitt Special Collections consider ourselves the caretakers of the 8th District and the 8th District's historical record. We, today, are making public a large part of that history."

"This collection will bring great interest to researchers who are interested in Tennessee and 8th District politics, as well as national and foreign affairs in the late 20th and early 21st centuries," Richardson continued, addressing the Tanner family. "We here at UT Martin appreciate your generous donation, and we appreciate that you have trusted us to bring that to the public."

The Tanner documents can be accessed online through the Paul Meek Library website.

For more information, contact Karen Elmore, senior library assistant with special collections, at (731) 881-7094 or kelmore@utm.edu.

Thanking Tanner — Former U.S. Rep. John Tanner (left) and his wife, Betty Ann, visited with University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver prior to a recent reception thanking the Tanner family for his donation to the university's Alliene and Jimmie S. Corbitt Special Collections.

Sign language course offered at UTM

Community members interested in learning sign language are encouraged to register for the beginning sign language course offered from 6-8 p.m. Mondays, March 12-26, at the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus.

This beginners' course includes an introduction to deaf culture.

Participants will also learn more than 200 signs and will have time in class to practice.

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) 881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php.
Dr. Charley Deal, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving at the University of Tennessee at Martin, recently received one of four 2018 University of Tennessee President’s Awards from Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT System President, following DiPietro’s “State of UT” address.

This series of awards was created in 2016 to honor the role of UT employees in fulfilling the university’s mission and celebrate those whose academic and professional achievements serve as a model for their system colleagues statewide.

Nominations for the 2018 awards were accepted in four categories: Educate, which honors accomplishments that enhance educational offerings and diverse learning environments; Discover, which honors discoveries and applications of knowledge; Connect, which honors engagement and service efforts and programs; and Support, which honors efforts in support of educational excellence, discoveries and applications of knowledge, outreach, engagement and service.

Deal was honored in the “Support” category and is the fourth UT Martin representative in three years to receive a UT President’s Award. He currently serves as executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program, which is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and boasts 798 graduates to date. Deal is also a primary fundraiser for UT Martin and its associated programs and has helped solicit funds for a number of scholarships, endowments, activities, facilities and programs for the UT Martin main campus and all five of its educational outreach centers.

“One example was his work to help make the regional educational center in Fayette County a possibility,” wrote Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, when recommending Deal for the award. “(The UT Martin Somerville Center) is substantially funded from private contributions solicited by Dr. Deal. His approach was to articulate to donors the possibilities for better education and jobs for youth as well as adults in this economically-depressed region. He connected the donors with real outcomes for their neighbors, not just a brick-and-mortar facility.”

Deal shows a commitment to making higher education more accessible to all groups. He and his family annually fund a group of students from their home in Hickman County to visit UT Martin for a day-long campus experience.

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UT Martin’s other nominees for the 2018 awards were Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications, in the “educate” category, and Dr. John Oelrich, director of UT Martin bands, in the “connect” category.

Dr. Trevor Sweatman, professor of pharmacology and medical education at the UT Health Science Center, received the 2018 award in the “educate” category for his redesign of the professional and graduate curricula for medical students at the institution.

Dr. Samuel Dagogo-Jack, professor of medicine and chief of the division of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at the UT Health Science Center, claimed the award in the “discover” category.

He is internationally known for diabetes education, treatment and research, and has discovered and developed treatments for hypoglycemia-associated autonomic failure and leptin regulation in humans.
Dr. Elizabeth Strand, director of veterinary social work and clinical associate professor of biomedical and diagnostic sciences at UT Knoxville, was honored in the "connect" category. Strand developed the concept of "veterinary social work" and is the founding director of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine's veterinary social work program, which is the first of its kind in the world.

She recently launched a program called SAVE — Suicide Awareness in Veterinary Education to educate veterinary professionals and students about mental health issues and raise awareness of available resources.
UT Martin Center offers medical courses

Community members wishing to prepare for a career in healthcare can register for either the pharmacy technician program or the medical billing and coding program offered at the University of Tennessee at Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer. The pharmacy technician program will be held from 6-9:30 p.m., Thursdays, March 15-June 21. This 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 the course is $1,199 and includes textbooks and supplies. An optional 80-hour clinical is also available.

The 80-hour medical billing and coding program will be held from 6-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 13-May 31.

This course is designed to prepare students to solve insurance billing problems, manually file claims, complete common insurance forms, trace delinquent claims and use generic forms to streamline billing procedures.

The course covers areas such as current procedural terminology, international classification of disease, tenth edition and basic claims process for medical insurance and third party reimbursement, and specialty fields such as surgery, radiology and laboratory.

The registration fee for the course is $1,799 and includes textbooks and supplies.

Those interested in becoming medical coders or pursuing national certification should have a high school diploma or a GED equivalent.

See COURSES, 6A

COURSES

Certain national medical coding certification exams are very complex and may require six months to two years of suggested practical coding experience prior to taking the exam or being recognized as a certified medical coding professional.

(For specific course requirements or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/semester.php.)

UT Martin Center offers medical courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Big Band will perform a joint concert with the Henry County High School Jazz Band at 6:30 p.m., March 13, at the Krider Performing Arts Center in Paris. The performance will include the music of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie and Charles Mingus. The event is free and open to the public. The Krider Performing Arts Center is located at 650 Volunteer Drive in Paris. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

UTM offers ACT prep course

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, until March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.

Students will use “The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2018: Official Practice Tests + 400 Bonus Questions Online 1st Edition.” The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.
Cocca to speak at UTM

Dr. Carolyn Cocca, associate professor in the department of politics, economics and law at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, will present a seminar titled "Underrepresented and Underdressed: Female Superheroes in Popular Culture" at 6 p.m., March 15, in Watkins Auditorium, located inside the Boling University Center.

Cocca is the author of "Jailbait: The Politics of Statutory Rape Laws in the United States" and various articles and book chapters about gender and superheroes. She recently published "Superwomen: Gender, Power, and Representation," which won the 2017 Eisner Award in the "Best Academic/Scholarly Work" category and a 2017 Prose Awards Honorable Mention for media and cultural studies.

This presentation is part of UT Martin's Academic Speakers Program, which annually features top speakers who meet with students from UT Martin Honors Programs and offer presentations to the public.

For more information contact Dr. Lionel Crews, co-director, UT Martin Honors Programs, at 731-881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu. The complete list of 2017-2018 speakers is available online at utm.edu/departments/honors/events.php.

UTM hosting concerts

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Charles Lewis and Drs. Elizabeth Aleksander and Douglas Owens will perform Brandon's compositions. Lewis, Aleksander and Owens make up the LCD Trio on flute, clarinet and bassoon, respectively. Dr. Amy Yeung will join the ensemble as a vocal soprano.

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MARTIN, Tenn. - Several Henry County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Falicia N. Anderson, daughter of Lawrence and Marcy Anderson, of Paris, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

- Larissa Michelle Houlle, of Paris, daughter of Brianna Houlle and Jeremy Pugh, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

- Savannah Rhiann Houston, of Paris, daughter of Libby Ford and Richard Houston, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.

- Kyla Dawn Parker, daughter of Craig and Christie Parker, of Mansfield, will be a freshman. She received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.

- Brayden K. Wilson, son of Chris and Sherry Wilson, of Big Sandy, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040 (tel:(731)%20881-7040).
Open letter to UT Alumni and citizens of our great state

As past presidents of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association and its over 345,000 alumni, for many years we have observed that the University of Tennessee's strength is the unity by which the University system has operated in serving not only its students, but also citizens in our great state. This letter is a call to action to UT alumni and other Tennessee citizens. Please contact your legislators and request that they reject the UT Focus Act in its current form which drastically changes the structure of the UT Board of Trustees.

UT's Board of Trustees makes decisions based upon what is best for the entire University of Tennessee in serving our state. The UT Focus Act (“Act”) is the product of a small group of individuals, including non-alumni of the University, with no widespread alumni input or any study, evaluation, or outcry from Tennesseans justifying the restructuring of the Board. No one can point to any basis for making such significant changes to the UT Board which has functioned for many years under outstanding leaders like Andy Holt, Edward Boling, and Joe Johnson. Although the Act began as an effort to reduce the size of the Board of Trustees (which is acceptable), it includes problematic changes that will adversely impact our University.

We are extremely concerned about at least 2 significant changes. First, the Act removes representation of each of the 4 major campuses from the Board. Although current law requires that UT’s Board has a representative that resides in Knox County, Hamilton County, Weakley County, and Shelby County, the Act eliminates each campus having a voice on the only voting, governing Board. Second, the Act destroys the unity of the University by establishing so-called advisory boards on each campus. Unlike other states’ systems and the Board of Regents’ institutions, as the state’s land grant institution the University of Tennessee speaks with one voice serving our state in many ways including: (1) Agriculture Extension offices in all 95 counties, (2) Institute of Public Service, (3) University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, (4) University of Tennessee at Martin, (5) University of Tennessee Space Institute, (6) University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, (7) University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and (8) University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

UT alumni want to speak with one voice through one Board of Trustees that is committed to making decisions based upon what is in the best interest of the entire University and our state. Introducing advisory boards on each campus will cause inconsistencies and disharmony in the University. Advisory boards were not part of the initial bill proposed by Governor Haslam. There is no evidence any campus requested or needs advisory boards. The additional layer of bureaucracy undermines the intent of reducing the size of the Board of Trustees to make it more efficient. Although the so-called “reconstituted” Board of Trustees will be reduced from 27 members to 12, it establishes 4 new 7-member advisory boards, thereby adding 28 new board members. UT campuses do not need advisory boards, especially those with no real power which are less efficient and increase operational costs.

Despite denials from supporters of the Act, it is obvious that introducing advisory boards on each campus is the first step to changing Tennessee’s higher education system. Soon the higher education system will be changed to one governing board with all college campuses reporting to that board. The University of Tennessee changes forever, losing its Board of Trustees, its unity of purpose of serving its students and our great state, and each of the individual campuses (UTK, UTC, UTMC, UTHSC) will be forced to compete for support.

Administrators, governors, and others will come and go, and students will become alumni, but alumni are forever. We respectfully ask that all citizens of our state, including UT alumni, contact your legislators and request two improvements to the UT Focus Act: (1) at least one dedicated seat for each of the 4 campuses on the UT Board of Trustees, and (2) eliminate the advisory boards on each campus.

Sincerely,

Past Presidents of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association

C. Thomas Barnes '83-'84, C. Daniel Brown '99-'10, Alan L. Cates '85-'86, Kimberly W. Cross '11-'12, Deborah L. Diddle '06-'07, James H. Duke, Jr. '03-'04, Dianne V. Duncan '01-'02, Lynn E. Fain '00-'01, Betty M. Gill '88-'89, Leonard H. Hines, MD '78-'79, Ronald H. Kirkland '99-'00, Turner O. "TO" Lashlee '70-'71, P. Alan Legler '15-'16, J. Ford Little '08-'09, Thomas L. Losch '14-'15, Donald Michael Moss '10-'11, David W. Noblett '02-'03, Worrick G Robinson, IV '13-'14, A. Dean Scadberg, Sr. '05-'06, Jennifer E. Stanley '12-'13, Edwin C. Townsend '89-'90, Betty B. Whiteley '80-'81, Bill G. Williams '69-'70, Hunter W. Wright '98-'99

GREENWOOD SPEAKS AT KIWANIS — Dr. Jennifer Greenwood (left), interim dean of UT Martin’s College of Engineering and Natural Sciences (CENS), shared information about exciting projects in the college when she visited Kiwanis on Feb. 28 as the featured speaker. She shared details about the new $65M Latimer Science Building, which will be a state-of-the-art building with some interior glass walls and lots of interactive space. She also shared details about the Innovation and Product Realization Facility that will be known as “The Garage,” a shop for engineering faculty and students. In addition, Greenwood spoke about the Health Sciences Pre-Professional Program, coordinated by Kristina Pitz and the Environmental Field Station at Samburg, directed by Dr. Tom Blanchard. Pictured with her is Kiwanis president Vickie Hazelwood.
Dr. Charley Deal, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving at the University of Tennessee at Martin, received one of four 2018 University of Tennessee President’s Awards from Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT System President, following DiPietro’s “State of UT” address Feb. 28.

This series of awards was created in 2016 to honor the role of UT employees in fulfilling the university’s mission and celebrate those whose academic and professional achievements serve as a model for their system colleagues statewide.

Nominations for the 2018 awards were accepted in four categories: Educate, which honors accomplishments that enhance educational offerings and diverse learning environments; Discover, which honors discoveries and applications of knowledge; Connect, which honors engagement and service efforts and programs; and Support, which honors efforts in support of educational excellence, discoveries and applications of knowledge, outreach, engagement and service.

Deal was honored in the “Support” category and is the fourth UT Martin representative in three years to receive a UT President’s Award. He currently serves as executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program, which is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and boasts 798 graduates to date. Deal is also a primary fundraiser for UT Martin and its associated programs and has helped solicit funds for a number of scholarships, endowments, activities, facilities and programs for the UT Martin main campus and all five of its educational outreach centers.

“One example was his work to help make the regional educational center in Fayette County a possibility,” wrote Dr. Robert Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, when recommending Deal for the award. “The UT Martin Somerville Center is substantially funded from private contributions solicited by Dr. Deal. His approach was to articulate to donors the possibilities for better education and jobs for youth as well as adults in this economically-depressed region. He connected the donors with real outcomes for their neighbors, not just a brick-and-mortar facility.”

Deal shows a commitment to making higher education more accessible to all groups. He and his family annually fund a group of students from their home in Hickman County to visit UT Martin for a day-long campus experience.

“Charley wants these students in higher education because of what it will mean to them, their families and their shared community,” wrote Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of UT Martin enrollment services and student engagement. “He values this so much that he is willing to introduce them to the opportunity using his own money.”

Deal also works with the UT Martin Black Alumni Council and with groups of alumni and donors in other areas to make sure students from minority groups have equal opportunities to visit campus and succeed at UT Martin as undergraduate students.

“Dr. Deal (either) succeeds at accomplishing his goals and tasks or is still continuing to pursue the challenge and refusing to give up,” wrote Andy Wilson, UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement. “His accomplishments are many but are tied to improving lives through advancing education. His most significant achievements will be felt by Tennesseans for generations.”

Deal holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from UT Martin and a doctoral degree in learning and leadership from UT Chattanooga. He has worked for UT Martin in some capacity for the past 25 years.

UT Martin nominees have been chosen for at least one UT President’s Award each year since the award’s inception. Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music, and David McBeth, professor of art, received two of the three inaugural awards in 2016 in the “educate” and “connect” categories, respectively. Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science, received the 2017 award in the “educate” category.

UT Martin’s other nominees for the 2018 awards were Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communication, in the “educate” category, and Dr. John Oelrich, director of UT Martin bands, in the “connect” category.

Dr. Trevor Sweatman, professor of pharmacology and medical education at the UT Health Science Center, received the 2018 award in the “educate” category for his redesign of the professional and graduate curricula for medical students at the institution.

Dr. Samuel Dagogo-Jack, professor of medicine and chief of the division of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at the UT Health Science Center, claimed the award in the “discover” category. He is internationally known for his work in diabetes education, treatment and research, and has discovered and developed treatments for hypoglycemia-associated autonomic failure and leptin regulation in humans.

Dr. Elizabeth Strand, director of veterinary social work and clinical associate professor of biomedical and diagnostic sciences at UT Knoxville, was honored in the “connect” category. Strand developed the concept of “veterinary social work” and is the founding director of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine’s veterinary social work program, which is the first of its kind in the world. She recently launched a program called SAVE – Suicide Awareness in Veterinary Education to educate veterinary professionals and students about mental health issues and raise awareness of available resources.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Advancement at 731-881-7620.
Joe DiPietro, who became the 25th president of the University of Tennessee on Jan. 1, 2011, will speak at the Kiwanis Club of Columbia on Friday.

DiPietro is the chief executive officer of a statewide university system that includes the flagship campus in Knoxville, campuses in Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis, the Space Institute in Tullahoma, and statewide institutes of agriculture and public service.

