WESTSTAR VISITS GIBSON COUNTY – WestStar Leadership Program participants visited Gibson County last Thursday. On the agenda were Gibson County Mayor Tom Witherspoon, Humboldt Mayor Marvin Sikes, Trenton Mayor Rickey Jackson, Medina Mayor Vance Coleman, and Milan Mayor B.W. Beasley. Guest speakers included Rachel Terrell of TVA; Alex Smith, General Manager of Humboldt Utilities; Brian Williamson, owner of LimeGroup, LLC; Randy Etheridge, Director of Hardin County Waste; and Pat Riley, General Manager of Gibson County Utility District. The group began the day in Humboldt before traveling to the Teapot Museum in Trenton where docent Dent Partee gave a tour of the world's largest collection of nightlight teapots. Participants ended the day at the Compress Natural Gas fueling station in Trenton. Photo by Brian Patterson.

The Daily Herald.

UT Martin honors Maury Co. students

Tuesday
posted May 2, 2017 at 12:01 AM
updated May 2, 2017 at 5:30 PM

By Special to The Daily Herald

Three Maury County residents received college or department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2017 semester. The following students were recognized:

Brooke Boshers, of Mount Pleasant, received the Cunningham Outstanding Freshman Award;

Ryan Helgren, of Columbia, received an intercollegiate athletics award for baseball;

Miranda Rutan, of Spring Hill, was recognized as a dean’s choice scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs.
Sumner County resident, Kristina Shaw, of Cottontown, received the Pacer Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2017 semester.
Dr. Flora Tydings, chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents, will address the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring 2017 graduating class during commencement exercises beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the university’s main campus.

Tydings received a bachelor of science degree in education with an emphasis in behavioral science from Georgia Southern University before earning a master of education degree at Mercer University. She later graduated from the University of Georgia with a doctoral degree in occupational studies.

Her career in higher education leadership began in 1996 with her role as director of curriculum and staff development at Macon Technical Institute. Since then, she has served as vice president for academic affairs at Central Georgia Technical College and president at Athens Technical College. Tydings also served as president of Chattanooga State Community College before accepting her current role with the Tennessee Board of Regents.

During her time at Chattanooga State Community College, she ushered in the first class of Tennessee Promise students, which led to a 25 percent increase in first-time freshmen enrollment, and collaborated with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to create a dual admissions agreement that provides a seamless pathway for students to transfer between the two institutions.

The UT Martin spring commencement ceremony is a ticketed event and will be Dr. Keith Carver's first commencement ceremony as UT Martin's 11th chancellor. Tickets may only be obtained from individual graduates. Attendees without tickets are welcome to watch a livestream webcast from the overflow area.

A livestream will also be available online at www.ovcdigitalnetwork.com/watch/?Live=5351&type=Live for those who are unable to attend in person.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on May 13 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s final Spring Preview Day.

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

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. 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 by email at admitme@utm.edu.
PAUL MEEK LIBRARY RECEIVES DONATED TEA SET – Tish Hooker, former wife of the late John J. Hooker, donated an 11-piece sterling silver tea set to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Paul Meek Library on behalf of the Hooker family. The library took possession of the tea set April 20 and hopes to use it on formal occasions. Hooker, who was the democratic nominee for Tennessee’s gubernatorial races in 1970 and 1998, served as a special assistant to Robert Kennedy after Kennedy’s appointment as attorney general of the United States in 1961. Hooker passed away in 2016. “[UT Martin is] the archive for the political memorabilia of prominent Tennessee politicians,” said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, on how the donation arrived at the university. “John J. Hooker was a good friend of Ed Jones and Ned McWherter, and [his family] wanted to be part of the history we have here [at UT Martin].” Pictured with the tea set are (from left) Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin Chancellor; Sam Richardson, interim library director; Karen Elmore, senior library assistant for special collections; Dr. Margaret Perry, UT Martin chancellor emeritus; Dorothy Gillon, coordinator of public occasions; and Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus.

SORORITY VILLAGE DEDICATION — Participants prepare to cut the ribbon signaling official completion of Sorority Village on the UT Martin main campus. Rainy weather forced relocation of the April 28 event to the Watkins Auditorium stage in the Boling University Center. Sorority representatives and officials pictured are (l-r) Mary Wiggins, Katlyn Austin and Suzanne Powers (Alpha Delta Pi); Linda Jessup Jennings, Madison Vaughn and Kathy Prince Bucy (Chi Omega); Miranda Rutan, University of Tennessee Board of Trustees member; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Brigitte Curcio, UT Martin Panhellenic Council president; Petra McPhearson, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Vicki Fry Whitworth, McKell Wilbanks and Phyllis Fletcher Pritchett (Alpha Omicron Pi); and Betty Allen Langley, Joanna Signore and Vickie Shackelford (Zeta Tau Alpha).
Collaborative sculpture project is dedicated on UTM campus

Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor’s Roundtable, Ned Ray McWherter Institute Board of Directors, alumni council leadership, faculty and staff gathered April 21 to officially dedicate the UT Martin Solar Garden sculpture located between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library. The sculpture was a collaborative project between students in the departments of engineering and visual and theatre arts.

“This was an experiential-learning opportunity for the students. I think anybody who knows anything about UT Martin understands that one of our touchstones, one of the things that makes us who we are, is that we give our students opportunities not only to learn in the classroom but to do things outside the classroom,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “This project is just another example of the students being able to put their classroom instruction to practical use.”

During the ceremony, Chancellor Keith Carver thanked university alum Bill Blankenship for his willingness to fund the project’s construction. Blankenship is a noted university donor, and the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, is named for him and his wife Roberta. The couple has also matched gifts made during Captain’s Challenge events in previous years.

“The project really meant a lot to me, the fact that students were going to do this project. ... I appreciate the fact that you included me in it very much,” said Blankenship. The sculpture project was originally a brainchild of Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin’s 10th chancellor, who worked to gain Blankenship’s support.

The ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque honoring Blankenship and the 10 students who took the idea from design to construction.

Noted for their efforts were students Zach Dysinger, Jared Miller, Cory Oliver, Ty Roberts, Joseph Sipes, Brice White, Ethan Appleby, Victoria Falcon, Franklin Hawks and Thomas Kendall.

“The team of engineers did the design for the foundations and how everything was put together, and then the art department did the design for the aesthetics part of the tree,” explained Sipes, who graduated in 2016 and now works with Big Rivers Electric Corporation in Henderson, Ky.

“I learned how to work with different departments, and that has helped me since I’ve graduated to realize there are different hands in every project.”

UT Martin students not only created the overall design for the sculpture, they also created some of the materials that make up the outside layers.

“The students came up with the design, and then they decided to continue going with the green theme, so [the tree trunk] is made out of recycled paper. Weatherproofing paper isn’t exactly easy, and nobody’s tried to do it before,” said Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design.

The sculpture is not only a visual art piece; it provides a useful resource to the campus. “The power actually goes back into Crisp Hall and then from there it’s on the utility grid,” said Brad Burkett, associate director of the UT Martin Physical Plant.

Burkett compared the amount of power collected to that needed to run a standard electric dryer.

For more information about the UT Martin Solar Garden, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

Solar Garden sculpture project is dedicated on UTM campus - Pictured following the dedication ceremony April 21 are (l-r) Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin Chancellor; Brice White and Joseph Sipes, student contributors; Bill Blankenship, project donor; Ethan Appleby, student contributor; Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design; and Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus.
Honeybee Heroes

Saving honeybees saves the future of food

By RACHEL FULCHER
Special to the Press

One of the creatures most imperative to the world is the common honeybee. Honeybees have the task of pollinating common foods and crops that the world enjoys today. Many valuable agricultural products depend on honeybee pollination. Crops such as blueberries, cherries, alfalfa and strawberries are 95-percent dependent on pollination. The pollination of crops like alfalfa has a direct correlation with the beef and dairy industries, as they need alfalfa in their diets to survive.

Bees are an imperative—many farmers will have bee hives and transport them to their own farm to provide a pollination source for their crops. Two thirds of everything humans consume had to have been pollinated by bees first. It is estimated that bees pollinate approximately $14 billion worth of crop seeds each year.

Many bee poisoning and sickness problems are causing a decline in the number of bees and pollination levels. This can be prevented with better collaboration and communication between producers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators. Intense, repetitive, agricultural practices have affected the bee population in a negative way. Using insecticides and herbicides is a common practice in today’s agriculture industry. If overused, these practices have resulted in a dangerous environment for bees and overall pollination levels.

In Weakley County, a few individuals are working to save the bees, and help the public become more educated about the beekeeping process. Mike Pierce, farm manager at the University of Tennessee at Martin Teaching and Demonstration Farm, is currently over the UTM’s aviary operation. This operation began years ago when the Northwest Beekeeper Association put 10 hives on the farm to establish an aviary for educational outreach. This outreach is in direct collaboration with the university’s department of agriculture, geosciences, and natural resources.

“When I came on as farm manager and beekeeper here I approached the department about expanding the aviary and making it a larger part of not only education but also as a revenue stream through the sale of bees and local honey,” Pierce said. He has since taken the small-scale operation at the teaching and demonstration farm and has not only expanded it, but is working to make it the best educational outreach process available.

In the spring of the year, as bees swarm in the local area, individuals can contact the department of agriculture, geosciences, and natural resources, who in turn contact the Swarm Patrol.

The Swarm Patrol is a group of individuals whose duty it is to gather the bees, and give them a new home at the UTM aviary. The Swarm Patrol helps save bees from someone spraying and killing them, ensures that bees do not take residence in people’s homes, and helps bring bees to the UTM aviary. This year the UTM aviary expanded the aviary by 10 hives, with plans of growing to approximately 40 honey-producing hives in the coming years.

“We are hoping in the future that we can begin offering classes in beekeeping to students, local members of the community, as well as undergraduate and graduate students from universities involved in honeybee research,” Pierce said.

The West Tennessee Beekeeping Association hosts an informative field day each year at the farm. The association uses the UTM bees to host the field day, and holds a variety of classes and courses in beekeeping that are available to the public.

Alongside Pierce is University of Tennessee at Martin student and Swarm Patrol member Eric Braselton. I got a chance to speak with Braselton while he was doing his routine check of the hives.

“I come out here at least twice a week to make sure everything is going the way it should,” Braselton said. “When I come out here I check each hive to make sure it has a queen. I check for honey as well. Pretty much I make sure that everything in the
hives are doing." It's essential that people like Pierce and Braselton work as beekeepers in our area to keep up not only bee number levels, but to maintain necessary pollination levels. The number of bees has been declining since 1980. Working to recognize, change, and save the bees we have left now will lead to a much more successful level for the agriculture industry. The lack of honeybees in the world will result in the loss of the major insect-pollinated plants, leading to food shortages.

As a fundraiser, the University of Tennessee at Martin Teaching and Demonstration Farm will be selling five frame nucleus colonies in orange and white wooden boxes. Do your part and become a honeybee hero.

**KEEPER OF THE BEES** — Eric Braselton, above and at top, is one of the UTM employees tasked with preserving the future of the local honeybee population.

Photos by Rachel Fulcher
UTM to host final Spring Preview Day May 13

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on May 13 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's final Spring Preview Day.

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

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. 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 by email at admitme@utm.edu.

Local Student Completes Innovators Program

Rebecca Lund, of Martin, has completed the requirements of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Ned Ray McWherter Institute and will graduate May 6 with the designation "McWherter Innovator." The McWherter Institute is a specialized program of courses designed to challenge select students. The program requirements are in addition to the student's regular area of academic study. Lund is pictured with Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications and NRMI faculty mentor, and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.
WESTSTAR VISITS GIBSON COUNTY - WestStar Leadership Program participants visited Gibson County last Thursday. On the agenda were Gibson County Mayor Tom Witherspoon, Humboldt Mayor Marvin Sikes, Trenton Mayor Rickey Jackson, Medina Mayor Vance Coleman, and Milan Mayor B.W. Beasley. Guest speakers included Rachel Terrell of TVA; Alex Smith, General Manager of Humboldt Utilities; Brian Williamson, owner of LimeGroup, LLC; Randy Etheridge, Director of Hardin County Waste; and Pat Riley, General Manager of Gibson County Utility District. The group began the day in Humboldt before traveling to the Teapot Museum in Trenton where docent Dent Partee gave a tour of the world's largest collection of nightlight teapots. Participants ended the day at the Compress Natural Gas fueling station in Trenton.

At the college level

Josh Dyer of Union City was recently recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the spring semester. He was among several Obion Countians who received college or department-level awards.

UT-Martin honors Amy McLemore

The University of Tennessee at Martin recognized Amy McLemore last week at a ceremony on campus. She is a Geology major at the university. She received the William T. McCutchen Award, plus the W.A. Tarr Award. She was also recognized by the department for her outstanding leadership and best student teacher award. She is the daughter of Sandy Arnold and Carlos McLemore. She is the granddaughter of Elaine Jones. She will graduate from the university this December.
Union City student honored with Beth Maloan award

Tori Seng of Union City received the spring 2017 Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during a recent presentation. She was joined by family members of the late Beth Maloan, including (from left, continuing with second from left) Jennifer Stroh, Kate Stroh and Colin Stroh and Mike Maloan.

In recognition of her excellent performance, both Tori and the station have been honored with numerous awards by such prestigious organizations as the Tennessee Associated Press, Southeast Journalism Conference and the Intercolligate Broadcasting System. In fact, the Intercolligate Broadcasting System designated her the ‘Best College News Director in the Nation’ for 2016,” said Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser, in his nomination letter on Miss Seng’s behalf.

In her current position, Miss Seng leads a team of seven student staff members and interacts frequently with faculty and staff across campus as well as local officials and community members.

“Tori Seng has a quiet leadership style, working as a servant leader, while directing others with efficiency and quality work. Never one to simply issue orders, she inspires her peers to overachieve and strive for excellence in everything they do,” Robinson added.
Ed Jones, a 10-term U.S. representative for Tennessee’s 7th and 8th Districts, worked his way through college by showing cattle. He graduated from the University of Tennessee Junior College, a predecessor to the University of Tennessee at Martin, in 1932 before earning a degree in agriculture from UT’s flagship campus in Knoxville.

The Yorkville native later used his love and understanding of the agriculture industry to become the state’s commissioner of agriculture and later support national agricultural and conservation initiatives during 20 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Now, his granddaughter, Meghan Kinnard Hardee, and her husband, Geoffrey, as well as Meghan’s mother (and Jones’ daughter), Dr. Jennifer Kinnard, and the John Tanner family are working to preserve Jones’ legacy for future generations of researchers, historians and politicians.

Tanner filled Jones’ seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and served from 1989-2011.

“The legacy of Ed Jones is very complex, but it’s also a fantastic example of the American dream,” Geoffrey Hardee said. “(He is) the poor son of a sharecropper who works hard and shows cows so he can afford to go to college, who becomes commissioner of agriculture and a U.S. congressman. . . . He really didn’t care about the power. He and (his wife,) Llew, tried hard to avoid Washington (D.C.) life and society. They didn’t go out at night. They went to bed early, and they came home to Yorkville as soon as they could. He only went to Congress to serve the people and the farmers.”

Jones, a Democrat, was elected to represent Tennessee’s 8th Congressional District in 1969 after the death of Robert “Fats” Everett left the seat vacant. He spent the next nine congressional sessions representing the state’s 7th (1973-82) and 8th Districts (1969-72, 1983-88) before retiring in 1988.

In his resignation speech, Jones cited wanting to spend more time with his granddaughter, Meg, as one of his motivating factors for leaving his post as U.S. representative. For this reason and many others, the Hardees hope to honor his life’s work by helping others learn from his accomplishments.

“This isn’t just a sentimental project. We want Grandaddy’s legacy to remain useful to future generations,” Meghan Hardee said.

The project includes several phases, including the digitization of records from both Jones and Tanner, the creation of a documentary film about Jones’ life and the publication of a biography written by the Hardees.

The digitization project will make both Jones’ and Tanner’s records available for researchers around the world in order to preserve the legacies of both men and highlight the historical impact of Tennessee’s 8th Congressional District. The University of Tennessee at Martin serves as a central hub for this project, and staff members at the university’s Paul Meek Library will begin digitizing Jones’ extensively archived collection as soon as the necessary equipment has been purchased.

“Last spring, we started counting paper just so we would have a general idea of how large the (Ed Jones) collection is . . . and there’s over a million pieces of paper,” said Karen Elmore, senior library assistant in special collections, “When I talk to people and I say, ‘Ed Jones,’ they say, ‘I remember when he was on the radio every Saturday morning,’ or ‘My parents used to get his newsletter.’ So we’ve decided that’s what we’re going to start with, and then hopefully we’ll get into some of the pictures of when constituents went to Washington.”

The documentary film is being produced in part by UT Martin students and alumni under the direction of the Hardees, thus providing valuable real-world experience to budding historians and journalists from Jones’ alma mater.