DiPietro serves as a member of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, and he and the president of Battelle Memorial Institute rotate two-year terms as chairman of the Board of Governors of UT-Battelle, which has managed Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the Department of Energy since 2000.

Before becoming president, DiPietro served as chancellor of the UT Institute of Agriculture from 2006 to 2010.

In that role, DiPietro oversaw UT Extension, AgResearch, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the College of Veterinary Medicine. During his tenure, the institute began interdisciplinary programs such as the Center for Renewable Carbon, the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative and the master's degree in landscape architecture. Between 2006 and 2010, external grant support for the Institute of Agriculture increased 30 percent from $26.6 million to $34.8 million annually.

A veterinarian by training, DiPietro’s research emphasis was veterinary parasitology. He earned his bachelor’s, doctor of veterinary medicine and master’s degrees at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

Before coming to UT, DiPietro served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida from 1997 to 2006. Prior to that, he rose to tenured professor of veterinary clinical medicine and veterinary pathobiology at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and held administrative positions there including assistant director of the Agriculture Experiment Station and associate dean for research of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

DiPietro and his wife, Deb, live in Knoxville and have three children and eight grandchildren.
UTM offers ACT prep course

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High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, until March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.


The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.

UTM band performing with Henry County

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Big Band will perform a joint concert with the Henry County High School Jazz Band at 6:30 p.m., March 13, at the Krider Performing Arts Center in Paris. The performance will include the music of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie and Charles Mingus. The event is free and open to the public. The Krider Performing Arts Center is located at 650 Volunteer Drive in Paris. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

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UTM hosting precollege piano competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its Pre-College Piano Competition on March 17 in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts building. The deadline for entries is March 7.

Performances are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will include solo and ensemble competitions. The solo competition includes three categories: grade six and below; grades seven to nine; and grades 10-12. The piano ensemble competition is for any combination of players for one or two pianos. Each entrant or ensemble will perform two contrasting pieces.

The judge for the competition will be Dr. Terry McRoberts, professor of piano at Union University. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

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Coca to speak at UTM

Dr. Carolyn Coca, associate professor in the department of politics, economics and law at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, will present a seminar titled “Underrepresented and Underdressed: Female Superheroes in Popular Culture” at 6 p.m., March 15, in Watkins Auditorium, located inside the Boling University Center.
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McDonald receives scholarship to attend University of Tennessee at Martin

Mar 11, 2018

Makara Lee McDonald, of Walland, has received the Chancellor Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-19 academic year. McDonald is the daughter of John and Michelle McDonald.
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MARTIN – Candidates for a permanent vice chancellor for finance and administration at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be interviewed the week of March 12 at the main campus. The candidate chosen in the national search will serve as the university's chief business officer. Four candidates are scheduled to visit campus and participate in open forums March 12-16. All forums will be held from 3-4 p.m. in room 229 of the Boling University Center.

Matthew Bierman will speak during the first forum March 12. Bierman is currently vice president for administrative services at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. He has been with Western Illinois University since 1999 when he started as complex director and has since held the posts of both assistant director and director of residential facilities, director of university budget, and interim director of business and financial services before beginning his current position in 2016.

Bierman holds a bachelor's degree in information management from Western Illinois University; a master's degree in student affairs administration from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana; and a master of business administration in finance and supply change management, also from Western Illinois University.

Petra McPhearson will participate in a forum March 13. She has served as interim vice chancellor for finance and administration at UT Martin since January 2016. She began working for UT Martin in 2011, and served as both interim director and director of budget and management reporting. Before coming to Martin, she held several positions with the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and Bethel University in McKenzie.

McPhearson holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, and a master's degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Paul Edwards is the third finalist and will speak during an open forum Wednesday.

Edwards is currently assistant dean of finance and administration in the College of Health Professionals at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, a post he has held since 2016. Before accepting this position, he served as adjunct professor of accounting and manager of accounting at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia; assistant vice president for business affairs at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky; and senior accountant at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia.

Edwards holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, and a bachelor's degree in finance from Liberty University. He has also earned a master's degree in accounting from the University of South Florida and a master of business administration degree from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Marilee Montanaro is the final candidate and will present her open forum Friday, March 16. Montanaro is the director for finance and administration for Golisano Children's Hospital at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. She has held this position since 2013 after serving as director of financial reporting and projects at the Rochester Institute of Technology and holding several previous positions at the University of Rochester.

Montanaro holds both a bachelor's degree in health and society and a master of business administration degree from the University of Rochester, as well as a doctoral degree in education from St. John Fisher College in Rochester.

The vice chancellor for finance and administration is a member of the chancellor's leadership team. This position oversees the areas of budget and management reporting, business services, the bursar's office, human resources, physical plant administration, public safety, contracts, the university bookstore, environmental health and safety, and emergency management.

“The vice chancellor for finance and administration plays a vital role in helping UT Martin remain a top-choice regional institution,” said Carver. “I am confident we will find a candidate who can help us reach our goals and make future Skyhawks proud to call UT Martin home.”

The search committee includes both
faculty and staff members as well as student representation. Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, is serving as committee chairperson. Other committee members are:

- Amy Belew, interim chief information officer, Office of Information Technology
- Bill Brundige, human resources specialist, Office of Human Resources
- Phyllis Hamer, administrative support assistant, Department of Public Safety, representing the Employee Relations Council
- Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor, Department of History and Philosophy, representing the Faculty Senate
- Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement
- Gina McClure, assistant vice chancellor for student and residential life, Office of Student Life
- Dr. Desiree McCullough, director, Office of Institutional Research
- Kurt McGuffin, director, Office of Intercollegiate Athletics
- Tim Nipp, director, UT Martin Physical Plant
- Dr. Simpfronia Taylor, director, UT Martin Ripley Center
- Holly Seng, a junior communications major from Union City and representative of the Student Government Association
- Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, is serving as executive recruiter for this position. For more information or to view full finalist resumes, visit utm.edu/cbosearch.

Arlington High, UT-Martin Partner on Nursing Program

Arlington High School, in partnership with the University of Tennessee at Martin, is expanding its Health Science Career Cluster to now include pre-nursing.

Beginning in the coming 2018-2019 school year, students can enroll in the Special Topics: Pre-Nursing class as a dual enrollment course worth three college-level credits.

"We are thrilled to team with UT-Martin to provide what we believe will be a very popular program at Arlington High," said superintendent Tammy Mason. "So many of our students want to pursue nursing in college, and this class will help provide a critical foundation for our students interested in this field."

Brian Donavant, interim executive director at the Office of Educational Outreach at UT-Martin, called the partnership is a win-win for both institutions.

"We are excited to partner with Arlington Schools to facilitate student success and help ease the transition from high school to college," Donavant said.

The new course joins the existing Emergency Services Program in partnership with the Town of Arlington.

Students will begin with levels 1-3, which include Health Science Education, Anatomy and Physiology, and Medical Therapeutics. Once completed, students in their senior year can choose one of two paths: Nursing Services or Emergency Services.

The course, which will be taught in person by a UT-Martin professor, is designed to introduce students to the world of nursing, including professional nurse practices, pharmacology, how to monitor blood pressure and heart rates and much more.

UT-Martin said it is the first time the university has offered the course on-location inside a high school.

Mason said the district is excited about the change from an online only to in-person program.

Daily News staff

UT Martin campus has drug take-back box

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Written by James Long, Digital Content Executive Producer

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - There is a drug-take-back box located at the University of Tennessee at Martin. It's now located in Crisp Hall, according to the University.

The sealed container is provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition. It can be used by students, employees and community members to safely dispose of prescription drugs.

Items not accepted include illegal drugs, needles, blood sugar equipment, thermometers, IV bags, infectious waste or shampoo products.

This is the fifth take back box in Weakley County.
Side-by-side jazz at KPAC Tuesday

The Henry County Jazz Ensemble will present its Side-By-Side Concert at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Kriker Performing Arts Center. Special guests will include the Big Band from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Paris-Henry County Middle School Jazz Ensemble, composed of students from Lakewood, Harrelson, Henry and Inman Schools, will also perform.

The Henry County High School Jazz Ensemble will perform as well with musical selections to include: "Here’s That Rainy Day," "Just Friends," "Jelly Roll," "Man-teca," "C Jam Blues" and "Sing, Sing, Sing."

According to Kurt Gorman, UTM professor of music, their big band will be playing music of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie and Charles Mingus.

Two of the charts will be played with the Henry County High School Jazz Band.

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Troy native takes advantage of learning opportunities

College is often a time to discover personal talents and professional interests. There is no better time to test the waters than while earning an undergraduate degree, and Rebecca Robb of Troy is doing just that.

Ms. Robb, a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is testing a little bit of everything to find where she may fit in the professional world. She started her college career with a major in education, but has since decided to study psychology instead, with minors in both French and German.

Psychology is a major that can lead to a wide variety of professional options, and Ms. Robb is involved in many campus activities to help find her greatest passion.

In addition to organizations related to her psychology major and language minors, she was also part of UT Martin’s Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature delegation for the 2017 session.

She and a fellow UT Martin student tried a case in the Appellate Mock Court challenge, and the UT Martin team’s brief placed second in the statewide competition.

“I learned a lot, and it helped with my fear of public speaking,” she said. “I’m looking forward to attending the general assembly again this fall.”

Although participation in TISL is outside her major field area, Ms. Robb decided to branch out and decide if the legal field might be her calling. Regardless of how her post-graduate career plays out, she knows she wants to work with children in some capacity.

As a member of UT Martin’s prestigious University Scholars program, she has begun work on a two-year faculty-assisted research project that serves as an undergraduate thesis. She hopes her topic — the idea of mindfulness in learning — will help future educators bring students to their full learning potential.

“Being mindful of something is bringing special attention to a certain thing,” she said. “I thought about doing a project where I have people read a paragraph, and I don’t say anything and have them try to recall information, and then I have another group read the same paragraph where I tell them to look for specific things (and compare their recall).”

A similar type of test has already been studied by professors at Harvard, and Ms. Robb hopes to build on this foundation to see how such findings can be related back to the public education system.

She recently took advantage of an opportunity to present her research idea during the Mid-South Psychology Conference at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, an accomplishment that will add one more undergraduate note to her academic resume.

Sometimes it takes more than one try to find a person’s true calling, and Ms. Robb is taking advantage of all the opportunities life at UT Martin has to offer. While she may not know her final career path yet, one thing is certain — when she leaves UT Martin, she will have a wealth of knowledge and experience from many areas, something that can only help her in the long run.
SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES — Rebecca Robb of Troy is taking full advantage of the learning opportunities available at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she is a junior, while she discovers and develops her personal talents and professional interests. She started her college career with a major in education, but has since decided to study psychology instead, with minors in both French and German.

UT Martin becomes first college in Tennessee to offer a drug take back box

The University of Tennessee at Martin has become the first campus in Tennessee to have a permanent drug drop box for students, faculty and staff, and the community which is located in Crisp Hall.

According to the Weakley County Prevention Coalition, in 2016, enough painkiller prescriptions were written in Weakley County alone for each county resident to have 1.3 prescriptions in their name. The sealed container is provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition. It can be used by students, employees and community members to safely dispose of prescription drugs.

Items not accepted include illegal drugs, needles, blood sugar equipment, thermometers, IV bags, infectious waste or shampoo products. This is the fifth take back box in Weakley County.

If you are not comfortable bringing your unwanted or expired medications to a take-back box, UT Martin will host a Drug Take Back Day on April 27 at the campus Department of Public Safety where you are welcome to drop off your items.
UTM Installs Drug Take-Back Box On Campus

PHOTO: Pictured with the county's newest drug take-back box, located inside the UT Martin Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall, are (l-r) Lt. Charles Jahr; Suzanne Harper, director of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition; Dr. Deborah Gibson, UT Martin professor of health and human performance and a member of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition; and Scott Robbins, director of the Department of Public Safety.

Martin, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin now has a drug take-back box installed at the Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall. This sealed container is provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and allows students, employees and community members to safely dispose of prescription drugs and other unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals.

The coalition has also trained UT Martin campus police officers in the use of nasal Naloxone, a drug used in the event of an opioid overdose, whether intentional or unintentional. Gov. Bill Haslam recently stated that three Tennesseans die each day from various kinds of opioid overdose, and local law enforcement is partnering with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to keep area citizens and students from experiencing fatal overdoses.

These steps come on the heels of University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro's third annual State of the University address Feb. 28, which focused largely on the state's opioid epidemic. DiPietro promised to put the "might of the UT System" behind combating the crisis statewide.
According to the Weakley County Prevention Coalition, enough painkiller prescriptions were written in Weakley County alone for each county resident to have 1.3 prescriptions in their name in 2016. Statistics from 2017 have not yet been made available.

The drug take-back boxes accept all prescription and over-the-counter medications; veterinary medications; medicated ointments, lotions or drops; liquid medications in leak-proof containers; inhalers; and pills in any packages, including glass, plastic, Ziploc baggies or foil packs.

Items not accepted include illegal drugs or narcotics; needles or syringes with needles; blood sugar equipment; thermometers; IV bags; bloody or infectious waste; or personal-care products such as shampoo and non-medicated lotions.

The UT Martin drug take-back box is the fifth permanent location in Weakley County. The others are located at the Martin Police Department, the Greenfield Police Department, Sharon City Hall and the Weakley County Sheriff’s Office in Dresden.

Other local boxes can be found at the Henry County Sheriff’s Department in Paris, and at the police departments in Union City, Troy, South Fulton and Paris.

To find a drug take-back box near you, visit tdeonline.tn.gov/rxtakeback.

Those who are not comfortable bringing their unwanted or expired medications to a take-back box are encouraged to drop off their items during a Drug Take Back Day, which are held twice each year. The UT Martin campus will host a Drug Take Back Day on April 27 at the campus Department of Public Safety.

The Weakley County Prevention Coalition also distributes lock boxes for parents to use when keeping medications away from children and teenagers. For more information, contact the coalition at weakleyprevention@gmail.com.
"So people can bring their unwanted pharmaceuticals or other prescription medications they no longer need," Lt. Jerry Garcia with UTM Public Safety said.

This is the fifth drug take-back box in Weakley County. The school partnered with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to get the box on their campus.

"We’re also one of the first universities in the state to get a drug take-back box, so we’re very proud of that," Lt. Garcia said.

The box is in the public safety office on campus. Some students have mixed reactions on how they feel about that location.

"I like it being in the public safety office. It’s public so there won’t be any shady business," Zaire Hicks, a freshman, said.

"I think it should be with the clinic hospital. Public safety, I’m not really a fan of that," David Attih, a freshman, said.

Gov. Bill Haslam announced recently that three Tennesseans die every day from an opioid overdose.

UT Martin hopes this will be the first step in bringing that number down to zero.

In case there is an opioid overdose on UT Martin’s campus, all of their public safety officers have been trained to use the Naloxone nasal spray to counteract the overdose.
Four to be interviewed for vice chancellor for finance and administration at UTM

Candidates for a permanent vice chancellor for finance and administration at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be interviewed this week at the main campus. The candidate chosen in the national search will serve as the university’s chief business officer. Four candidates are scheduled to visit campus and participate in open forums this week. All forums will be 3-4 p.m. in Room 229 of the Boling University Center.

The vice chancellor for finance and administration is a member of the chancellor’s leadership team. This position oversees the areas of budget and management reporting, business services, the bursar’s office, human resources, physical plant administration, public safety, contracts, the university bookstore, environmental health and safety, and emergency management.

Matthew Bierman spoke during the first forum Monday. Bierman is currently vice president for administrative services at Western Illinois University in Monee, Ill. He has been with Western Illinois University since 1999 when he started as complex director and has since held the posts of both assistant director and director of residential facilities, director of university budget, and interim director of business and financial services before beginning his current position in 2016.

Bierman holds a bachelor’s degree in information management from Western Illinois University; a master’s degree in student affairs administration from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.; and a master of business administration in finance and supply change management, also from Western Illinois University.

Petra McPhearson will participate in a forum today. She has served as interim vice chancellor for finance and administration at UT Martin since January 2016. She began working for UT Martin in 2011, and served as both interim director and director of budget and management reporting. Before coming to Martin, she held several positions with the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and Bethel University in McKenzie.

McPhearson holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Alcorn State University in Lorman, Miss., and a master’s degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Paul Edwards is the third finalist and will speak during an open forum Wednesday.

Edward is currently assistant dean of finance and administration in the College of Health Professionals at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, a post he has held since 2016. Before accepting this position, he served as both adjunct professor of accounting and manager of accounting at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.; assistant vice president for business affairs at Kentucky State University in Frankfort; and senior accountant at Longwood University in Farmville, Va.

Marilee Montanaro is the final candidate and will present her open forum Friday. Montanaro is the director for finance and administration for Golisano Children’s Hospital at the University of Rochester in Rochester. She has held this position since 2013 after serving as director of financial reporting and projects at the Rochester Institute of Technology and holding several previous positions at the University of Rochester.
Montanaro holds both a bachelor’s degree in health and society and a master of business administration degree from the University of Rochester, as well as a doctoral degree in education from St. John Fisher College in Rochester.

"The vice chancellor for finance and administration plays a vital role in helping UT Martin remain a top-choice regional institution," said Carver. "I am confident we will find a candidate who can help us reach our goals and make future Skyhawks proud to call UT Martin home."

The search committee includes both faculty and staff members as well as student representation. Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities
Artist’s view of Martin to be displayed

Created over the last two years, “Est 1873: An Illustrated History of Martin, Tenn.” is a University Scholars Project by Rachel Melton, a senior graphic design major at UT Martin. The project includes research and creation of a series of graphic design posters and illustrations focused on various aspects of Martin history, including businesses, events and locations. The project will be on display at an open house event Saturday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Martin Coffeehouse, located at 407 S. Lindell St. in Downtown Martin. The event is free and open to the public.

The entire project will be available in book form, featuring historical photos that

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HISTORY BUFFS — Members of the Martin Business Association gather to examine Rachel Melton’s new book on Martin. Pictured are (back row, from left) Suzanne Harper and Brad Thompson; (front row) Camille Noe and Rachel Melton.

DRUMMING UP FUNDS — The UT Martin Percussion Ensemble is one of five programs to receive funding through the Alliance of Women Philanthropists’ Giving Circle Grants Program for 2017-18. The ensemble will use the funds to purchase new steel drums for their Roots of Rhythm performance set. Pictured playing in a recent Roots of Rhythm concert are (from left) students Logan Hays of Newbern, Abby Shear of Waverly, Hohner Porter of Trenton, Nathaniel O’Neal of Burns and Andre Espinoza of Murfreesboro.

ARTIST, FROM PAGE 1

inspired the work, the complete set of illustrations, and a series of current photographs of Martin. The books will also feature information about historical Martin locations. Copies will be available at $15 each.

The Martin Business Association is proud to see UT Martin students showcasing the City of Martin and its history,” said Camille Noe of the city’s community development department. “Rachel Melton approached the Martin Business Asso-
UTM receives grants for programs

The Alliance of Women Philanthropists has awarded five Giving Circle Grants to programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin this year, including the departments of nursing and music as well as the Hortense Parrish Writing Center.

The Alliance of Women Philanthropists is a group of women with connections to the University of Tennessee System who seek to "educate, empower and inspire women to be philanthropic leaders."

The Giving Circle Grant Program was created in 2007 and aspires to fund innovative projects with compelling needs. More than 20 UT programs have received more than $200,000 through the grant program since its inception.

The UT Martin Department of Nursing received three of the five grants given for the 2017-18 academic year.

Dr. Gloria Browning, associate professor of nursing, received funds to support the department's home-visit simulation room, which will allow nursing students to experience in-home medical crisis situations before they occur in clinical settings. The simulation will reflect a typical home setting for a client with chronic illnesses and limited mobility and require nursing students to navigate environmental hazards to perform appropriate clinical tasks.

Dr. Julie Floyd, associate professor of nursing, received two grants to fund two simulations for the use of a crash cart and the administration of medications.

The automated crash cart simulation will be located at the UT Martin Parsons Center and allow students there to practice using an up-to-date crash cart system in a non-life-threatening simulation.

The medication administration simulation will be located on the university's main campus and help students overcome anxiety and uncertainty regarding the usage of client medications.

The use of a simulation is intended to decrease possible medication errors during clinical rotations and develop student competencies using an automated medication dispensing system.

The UT Martin Department of Music and the UT Martin Percussion Studio also received funds to purchase traditional Trinidadian steel drums and cases for use in the Roots of Rhythm community performance series.

This entertaining program educates local schoolchildren and community members about the migration of West African musical traditions to the rest of the world via the Atlantic Slave Trade.

The Roots of Rhythm performance tours West Tennessee each semester and performs at various university and local events throughout the year. The ensemble is directed by Dr. Julie Hill and Dr. Shane Jones, professor and assistant professor of music, respectively.

The Hortense Parrish Writing Center, under the direction of Dr. Kelle Alden, assistant professor of English, received the final award to convert its paper attendance system to an electronic format.

This process will improve communication between center staff and university faculty and allow accurate reporting of student needs and progress.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts at 731-881-7016.
Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Aubrie Elizabeth Croom, of Dyer, daughter of David and Kelly Croom and Brandon and Valerie Burris, is a dual enrollment student from Gibson County High School. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Madison B. Croom, of Dyer, daughter of David and Kelly Croom and Brandon and Valerie Burris, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Brian C. Perritt, of Bradford, son of Joshua and Melissa Kirschbaum, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Leah Breann Pybas, of Trenton, daughter of Todd and Penny Pool and Bob Pybas, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

TRMS TUTORING SUPER STUDENTS – Jennifer Walls presented certificates to sixth grader Kylie Doss (left) and eighth grader Aerik Hollingsworth.

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Austin Lee Workman, son of Rodney and Tammy Workman, of Humboldt, will be a freshman. He received the Dean Scholarship.

Chloe G. Cates, of Medina, daughter of Michelle and Mike Scott and Michael and Sally Cates, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Michael D. McFarland, son of Dalton and Amy McFarland, of Medina, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
Gibson County students receive UTM scholarships

Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Nicole Grace Ayers, daughter of Greg and Jennifer Ayers, of Milan, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Chloe G. Cates, of Medina, daughter of Michelle and Mike Scott and Michael and Sally Cates, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Will Austin Fisher, of Milan, son of Kevin and Erin Farrow, will be a freshman. He received the advance scholarship.

Caylin Grace Kyle, daughter of Isaiah and Tiffany Kyle, of Milan, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Michael D. McFarland, son of Dalton and Amy McFarland, of Medina, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

-Brian C. Perritt, of Bradford, son of Joshua and Melissa Kirschbaum, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Aubrie Elizabeth Croom, of Dyer, daughter of David and Kelly Croom and Brandon and Valerie Burris, is a dual enrollment student from Gibson County High School. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Madison B. Croom, of Dyer, daughter of David and Kelly Croom and Brandon and Valerie Burris, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Leah Breann Pybas, of Trenton, daughter of Todd and Penny Pool and Bob Pybas, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

Austin Lee Workman, son of Rodney and Tammy Workman, of Humboldt, will be a freshman. He received the Dean Scholarship.

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

UTM hosting concerts

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host guest composer Jenni Brandon in-residency March 13-15. Brandon will present several master classes and practical sessions for music students during her stay. A public concert featuring her work will begin at 7:30 p.m., March 15, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall.

Charles Lewis and Drs. Elizabeth Aleksander and Douglas Owens will perform Brandon's compositions. Lewis, Aleksander and Owens make up the LCD Trio on flute, clarinet and bassoon, respectively. Dr. Amy Yeung will join the ensemble as a vocal soprano.

Concert selections include "Starry Night" for solo clarinet, "Goldfish Songs" for solo flute and "In the City at Night" for solo English horn. The performance will end with the world premiere of Brandon's newest composition for soprano and oboe, "Multitudinous Stars and Spring Waters"—a set of songs on Chinese poems commissioned by Yeung.

Brandon will lead a pre-concert talk about her work at 6:30 p.m., also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. This in-depth look at her pieces will give the audience a chance to connect more closely with the musical selections and the performers.

Both events are free and open to the public.

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

Cocca to speak at UTM

Dr. Carolyn Cocca, associate professor in the department of politics, economics and law at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, will present a seminar titled "Underrepresented and Underdressed: Female Superheroes in Popular Culture" at 6 p.m., March 15, in Watkins Auditorium, located inside the Boling University Center.
UTM hosting precollege piano competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its Pre-College Piano Competition on March 17 in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts building. The deadline for entries is March 7.

Performances are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will include solo and ensemble competitions. The solo competition includes three categories: grade six and below; grades seven to nine; and grades 10-12. The piano ensemble competition is for any combination of players for one or two pianos. Each entrant or ensemble will perform two contrasting pieces.

The judge for the competition will be Dr. Terry McRoberts, professor of piano at Union University. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

UTM offers ACT prep course

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships.

High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, until March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.


The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.

UTM band performing with Henry County jazz band

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Big Band will perform a joint concert with the Henry County High School Jazz Band at 6:30 p.m., March 13, at the Krider Performing Arts Center in Paris. The performance will include the music of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie and Charles Mingus. The event is free and open to the public. The Krider Performing Arts Center is located at 650 Volunteer Drive in Paris. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

Tylor Terrell Rouser, son of Latasha Rouser, of Ripley, will be a freshman. He received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Achieve Scholarship.

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

Two get awards from UTM

Two Lauderdale County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Afton Renee Binkley of Ripley, daughter of Amy and Timmy Medford and William Binkley, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

Tylor Terrell Rouser, son
Obion County students earn college scholarships

Several Obion County students, or those with ties to the county, have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-19 academic year.

The recipients include:

- Gray T. Batey, son of James and Tracey Batey of Rives, who will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Benjamin Harris Beard, son of Bentley and Celene Beard of Union City, who will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Gage Bailey Kimmons of South Fulton, son of Amanda Kimmons and Danny Joyner and Donna Joyner, who will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.
- Thomas Paul Mathis, son of Tommy and Sandra Mathis of Union City, who will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Keenan B. Miller, son of Dr. Johnny and Tonna Miller of Union City, who will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.
- Lillian Rosa Moore of Rives, daughter of Michael and Melissa France, who will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.
- Daniel A. Slove, son of Thomas and Jennifer Slove of Union City, who will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Rebecca L. Strickland of Rives, daughter of Ted and Ruth Barnett, who will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Arlington High teams with UT-Martin to provide nursing course

Arlington High School, in partnership with the University of Tennessee at Martin, has announced the expansion of its Health Science Career Center to now include pre-nursing. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, students will have the opportunity to enroll in the "Special Topics: Pre-Nursing" class as a dual enrollment course worth three college-level credits.

“We are thrilled to team with UT-Martin to provide what we believe will be a very popular program at Arlington High," said Superintendent Tommy Mason. "So many of our students want to pursue nursing in college, and this class will help provide a critical foundation for our students interested in this field."

"This partnership is a win-win for both institutions," added Brian Banevant, interim executive director at the Office of Educational Outreach at UT-Martin. "We are excited to partner with Arlington schools to facilitate student success and help ease the transition from high school to college."

The new course will join the already existing Emergency Services Program that is in partnership with the Town of Arlington. Students will begin with levels 1-2, which include health science education, anatomy and physiology, and medical terminology. Once completed, students in their senior year can choose one of two paths: nursing services or emergency services.

The course, which will be taught face-to-face by a UT-Martin professor, is designed to introduce students to the world of nursing and will include topics like professional nurse practices, pharmacology, how to monitor blood pressure and heart rates, and much more. UT Martin says this is the first time the university has offered the course on location inside a high school. Mason said it's this change from online only to an in-person class that has the district excited about the partnership.

"It shows that UT Martin and Arlington Community Schools are ready and willing to transform 21st Century learning," Mason continued. "Our students can now see what a college-level nursing course will be like before stepping foot off our campus. It's thrilling."
The University of Tennessee at Martin now has a drug take-back box installed at the Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall. This sealed container is provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and allows students, employees and community members to safely dispose of prescription drugs and other unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals.

The coalition has also trained UT Martin campus police officers in the use of nasal Naloxone, a drug used in the event of an opioid overdose, whether intentional or unintentional. Gov. Bill Haslam recently stated that three Tennesseans die each day from the various kinds of opioid overdose, and local law enforcement is partnering with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to keep area citizens and students from experiencing fatal overdoses.

These steps come on the heels of University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro’s third annual State of the University address Feb. 28, which focused largely on the state’s opioid epidemic. DiPietro promised to put the “might of the UT System” behind combating the crisis statewide.

According to the Weakley County Prevention Coalition, enough painkiller prescriptions were written in Weakley County alone for each county resident to have 1.3 prescriptions in their name in 2016. Statistics from 2017 have not yet been made available.

The drug take-back boxes accept all prescription and over-the-counter medications; veterinary medications; medicated ointments, lotions or drops; liquid medications in leak-proof containers; inhalers; and pills in any packages, including glass, plastic, Ziploc bags or foil packs.

Items not accepted include illegal drugs or narcotics; needles or syringes with needles; blood sugar equipment; thermometers; IV bags; bloody or infectious waste; or personal-care products such as shampoo and non-mediated lotions.

The UT Martin drug take-back box is the fifth permanent location in Weakley County. The others are located at the Martin Police Department, the Greenfield Police Department, Sharon City Hall and the Weakley County Sheriff’s Office in Dresden. Other local boxes can be found at the Henry County Sheriff’s Department in Paris, and at the police departments in Union City, Troy, South Fulton and Paris.

To find a drug take-back box near you, visit https://tn.gov/txtakeback.

Those who are not comfortable bringing their unwanted or expired medications to a take-back box are encouraged to drop off their items during a Drug Take Back Day, which are held twice each year. The UT Martin campus will host a Drug Take Back Day on April 27 at the campus Department of Public Safety.

The Weakley County Prevention Coalition also distributes lock boxes for parents to use when keeping medications away from children and teenagers. For more information, contact the coalition at weakleyprevention@gmail.com.
UTM takes back drugs

ERIN CHESNUT
UT Martin

MARTIN – The University of Tennessee at Martin now has a drug take-back box installed at the Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall. This sealed container, provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition, allows students, employees and community members to safely dispose of prescription drugs and other unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals.

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Items not accepted include illegal drugs or narcotics; needles or syringes with needles; blood sugar equipment; thermometers; IV bags; bloody or infectious waste; or personal-care products such as shampoo and non-medications.

Drugs

Continued from Page 3A

The UT Martin drug take-back box is the fifth permanent location in Weakley County. The others are located at the Martin Police Department, the Greenfield Police Department, Sharon City Hall and the Weakley County Sheriff’s Office in Dresden. Other local boxes can be found at the Henry County Sheriff’s Department in Paris, and at the police departments in Union City, Troy, South Fulton and Paris.

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Those who are not comfortable bringing their unwanted or expired medications to a take-back box are encouraged to drop off their items during a Drug Take Back Day, which are held twice each year. The UT Martin campus will host a Drug Take Back Day on April 27 at the campus Department of Public Safety.

The Weakley County Prevention Coalition also distributes lock boxes for parents to use when keeping medications away from children and teenagers.

For more information, contact the coalition at weakleyprevention@gmail.com.
UTM hosting concerts

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host guest composer Jenni Brandon in-residency March 13-15. Brandon will present several master classes and practical sessions for music students during her stay. A public concert featuring her work will begin at 7:30 p.m., March 15, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

Charles Lewis and Drs. Elizabeth Aleksander and Douglas Owens will perform Brandon’s compositions. Lewis, Aleksander and Owens make up the LCD Trio on flute, clarinet and bassoon, respectively. Dr. Amy Yeung will join the ensemble as a vocal soprano.

Concert selections include “Starry Night” for solo clarinet, “Goldfish Songs” for solo flute and “In the City at Night” for solo English horn. The performance will end with the world premiere of Brandon’s newest composition for soprano and oboe, “Multitudinous Stars and Spring Waters” – a set of songs on Chinese poems commissioned by Yeung.

Brandon will lead a pre-concert talk about her work at 6:30 p.m., also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. This in-depth look at her pieces will give the audience a chance to connect more closely with the musical selections and the performers.

Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Yale Percussion Collective to perform

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin will host the Yale Percussion Collective, directed by Robert Van Sice, on Saturday for a free percussion concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building.

The Percussion Collective is a group of world renowned musicians who have studied under the direction of Van Sice at Yale University over the past decade and are now teaching and performing all over the globe. The group will be presenting a masterclass on percussion solo and chamber literature as well as giving a performance of both canonic and cutting edge chamber percussion music.

In its inaugural season, the Yale Percussion Collective brings its star lineup of percussionists into the world with an energetic program featuring two masterpieces for six players. Steve Reich's Sextet is a cornerstone of the repertoire, comprised of five continuous movements ranging from lush, to jarring, to groovy and everything in between. Synthesizers and bowed vibraphones help create truly unique textures, along with a darker, more chromatic harmonic approach than many of Reich's other works. The piece climaxes with a final ascent towards the top register of each instrument in a moment as euphoric as music has to offer. Reich's iconic sextet is paired with a new work written specifically for The Percussion Collective.

This new commission of a 30-minute work for six percussionists and video projection, Seaborne, is at the nexus of the percussive art soundscape and the visual celebration of endangered oceans. Just as rhythm and the percussive voice are the heartbeat of music, the precious oceans are the lifeblood of the planet and thus its very existence. This piece aims to awaken sensibilities in the audience to both the importance and beauty that oceans possess. For this project, the Collective's Artistic Director Robert van Sice brought together two extraordinary young talents — Emmy Award-Winning composer Garth Neustadter and water photographer/videographer Kjell van Sice. Neustadter's mastery of cinematic composition and Kjell van Sice's poetic aquatic images proved to be a powerful collaboration.

Admission to this performance is free and open to the public.
Students participate in competition at UTM

The Department of Engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated Engineers Day on March 1.

Eight area schools competed in the Egg Drop Competition portion of the celebration.

Schools competing were Bruceton High School, Grove High School, Trinity Christian Academy, Union City High School, Henry County High School, Obion County Central High School, Westview High School and Martin Middle School.

Eighth-grade students in Angela Farlow's science class at Martin Middle School were the winners.

Farlow’s motto for her students is “If I believe it, I can achieve it!” She then asks the students, “What is it?” The students reply, “excellence.”

These students truly achieved excellence. This year marks the third consecutive year for Farlow’s students earning first, second and third place in the Egg Drop Competition.

WINNING TEAM — The Department of Engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated Engineers Day on March 1. Eight area schools competed in the Egg Drop Competition portion of the celebration. Eighth-grade students in Angela Farlow’s science class at Martin Middle School won first place in the competition. Students competing were (from left) Sophia Shaw, Jacob Allen, Shymya Crosby and Brian Hicks.
STUDENTS PLACE SECOND — The Department of Engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated Engineers Day on March 1. Eight area schools competed in the Egg Drop Competition portion of the celebration. Placing second in the competition were eighth-grade students in Angela Farlow’s science class at Martin Middle School. Winning students were (from left) Enrique Gray and Dylan Totty.

STUDENTS COMPETE — The Department of Engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin celebrated Engineers Day on March 1. Eight area schools competed in the Egg Drop Competition portion of the celebration. Eighth-grade students (from left) Bailey Judge, Jackson Abel, and Ty Simpson were the third-place winners. They are students in Angela Farlow's science class at Martin Middle School.
Melton to autograph books, posters on history of Martin

Created over the last two years, "Est 1873: An Illustrated History of Martin, Tenn." is a University Scholars Project by Rachel Melton, a graphic design student at UT Martin. The project includes research and creation of a series of graphic design posters and illustrations focused on various aspects of Martin history, including businesses, events and locations.

The project will be on display at an open house event Saturday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at 407 S. Lindell St. in Downtown Martin. The event is free and open to the public.

The entire project will be available in book form, featuring historical photos that inspired the work, the complete set of illustrations, and a series of current photographs of Martin. The books will also feature information about historical Martin locations. Copies will be available at $15 each.

The pieces in the exhibition are based on original documentary photography of Martin as well as information from local archives. The purpose of the project is to preserve local history through creating visual pieces centered on landmarks, businesses and events. The project serves as a way to connect with community members in Martin.

DEBUTING SATURDAY - Rachel Melton, a UTM art major, will autograph her book about historic buildings in Martin this weekend.

Rachel Melton, a UTM art major, will autograph her book about historic buildings in Martin this weekend.

Melton, From Page 1

various avenues and build an appreciation for the use of design in preserving local history and for its importance in the future.

Melton’s work has been featured in the Weakley County Press as each piece of art was completed.

"The Martin Business Association is proud to see UT Martin students showcasing the City of Martin and its history," said Camille Noe of the economic development department with the City of Martin.

"Rachel Melton approached the Martin Business Association to consider sponsoring the printing of the books for her Illustrated History of Martin project. We were honored that she thought to seek out the Martin Business Association, and we were more than willing to help."

"Rachel’s book showcases many local community businesses and properties," Noe said. "Her pride in our community shines through with this project, and we appreciate all the work Rachel has done. We are thankful for her talents, and the Town and Gown partnership this project exudes."

Rachel Melton is a senior graphic design major and University Scholar at UT Martin. She is also the president of The League of Striving Artists, and was named the 2016-2017 Registered Student Organization Student Leader of the Year.

Her work has been featured in local and regional exhibitions and publications, and this project is scheduled to be presented in April at the Southern Regional Honors Conference in Washington, D.C.
NEW DRUG TAKE-BACK BOX — Pictured with the county’s newest drug take-back box, located inside the UT Martin Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall, are (from left) Lt. Charles Jahr; Suzanne Harper, director of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition; Dr. Deborah Gibson, UT Martin professor of health and human performance and a member of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition; and Scott Robbins, director of the Department of Public Safety.

New drug take-back box installed on UTM campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin now has a drug take-back box installed at the Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall. This sealed container is provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and allows students, employees and community members to safely dispose of prescription drugs and other unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals.

The coalition has also trained UT Martin campus police officers in the use of nasal Naloxone, a drug used in the event of an opioid overdose, whether intentional or unintentional. Gov. Bill Haslam recently stated that three Tennesseans die each day from various kinds of opioid overdose, and local law enforcement is partnering with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to keep area citizens and students from experiencing fatal overdoses.

These steps come on the heels of University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro’s third annual State of the University address Feb. 28, which focused largely on the state’s opioid epidemic. DiPietro promised to put the “might of the UT System” behind combating the crisis statewide.

According to the Weakley County Prevention Coalition, enough painkiller prescriptions were written in Weakley County alone for each county resident to have 1.3 prescriptions in their name in 2016. Statistics from 2017 have not yet been made available.

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Both events are free and open to the public.

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

UTM offers ACT prep course

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships.

High school students looking to improve their scores can register for an ACT review course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, until March 17, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years and will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science.


The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/act.php.

UTM hosting precollege piano competition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its Pre-College Piano Competition on March 17 in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the Fine Arts Building. The deadline for entries is March 7.

Performances are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will include solo and ensemble competitions. The solo competition includes three categories: grade six and below; grades seven to nine; and grades 10-12. The piano ensemble competition is for any combination of players for one or two pianos. Each entrant or ensemble will perform two contrasting pieces.

The judge for the competition will be Dr. Terry McRoberts, professor of piano at Union University. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Area students receive UTM scholarships

Three students from the Benton County area recently have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-19 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director of the Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Sophomore Tanner David Johnson, son of David Johnson and Brandi Johnson of Holladay, received the Elam Transfer Scholarship. Johnson is a 2016 graduate of Camden Central High School.

Two incoming freshmen also received scholarships. Brayden K. Wilson, son of Chris and Sherry Wilson of Big Sandy, was awarded the Advance Scholarship. Nathan L. Robison, son of David and Tonya Robison of Bruceton, received the Dean Scholarship.
Sarah Hawk awarded UTM scholarship

Mar 16, 2018

MARTIN, TN—Cocke County High School senior, Sarah Elizabeth Hawk, of Dandridge, has been awarded a Chancellor Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Hawk is the daughter of Mark and Renee Hawk and will be a freshman.

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UTM hosting performances next weekend

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by visiting artists So Percussion and UT Martin vocal students.

So Percussion, a percussion-based music organization that creates and presents new collaborative works, will host a masterclass and concert March 22. The masterclass is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the Percussion Rehearsal Hall. Their kick-off concert for the 2018 UT Martin ChamberFest and Honor Percussion Festival will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Fulton Theatre. Both venues are located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The Vocal Studio Recital will begin at 3 p.m., March 25, in UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall. The recital will feature university vocal students performing one song each. Pianists Delana Easley, UT Martin lecturer of music; Rita Winter, of Union City; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Gian Garma, of Martin; and Abigale Plunk, of Martin, will accompany the performers.

All events are free and open to the public.

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The judge for the competition will be Dr. Terry McRoberts, professor of piano at Union University. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.
Advance tickets on sale for the 50th annual UTM Spring College Rodeo

March 17, 2018 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
(http://www.wbbjtv.com/)

MARTIN, Tenn. – Advance tickets for the 50th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Spring College Rodeo, at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion on April 12-14, are now on sale at select locations around the West Tennessee and Kentucky area.

Advance tickets are available for Friday and Saturday sessions only. Friday night’s advance adult ticket is on sale for $8 while children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with a valid Skyhawk Card are
on sale early for $6. Saturday’s admission is $10 in advance for adults and $6 for children ages 6-12 as well as UT Martin students with a valid Skyhawk ID.

General admission adult tickets at the door are $10 for the Friday night session and $7 for children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with a valid identification. Saturday’s general admission tickets are $12 for adults and $7 for children ages 6-12/ UT Martin students with a valid ID card.

All Thursday night tickets are $6 apiece. Children ages 5 and under get in free all three nights at the UT Martin Rodeo. A weekend pass, which is good for all three performances, is also available for $20.

Fans can purchase advance tickets until April 8 at the following locations: UT Martin University Center and Weakley Farmers Co-Op in Martin, A to Z Vet Supply in Dresden, Brawner’s Boots in Greenfield, Wood Communication Cellular Source in Union City and Verizon Wireless in Fulton, Ky.

Rodeo fans can also buy the tickets by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at (731) 881-7207.
UTM rodeo tickets on sale

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Advance tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday sessions only. All Thursday night tickets are $6 apiece. Child and student tickets apply to children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with valid Skyhawk ID cards. Children under six are always admitted free of charge.

Friday night’s advance adult ticket is on sale for $8, while child and student tickets are $6. Saturday’s admission is $10 in advance for adults and $6 for children and students. General admission adult tickets at the door are $10 for the Friday night performance and $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7 for either night’s competition.

A weekend pass – which is good for all three performances – is also available for $20.

Fans can purchase advance tickets until April 8 at the following locations: UT Martin Boling University Center and Weakley Farmers Co-Op in Martin; A to Z Vet Supply in Dresden; Brawner’s Boots in Greenfield; Wood Communication Cellular Source in Union City; and Verizon Wireless in Fulton, Kentucky.

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— Staff reports
Jackson Symphony hosts ‘Love in Springtime’ concert

March 18, 2018 by Brittany Hardaway (http://www.wbbjtv.com/)

JACKSON, Tenn — The Jackson Symphony presented the chamber music series ‘Love in Springtime’.

The program was held at St. Luke’s Episcopal church Sunday afternoon, with guest performances from the University of Tennessee at Martin chamber wind ensemble, ‘Death by Voice’, and the New Pacer Singers. During the program award winners were presented with plaques. Organizers say the symphony allows musicians to display their talent on a large platform.

“There’s a lot of music that is certainly uplifting and then of course the choir is singing some music kind of specifically about love partly because the seasons are changing,” Assoc. Conductor of the Jackson Symphony orchestra, Mark Simmons said. “And as we enter in to spring we are really looking for that kind of uplifting happy kind of joyous feeling,” Simmons said.

All recipients performed their award-winning piece during the concert.
APSU music grad student wins state-wide research competition

Contributed, Charles Booth  Published 1:49 p.m. CT March 20, 2018

While an undergraduate at Bowling Green State University, Hayden Giesseman often heard his clarinet professor complain about audition music. Specifically, he didn't like the outdated pieces musicians are often required to play when auditioning for a spot in an orchestra.

"Someone needs to update these excerpts," the professor said. "No one plays these pieces anymore."

Over the years, Giesseman has thought more about this topic, and as a graduate music student at Austin Peay State University, he began looking into the matter. When the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) announced its Woodwind Day College Research Competition, Giesseman decided to enter his research.

Last month, he received an email from UTM, which read, "Congratulations! You have been chosen as the winner of the 2018 UTM Woodwind Day College Research Competition! We found your submission original, relevant, and interesting."


"I was so excited and proud," Giesseman said. "I was so happy that I now had a platform to really discuss my topic and begin to have a conversation that had not happened yet. This helped make me feel like others were listening and felt that this issue was as important as I felt it was."

Giesseman arrived at Austin Peay last year as a talented clarinetist, not an academic, but then Dr. Spencer Prewitt, APSU assistant professor of clarinet, encouraged him to delve deeper into this topic.

"Before this project and presentation, I had very little experience in this part of academia," Giesseman said. "Now, I feel much more confident in my skills as a researcher and presenter. Dr. Prewitt was enthusiastic about my work too and wanted me to share it somewhere, telling me, "It'll be great regardless of what the outcome is. I see myself coming back to this in years to come and trying to do even more with this research. I plan to keep this conversation going and influencing others to have it too."


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All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Officials with the University of Tennessee at Martin have announced changes for the band.

Starting in the Fall of this year, athletic bands will be restructured, with the ensemble functioning as it has in the past, with the exception of marching drill during pregame and halftime of football games.

Non-traditional attire will also replace formal marching band uniforms, while the students will focus on high-quality, energetic musical performances that support the team and fans.

Other marching band activities will continue, such as the Soybean Festival Parade and the annual West Tennessee Marching Championships for high school bands held each fall in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Music Department Chair Dr. Julie Hill said the announcement is an exciting change that re-imagines the ways athletic bands can serve the university and community.

Dr. Hill said the decision was made after discussions with faculty, current students and alumni, as well as the consideration of other factors including curriculum, finances and philosophy.

Dr. Lynn Alexander, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts dean, said the restructured university bands program will be a better fit for a university of its size, adding that athletic bands are not funded through intercollegiate athletics at the university.

The restructuring did add that prospective music students will not be affected by the change.
By KAREN CAMPBELL
Special to The Press

The “Martin Beautiful Award Winner” sign is the first clue that Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) is breaking down stereotypes and challenging assumptions of “frat life.”

The well-tended lawn of the columned two-story residence for the majority of the current 42 members of the social and professional fraternity boasts at least one such recognition each year. And for the young men pursuing careers related to the agriculture, food or fiber industries, the acknowledgement is among the evidence that AGR doesn’t include “party ing frat” in their definition of “fraternity.”

So said Garrett Vanderford, a sophomore from Mechie, who plans on becoming a veterinarian and is the current AGR Community Service chair. In his role, Vanderford is coordinating a several-week outreach to the elderly and persons with disabilities in Weakley County who may need help around their homes. Donations received as part of their community service from now through April 30 will be routed to AGR’s philanthropy of choice, Ag in the Classroom, which, with the help of sponsor Farm Bureau, promotes agriculture professions in Tennessee public schools.

Such leadership opportunities and the chance to make a small difference in the community are among the reasons Vanderford counts joining AGR as “the best decision I’ve ever made.”

Aware that fraternities frequently appear in headlines due to consequences from negative behavior, UT Martin junior Chas Rowlett pleaded, “Don’t judge Greek life by what you hear on the news.”

Rowlett followed in the steps of two uncles when he arrived on UTM’s campus and joined AGR. Having completed an internship with Spragg Farms in Springfield, Mo., he said he already feels the promise of networking opportunities have been fulfilled.

He also lists various AGR-sponsored conferences and seminars as part of the appeal to any emerging leader.

Eighteen-year-old Will Sinclair of Waynesboro, who also followed the
model set by his father and uncle, agreed.

"They keep you focused on grades and remind you that it's not just about a party. AGR makes you a better man," Sinclair said.