“We didn’t want this to be a big Hollywood production,” Geoffrey said. “We wanted it to be a local production that ties back to this university, and we wanted to make sure students were involved in that process.”

Ashleigh Burton, a UT Martin alum from South Fulton, and Julia Ewoldt, a current student from Savannah, are working with the documentary’s production team, and Georgia Brown, a current student from Martin, is serving as a student research assistant for both the book and film projects.

The biography, titled “Grassroots Politickin’ – The Life and Legacy of Ed Jones,” is being published through UT Press and includes contributions from well-known names such as former Tennessee governor Don Sundquist and former President Jimmy Carter, as well as memories and information submitted by Jones’ local friends, family members and constituents.

“Grandaddy owed his education to UT Martin and to UT Knoxville. Without the firm foundation that having these schools in Tennessee offered him, he would have never achieved the level of success that he did, and he would never have been able to help so many people,” Meghan said. “That’s why we’ve chosen UT Martin as a place to invest and share our blessings. I know Grandaddy would want us to do this because he cared so deeply about the people of West Tennessee. Geoffrey and I are convinced that UT Martin is vital to the success of this region, and being good stewards of his legacy and the gifts we’ve been given means planting seeds here that will see this region thrive as it moves into the future.”

Jones passed away in December 1999 at the age of 87 and was posthumously inducted into the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2011. Proceeds from the sale of Jones’ biography will benefit UT Martin and the Ed and Llew Jones Legacy Fund, which finances student scholarships and guest speakers, among other initiatives.

The digitization project is funded by gifts from the Hardees, Dr Jennifer Kinnard and the John Tanner family, as well as a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
LEGACY PRESERVED — John and Betty Tanner (left) were recently joined by Megan and Geoffrey Hardex, four of the five individual sponsors of the Ed Jones Legacy Project. The fifth individual supporter, Dr. Jennifer Kinnard, is not pictured. The project is also funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The University of Tennessee at Martin is the central hub for the project.

LASTING LEGACY — The late Robert Kirkland, co-founder of Kirkland's retail chain, founder of Discovery Park of America and co-founder of the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation, was posthumously honored with a Clayton R. McWhorter Innovation Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin Ned Ray McWhorter Institute's annual Igniting Innovation event recently. This award is given to area or regional business people who have made significant contributions to the economic development, quality of life and overall wellbeing of the state or region. Recipients are chosen annually by the students participating in the Ned Ray McWhorter Institute. Accepting the award on Kirkland's behalf were members and friends of the Kirkland family, including (from left) Donna Fielder, Tab Kirkland, widow Jenny Kirkland, Martha and Jim Rippy and Carol and Bill Latimer.
UT Martin Extending Provost Search, Interim to be Named Soon

By MATT MARKGRAF

Credit UT Martin, via Facebook

The University of Tennessee at Martin is extending their search for provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Chancellor Keith Carver also said this week he plans to name an interim replacement soon to serve until the position is filled. He said in an email to the university the search will restart this month and continue through August with on-campus interviews planned in late September or early October.

UT Martin had named four finalists in early April.

Jerald Ogg served in the positions since 2011 and returned to a faculty position in the Department of Communications.

Local residents attend UT Martin Soar

Mary (left) and Georgia Emmons (right), of Selmer, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration on April 22. This event is held to introduce students to UT Martin’s curriculum and campus resources and allows attendees to register for classes and meet faculty and advisers. Mary and Georgia are both students at McNairy Central High School. They are pictured with their mother, Leanne Emmons. SOAR is a mandatory event for all incoming freshmen, and sessions will also be held May 22, June 2, June 16 and July 14. For more information or help registering, contact Mary Wiggins, coordinator of new student and family programs, at 731-881-7740. Online registration is available at utm.edu/soar.
UTM to host final Spring Preview Day May 13

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it’s like to be a Skyhawk on Saturday, May 13, during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s final Spring Preview Day. Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations, and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour the beautiful UTM campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

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

There is no fee to attend this free event, but please register at www.utm.edu/springpreview. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.

Locals earn UTM Awards

Post Reports
May 4, 2017

Three Wilson County residents earned awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony held on April 25.

The following students were recognized: Gina Beckman of Mt. Juliet received the Silver Park Outstanding Senior in Parks and Recreation Administration Award and the Outstanding Natural Resources Management Student Award. Miranda Carlton of Lebanon received the Outstanding Wildlife and Fisheries Student Award, and Hunter Palmer of Mt. Juliet received an Outstanding First Semester College Student in Agriculture Award for his grade-point average during the fall 2016 semester.
Several Weakley County residents received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin. The following students were recognized:

- Matthew Adams of Martin received the Outstanding Geology Student Award and the Best Student Teaching Award for introductory geology;
- Will Dickens of Martin received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;
- Emily Erwin of Sharon received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;
- Mercee Eubank received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award and the American Legion Scholastic Award;
- Michelle Fieser of Martin received the Marvin L. Downing Lower Division History Award;
- Timothy Grissom of Martin received the Lt. Col. David K. Bell Scholarship Award;
- Zachary King of Martin received the American Legion Military Award and the Col. Tom Elam Alumni Scholarship Award;
- Liz Lillge of Martin received the Outstanding Environmental Management Student Award;
- Amanda Mansfield of Gleason received the Outstanding Sociology Student Award;
- Laurel Pelren of Martin received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award;
- Jennifer Sommerville of Dresden received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student for Family and Consumer Sciences Award, the Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Ambassador Award and the Dietetic Association Outstanding Member Award;
- Stephanie Taylor of Martin received the Brig. Gen. G.H. Weems ROTC Award;
- Emily Wilson of Martin received an Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student Award.

Local students recognized with UTM awards

AWARD WINNERS —
Locals winning awards at the University of Tennessee at Martin for outstanding achievements are (clockwise, from top left) Emily Erwin, Mercee Eubank, Timothy Grissom, Elizabeth Lillge, Emily Wilson, Jennifer Sommerville and Laurel Pelren.
Solar Garden sculpture dedicated at Boling Center

Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor’s Roundtable, Ned Ray McWherter Institute Board of Directors, alumni council leadership, faculty and staff gathered April 21 to officially dedicate the UT Martin Solar Garden sculpture located between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library. The sculpture was a collaborative project between students in the departments of engineering and visual and theatre arts.

“This was an experiential learning opportunity for the students. I think anybody who knows anything about UT Martin understands that one of our touchstones, one of the things that makes us who we are, is that we give our students opportunities not only to learn in the classroom but to do things outside the classroom,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “This project is just another example of the students being able to put their classroom instruction to practical use.”

During the ceremony, Chancellor Keith Carver thanked university alum Bill Blankenship for his willingness to fund the project’s construction.

Blankenship is a noted university donor, and the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, is named for him and his wife Roberta. The couple has also matched gifts made during Captain’s Challenge events in previous years.

“The project really meant a lot to me, the fact that students were going to do this project. I appreciate the fact that you included me in it very much,” said Blankenship.

The sculpture project was originally a brainchild of Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin’s 10th chancellor, who worked to gain Blankenship’s support.

The ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque honoring Blankenship and the 10 students who took the idea from design to construction. Noted for their efforts were students Zach Dysinger, Jared Miller, Cory Oliver, Ty Roberts, Joseph Sipes, Brice White, Ethan Appleby, Victoria Falcon, Franklin Hawks and Thomas Kendall.

“The team of engineers did the design for the foundations and how everything was put together, and then the art department did the design for the aesthetics part of the tree,” explained Sipes, who graduated in 2016 and now works with Big Rivers Electric Corporation in Henderson, Ky.

“I learned how to work with different departments, and that has helped me since I’ve graduated to realize there are different hands in every project.”

UT Martin students not only created the overall design for the sculpture, they also created some of the materials that make up the outside layers.

“The students came up with the design, and then they decided to continue going with the green theme, so [the tree trunk] is made out of recycled paper. Weather-proofing paper isn’t exactly easy, and nobody’s tried to do it before,” said Sarah Haig, assistant professor of graphic design.

The sculpture is not only a visual art piece; it provides a useful resource to the campus. “The power actually goes back into Crisp Hall and then from there it’s on the utility grid,” said Brad Burkett, associate director of the UT Martin Physical Plant. Burkett compared the amount of power collected to that needed to run a standard electric dryer.

The sculpture was dedicated to Dr. Brice White Martin, who is responsible for the overall design.
INNOVATORS PROGRAM — Rebecca Lund of Martin has completed the requirements of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute and will graduate May 6 with the designation “McWherter Innovator.” The McWherter Institute is a specialized program of courses designed to challenge select students. The program requirements are in addition to the student’s regular area of academic study. Lund is pictured with Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications and NRMI faculty mentor, and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

STUDENT TEACHING AWARD — Lauren Baker of Martin received a Carle Seale Student Teacher Award for the spring 2017 semester from the University of Tennessee at Martin at a reception held April 26. The Carl Seale Student Teacher Award is given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971 to 1992. The recipients are chosen from students with a major in educational studies who have been nominated for exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. Baker is pictured with Dr. Joyce King, associate professor of educational studies, and Kim Castleman, interim director of student placements.

AMY McLEMORE, daughter of Sandy Arnolod and Carlos McLemore, of Ripley, was recognized last week at a ceremony on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is a geology major at the University and received the William T. McCutchen award, plus the W.A. Tarr award. She was also recognized by the department for her outstanding leadership and best student teacher award. She plans to graduate in December. Amy is the granddaughter of Elaine Jones, of Ripley.
MARTIN — Miranda Rutan, of Spring Hill, received one of two Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring commencement exercises May 6.

Dr. Paul Meek served the UT Martin campus as executive officer, dean, UT vice president and chancellor from 1934 to 1967.

This award is given to two graduating seniors each semester who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities during their time at UT Martin, and was originally established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents.

Rutan received a bachelor of fine arts degree with a concentration in graphic arts and a bachelor of science in business administration with a concentration in marketing during the commencement ceremony.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Rutan has also held a variety of leadership positions on campus and remained active in a long list of organizations.

"Miranda is an excellent representative of what leadership looks like at UT Martin," Student Life Coordinator Rachel Stephens wrote in Rutan's nomination letter. "She is hard working and dedicated to the UTM campus and surrounding area. The impact Miranda has had on this campus is tremendous."

Rutan recently finished a two-year term as the student representative with the UT System Board of Trustees and worked as a student assistant for the UT Martin Office of Student Life, where she was responsible for the visual redesign of The Hub student communication network and managed the office's social media accounts to keep students informed of events.

Rutan has been named a member of Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities and is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and the Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. She also received the Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award for the fall 2016 semester.
Former Miss TN trades crown for diploma, graduates from UT Martin

Published: Monday, May 8th 2017, 10:51 am CDT
Updated: Monday, May 8th 2017, 11:09 am CDT

Written by Noland Cook, Director

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - Hannah Robison, Miss Tennessee 2015, appeared on stage at the University of Tennessee at Martin for one final walk on Saturday, May 6 in front of a standing room only crowd.

This time, however, she traded her tiara and ball gown for black commencement robes and honors cords as she received her bachelor's degree in chemistry during UT Martin's spring commencement ceremony.

Robison, of Springville, is perhaps best known for her year as Miss Tennessee, but she was an active member of the UT Martin campus community long before donning her first tiara. She served as a general chemistry recitation leader for the Department of Chemistry and Physics and worked for the UT Martin branch of the West Tennessee STEM Hub. She was also an active member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

She encourages incoming students to take advantage of the college environment to find their own opportunities, even if they have to step outside their comfort zones and try something new.

"No matter how scary it may seem to put yourself out there and meet new people, it will be something you do not regret," Robinson said. "Getting involved in clubs and organizations on campus allows you to build relationships with amazing people that you never would have gotten to meet without trying something new."

Competing in pageants was one of the new experiences Robison tried and, after winning the title of Miss Scenic City in 2014, she advanced to the statewide Miss Tennessee pageant in June of 2015 and won the crown on her second try.

"My year as Miss Tennessee was filled with opportunities that I would not have been able to find anywhere else," she said. "As Miss Tennessee, I worked for Gov. Bill Haslam as his spokesperson for character education; I traveled over 80,000 miles and spoke to over 50,000 school children; I was able to highlight my work with the Arthritis Foundation on national television, and I was able to promote UT Martin across the entire state of Tennessee. The public speaking experiences I had as Miss Tennessee and the people that I was able to meet have prepared me for my future."

Robison had been awarded more than $46,000 in college scholarship money through the Miss Tennessee and Miss America organizations. She hopes to begin her chemistry career in a laboratory in the Nashville area but first, Robison is packing her bags for a three-week trip to Sweden for a study-abroad program.

http://www.kfvs12.com/

Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT-Martin

Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT-Martin

MARTIN — Several Carroll County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Artwood - Jamal N. Glenn
- Bruceton - Ryan Butler, Ciara E. Evans
- Clarksburg - Megan J. Jarrett
- Hollow Rock - Jan Marie Brotherton
- Huntington - Courtney Jean Caton, Jessica Jewel Davis, William Allen Espey, Ashlynn Elizabeth McKnight, Samantha K. Milam, Madison E. Spain, Heather Renee Trevathan, Jacob L. Warbritton
- McKenzie - Mckenzie Alyse Beasley, Andrew Mack Doster, Brianna Nichole Douglas, Desiree Freidam, Maliah O. Harmon, Sydney Michelle Patterson, Thomas A. Sam, Emily Beth Seaton, Jacob Austin Smith, Brooke Ashley Spivey, Angelique Laine Teague
- McLemoresville - Jana C. Vestal
- Trezevant - Michael Ray Andrews Jr., Hannah Beth Reaves
Watch your 'tudes, graduates told

Kayla Pattat, Camikka Edwards, Jerry Emmons and Lizzie Lee were among more than 570 graduates who participated in spring commencement Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The new graduates shared similar thoughts about the special day and look forward to what the future holds. Dr. Flora Tydings, Tennessee Board of Regents chancellor, delivered the commencement address during the 11 a.m. ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Pattat, of Somerville, received a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

“I’m excited. I’m ready,” Pattat said before crossing the commencement stage. She credited her faculty members for her successful college experience and now returns to Fayette County to work in a management position for a private hog operation.

Edwards, who is from Ripley, was ready to receive her bachelor of science degree in nursing.

“I’m just so excited.” Edwards said. “It’s been a long time coming ... and just finally be able to accomplish this goal, it just means so much to us today.” Edwards will move to Nashville where she has accepted a nursing position and eventually plans to pursue advanced degrees.

Jerry Emmons and Lizzie Lee recently became engaged, so graduating together made commencement even more memorable.

“It’s really exciting. I mean I’m starting a new chapter of my life,” said Emmons of Selmer who received a bachelor of music degree. Next is a move to Bowling Green, Ohio, to begin graduate school in the fall at Bowling Green State University.

“This is a huge milestone for me,” he added. “It’s been five years in the making. I had to take one extra year, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. It’s been really awesome.”

Lee, who is from Dyersburg, received a master’s degree in education with a major in counseling, her second UT Martin degree. She plans to work with individuals who have intellectual disabilities.

“It’s interesting. It’s a big transition that’s a little bit scary but mostly exciting. I’m ready to go out and do big-girl stuff,” she said as she laughed.

Dr. Keith Carver presided over his first commencement since becoming university chancellor in the fall and officially taking the position in January.

He welcomed the capacity crowd, which included graduates from 55 Tennessee counties, 23 states and nine countries.

“To our graduates, good luck to each of you and be assured that the faculty and staff at UT Martin wish you the very best,” he said.

Following introductions and special music, Carver introduced Tydings, who was elected unanimously in December by the Tennessee Board of Regents as the ninth chief executive officer since the TBR’s creation in 1972. As TBR chancellor, Tydings manages operations and provides strategic leadership for one of the nation’s largest higher education systems. She previously served as president of Chattanooga State Community College. Tydings spoke about “the three ‘tudes’ of success”: fortitude, gratitude and attitude.

“Each of you have shown that you have fortitude. You made it here today,” she said. “By definition, fortitude is the strength of mind that enables a person to bear pain or adversity with courage.” She recognized both traditional and non-traditional students who exhibited different kinds of fortitude while earning their degrees.

“The great English phi...
GRADUATES,
FROM PAGE 1

Hannah

"A philosopher John Locke said, 'Fortitude is the guard and the support of the other virtues,'" she said. "Fortitude is a virtue, which you can be very proud to possess. Because your need will never diminish, you will always need to acquire more [fortitude] as you go on into this next exciting phase of your life."

While fortitude is necessary for success, Tydings said it's important to have gratitude for those who help us in life, "because no matter how much fortitude it took to get you here, you didn't do it by yourself." She invited the soon-to-be graduates to stand and applaud those who helped them achieve this educational milestone.

Once they were seated, she added, "Those are the people that you know, but many people who helped you who are right here today you will never know personally."