Ag business major Matthew Edmaiston of Union City sums up his involvement and, from the agreeing nods and subtle smiles of his fraternity brothers, reflects the communal spirit promised on AGR website and promotional materials.

"AGR stands for something. From the work you do in the classroom and the community, you take responsibility and take care of each other," Edmaiston said.

Sometimes "taking care" means investing in careers that while economically-challenging, are job security.

"The whole world will always need food," Rowlett said.

And sometimes, care simply means making sure the lawn is mowed. Vanderford seemed to be summing up more than celebrated yardwork when he concluded, "Just like anyone else, if someone has the energy and the will, it gets done."

Chas Rowlett of Trenton; Will Sinclair of Waynesboro; Garrett Vanderford of Michie; and Matthew Edmaiston of Union City. The AGR house was recently recognized by Martin Beautiful for its landscaping.

Photo by Karen Campbell
SERVICE TO OTHERS — Alpha Gamma Rho, a social and professional fraternity at UT Martin, is once again offering "muscle" to older or disabled residents of Weakley County in need of help with yard projects, moving furniture, etc. from now until April 30. Community Service Chair Garrett Vanderford said the project is open to "anyone with a physical need for physical labor." To discuss a project and schedule, call Vanderford at 731-439-3733 or email gwvanderford@aol.com. Pictured are Alpha Gamma Rho members (from left) Christian Kemp of Rutherford;
Ables takes internship with USDA

Growing up in West Tennessee ultimately prepared Christopher Ables, a junior from Martin, to study agricultural business at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"(Agricultural business is not just about understanding how a farm works, but how rural America works," he said.

As part of UT Martin's University Scholars Program, Ables is responsible for completing a two-year academic research project. His research analyzes whether variable-rate planting is a cost-effective solution to rollover damage caused by certain irrigation systems. Commonly used irrigation systems have wheels that are 20-30 inches wide and run over a certain portion of the crop as the system rotates.

Using advances in GPS technology, variable-rate planting would program the planter to skip those areas, saving both seed and fertilizer.

In Jan. 2017, Ables began working with the United States Department of Agriculture through an internship program at their Union City service center. He has handled everything from loan and grant processing to bringing people from diverse backgrounds together to complete a project.

"A lot of what we do is partnerships, and I really like seeing how you can pull groups of people together to give back to a community I love so much," he said.

Completion of an internship is an academic requirement for Ables' major; however, he advises other students to complete internships as well.

"It's definitely worth it. You get to see what day-to-day work is actually like, giving you hands-on experience to understand the work," he said.

While at UT Martin, Ables has served as a Peer Enabling Program leader for the university's First-Year Initiative that acclimates freshmen to college life; president for Rotoract, a Rotary-sponsored community service organization; and both treasurer and secretary of the University Scholars Organization.

Ables plans to graduate in May of 2019 and hopes to continue working with the USDA.
WUTM WINS — WUTM staff members Olivia Johnston (left), news director; Ashley Shores (second from left), program director; and Kait Scott (right), support and development director, were recently joined by Dr. Richard Robinson, University of Tennessee at Martin associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser, after accepting the station’s eighth Platinum Award from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System during the organization’s annual conference earlier this month in New York City.

WUTM claims 8th Platinum Award and numerous individual honors

WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” — the student-run radio station on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin — claimed its eighth consecutive Platinum Award from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System during the organization’s annual conference earlier this month in New York City.

This is the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System’s highest peer-reviewed distinction for college radio stations.

The station was also recognized as a national finalist in four categories: Best College Radio Station for schools with under 10,000 student enrollment, Best Station Facilities, Best Documentary and Best Use of Video in the Radio Studio.

Station staff members also performed well in the “best of” competitions across a variety of categories. Students enrolled during the 2016-17 academic year were eligible to submit material for consideration.

Natalie King, a 2017 graduate from Paducah, Ky., and Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, both received national awards for Best Program Director and Best Event Promotion, respectively. King and Wofford were chosen from a national pool of competitors and recognized as the “best of the best” in their chosen categories.

Several students were recognized as national finalists in their respective competitions, which means they placed in the top five nationally.

King was a finalist in the competitions for Best Newscast, Best Community News Coverage and Best On-air Personality. John Thornton, a sophomore from Atoka, was a finalist for Best Overall Sports Coverage and Best Sports Interview. Kait Scott, a junior from Martin, was a finalist in both the Best Press Release and Best Promotions Director categories.

Two staff teams placed in the competition for Best Sports Play-by-Play. WUTM alumni Kayla Harmon of Lewisburg and Jared Pecknough of Finley both 2016 UT Martin graduates, were finalists for coverage of a Skyhawk women’s basketball game; and Olivia Johnston, a senior from Hampshire, and Tanna Norman, a senior from Williamsport, were recognized for UT Martin rodeo coverage.

Martin residents Emma Bruner, a junior, and Ashley Shores, a senior, were also finalists in the Best Business Director and Best Celebrity Interview categories, respectively.
5 Giving Circle Grants awarded to UT Martin

The Alliance of Women Philanthropists has awarded five Giving Circle Grants to programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin this year, including the departments of nursing and music as well as the Hortense Parrish Writing Center.

The Alliance of Women Philanthropists is a group of women with connections to the University of Tennessee System who seek to "educate, empower and inspire women to be philanthropic leaders."

The Giving Circle Grant Program was created in 2007 and aspires to fund innovative projects with compelling needs. More than 20 UT programs have received more than $200,000 through the grant program since its inception.

The UT Martin Department of Nursing received three of the five grants given for the 2017-18 academic year.

Dr. Gloria Browning, associate professor of nursing, received funds to support the department’s home-visit simulation room, which will allow nursing students to experience in-home medical crisis situations before they occur in clinical settings. The simulation will reflect a typical home setting for a client with chronic illnesses and limited mobility and require nursing students to navigate environmental hazards to perform appropriate clinical tasks.

Dr. Julie Floyd, associate professor of nursing, received two grants to fund two simulations for the use of a crash cart and the administration of medications. The automated crash cart simulation will be located at the UT Martin Parsons Center and allow students there to practice using an up-to-date crash cart system in a non-life-threatening simulation.

The medication administration simulation will be located on the university’s main campus and help students overcome anxiety and uncertainty regarding the usage of client medications. The use of a simulation is intended to decrease possible medication errors during clinical rotations and develop student competencies using an automated medication dispensing system.

The UT Martin Department of Music and the UT Martin Percussion Studio also received funds to purchase traditional Trinidadian steel drums and cases for use in the Roots of Rhythm community performance series. This entertaining program educates local schoolchildren and community members about the migration of West African musical traditions to the rest of the world via the Atlantic Slave Trade. The Roots of Rhythm performance tours West Tennessee each semester and performs at various university and local events throughout the year. The ensemble is directed by Dr. Julie Hill and Dr. Shane Jones, professor and assistant professor of music, respectively.

The Hortense Parrish Writing Center, under the direction of Dr. Kelle Alden, assistant professor of English, received the final award to convert its paper attendance system to an electronic format. This process will improve communication between center staff and university faculty and allow accurate reporting of student needs and progress.
UT Martin students excel at journalism conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin's student-run radio station and campus newspaper successfully competed at the 2018 Southeast Journalism Conference held last month on Harding University's campus in Searcy, Ark.

WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," UT Martin's student-run radio station, was named Best College Radio Station in the South for the fourth consecutive year. WUTM is the first to accomplish this feat in the history of the conference and has won this category eight of the last 11 years.

WUTM also received first place in the Best Audio News Program category for the third consecutive year. The radio station has placed in this category every year since its creation in 2011.

"This was a tremendous showing by our students and student media at the conference," said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser.

"Our students won awards in almost every area of communications. They did a great job."

The Southeast Journalism Conference has two types of competitions in which students participate: Best of the South and on-site challenges. Staff members for The Pacer and WUTM won awards in both competitions.

In the Best of the South competition, students submit material in a variety of categories prior to the conference for third-party review. A total of 30 colleges and universities from seven states participated in this portion of the conference.

UT Martin students won the following individual awards in the 2017 Best of the South competitions:

- Best Radio News Feature Reporter: Ashley Shores, a senior from Lebanon, second place;
- Best Special Events Reporter: Sarah Knapp, a junior from Moscow, first place;
- Best Opinion-Editorial Writer: Ashton Priest, a senior from Union City, second place;
- Best Feature Writer: Kristina Shaw, a 2017 graduate from Cottontown, third place.

In on-site competitions, students choose from a variety of categories to complete practical exercises and written exams. UT Martin students won the following individual awards for on-site competitions:

- Media Ethics, History and Law: Holly Seng, a junior from Union City, first place;
- Current Events: Priest, third place;
- Radio News Reporting: Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, second place;
- Television News Reporting: Shores and Jillianne Moncrief, a sophomore from McLemoresville, second place;
- Public Relations: Brook Bosher, a sophomore from Mt. Pleasant; Emma Bruner, a junior from Martin; and Kait Scott, a junior from Martin, first place.

"As always, I'm incredibly thrilled with the performance of our students at SEJC," said Tom McCutchen, instructor of communications and faculty adviser to The Pacer.

"They work hard and bring home knowledge and experience that we can use in student media every day at UT Martin."

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.
UTM REPRESENTED — Representing the University of Tennessee at Martin during the 2018 Southeast Journalism Conference recently were (from left, front row) Jillianne Moncrief of McLemoresville, Ashley Shores of Lebanon, Ashton Priest and Holly Seng, both of Union City, (back row) John Thornton of Atoka, Kait Scott and Emma Bruner, both of Martin, Sarah Knapp of Moscow, Rachel Moore of Ashland City, Brooke Boshers of Mt. Pleasant, Jason Repath of White House, Matt Herod of Humboldt and Shane Wofford of Trenton.

Spring Preview Day set for Saturday

High school students and their families can find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on Saturday during the University of Tennessee at Martin's Spring Preview Day. The day will begin with registration 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. Visit utm.edu/springpreview to register. There is no fee to attend. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

Martin gallery to host UTM exhibit

One Wall Gallery on Lindell Street in Martin will host an exhibition of work by students from the University of Tennessee at Martin from Saturday through April 27. An opening reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday. It is free and open to the public. This group exhibition, titled "Universal," features work by UT Martin art students McKayla Cunningham of Martin, Kelsey Faith of Dover, Olivia Gibson of Trenton, Josiah Phelps of Memphis and Melisha Polk of Ripley. Artwork will be displayed in a variety of media and represent personal interpretations of the exhibit's theme.
UTM hosting performances next weekend

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by visiting artists So Percussion and UT Martin vocal students.

So Percussion, a percussion-based music organization that creates and presents new collaborative works, will host a masterclass and concert March 22. The masterclass is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Percussion Rehearsal Hall. Their kick-off concert for the 2018 UT Martin ChamberFest and Honor Percussion Festival will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Fulton Theatre. Both venues are inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The Vocal Studio Recital will begin at 3 p.m., March 25, in UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blanken-ship Recital Hall. The recital will feature university vocal students performing one song each. Pianists Delana Easley, UT Martin lecturer of music; Rita Winter, of Union City; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Gian Garma, of Martin; and Abigale Plunk, of Martin, will accompany the performers.

All events are free and open to the public.

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

UTM rodeo tickets on sale

Advance tickets for the 50th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Spring College Rodeo, scheduled for April 12-14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion, are now on sale at select locations in West Tennessee and Kentucky.

Advance tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday sessions only. All Thursday night tickets are $6 apiece. Child and student tickets apply to children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with valid Skyhawk ID cards. Children under six are always admitted free of charge.

Friday night's advance adult ticket is on sale for $8, while child and student tickets are $6. Saturday's admission is $10 in advance for adults and $6 for children and students. General admission adult tickets at the door are $10 for the Friday night performance and $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7 for either night's competition.

A weekend pass – which is good for all three performances – is also available for $20.

Fans can purchase advance tickets until April 8 at the following locations: UT Martin Boling University Center and Weakley Farmers Co-op in Martin; A to Z Vet Supply in Dresden; Brawner's Boots in Greenfield; Wood Communication Cellular Source in Union City; and Verizon Wireless in Fulton, Kentucky.

Rodeo fans can also purchase tickets by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at (731) 881-7207.

McNairy County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

By Nathan Morgan
UTM University Relations

MARTIN, Tenn – A McNairy County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Clint Henry Isbell, son of Amanda Isbell, of Bethel Springs, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
50th Annual UT Martin Spring College Rodeo
Advance UTM Rodeo Tickets Available Now

Advance tickets for the 50th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Spring College Rodeo, scheduled for April 12-14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion, are now on sale at select locations in West Tennessee and Kentucky. Advance tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday sessions only. All Thursday night tickets are $6 apiece. Child and student tickets apply to children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with valid Skyhawk ID cards. Children under six are always admitted free of charge.

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Rodeo fans can also purchase tickets by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at (731) 881-7207.

Local Students Receive Scholarships To Attend UTM

MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Madison D. Anderson, of Dukedom, daughter of Andrea Dolin, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

Annalise Hope Bing, of Martin, daughter of Tracie Bing and Chuck Bing, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Alexis Raven Cartwright, daughter of Denisea Cartwright, of Dresden, will be a freshman. She received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.

Jared Conor Freeman, of Sharon, son of Jeff Freeman and Wendy Freeman, will be a freshman. He received the Advance Scholarship.

Brianna Raikel Hampton, of Martin, daughter of Brandye Hudson and Jerri Hampton McFarland, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Connor Scholarship and the Dean Scholarship.

Mary Kathryn Jones, daughter of Robert and Victoria Jones, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Blake Alston McCollum, son of Tim and Stacey McCollum, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Kyle Warren Rolland, of Martin, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Noah Thomas Tackett, son of William and Amy Tackett, of Dresden, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Addison Elizabeth Vincent, daughter of Jeff and Michelle Vincent, of Martin, will be a freshman. She received the Advance Scholarship.

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

Drug Take Back Box Now Located at UT Martin Campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin now has a drug take-back box installed at the Department of Public Safety in Crisp Hall. This sealed container is provided by the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and allows students, employees and community members to safely dispose of prescription drugs and other unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals.

The coalition has also trained UT Martin campus police officers in the use of nasal Narcan, a drug used in the event of an opioid overdose, whether intentional or unintentional. Gov. Bill Haslam recently stated that three Tennesseans die each day from various kinds of opioid overdose, and local law enforcement is partnering with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition to keep area citizens and students from experiencing fatal overdoses.

These steps come on the heels of the University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro's third annual State of the University address Feb. 28, which focused largely on the state's opioid epidemic. DiPietro promised to put the "might of the UT System" behind combating the crisis statewide.

According to the Weakley County Prevention Coalition, enough painkiller prescriptions were written in Weakley County alone for each county resident to have 1.3 prescriptions in their name in 2016. Statistics from 2017 have not yet been made available.

The drug take-back boxes accept all prescription and over-the-counter medications; veterinary medications; medicated ointments, lotions or drops; liquid medications in leak-proof containers; inhalers; and pills in any packages, including glass, plastic, Ziploc bags or foil packs.

Items not accepted include illegal drugs or narcotics; needles or syringes with needles; blood sugar equipment; thermometers; IV bags; bloody or infectious waste; or personal-care products such as shampoo and non-medicated lotions.

The UT Martin drug take-back box is the fifth permanent location in Weakley County. The others are located at the Martin Police Department, Greenfield Police Department, Sharon City Hall and the Weakley County Sheriff's Office in Dresden. Other local boxes can be found at the Henry County Sheriff's Department in Paris, and at the police departments in Union City, Troy, South Fulton and Paris.

To find a drug take-back box near you, visit tdeonline.tn.gov/xtakeback.

Those who are not comfortable bringing their unwanted or expired medications to a take-back box are encouraged to drop off their items during a Drug Take Back Day, which are held twice each year. The UT Martin campus will host a Drug Take Back Day on April 27 at the campus Department of Public Safety.

The Weakley County Prevention Coalition also distributes lock boxes for parents to use when keeping medications away from children and teenagers. For more information, contact the coalition at weakleyprevention@gmail.com.
The University of Tennessee board of trustees will weigh controversial changes to the university's tenure policy Friday that opponents say would amount to "de-tenuring."