Tydings remembered the late Kathleen and Tom Elam, for whom the Elam Center is named. Col. Elam was a longtime University of Tennessee Board of Trustees member, and the Elams were generous UT Martin and UT donors.

"I've learned that the Elams are synonymous with generosity and caring and giving, not only here in Northwest Tennessee but across this great state," she said. "They had no children of their own, so they adopted this great university and their community to nurture.... The Elams lived a life of gratitude, of giving back to their communities and to students who they might never personally know.... Always be grateful for the gifts that have been given to you."

Tydings closed by emphasizing how the right attitude influences a person's life and those around them. "Henry Ford once said, 'Think you can or think you can't, either way you will be right,'" she said. "The lesson is obvious - having belief in yourself, a positive attitude, will account for much of your success."

She told the audience "that we have the freedom to choose our attitude," and choosing the right attitude is a life-changing decision. "We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people will act in certain ways," she said. "What we can do is play on the one strength that we have, and that is our attitude."

"The knowledge and skills that you have acquired while at Martin, now coupled with the right attitude, will take you places you never thought possible."

Dr. Katie High, vice president for academic affairs and student success for the University of Tennessee System, represented UT President Joe DiPietro and offered comments following the commencement address. High is a former UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs who will retire in June from the university. Also participating in his final commencement as university provost was Dr. Jerald Ogg, who will return to UT Martin's department of communications this fall as a faculty member.

Hannah Robison begins new life after UTM graduation
Hannah Robison, Miss Tennessee 2015, appeared on stage at the University of Tennessee at Martin for one final walk Saturday in front of a standing-room only crowd. This time, however, she traded her tiara and ball gown for black commencement robes and honors cords as she received her bachelor's degree in chemistry during UT Martin's spring commencement ceremony.

Robison, a Springville native, is perhaps best known for her year as Miss Tennessee, but she was an active member of the UT Martin campus community long before donning her first tiara. She served as a general chemistry recitation leader for the Department of Chemistry and Physics and worked for the UT Martin branch of the West Tennessee STEM Hub. She was also an active member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

She encourages incoming students to take advantage of the college environment to find their own opportunities, even if they have to step outside their comfort zones and try something new. "No matter how scary it may seem to put yourself out there and meet new people, it will be something you do not regret. Getting involved in clubs and organizations on campus allows you to build relationships with amazing people that you never would have gotten to meet without trying something new," she said.

"In order to make good grades and build those long-lasting relationships with people, you have to go to class, study hard and be open-minded about reaching out to people and forming those relationships yourself. It was important for me to build those relationships with faculty and staff on campus, because I realized they were here to help me accomplish my goals, and they wanted to watch me grow and become successful."

Competing in pageants was one of the new experiences Robison tried, and, after winning the title of Miss Scenic City in 2014, she advanced to the statewide Miss Tennessee pageant in June of 2015 and won the crown on her second try. "My year as Miss Tennessee was filled with opportunities that I would not have been able to find anywhere else," she said. "As Miss Tennessee, I worked for Governor Bill Haslam as his spokesperson for character education; I traveled over 80,000 miles and spoke to over 50,000 school children."

"I was able to highlight my work with the Arthritis Foundation on national television, and I was able to promote UT Martin across the entire state of Tennessee. The public speaking opportunities I had as Miss Tennessee and the people that I was able to meet have prepared me for my future."

Robison was selected as the People's Choice contestant during the national Miss America competition in September 2015 and ultimately finished top-seven for the title. However, she will go down in history as the first Miss Tennessee to win the Miss America STEM scholarship, which totals $5,000 and is awarded to a contestant enrolled in a declared field of study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

She was also named first runner-up for the Jean Bartel Quality of Life award, given to a contestant who excels in her commitment to enhance the quality of life for others through volunteering and community service. The first runner-up receives a $4,000 scholarship. This is the highest finish a Miss Tennessee has received for this award, and Robison is the first Miss Tennessee to qualify as a finalist for both preliminary scholarships.

Now, diploma in hand, Robison is packing her bags for a three-week trip to Sweden for a study abroad program, after which she hopes to begin her chemistry career in a laboratory in the Nashville area. "As crazy as it sounds, my favorite place on campus is the chemistry labs of EPS at all hours of the night. EPS is also the place where my favorite mentors were, Drs. Phillip and Abigail Shelton. I am so thankful for the relationships I have made through the chemistry department and the things I have learned from UT Martin's incredible professors."
Capping off college

Speaker offers ‘tudes of success’ during UT Martin commencement

Kayla Pattat, Camikka Edwards, Jerry Emmons and Lizzie Lee were among more than 570 graduates who participated in spring commencement Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The new graduates shared similar thoughts about the special day and look forward to what the future holds.

Dr. Flora Tydings, Tennessee Board of Regents chancellor, delivered the commencement address during the 11 a.m. ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Ms. Pattat, of Somerville, received a bachelor’s degree in agriculture.

“I’m excited. I’m ready,” she said before crossing the commencement stage.

Ms. Edwards, who is from Ripley, was ready to receive her bachelor of science in nursing degree.

“I’m just so excited,” she said. “It’s been a long time coming... and just finally be able to accomplish this goal, it just means so much to us today.”

Emmons and Ms. Lee recently became engaged, so graduating together made commencement even more memorable.

“It’s really exciting. I mean I’m starting a new chapter of my life,” said Emmons, of Selmer, who received a bachelor of music degree.

Ms. Lee, from Dyersburg, received a master’s degree in education with a major in counseling, her second UT Martin degree. She plans to work with individuals who have intellectual disabilities.

“It’s interesting. It’s a big transition that’s a little bit scary but mostly exciting. I’m ready to go out and do big girl stuff,” she said as she laughed.

Dr. Keith Carver presided over his first commencement since becoming university chancellor in the fall and officially taking the position in January. He welcomed the capacity crowd, which included graduates from 55 Tennessee counties, 23 states and nine countries.

“To our graduates, good luck to each of you and be assured that the faculty and staff at UT Martin wish you the very best,” he said.

Following introductions and special music, Carver introduced Dr. Tydings, who was elected unanimously in December by the Tennessee Board of Regents as the ninth chief executive officer since the TBR’s creation in 1972. As TBR chancellor, she manages operations and provides strategic leadership for one of the nation’s largest higher education systems.

She spoke about the three ‘tudes’ of success: fortitude, gratitude and attitude.

“Each of you have shown that you have fortitude. You made it here today,” she said. “By definition, fortitude is the strength of mind that enables a person to bear pain or adversity with courage.”

She recognized both traditional and non-traditional students who exhibited different kinds of fortitude while earning their degrees.

“The great English philosopher John Locke said, ‘Fortitude is the guard and the support of the other virtues,’” she said. “Fortitude is a virtue, which you can be very proud to possess. Because your need will never diminish, you will always need to acquire (fortitude) as you go on into this exciting phase of your life.”

While fortitude is necessary for success, Dr. Tydings said it’s important to have gratitude for those who help us in life, “because no matter how much fortitude it took to get you here, you didn’t do it by yourself.”

She invited the soon-to-be graduates to stand and applaud those who helped them achieve this educational milestone. Once they were seated, she added, “Those are the people that you know, but many people who helped you who are right here today you will never know personally.”

Dr. Tydings remembered the late Kathleen and Tom Elam, for whom the Elam Center is named. Col. Elam was a longtime University of Tennessee Board of Trustees member and the Elams were generous UT Martin and UT donors.

“I’ve learned that the Elams are synonymous with generosity and caring and giving, not only here in northwest Tennessee but across this great state,” she said.

“They had no children of their own, so they adopted this great university and their community to nurture. ... The Elams lived a life of gratitude, of giving back to their communities and to students who they might never personally know. ... Always be grateful for the gifts that have been given to you.”

She closed by emphasizing how the right attitude influences a person’s life and those around them.

“Henry Ford once said, ‘Think you can or think you can’t, either way you will be right,’” she said. “The lesson is obvious — having belief in yourself, a positive attitude will account for much of your success.”

She told the audience “we have the freedom to choose our attitude,” and choosing the right attitude is a life-changing decision.

“We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people will act in certain ways,” she said. “What we can do is play on the one strength that we have, and that is our attitude.

“The knowledge and skills that you have acquired while at Martin, now coupled with the right attitude, will take you places you never thought possible.”
ARNETT AN ALUM — Mitchell Blake Arnett (right) of Union City received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture during the University of Tennessee at Martin's commencement ceremonies, held Saturday. As he received it, he shook hands with UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.

KENDALL INDUCTED — Benjamin Kendall (center) of Troy was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony Saturday before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He was joined by Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair of the Department of Engineering.

FUTURE PLANS — Mikaela Hardy of South Fulton, shown with UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, was recipient of the first Dr. Paul Blaylock Legacy Scholarship. She received a bachelor of science degree during commencement exercises Saturday and the scholarship will help fund her attendance at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The scholarship is funded from an endowment created by UT Martin and UT Health Science Center alum Dr. Paul Blaylock.
NEW NURSES — Obion County students Alison Clement (left) and Krista Burpo participated in a pinning ceremony Friday for UT Martin’s Department of Nursing graduates. Nursing students who graduated during the spring semester were honored and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge. Both women received bachelor of science in nursing degrees during commencement exercises Saturday.

FOND FAREWELL — Tori Seng of Union City gave University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver a hug as she crossed the commencement stage Saturday. Miss Seng received a bachelor of arts degree in communications. A capacity crowd was on hand for the spring commencement ceremony.

GRADUATES — Taylor Scott Martin (right) of Union City received a bachelor of science in business administration degree Saturday during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s commencement ceremonies, held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. He accepted his diploma from UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver (center) and Dr. Jerald Ogg, university provost.
**OC students awarded degrees**

Several Obion Countians were among the students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement Saturday.

Sherri Mae Glerum-Langford and Kevin M. Herrell, both of Union City, were awarded graduate degrees.

Among those who received undergraduate degrees were:

- Hornbeak — Daniel H. Short.
- Kenton — Kacey-Dawn Baker, Adam Trice Mayhall and Trevor Dane Mayhall.
- Obion — Nina Lanac Bonds and Trenton Jay Mann.
- Rives — Jake Ryan Blakely, Matthew Lake Brooks, Justin Ross James, Meagan E. Morrow and Britney Joan Roberson.
- South Fulton — Austin Lane Akers, Mindy A. Baker, Alexandria Barnes, Alison Elizabeth Clement, Jessica Rae Johns, Whitney Hanna Johnson, Morgan Elizabeth Maxwell, Emily Danielle McCartney and Victoria C. Perez.
- Woodland Mills — Summer N. Patterson.

**UT Martin schedules preview**

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

Attendees will find out about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study.

Families will also be able to speak with current students and tour UT Martin's campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. 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 by email at admitme@utm.edu.

**Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin**

Several Decatur County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Bath Springs — Brooklyn Aileen Kennedy.
- Parsons — William Brent Blankenship, Brooke Nicole Johnson, Ashley Danielle Lindsay, Bryan P. McDonald, Ethan F. McKenzie, Frank Gregory Palma, Stacy T. Ray, Victoria Faith Taylor, Dakota C. Waits and Mary Frances Webb.

**Local residents among those who earned degrees at UTM**

Several Obion County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: in Obion, Nina Lanac Bonds, and Trenton Jay Mann; in South Fulton, Austin Lane Akers, Mindy A. Baker, Alexandria Barnes, Alison Elizabeth Clement, Jessica Rae Johns, Whitney Hanna Johnson, Morgan Elizabeth Maxwell, Emily Danielle McCartney, and Victoria C. Perez; and in Fulton, Morgan Andrell Wade.
UT Martin to hold Memorial Day commemoration ceremony

Written by Steve Pobst, Director

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin will observe Memorial Day with an annual commemoration ceremony beginning at 9 a.m., May 26.

It will be on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on University Street.

At 10:30 a.m., officials from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission will install UT Martin as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition (VETS) Campus in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

Community members, veterans and visitors are invited to attend both events.

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, a 1995 UT Martin graduate, will serve as the featured speaker during the 2017 Memorial Day commemoration ceremony.

Baker is the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard, and assists the adjutant general with the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen.

He has served as cavalry and armor officer, maintenance and logistics officer, and in various command and staff assignments within the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He received a commission from the Tennessee Military Academy in 1985 and completed a bachelor’s degree from UT Martin in 1995.

Baker later received a master’s degree from Touro University and graduated from the United States Army War College in 2011.

Baker served overseas in Kuwait in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and again in 2008 as commander of the 30th Combat Sustained Support Battalion in Iraq.

His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

In case of rain, the commemoration ceremony will be held in the UT Martin Student Life Center located at 199 Moody Avenue.

The “VETS Campus” title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

UT Martin will become one of 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation.

UT Martin to be designated Veterans Education Transition Support Campus

May 10, 2017

WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — A special honor comes to the University of Tennessee at Martin as the state prepares to honor service men and women from the Volunteer State and across the country.

On May 26, the Friday before Memorial Day, the university will be designated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission as an official Veterans Education Transition Support Campus.

The university will observe Memorial Day the same day with an annual commemoration ceremony.

Veterans and other visitors are invited to attend both events starting at 9 o’clock that morning.
Local students receive UTM degrees

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

• Trenton: Collin Anthony Abbott, Micajah Aaron Barnes, Ryan David Batesman, Allison Noelle Brecc, Zachary Wallace Bruketta, Holly Beth Cole, Marquita J. Mosley-Valadez, Dedrick A. Ramsey, Macey Marie Ward;

• Dyer: Blake Derrick Cooper, Chelsey Ann Cunningham, Timothy Lowndesdale, John Patrick Reed, Marilyn A. Vaughn;

• Rutherford: Cassidy A. Caldwell, Haley Rae Davis, Melody K. Pafford, Shayna Rena Petty, Tara Averie Poe, Tyler Curtis Richardson;

• Yorkville: Kaitlyn Brook Carlton;

• Humboldt: Bailey Nicole Alexander, Emily Lynne Fly, Landon Chance Griffin, Cullencea Deonna Moore;

• Medina: Mikel J. Boals II, Dalton C. Cook, Ryan Blake Hooper, Daniel M. Irvine, Cassidy Nicole Sheehan;

• Milan: Morgan Brittany Acuff, Brooks A. Benton, Sara Nicole Bradford, Caitlyn Nicole Brown, Jerry Michael Cannon, Kathryn Leighann Dunlap, Kory Taylor Galloway, Jenna M. Sellars, Chad A. Warden.

The student receiving a graduate degrees was:

• Trenton: Mallory Leanne Pope Brimm.

Dodd receives Outstanding First Semester College Student

A Gibson County resident received an award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony April 25. Sarah Dodd, of Trenton, received an Outstanding First Semester College Student in Agriculture Award for her grade point average during the fall 2016 semester.

http://www.graingertoday.com/

Houser receives degree from UT Martin

May 10, 2017

MARTIN – Grainger County resident Meggan Christian Houser was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Spring commencement was held May 6 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.
Washam Receives Best Essay Award

Jae-Ann Washam (left), of Gleason, received an award for the best personal essay submitted to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference, held April 26. Washam’s paper was titled “A Broken Family.” April Elam-Dierks (right), instructor of English at the UT Martin Selmer Center, nominated Washam’s work for the conference. Washam is a student at Middle Tennessee State University who completed her paper through a UT Martin distance learning course.

Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT Martin

Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
  Dresden – Cain Barnes, Gage W. Brewer, Jeffrey Tyson Goodlow, Gaylon Daniel Harris, Matthew T. Henderson, Jennifer Rose Kramer, James Clay Michael Palmer, Austin Neal Parsley, Alexandrea D Phillips, Dillon Thomas Quinton, Jacob A. Rogers, Timothy Merritt Spence, Benjamin R. Walker, Amanda Nichole Young;
  Dukedom – Lisa Mudgett Huestis;
  Greenfield – Daniel Adam Bethel, Bethany Jo Cole, Bradley Adam Cooper, Hunter Jay Crouse, Richard Allan Diegan III, Hunter Lee Dixon, Merree L. Eubank, Micheal Chad Maggard, Kelly Danielle Pence, Andrea Shannon Smith;
  Palmersville – Jennifer Alford, Laura Marie Bell, Christopher Michael Davis;
  Sharon – Kyle William Dortch, Courtney Denise Plunk, Audrey Sloan Waterfield.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
  Greenfield – Jonathan Cole Shepherd;
  Martin – Ashraf Y. Alqaqa;
  Jacob Barrett Harris, Derek Tyler Johnson, Priscilla Colleen Callis Price, Nathaniel E. Sedergren.
Weakley County Represented At UTM WestStar Conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program hosted its annual African American Leadership Conference April 18 in Jackson. Pictured representing Weakley County are (front row, l-r) Dr. Annie Jones, Johnna Webster, Alleyah Allen, Alexa Orr and Diedra Walker, all with UT Martin; Marchell Gardner, Northwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency; Deborah Williams-Boyd and Dr. Randy Garza, both of UT Martin; (back row) Darian Harris, Kelley Johnson and Ruby Black, all of UT Martin; Persempathy Harrell, Healthy Start; Dr. Tina Lee, UT Martin; and Lenetta Humphrey, of Weakley County. WestStar has hosted the African American Leadership Conference for 19 years.