The proposal calls for "comprehensive reviews" of all tenured faculty at least every six years and allows for performance reviews of both tenured and non-tenured faculty based on the findings of academic program reviews.

The changes represent an increase in the amount of post-tenure review faculty would be required to undergo and some, particularly at the Knoxville campus, have pushed back at the idea.

"We want the same things (as the administration)," said UT Knoxville Faculty Senate President Beauvais Lyons following a protest against the proposal Tuesday. "We want a rigorous tenure process. We want to hold faculty accountable, but we don't want to undermine tenure and create a lot of busywork for everyone. That's the key message and takeaway."

The tenure proposal is among several items that will be considered Friday by the board of trustees at its spring meeting in Memphis. Full committee meetings start Thursday with the full board scheduled to meet at 1 p.m. CDT Friday on the campus of the UT Health Science Center.

Also on the agenda are a new in-state tuition model for UT Chattanooga; restructuring of the fees for online courses at UT Knoxville and some "potential litigation" that will be reviewed by the board's audit and compliance committee.

What does tenure proposal call for?

Currently, tenured faculty already undergo "performance and planning" reviews that look at their academic activity and plans for the coming year.

UT President Joe DiPietro has said the proposal is not intended as a means of eliminating tenure and would go a long way in approving accountability in the UT system. He's also said if the new policy is approved, the system would work with campus leaders and faculty to develop the procedures by which to implement it.

Some faculty, however, have taken issue with the way the proposal was developed and say it would jeopardize the university's ability to recruit and retain talented faculty, burden administrators and faculty with paperwork and endanger academic freedom.

The state's higher education union, United Campus Workers, and some faculty have called it "de-tenuring."

In addition to reviews at least every six years, the proposal allows for performance reviews of all faculty based on the findings of academic program reviews.

The American Association of University Professors, an organization dedicated to academic freedom and the rights of faculty, has said it is unusual to tie academic program reviews, which are typically based on quantitative data, to post-tenure review.

UT Knoxville plans to reduce online fees

The board also will be taking up two tuition-related items Friday, a restructuring of fees for online courses at UT Knoxville and a new in-state tuition model at UT Chattanooga.

In a push to make its online course offerings more competitive, UT Knoxville is looking to put in place a reduced out-of-state tuition rate for online courses. The change, if approved, would drop the tuition cost of online undergraduate courses for non-residents from the current $1,130 per credit hour to $446.
While the change would also come with a slight increase in online class fees for all students, it is expected to increase enrollment in online courses and help UTK provide more offerings online.

At UT Chattanooga, the board will consider implementing a “15 in 4” tuition model. The model, which is already in place at UT Knoxville and UT Martin, would increase in-state tuition rates for full-time students while allowing them to take an unlimited course load with the aim of improving graduation rates.

'Shponential litigation' on committee agenda

The board's audit and compliance committee will also meet Thursday afternoon to discuss the settlement of a claim and "potential litigation."

Gina Stafford, a spokeswoman for the UT system, said details of the issue were not available Wednesday but would be made public after the committee meets in a non-public executive session.

UTM hosting performances this weekend

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by visiting artists So Percussion and UT Martin vocal students.

So Percussion, a percussion-based music organization that creates and presents new collaborative works, will host a masterclass and concert March 22. The masterclass is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the Percussion Rehearsal Hall. Their kick-off concert for the 2018 UT Martin ChamberFest and Honor Percussion Festival will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Fulton Theatre. Both venues are inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The Vocal Studio Recital will begin at 3 p.m., March 25, in UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall. The recital will feature university vocal students performing one song each. Pianists Delana Easley, UT Martin lecturer of music; Rita Winter, of Union City; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Gian Garma, of Martin; and Abigale Plunk, of Martin, will accompany the performers.

All events are free and open to the public.

Southern Literary Festival comes to UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2018 Southern Literary Festival on the main campus April 4-7. Robbie Ann Mason, author of "Shiloh and Other Stories," "The Girl in the Blue Beret" and a collection of additional titles, will serve as keynote speaker at 6:30 p.m., April 5, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

All festival events are free and open to the public.

This is the first time UT Martin will host the festival, which also serves as an undergraduate writing conference and competition for students across the region. Events begin with an opening reception at 6 p.m., April 4, at the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street in downtown Martin. Activities on April 5-6 include a selection of workshops, listed below. All workshops will be held in the Boling University Center.

Festival events also include lunchtime readings by authors Dixon Byrnum at 12:30 p.m., April 5; and Ann Fisher-Wirth at noon, April 6. Both will take place in the Paul Meek Library.

A special community concert will begin at 5 p.m., April 6, in Weldon Park in downtown Martin. The festival concludes with a breakfast reception and readings from student award winners April 7.

The Southern Literary Festival was founded in 1937 by representatives from 10 Southern colleges, including such writers as Robert Penn Warren, to celebrate Southern literature and culture. The festival has been held by a different member school, now numbering more than 30, each year since, with the exception of 1942-46 at the end of World War II.

Mason joins the ranks of Southern authors such as Eudora Welty, Shelby Foote, John Gould Fletcher and Flannery O'Connor who have been associated with the festival in years past. In addition to Mason's keynote address, other speakers, including poet Jeff Hardin, from Savannah, Tennessee; Dr. Leslie LaChance, freelance editor and former UT Martin faculty member; and Louisiana songwriter Jeff Gordon will conduct workshops on a variety of subjects.

For more information, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English and conference facilitator, at 731-881-7288 or jglass@utm.edu.
Marching band to leave the field

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

A decision to restructure the athletic band at the University of Tennessee at Martin has raised concerns and confusion among students, leading to the scheduling of an open forum on Wednesday.

"The program is evolving to balance both curriculum and university resources," said a news release from the University Relations Office on Friday.

The band, what most people call the marching band, has been in existence for decades, according to Julie Hill, chairman of the music department. It currently has 85 members, but Hill said that is primarily due to the existing requirement that all instrumental music majors participate in the band for four years. This includes students majoring in music education as well as those seeking a bachelor of music in performance.

For attending rehearsals, drill practices and special events, the equivalent of about 120 hours service per year, the band members receive a one-hour academic credit each semester and a $250 scholarship per year.

Rather than demanding this sacrifice from students who are already carrying a full load, Hill said, the number of years required will be gradually tapered down beginning with the Fall 2018 semester, which will reduce the size of the band, and the school will make more effort to recruit non-music majors.

Other schools that field a much larger band rely on a majority of its recruits from other fields of study, Hill said. These schools lure students with housing waivers and substantial scholarships, Hill said.

In addition, most colleges and universities fund the marching band through the athletic department, rather than the music department, as is done at UTM, Hill said the current band budget is $18,000 a year, with more than half of that going for scholarships, pep band uniforms and travel.

"This is very unfortunate. It is a shame that funding is not available to continue the traditional marching band," said one visitor to the UTM Music page on Facebook.

"Extremely disappointed as an alum of the music department," said Janice Tyee. "Can’t believe they are getting rid of actual marching band."

Robert Elam wrote, "Marching band is huge in the West TN area and the marching band was the most viewed ensemble in the music department. It

SEE BAND,

PAGE 15
BAND, from Page 1
was also one of the biggest recruiting tools for the music department. During my time at UTM, there were drastic changes made to the ensemble as the years progressed. These changes have clearly negatively impacted the ability of the ensemble to run effectively. I can’t see how this change can help with recruiting on a local level and I certainly hope that this is not a sign of things to come.”

Hill said the department’s goal, while continuing to examine the curriculum, was to create “a successful ensemble curriculum.”

The band will still perform from the stands at athletic events to motivate and entertain spectators and athletes.

Non-traditional attire will replace the traditional marching band uniform and the group will still participate in area parades.

UTM will also continue to host the West Tennessee Marching Championships.

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Soleil to host UTM Percussion Studio at World Bizarre Friday

The music continues with the University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Studio’s annual World Bizarre fundraiser beginning at 6:30 p.m., Friday, 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 music from around the world, and international students currently attending UT Martin will 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, and 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 731-881-7418 or by email at jhill@utm.edu.

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Spring Fling to showcase music, art, dance and theatre

The University of Tennessee at Martin departments of music and visual and theatre arts will host a spring fling event from 2-4:30 p.m., April 7, in the Fine Arts Building on the UT Martin main campus. All spring fling activities are free of charge and open to the public.

Community members of all ages are invited to view a sampling of UT Martin’s visual and musical arts through a rotating schedule of performances.

The day’s activities include musical selections from a variety of student ensembles, art exhibits, and both dance and theatrical performances. The UT Martin Improv Alliance will perform throughout the afternoon, and fine arts students and faculty will host workshops and demonstrations in pottery, weaving, painting and graphic design.

Children are welcome and can participate in specially-designed children’s theatre activities. The UT Martin Vanguard Theatre will sponsor a children’s theatre this summer, and area residents can preview related activities during the spring fling event.

For more information, contact Doug Cook, professor of theatre, at dcook@utm.edu or contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

ART FORMED — David McBeth, professor of art, working in the campus pottery studio. Pottery will be one of several art forms on display during the department’s Spring Fling event April 7.
Southern Literary Festival comes to UT Martin April 4-7

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2018 Southern Literary Festival on the main campus April 4-7. Bobbie Ann Mason, author of “Shiloh and Other Stories,” “The Girl in the Blue Beret” and a collection of additional titles, will serve as keynote speaker at 6:30 p.m., April 5, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. All festival events are free and open to the public.

This is the first time UT Martin will host the festival, which also serves as an undergraduate writing conference and competition for students across the region. Events begin with an opening reception at 6 p.m., April 4, at the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street in downtown Martin. Activities on April 5-6 include a selection of workshops, listed below. All workshops will be held in the Boling University Center.

April 5
“Lyrics not poetry”; room 206; 2 p.m.
“Writing tiny poems”; room 111; 2 p.m.
“If a picture’s worth a thousand words, how much can I get for a book with both?”; room 206; 3:30 p.m.

April 6
“How to think like a poet: A reading and discussion”; room 111; 9 a.m.

“Authenticity and autochthonic”: room 230; 9 a.m.
“Learning to see and play as a writer”; room 231; 9 a.m.

Festival events also include lunchtime readings by authors Dixon Bynum at 12:30 p.m., April 5, and Ann Fisher-Wirth at noon, April 6. Both will take place in the Paul Meek Library. A special community concert will begin at 5 p.m., April 6, in Weldon Park in downtown Martin. The festival concludes with a breakfast reception and readings from student award-winners April 7.

The Southern Literary Festival was founded in 1937 by representatives from 10 Southern colleges, including such writers as Robert Penn Warren, to celebrate Southern literature and culture. The festival has been held by a different member school, now numbering more than 30, each year since, with the exception of 1942-46 at the end of World War II.

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For more information, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English and conference facilitator, at 731-881-7288 or jglass@utm.edu.

NOTE: Autochthonic (ah-TOCK-thon-ick): Native to the place inhabited; indigenous. Originating in the place where found.

UT Martin ranks 12th in nation for program quality and value

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a variety of national and state rankings for program quality and value in recent weeks.

The UT Martin MBA program is ranked 12th nationally by BestValueSchools.org. The university’s College of Business and Global Affairs, which houses the online MBA program, was also recognized for offering one of the “top-50 best online bachelor’s degrees in business economics for 2018,” as ranked by BestCollegeReviews.org. The UT Martin degree program is 23rd on this list.

SR Education Group has ranked the university’s online master’s degree program in school counseling 20th among the best online college programs in 2018 and 23rd among the most affordable online programs for the same year.

In addition to these two programs, UT Martin’s overall online program offerings gained the university a place among the “best online colleges in Tennessee in 2018,” as listed by AffordableCollegesOnline.org. UT Martin is number 11 on this list, with UT Knoxville following at number 12.

UT Martin also received recognition in several categories on CollegeFactual.com's annual college ranking scorecard. The university is listed as a “best college for the money” for all undergraduates (fifth in Tennessee), undergraduates not receiving financial aid (fourth), and undergraduates receiving financial aid (sixth).

CollegeFactual.com also focuses on individual programs, and UT Martin’s Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources fared especially well. The agricultural program is listed first among the “most focused” programs, second among the “most popular” choices and fifth among “best value” schools. The natural resources management major is ranked ninth among “most focused” programs.

UT Martin also made the list of the “best schools for veterans studying general agriculture” with a fourth-place finish nationally and a number-one ranking statewide.
Advance tickets for UTM Spring Rodeo available

Advance tickets for the 50th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Spring College Rodeo, scheduled for April 12-14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion, are now on sale at select locations in West Tennessee and Kentucky. Advance tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday sessions only. All Thursday night tickets are $6 apiece. Child and student tickets apply to children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with valid Skyhawk ID cards. Children under 6 are always admitted free of charge.

Friday night’s advance adult ticket is on sale for $8, while child and student tickets are $6. Saturday’s admission is $10 in advance for adults and $6 for children and students.

General admission adult tickets at the door are $10 for the Friday night performance and $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7 for either night’s competition.

A weekend pass – which is good for all three performances – is also available for $20.

Fans can purchase advance tickets until April 8 at the following locations: UT Martin Boling University Center and Weakley Farmers Co-Op in Martin; A to Z Vet Supply in Dresden; Brawner’s Boots in Greenfield; Wood Communication Cellular Source in Union City; and Verizon Wireless in Fulton.

Rodeo fans can also purchase tickets by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at 731-881-7207.

Saddle up for the annual UTM Spring Rodeo

Advance tickets for the 50th annual UTM Spring College Rodeo, scheduled for April 12-14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion in Martin, are now on sale.

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All Thursday night adult tickets are $6 each, with no advance available. Friday night’s adult tickets are $8 in advance or $10 at the gate, while Saturday’s adult admission is $10 in advance or $12 at the door. An event pass, good for all performances, is available for $20.

Rodeo fans can purchase tickets by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at 731-881-7207. Advance tickets also can be purchased until April 8 at the following locations: UT Martin Boling University Center or Weakley Farmers Co-Op in Martin; A to Z Vet Supply in Dresden; Brawner’s Boots in Greenfield; Wood Communication Cellular Source in Union City; and Verizon Wireless in Fulton, Ky.

Healthy Hawks

The UT Martin Ripley Center, located at 315 South Washington Street.

This event, which is scheduled to have vendors, food, and games, is open to the public to build awareness for “Kick Butts Day”, in an effort to assist the community with quitting smoking.
Wayne County Students Bailey Burcham and Abigail Webb Receive Scholarships to UT Martin

Mar 23, 2018

www.waynecountynews.net/

Two Wayne County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-2019 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, Executive Director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Bailey Nicole Burcham of Waynesboro, daughter of Jennifer Burcham and Bryant Burcham, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.

Abigail E. Webb of Waynesboro, daughter of Jeff Webb and Carol Anne Webb, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at (731) 881-7040.
UTM Meets State Expectations In All Areas

MARTIN, Tenn. - The Tennessee Department of Education released its 2016 annual reports March 20 evaluating education preparation programs across the state. The University of Tennessee at Martin's program passed assessment with "meets expectations" in each of four evaluation areas.

“I am very pleased with this data that shows continuous improvement within our Educator Preparation Program," said Donna Neblett, director of the educator preparation program and its accreditation. “Our administration, faculty, staff and students work tirelessly to ensure we are connected with the most recent standards, best practices and our school district partners.”

Data was compiled to assess candidate recruitment and selection; employment and retention; candidate assessment; and completer effectiveness and impact.

In the area of candidate recruitment and selection, the UT Martin program reported that 99.7 percent of undergraduate students held a grade point average of 2.75 of greater upon admission to the program, and admitted students maintained a class average of 3.41 GPA while in the program. The state threshold only requires a 3.0 average GPA. The program also improved in this category as compared to previous reports by increasing students in high-need endorsement areas from 12.9 percent to 16.2 percent.

With regard to employment and retention, UT Martin program graduates were employed and retained in the education field for at least two years 95 percent of the time, exceeding the state threshold of 85 percent.

When it comes to candidate assessment, UT Martin program completers passed the required pedagogical assessments 95.5 percent of the time, passed the required literary assessment 97.5 percent of the time, and specialty area exams 93.2 percent of the time. The required expectation is 90 percent statewide.

The final area, completer effectiveness and impact, describes the level of performance of UT Martin program graduates as teachers in their own classrooms. Teachers who are UT Martin alumni scored 92 percent in overall effectiveness, exceeding the state threshold of 85 percent.
In today’s higher education there is traditional education, then there is experiential learning.

“There is a big difference between a student gaining experience and experiential learning,” said Patrick Clarke, Dean of the School of Integrative and Engaged Learning at SUU. “Experiential learning is being able to demonstrate the intentionality in the way a student approaches the experience, how they learn by meeting objectives, document, describe what they would do different next time, and formally work through all the processes they are presented — this is what employers and others are looking for.”

Southern Utah University experts recently hosted experiential education leaders from several universities to share ideas on helping students through hands-on learning.

The Experiential Learning Leadership Institute (ELLI) at SUU held its first Leader’s Retreat in February with 40 educators from nine institutions meeting among the scenic landscapes surrounding Moab.

Founded in 2015, ELLI has held three national conferences for experiential education leaders, with their fourth annual conference coming in June. But the Moab leadership retreat was different, Clarke said.

“At our ELLI conferences, experiential education leaders from institutions across the country come and hear from experts in the field about strategies they can use to implement experiential education in their schools,” he said. “We thought it would be a good idea to have a retreat where these institutions could work on actual plans, implement programs and get advice from other experts in the field.”
Stephanie Thomason, Associate Director of the TECO Energy Center for Leadership at Tampa University, said her university's mission centers on experiential learning and is continually looking for ways to enhance teaching effectiveness.

"My teaching philosophy is focused on continuous improvement, so I've always tried to find ways to improve my delivery and assure student learning," she said. "I was delighted to be offered the opportunity to join a great team of educators at the ELLI retreat and look forward to attending many more ELLI conferences and retreats in the future."

The University of Tennessee at Martin sent a representative from four of their five colleges to the ELLI retreat. Charles Bradshaw, an associate professor of English, said UTM is working on a campus-wide initiative where every student engages in experiential learning before graduating.

"The SUU staff at the Moab ELLI retreat were top-notch. I've been to other conferences that just scratch the surface of what is possible with learning objectives and assessment, but this one was really well done," he said. "It was just what we needed—a really great couple of days with some really sharp and pragmatic people."

Proposals and registrations are now being accepted for the 2018 ELLI Annual Conference taking place June 25-28 in Flagstaff, with an experiential excursion to the overwhelming colors and erosional forms that make up the Grand Canyon. For information, visit suu.edu/siel/elli, email elli@suu.edu, or call 435-586-7808.

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**JACKSONSUN.COM Ⅱ SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**

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**JACKSONSUN.COM Ⅱ SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018**

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**UTM hosting performances this weekend**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with performances by visiting artists So Percussion and UT Martin vocal students.

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UTM rodeo to celebrate
50 years in April

Women forged new paths in risking and riding in the rodeo

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

In the days closing out Women's History Month and approaching the UTM Spring Rodeo April 12-14 celebrating 50 years of the sport on campus, the Weakley County Press collected a few of the stories of the women of the rodeo. Though each tale is unique, they share some common themes around motivation, money and role models.

Initially a Rodeo Club that was part of the larger Ag Club when it began in 1968, activities for women were limited to barrel racing and "most of those were some of the guys' girlfriends," said David Vowell, who was on the first Martin rodeo team to go to the college finals in 1974 and later became part of his family's lumber business, Vowell and Sons Inc. in Martin. As the program grew, goat roping was soon added as an option for women. Now rodeos offer six events for men and four events for women -- barrel racing, team roping, goat tying and breakaway roping.

Terri Tucker Baxter, part of the first women's team to qualify for the College National Finals in 1976, came from Trenton with a background in showing quarter horses. While another university offered the opportunity to continue to focus on showing horses, Baxter, motivated by the chance to compete, chose UTM and the fledgling program.

Baxter also recognized and appreciated the team atmosphere of the rodeo and the camaraderie between the men and women's team. Still, when it came to time for competition, scholarships, recruitment, etc., she said the women had to speak up. Since the men's program was a couple years ahead, she noted, "We had to make sure we weren't an afterthought."

As Baxter was closing out her college career, the first scholarships for women went to Annette Michaels and Cynthia Cook. But even in the late 1990s when Jamie McPeake Hall of Lexington came to UTM, money was always an issue.

Like Baxter's experience, "Getting to the rodeo..." See WOMEN, PAGE 12
WOMEN,
FROM PAGE 1

os was one of the biggest challenges,” acknowledged Hall. “Scholarships pay for the school but there is no bus, no shared trucks or trailers. We got a bit of travel money but it takes a lot of money to rodeo.”

And, noting the difference between rodeo and other sports, Hall concluded, “You don’t have to feed a [baseball] bat. You don’t have to feed a football.”

Today’s rodeo competitors are still out the expenses of their horses, trailers and feed. When UTM joined the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association in 1973, it allowed for students to compete both at the college level and professionally. Some can win money, but earnings are not guaranteed, said Coach John Luthi, who is in his 21st year at UTM.

Since UTM is in the Ozark Region – one of 11 rodeo regions in the U.S. – travel is primarily within Tennessee and to Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Alabama – quite a distance when hauling animals. Luthi points out that the travel funds – which are determined based on points earned during competitions – are usually not sufficient to cover an individual’s expenses but, when combined with other teammates’, the money “can put a dent” in the travel costs.

UTM’s budget now includes funds for buying and feeding practice stock, caring for injured animals, and upkeep of the facilities.

With so little attention given to rodeo east of the Mississippi River, role models were hard to come by for several decades. The women interviewed for this special section of the Weakley County Press all identified fathers as their primary mentors and guides.

Courtney Shackleford was with the UTM Rodeo from 2002-2005 and was part of women’s professional barrel racing during that time and through 2013. She said MarthaJosey, who was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1985, was one of her first heroes. But as she grew older, she realized her inspiration came from a bit closer to home, “I more looked up to my father who taught me – if given the tools, put in the time and dedication, good things will happen.”

Role models weren’t the only rarities in the early days of women’s rodeo. Coaching was a peer-to-peer experience. Author John W. Lacey wrote in the Tennessee Alumnus magazine that the Martin rodeo team from the beginning was in large part a student-built program. With the help of advisor “Doc” Robinson the team staged and won the university’s first rodeo at a nearby horse ranch in 1969. The first fulltime coach was Tony Coleman. George Messimer was interim for a year and then Luthi assumed coaching responsibilities. All coaches served both the women and the men.

Shackleford refers to the teachings of Luthi as she went on to pursue a professional career. Luthi says his emphasis has always been on the importance of goals. “We teach that attitude makes a huge difference,” he said. “We want them to understand that God is control. Their job is to do the best they can and leave the results to the Good Lord. If they do that, they are winners. Not everyone will win first place, but you can do a lot with what you’ve got.”

Luthi, who competed professionally in the late 70s and 80s in bareback and bull riding, said that due to the long days on the road, and the toll rodeo events take on the physical body, long-term careers are not the norm, “But we’ve had some who have gone on and made it to Las Vegas and the PRCA [Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association],” he said, remembering to add, “You need to go to college for a backup plan.”

As somewhat of a bridge between past and present and another sign of the vital role women continue to play for the team, Diane Luthi, wife of John, serves as the administrator for the UTM Rodeo’s social media, she produces a quarterly newsletter and maintains a Facebook page followed by more than 7,000, as well as Twitter and Instagram accounts, and has initiated a presence on Snapchat which last year netted 240,000 views in three days.

To see photos from the past and present, check out www.facebook.com/utm.rodeo/, where information is also provided on upcoming events offering former rodeo teammates a chance to reunite and mingle with the current roster.
For the McPeake/Hall family, the rodeo is an inherited passion.

Tim and Diane McPeake of Lexington helped start the Tennessee Junior Rodeo Association when daughter Jamie was 5 years old and then ran the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association when she entered her teens.

When Jamie graduated from the rodeo program at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2002, her graduation present from her parents was Little Bit, a horse from Oklahoma, which Jamie trained to rope. She rode that horse until January 2018, when she gave the horse to her son Braxton, now a two-year rodeo veteran at 6 years of age, could begin his roping career on a beloved champion. Add the fact that Jamie met husband Zach Hall in her rodeo days following UTM, and saying that rodeo is "all in the family" is certainly apropos.

While at UTM, Jamie counts having won Reserve All Around as one of her greatest accomplishments. The title comes by excelling in multiple events including barrel racing, goat tying, breakaway roping and team roping. A love for such multi-tasking was quite possibly foreshadowing for the

FAMILY STICKS TOGETHER — Jamie Hall rides the ring with her husband Zach and their son Braxton.

HALL, From Page 1

now mother, pharmaceutical sales rep, wife, and weekend rodeo competitor.

Husband Zach joins her for the IPRA and PCA events as a calf roper. Son Braxton even followed in her footsteps and took the Reserve All Around title in his age bracket last year.

When asked about passing along the legacy of rodeo to her children (baby Rance is exempt from the sport at the moment), Hall lists lessons learned among the greatest gifts, especially responsibility. Braxton already helps with feeding, saddling, and cleaning out stalls. But, says his mother, he also "loves the sportsmanship. He's a competitor. A lot like his mom—he likes to win."

Another lesson sure to be passed along to her children is the resourcefulness of the rodeo competitor. In college, "when a horse got hurt, friends would share," she explained. And now that her entire family is involved in rodeo activities, she finds a way to make it work. "We are just really good with our money. We just want to support our habits," she laughed and said.

SEE HALL,

PAGE 12
Terri Tucker
Baxter

Pioneers of women's college rodeo may not have driven covered wagons and slept under the stars, but they came very close.

Though she held the titles associated with royalty — 1974 UTM Rodeo Queen and Miss Rodeo Tennessee 1976 — Terri Baxter (then Tucker) didn't quite travel like a queen when she was goat tying and barrel racing for University of Tennessee at Martin from 1974-78. In those early days, all costs of traveling to rodeo events were the participants' responsibility to cover. She credits her father's green Dodge truck and camper as the primary accommodations for her and teammate Wanda Dunn-Ray.

"We helped pioneer the women's team," she said of being the first women's team to qualify for the College National Finals in 1976. "At that time, cowboys and cowgirls didn't come from the southeast, so crossing the Mississippi and being recognized was a huge accomplishment.

"Tennessee is still burning and blazing trails," she explained and, laughing, added, "It's always a big deal when we can beat those Westerners."

A native of Trenton, Bax-
SEE BAXTER, PAGE 12

BAXTER.
FROM PAGE 1

ter, even as a teen, was an established horsewoman, having shown quarter horses. So, when it came time to select a university, her choices were Murray for its quarter horse program and UTM for its fledgling rodeo.

The rodeo came out the winner.

While racking up successes inside the arena, life outside had its challenges. Part-time jobs at a barrowing barn, a campus waitressing job (teammate Ray worked at the Martin Tea Room), training horses, and giving riding lessons contributed to the gas required for the two-horse trailer and truck to get them to events. Accommodations were limited to a mattress in the back of the camper-covered truck and meals they'd packed.

"Our determination was bigger than our pocketbooks, so we'd just go," Baxter noted of their nights camped near various rodeo arenas waiting for the next day's rodeo.

That dogged determination was essential as they faced further challenges such as locating places to keep the horses and getting practice stock. Even with the help of their male team members in locating practice animals, they were not always "just right." Practicing goat roping on a ram, for instance, was a vivid memory for Baxter.

With few women in the sport at the time, Baxter's father, Gerral Tucker, then secretary of the Tennessee Livestock Association, served as Baxter's role model for both working with horses and raising money and attention for the rodeo. He also ensured she and that Dodge made it to major events like the finals that were held in Bozeman, Mont.

Baxter also credits Beverly Bennett Ofenheusle of Martin for "taking us under her wing and showing us the ropes."

Baxter's involvement in the rodeo these days is serving as an encourager and a somewhat historian for the UTM rodeo page on Facebook.

"I always try to encourage the women on Facebook," she said. "Since overall the spotlight is still on rodeo as a man's sport."

However, she praises Coach John Luthi for not only providing the coaching that she and her teammates had to provide for each other but also for shaping the character in today's teams. "I'm excited to see what he's taught them about life and rodeo," she noted.

Diane Luthi, wife of Coach Luthi and manager for Facebook and social media, also got a shout-out for increasing the exposure and providing Baxter the opportunity to share a memory whenever a throw-back photo asks "Can you name...?"

"I can always be counted on for a snarky comment when a photo is shared. I say, 'I can name the boys... AND the girls too!"

Advancements such as the increase in the number of team members, the growth of a scholarship program, the addition of coaches are all noteworthy, according to Baxter. But to have "a woman in a leadership position — intern or staff — is huge," she said.

Even receiving a feature in the county newspaper got kudos from Baxter, "Any recognition that the women can get is always a plus. Anytime we can bring the women to the spotlight — not to take over but to complement — is great."

And that's high praise from a queen.

Baxter now directs a nationwide abortion recovery and abuse hotline.
Literary festival slated for next week

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2018 Southern Literary Festival on the main campus April 4-7.

Bobbie Ann Mason, author of "Shiloh and Other Stories," "The Girl in the Blue Beret" and a collection of additional titles, will serve as keynote speaker at 6:30 p.m. April 5, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

All festival events are free and open to the public.

This is the first time UT Martin will host the festival, which also serves as an undergraduate writing conference and competition for students across the region.

Events begin with an opening reception at 6 p.m. April 4 at the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street in downtown Martin. Activities April 5-6 include a selection of workshops, listed below. All workshops will be held in the Boling University Center.

The schedule includes:

April 5
- "Lyrics not poetry"; room 206; 2 p.m.
- "Writing tiny poems"; room 111; 2 p.m.
- "If a picture's worth a thousand words, how much can I get for a book with both?"; room 206; 3:30 p.m.

April 6
- "How to think like a poet: A reading and discussion"; room 111; 9 a.m.
- "Authenticity and autochthonic"; room 230; 9 a.m.
- "Learning to see and play as a writer"; room 231; 9 a.m.

Festival events also include lunchtime readings by authors Dixon Bynum at 12:30 p.m. April 5 and Ann Fisher-Wirth at noon April 6. Both will take place in the Paul Meek Library. A special community concert will begin at 5 p.m. April 6 in Weldon Park in downtown Martin. The festival concludes with a breakfast reception and readings from student award-winners April 7.

The Southern Literary Festival was founded in 1937 by representatives from 10 Southern colleges, including such writers as Robert Penn Warren, to celebrate Southern literature and culture. The festival has been held by a different member school, now numbering more than 30, each year since, with the exception of 1942-46 at the end of World War II.

Mason joins the ranks of Southern authors such as Eudora Welty, Shelby Foote, John Gould Fletcher and Flannery O'Connor, who have been associated with the festival in years past. In addition to Mason's keynote address, other speakers — including poet Jeff Hardin from Savannah; Dr. Leslie LaChance, freelance editor and former UT Martin faculty member; and Louisiana songwriter Jeff Gordon — will conduct workshops on a variety of subjects.

For more information, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English and conference facilitator, at (731) 881-7288 or jglass@utm.edu.

Musical performances set for next week at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will continue its spring concert season with student and faculty performances Monday through April 6.

All events will take place in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

Dr. Roberto Mancusi, UT Martin associate professor of music, will perform "The Triumph of the Human Spirit" as part of his "The Big Sing Theory" tour at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Mancusi will later perform this concert in England as part of his sabbatical project.

The concert includes music by Tchaikovsky, Brahms and Mahler, as well as two pieces by contemporary British composer F.L. Dunkin Wedd that were written specifically for Mancusi. The last set of songs, including the world premiere of Mancusi's "The Tales of Paul Bunyan," are a product of his sabbatical project.

The University Trio will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. The trio consists of pianist Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music; clarinetist Dr. Crista Frye, UT Martin and Murray (Ky.) State University adjunct professor; and flutist Charles Lewis, UT Martin lecturer.

The program will include Grammy winner Michael Colina's "Habanera," Stephen Halleran's "Trio" and Irish composer Rona Caffolla's "Cantilena." The premiere of Dr. Michael Mathenia's "Mathenia's Pastorale" will be performed. Mathenia is an adjunct instructor at UT Martin.