Locals attend UT Martin SOAR

Selmer's Mary Emmons (left) and Georgia Emmons (right) attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's Summer Orientation and Registration on April 22. Mary and Georgia are both students at McNairy Central High School. They are pictured with their mother, Leanne Emmons. SOAR is mandatory for all incoming freshmen.
Smith helps improve library

Selmer's Ty Smith (center) assisted faculty and staff from the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library in their efforts to update and expand the facility's juvenile literature collection this past year. UT Martin hosted an Assessment Day poster contest April 27 to allow campus units to showcase their assessment tactics. The Paul Meek Library's presentation tied for third place in the competition. Smith joined library representatives Patricia Sanders (far left) and Heidi Busch (center, right) to accept the award from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

White receives UTM award

A McNairy County resident received an award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony April 25. Adamsville's Benjamin White received the Outstanding Agricultural Engineering Technology Student Award.

Boggs wins writing award

Bethel Springs' Kaitlyn Boggs (right) received an award for the best critical interpretive essay submitted to the University of Tennessee at Martin's Annual Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference. Boggs' paper was titled "The Garden." Dr. Lynn Alexander (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, nominated Boggs' work for the conference. The conference was held April 26.
University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver was the guest speaker Jan. 25 at the Jackson Rotary Club. Carver completed a tour of Middle and West Tennessee cities earlier this year.

One of the highlights of Keith Carver’s first semester as University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor was working closely with potential and current students again. “That was the best way I could’ve gotten ramped up for the job was immediately jumping out there and getting in the admissions and recruiting process,” Carver said. “I realized the last six years in my

See Chancellor, Page 5A
Preserving the life and legacy
of the late Congressman Ed Jones

Ed Jones, a 10-term U.S. representative for Tennessee’s 7th and 8th Districts, worked his way through college by showing cattle.

He graduated from the University of Tennessee Junior College, a predecessor to the University of Tennessee at Martin, in 1932 before earning a degree in agriculture from UT’s flagship campus in Knoxville. The Yorkville native later used his love and understanding of the agriculture industry to become the state’s commissioner of agriculture and later support national agricultural and conservation initiatives during 20 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Now, his granddaughter, Meghan Kinnard Hardee, and her husband, Geoffrey, as well as Meghan’s mother (and Jones’ daughter), Dr. Jennifer Kinnard, and the John Tanner family are working to preserve Jones’ legacy for future generations of researchers, historians and politicians. (Tanner filled Jones’ seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and served from 1989-2011).

“The legacy of Ed Jones is very complex, but it’s also a fantastic example of the American dream,” said Geoffrey. “(He is) the poor son of a sharecropper who works hard and shows crows so he can afford to go to college, who becomes commissioner of agriculture and a U.S. congressman. ... He really didn’t care about the power. He and (his wife.) Llew, tried hard to avoid Washington (D.C.) life and society. They didn’t go out at night. They went to bed early, and they came home to Yorkville as soon as they could. He only went to Congress to serve the people and the farmers.”

Jones, a Democrat, was elected to represent Tennessee’s 8th Congressional District in 1969 after the death of Robert “Fats” Everett left the seat vacant. He spent the next nine congressional sessions representing the state’s 7th (1973-82) and 8th Districts (1969-72, 83-88) before retiring in 1988.

In his resignation speech, Jones cited wanting to spend more time with his granddaughter, Meg, as one of his motivating factors for leaving his post as U.S. representative. For this reason and many others, the Hardees hope to honor his life’s work by helping others learn from his accomplishments.

“This isn’t just a sentimental project. We want Grandaddy’s legacy to remain useful to future generations,” said Meghan.

The project includes several phases, including the digitization of records from both Jones and Tanner, the creation of a documentary film about Jones’ life and the publication of a biography written by the Hardees.

“Last spring, we started counting paper just so we would have a general idea of how large the (Ed Jones) collection is ... and there’s over a million pieces of paper,” said Karen Elmore, senior library assistant in special collections.

The biography, titled “Grassroots Politickin’ – The Life and Legacy of Ed Jones,” is being published through UT Press and includes contributions from well-known names such as former Tennessee governor Don Sundquist and former President Jimmy Carter, as well as memories and information submitted by Jones’ local friends, family members and constituents.

“Grandaddy owed his education to UT Martin and to UT Knoxville. Without the firm foundation that having these schools in Tennessee offered him, he would have never achieved the level of success that he did, and he would never have been able to help so many people,” said Meghan. Jones passed away in December 1999 at the age of 87 and was posthumously inducted into the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2011. Proceeds from the sale of Jones’ biography will benefit UT Martin and the Ed and Llew Jones Legacy Fund, which finances student scholarships and guest speakers, among other initiatives.

The digitization project is funded by gifts from the Hardees, Dr. Jennifer Kinnard and the John Tanner family as well as a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For more information on the Ed Jones legacy project or to contribute stories to the autobiography, contact Geoffrey Hardee at gahardee@gmail.com or search “Grassroots Politickin’ – The Life and Legacy of Ed Jones” on Facebook.com.

LEGACY PROJECT - John and Betty Tanner (from left) are pictured with Megan and Geoffrey Hardee, four of the five individual sponsors of the Ed Jones Legacy Project. (The fifth individual supporter, Dr. Jennifer Kinnard, is not pictured.) The project is also funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Local residents receive degrees

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UTM campus. The students receiving undergraduate degrees are:

Humboldt – Bailey Nicole Alexander, Emily Lynne Fly, Landon Chance Griffin and Cullencea Deonna Moore;


UT Martin to host final spring preview day Saturday, May 13

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it’s like to be a Skyhawk on May 13 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s final Spring Preview Day.

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

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. 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 by email at admitme@utm.edu.

Sorority Village Dedication – Participants prepare to cut the ribbon signaling official completion of Sorority Village on the UT Martin main campus. Rainy weather forced relocation of the April 28 event to the Watkins Auditorium stage in the Boling University Center. Sorority representatives and officials pictured are (l-r) Mary Wiggins, Katlyn Austin and Suzanne Powers (Alpha Delta Pi); Linda Jessup Jennings; Madison Vaughn and Kathy Prince Bucy (Chi Omega); Miranda Rutan, University of Tennessee Board of Trustees member; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Brigitte Curcio, UT Martin Panhellenic Council president; Petra McPhearson, UT Martin interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Vicki Fry Whitworth, McKell Wilbanks and Phyllis Fletcher Pritchett (Alpha Omicron Pi); and Betty Allen Langley, Joanna Signore and Vickie Shackelford (Zeta Tau Alpha).
UT Martin to hold Memorial Day commemoration ceremony

By FOX 23 Thursday, May 11th 2017
MARTIN, TN (Heartland News at 9)

The University of Tennessee at Martin will observe Memorial Day with an annual commemoration ceremony beginning at 9 a.m., May 26.

It will be on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on University Street.

At 10:30 a.m., officials from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission will install UT Martin as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Campus in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

Community members, veterans and visitors are invited to attend both events.

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, a 1995 UT Martin graduate, will serve as the featured speaker during the 2017 Memorial Day commemoration ceremony.

Baker is the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard, and assists the adjutant general with the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen.

He has served as cavalry and armor officer, maintenance and logistics officer, and in various command and staff assignments within the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He received a commission from the Tennessee Military Academy in 1985 and completed a bachelor’s degree from UT Martin in 1995.

Baker later received a master’s degree from Touro University and graduated from the United States Army War College in 2011.

Baker served overseas in Kuwait in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and again in 2008 as commander of the 30th Combat Sustained Support Battalion in Iraq.

His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

In case of rain, the commemoration ceremony will be held in the UT Martin Student Life Center located at 199 Moody Avenue.

The “VETS Campus” title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

UT Martin will become one of 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation.
Kaitlyn Boggs (right), of Bethel Springs, received an award for the best critical interpretive essay submitted to the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference, held April 26. Boggs' paper was titled "The Garden." Dr. Lynn Alexander (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts, nominated Boggs' work for the conference.