The Studio D Chamber Recital will begin at 7:30 p.m. April 6. Studio D is comprised of UT Martin Department of Music's saxophone and double reed students.

All of the musical events are free and open to the public.
University meets expectations in annual report

The Tennessee Department of Education released its 2016 annual reports March 20 evaluating education preparation programs across the state — and the University of Tennessee at Martin’s program passed assessment with “meets expectations” in each of four evaluation areas.

“I am very pleased with this data that shows continuous improvement within our Educator Preparation Program,” said Donna Neblett, director of the educator preparation program and its accreditation. “Our administration, faculty, staff and students work tirelessly to ensure we are connected with the most recent standards, best practices and our school district partners.”

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When it comes to candidate assessment, UT Martin program completers passed the required pedagogical assessments 95.5 percent of the time, passed the required literary assessment 97.5 percent of the time, and specialty area exams 93.2 percent of the time.

The required expectation is 90 percent statewide.

The final area, completer effectiveness and impact, describes the level of performance of UT Martin program graduates as teachers in their own classrooms. Teachers who are UT Martin alumni scored 92 percent in overall effectiveness, exceeding the state threshold of 85 percent.

For more information, contact Mrs. Neblett at (731) 881-7686 or dneblett1@utm.edu.

In addition to these two programs, UT Martin’s overall online program offerings gained the university a place among the “best online colleges in Tennessee in 2018,” as listed by AffordableCollegesOnline.org. UT Martin is number 11 on this list, with UT Knoxville following at number 12.

UT Martin also received recognition in several categories on CollegeFactual.com’s annual college ranking scorecard. The university is listed as a “best college for the money” for all undergraduates (fifth in Tennessee), undergraduates not receiving financial aid (fourth), and undergraduates receiving financial aid (sixth).

CollegeFactual.com also focuses on individual programs, and UT Martin’s Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources fared especially well. The agricultural program is listed first among the “most focused” programs, second among the “most popular” choices and fifth among “best value” schools. The natural resources management major is ranked ninth among “most focused” programs.

UT Martin also made the list of the “best schools for veterans studying general agriculture” with a fourth-place finish nationally and a number-one ranking statewide.

UTM praised for value, quality

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a variety of national and state rankings for program quality and value in recent weeks.

The UT Martin MBA program is ranked 12th nationally by BestValueSchools.org.

The university’s College of Business and Global Affairs, which houses the online MBA program, was also recognized for offering one of the “top-50 best online bachelor’s degrees in business economics for 2018,” as ranked by BestCollegeReviews.org. The UT Martin degree program is 23rd on this list.

SR Education Group has ranked the university’s online master’s degree program in school counseling 20th among the best online college programs in 2018 and 23rd among the most affordable online programs for the same year.
UTM-Ripley, Health Department promote Kick Butts Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center, along with Lauderdale County Health Department, hosted the Healthy Hawks Kick Butts Day last Thursday at the UTM-Ripley Center. The event promoted efforts to stop smoking.

PAL speaks to youth at Kick Butts Day

Xavier Lawrence Andrews, Director of the Anti-Drug Coalition of Lauderdale County, gave out information to youth and parents at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center’s Kick Butts Healthy Hawks Day on March 22. Pictured with Andrews are youth receiving backpacks saying, “You Won’t See Me Using Tobacco!” Youth are encouraged take a stand against tobacco on any day of the year. The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center on April 26 at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Andrews at 612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.

Veterans outreach held at UTM-Ripley

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center, along with the Memphis Vet Center hosted a Veterans community outreach called, “Mobile Veterans Affairs Clinic” on March 22.
Local students speak to WestStar group

Students (standing front, center) from Halls High School and Ripley High School addressed the WestStar Leadership class at University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on March 22. The students delivered powerful messages as they explained the impact of Project AWARE programming on their lives, on their fellow students and on their schools' environments. The students' stories drew multiple standing ovations from the adult audience. Project AWARE promotes mental health awareness and services in Lauderdale County Schools to increase health and wellness for students, families, and community. Under Project AWARE's staff guidance, student groups at both high schools have taken leadership roles in their respective schools and across the state as they encourage peers and adults to make positive connections in daily interactions. Students are pictured with the WestStar Leadership class and members of Lauderdale County Schools staff. Students from Halls High School are Brandon Jones, Bryson McKee and Katena Sapien, and, from Ripley High School, Juwon Mack, Ray Washington and Braylon Williams.

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE • MARCH 28, 2018

UTM Department of Music To Host Performances April 2-6

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Dr. Roberto Mancusi, UT Martin associate professor of music, will perform “The Triumph of the Human Spirit” as part of his “The Big Sing Theory” tour at 7:30 p.m., April 2. Mancusi will later perform this concert in England as part of his sabbatical project.

The University Trio will present a concert at 7:30 p.m., April 3. The trio consists of pianist Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, clarinetist Dr. Crista Frye, UT Martin and Murray State University adjunct professor, and flutist Charles Lewis, UT Martin lecturer. The program will include Grammy winner Michael Colina’s “Habanera,” Stephen Halleran’s “Trio” and Irish composer Roma Cafolla’s “Cantilena.” The premiere of Dr. Michael Mathenia’s “Mathenia’s Pastorale” will be performed. Mathenia is an adjunct instructor at UT Martin.

The Studio D Chamber Recital will begin at 7:30 p.m., April 6. Studio D is comprised of UT Martin Department of Music’s saxophone and double reed students.

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 2018 Southern Literary Festival on the main campus April 4-7. Bobbie Ann Mason, author of "Shiloh and Other Stories," "The Girl in the Blue Beret" and a collection of additional titles, will serve as keynote speaker at 6:30 p.m., April 5, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. All festival events are free and open to the public.

This is the first time UT Martin will host the festival, which also serves as an undergraduate writing conference and competition for students across the region.

Events begin with an opening reception at 6 p.m., April 4, at the Martin Coffee House on Lindell Street in downtown Martin. Activities on April 5-6 include a selection of workshops, listed below. All workshops will be held in the Boling University Center.
April 5

- “Lyrics not poetry”; room 206; 2 p.m.
- “Writing tiny poems”; room 111; 2 p.m.
- “If a picture’s worth a thousand words, how much can I get for a book with both?”; room 206; 3:30 p.m.

April 6

- “How to think like a poet: A reading and discussion”; room 111; 9 a.m.
- “Authenticity and autochthonic”; room 230; 9 a.m.
- “Learning to see and play as a writer”; room 231; 9 a.m.

Festival events also include lunchtime readings by authors Dixon Bynum at 12:30 p.m., April 5, and Ann Fisher-Wirth at noon, April 6. Both will take place in the Paul Meek Library. A special community concert will begin at 5 p.m., April 6, in Weldon Park in downtown Martin. The festival concludes with a breakfast reception and readings from student award-winners April 7.

The Southern Literary Festival was founded in 1937 by representatives from 10 Southern colleges, including such writers as Robert Penn Warren, to celebrate Southern literature and culture. The festival has been held by a different member school, now numbering more than 30, each year since, with the exception of 1942-46 at the end of World War II.

Mason joins the ranks of Southern authors such as Eudora Welty, Shelby Foote, John Gould Fletcher and Flannery O’Connor who have been associated with the festival in years past. In addition to Mason’s keynote address, other speakers, including poet Jeff Hardin, from Savannah, Tennessee; Dr. Leslie LaChance, freelance editor and former UT Martin faculty member; and Louisiana songwriter Jeff Gordon will conduct workshops on a variety of subjects.

For more information, contact Dr. John Glass, associate professor of English and conference facilitator, at 731-881-7288 or jglass@utm.edu.
Town hall meeting helping to resolve band issues

By LINDA THURSTON Press Editor

A town hall meeting concerning changes in the marching band at the University of Tennessee at Martin had positive results, says Julie Hill, chair of the department of music.

"We had a very cathartic dialogue and students were encouraged to voice their opinions on both sides," Hill said.

"Everyone had the opportunity to speak their minds and this was very healing for our music family and much needed after all the press on the topic over the past two weeks."

Hill said Chancellor Keith Carver, Humanities Dean Lynn Alexander and many non-major band participants attended the town hall meeting, and a vote on the changes showed "an overwhelming majority of support for the change."

Hill said that the meeting, which drew about 130 music majors, non-majors and faculty, lasted for an hour and a half, and started with an open opportunity for students to express their views on the change. Then they had 48 hours to record their vote on the issue.

"I wanted to make sure that whatever the decision, that we make it as a group, as a family," Hill said.

She said that as the situation was explained, students learned "that the sky really is not falling."

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UTM BAND, From Page 1

Hill told the press last week that the existing marching band drew nearly all of its membership from music majors, who were required to participate for four years. The university plans to reduce this requirement each year.

The music department will make a concerted effort to draw more non-majors into the band, Hill said, but until membership reaches sufficient numbers, the band will not march but will play and choreograph from the stands during games. She said the band will take the field during football games at halftime but will not perform a marching drill.

Upon the original announcement of the changes last week, many students and alumni expressed disappointment on Facebook. Later, others expressed support.

"As a professional musician and music educator, I applaud UTM Music for progressing music education in West Tennessee," said Richard Henson Jr., a former UTM music student and now a professional musician. "This is the kind of change we need to see in music academia. I can't wait to see the positive impact this will have on the quality of music and musicians that come from this institution."

The final vote on the change was 48 for and 26 against, Hill said.

MISS UTM RODEO — Darla Mallory (third from left), 17 year-old daughter of Donna and Claude Mallory of Dresden, was recently crowned Miss UTM Rodeo. She will reside over rodeo-week activities. Her court included (from left) prettiest hair and prettiest eyes, Madison Elizabeth Vincent, daughter of Jeff and Michelle Vincent of Martin; first maid, prettiest smile and best model, Caleigh Jo Erwin, daughter of Rachel and Joe Erwin of Dyerburg; and second maid, Marisa Rubio, daughter of Debra and Ben Rubio of Martin. The pageant is sponsored by the UTM Rodeo Booster Club and was held recently in Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UT Martin.
LITTLE BEAUTIES — UTM Rodeo Booster Club recently held the annual UTM Rodeo Pageant in Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UT Martin. Winners in the 4-6 year-old age division were (from left) queen and best model, Emma Cate Carr, daughter of Leigh and Terry Carr of Martin; first maid and prettiest smile, Makaren Jacobs, daughter of Shane and Merideth Jacobs; second maid and prettiest hair, Charlie Phillips, daughter of Kyle and Ashley Phillips of Union City; and prettiest eyes, DaniLynn Warmath, daughter of Lynlee and John Warmath.

JR. MISS UTM RODEO — UTM Rodeo Booster Club recently held the annual UTM Rodeo Pageant in Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UT Martin. Taking honors in the Jr. Miss UTM Rodeo division were (from left) best model, Raven-Ashley Canada, daughter of Debbie Yeager of Martin; first maid and prettiest hair, Jentry McConnell, daughter of John and Jennifer McConnell of South Fulton; queen and prettiest eyes, Brenlee Blado, daughter of Lori Nelson and Keneth Blado of Milan; second maid, Avery Claire High, daughter of Donald Ray and Melanie High of Greenfield; and prettiest smile, Abbie Young, daughter of Brandi and Nathan Young of McKenzie.
LITTLE MISS UTM RODEO — Winners in the Little Miss UTM Rodeo pageant, sponsored by the UTM Rodeo Booster Club and held recently in Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UT Martin, were (from left) prettiest smile, Madeline Gottshall, daughter of Todd and Megan Gottshall of McKenzie; prettiest hair, Ruby Claire Hays, daughter of Bryan and Jennifer Hays of Martin; prettiest eyes, Tenley Lewis, daughter of Mark and Tina Lewis of Dresden; queen Cacie Jo McNeill, daughter of Chad and Taffee McNeill of Friendship; first maid and best model, Stella Higdon, daughter of Josh and Jana Higdon; and second maid, Farrah Jolie McDurmon, daughter of Pat and Shanna McDurmon of Paris.

TEEN MISS UTM RODEO — Winners of the Teen Miss UTM Rodeo Pageant, sponsored by the UTM Rodeo Booster Club and held recently in Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UT Martin, included (from left) prettiest eyes and prettiest smile, Amber Cruse, daughter of John and Cindy Cruse of Martin; second maid, best model and prettiest hair, Wren Adkins, daughter of Adam and Stacey Adkins of Martin; queen, McKenna Thrower, daughter of Michael and Sherry Thrower of Henry; and first maid Lily Ruesken, daughter of Candy Ruesken of Gleason.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Advance tickets for the 50th annual University of Tennessee at Martin Spring College Rodeo, scheduled for April 12-14 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion, are now on sale at select locations in West Tennessee and Kentucky.

Advance tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday sessions only. All Thursday night tickets are $6 apiece. Child and student tickets apply to children ages 6-12 and UT Martin students with valid Skyhawk ID cards. Children under six are always admitted free of charge.

Friday night’s advance adult ticket is on sale for $8, while child and student tickets are $6. Saturday’s admission is $10 in advance for adults and $6 for children and students. General admission adult tickets at the door are $10 for the Friday night performance and $12 for Saturday night. Child and student tickets are $7 for either night’s competition.

A weekend pass – which is good for all three performances – is also available for $20.
Fans can purchase advance tickets until April 8 at the following locations: UT Martin Boling University Center and Weakley Farmers Co-Op in Martin; A to Z Vet Supply in Dresden; Brawner's Boots in Greenfield; Wood Communication Cellular Source in Union City; and Verizon Wireless in Fulton, Kentucky.

Rodeo fans can also purchase tickets by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at (731) 881-7207.

Photo—Molly Hill of Carbondale competes at the 2017 Rodeo. (UTM photo)

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Thursday, March 29, 2018

TBI report: Campus crime down across state
By CHRIS MENEES
Senior Staff Reporter

Campus crime decreased last year at colleges and universities in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation recently released its 2017 Crime on Campus report—an annual crime study detailing the volume and nature of crime on the state's college and university campuses.

Statewide, overall campus crime reported by Tennessee colleges and universities decreased by 2.8 percent from 2016 to 2017, according to the report.

Among the local institutions included in the report are the University of Tennessee at Martin, Dyersburg State Community College, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Newbern and Bethel University in McKenzie.

Crime on Campus compiles crime data submitted to the TBI by the state's colleges, universities and law enforcement agencies through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System.

Across Tennessee, robbery offenses decreased significantly—by 55.2 percent—from 29 reported in 2016 to 13 reported in 2017.

Assault offenses dropped by 13.7 percent from one year to the next, while there was a 27 percent decrease in reported rape offenses, from 63 in 2016 to 46 in 2017.

Reported DWI (driving under the influence) offenses increased by 60.9 percent over the course of the year.

Overall, the report found that 26.8 percent of all 2017 offenses reported statewide were categorized as larceny/theft.

Local look

Locally, at UT Martin, there were nine assault offenses; four burglaries; 53 larceny/theft offenses; four fraud offenses; eight destruction/damage/vandalism offenses; 30 drug/narcotic violations; one weapon law violation; one liquor law violation; and one trespassing offense.

No offenses of any kind were reported at TCAT-Newbern, which had a total campus population listed at 332 for the 2017 fall term.

Bethel University had eight assault offenses; one weapon law violation; three liquor law violations; and one trespassing offense.

The McKenzie college's total campus population was listed as 4,055 for the fall term of 2017.

There were no sex offenses, either forcible or non-forcible, reported at any of the four local campuses.
UT Martin hosting free Spring Fling with the Arts

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music and the Department of Visual and Theater Arts are hosting a Spring Fling with the Arts on April 7 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building.

This special event provides interactive activities for the entire family — children and adults both.

“Enjoy making your own instrument, experience children’s theater first-hand, work with the dance ensemble, try your hand at directing the New Pacer Singers, watch red hot pottery coming out of the open fire kiln, try out a new instrument. The possibilities are endless,” a spokesman said.

There is no charge and all are invited to learn about the arts by doing. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For additional information, contact Doug Cook, chairman of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, at 731-881-7400; or Dr. Julie Hill, chairman of Department of Music, at 881-7402.