Several McNairy County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- **Adamsville** - Christopher Dylan Gattis, Colton Edward Gramse, James Joshua Lunsford, Erika M. Murray, Anna Marie Shelton, Benjamin J. Sinclair, Joshua Cain Sinclair, Casey Leon Turnbow, Brandon White, Benjamin Thomas White;
- **Bethel Springs** - Darryl Wayne Weatherford;
- **Michie** - Stacy Neal McCain, Barbara Michelle Signorelli;
- **Milledgeville** - Brian Azevedo;
- **Ramer** - Mikayla D. Boswell;
- **Selmer** - Randi S. Belton, Hannah L. Carroll, Jerry Lyn Emmons, Emily A. Johnson, Amber Starr Nixon, Elizabeth Bryanna Redmon, Rusty Lee Smith, Hunter Jay Steele, Shelby T. Stevens, Kristen Nichole Wilkins.
Pinned

CAMIKKA EDWARDS, of Ripley, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5th for the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Nursing graduates. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. Edwards received a bachelor of science in nursing degree during commencement exercises May 6th.

UTM Awards Grad Degrees

Several Lauderdale County students received degrees May 6th from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees included, Cody Dee King, of Gates; Justin D. Ford, Molly Claire Green, Ebone Monique Pearson, and Alexandria Nichole Stanley, of Halls; Kenja C. Mosby-Moss, of Henning; and Kasie Elayne Barnett, Tammy Jo Barron, Jessica Nicole Carver, Diane Hawthorne Cotton, Jasmine Miesha Dowell, Camikka Renelle Edwards, Pamela Carol Hastings, Kristal Carroll Henderson, Hailey Brooke Holcomb, Dakota Lee Jones, Austin David Kissell, Samantha D. Lackey, Lauren Elizabeth Rushing, Brooklyn Layne Simpson, Brittany Simone Smith, and Jocelyn Kaneshia Thompson, all of Ripley.
Memorial Day service planned

UT Martin named a VETS Campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin will observe Memorial Day with an annual commemoration ceremony May 26.

The program will begin at 9 a.m. on the front lawn of the Hail-Moody Administration Building on University Street.

About 10:30 a.m., officials from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission will install UT Martin as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Campus in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

Community members, veterans and visitors are invited to attend both events.

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, a 1995 UT Martin graduate, will serve as the featured speaker during this year’s Memorial Day commemoration ceremony. Baker is the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army and Tennessee National Guard and assists the adjutant general with the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen.

He has served as cavalry and armor officer, maintenance and logistics officer and in various command and staff assignments within the Tennessee Army National Guard. He received a commission from the Tennessee Military Academy in 1985 and completed a bachelor’s degree from UT Martin in 1995. He later received a master’s degree from Touro University in California and graduated from the United States Army War College in 2011.

Baker served overseas in Kuwait in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and again in 2008 as commander of the 30th Combat Sustained Support Battalion in Iraq. His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Memorial Day is held (See Page 5, Col. 1)

UTM...

(Continued from Page 1)

on the last Monday in May each year and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States. Born out of the Civil War, it was originally known as Decoration Day but was renamed when it became a federal holiday in 1971.

In case of inclement weather, UT Martin’s commemoration ceremony will be held in the UT Martin Student Life Center, located at 190 Moody Ave.

The VETS Campus induction ceremony will take place following the commemoration ceremony.

The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act, passed into law in 2014, established this program of recognition for higher education institutions that not only prioritize outreach efforts for veterans, but successfully deliver services necessary to create supportive educational environments where student veterans can prosper.

The VETS Campus title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment. UT Martin will become one of 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation.

WASHAM RECEIVES AWARD — Jae-Ann Washam (left) of Gleason received an award for the best personal essay submitted to the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference, held April 26. Washam’s paper was titled “A Broken Family,” April Elam-Dierks (right), instructor of English at the UT Martin Selmer Center, nominated Washam’s work for the conference. Washam is a student at Middle Tennessee State University who completed her paper through a UT Martin distance-learning course.
Cook named Featured Faculty Scholar

Doug Cook, professor and chair, University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, was selected as the university’s Featured Faculty Scholar for the spring 2017 semester. He is pictured with Dr. Jerald Ogg, university provost, and Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, during a reception in his honor May 4.

Doug Cook, professor and chair, University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, was selected as the university’s Featured Faculty Scholar for the spring 2017 semester. A selection of Cook’s professional work is on display in the Paul Meek Library and open for public viewing.

The Featured Faculty Scholar award, instituted during the 1996-97 academic year by the UT Martin Academic Council, is designed to recognize faculty members whose research and creative works are judged to be among the most prestigious of those produced by individuals at UT Martin.

Cook joined the UT Martin faculty in 1984 and has since risen through the ranks of assistant, associate and full professor in addition to serving as director and production designer for UT Martin’s Vanguard Theatre. He holds a bachelor’s degree from UT Martin and a master of fine arts degree from Memphis State University.

He is a previous recipient of the Outstanding Professor Award from UT Martin’s Student Government Association and a two-time recipient of the university’s Outstanding Educator Award. Cook has also been included in the national list of “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers” eight times.

Since joining the UT Martin faculty, Cook has overseen the production design for more than 101 theatrical presentations. He has also created work for several theatres and playhouses in the region. Cook has been involved extensively with presentations and workshops for students, theatre professionals, community members and educators over the years. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, the Southeastern Theatre Conference and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

A reception honoring Cook’s professional achievements was held May 4 in the Paul Meek Library.

RECEIVE NURSING PINS — (From left) Rhiannon Forrester, Caitlyn Brundige and Taylor Swaim, all of Martin, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5 for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s department of nursing graduates. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. The students received bachelor of science in nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6.
BAKER RECEIVES STUDENT TEACHING AWARD — Lauren Baker of Martin received a Carle Seale Student Teacher Award for the spring 2017 semester from the University of Tennessee at Martin at a reception held April 26. The Carl Seale Student Teacher Award is given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971 to 1992. The recipients are chosen from students with a major in educational studies who have been nominated for exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. Baker is pictured with Dr. Joyce King, associate professor of educational studies, and Kim Castleman, interim director of student placements.

PAUL MEEK AWARDS — Winner’s of this spring’s Paul Meek awards are (left) Miranda Rutan of Spring Hill and (right) Kameron Echols of Memphis. They are pictured with Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs.
Provost search extended

The search to identify the University of Tennessee at Martin’s next chief academic officer has been extended. The decision was announced May 3 by Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, during a meeting of the search committee for the position of vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost. Carver also announced plans to name an interim replacement in May to serve until the position is filled.

“This is a great position that deserves our careful consideration for identifying additional qualified candidates,” Carver wrote in an email message to the university. “We will be successful identifying the person who will provide the academic leadership needed to continue the university’s positive direction.” The search will restart this month, and resumes will be collected through August. The committee will reconvene in August with on-campus interviews anticipated in late September and early October.

UT Martin launched a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs after Dr. Jerald Ogg, who has held the dual position since 2011, decided to return to the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Communications.

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

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 on the search process, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.
WES TSTAR CONFERENCE — The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program hosted its annual African American Leadership Conference April 18 in Jackson. Pictured representing Weakley County are (back row, from left) Darian Harris, Keley Johnson and Ruby Black, all of UT Martin; Persempathy Harrell, Healthy Start; Dr. Tina Lee, UT Martin; and Lenetta Humphrey, of Weakley County; (front row) Dr. Annie Jones, Johnna Webster, Alleyah Allen, Alexa Orr and Diedra Walker, all with UT Martin; Marchell Gardner, Northwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency; Deborah Williams-Boyd and Dr. Randy Garza, both of UT Martin. WestStar has hosted the African American Leadership Conference for 19 years. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

http://www.gallatinnews.com/

Sumner County resident receives award from UT Martin

Sunday, May 14, 2017 7:54 pm

A Sumner County resident received an award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony April 25. Emily Holder, of Gallatin, received an Outstanding First Semester College Student in Agriculture Award for her grade point average during the fall 2016 semester.
Education Honors:

May 14, 2017

Feldhaus receives degree from UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — Ashton Kate Feldhaus of Richmond was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement.
Luke and Houston Herbert have become rodeo cowboys, like their dad.

The brothers, natives of College Grove, are bareback riders, like their dad, Joey, and will ride at the Franklin Rodeo May 18-20 at the Williamson County Ag Expo Center.

Unlike most rodeo cowboys, they got a late start, not beginning the sport till Luke was 20 years old and Houston was 17. Their dad had competed before the boys were born, but they grew up hearing the stories.

After Luke graduated from Page High School in 2011, his sports participation ended but he still needed an outlet for his competitive drive. The boys talked their dad into going with them, to get on practice bucking horses at their uncle’s house, and their rodeo participation began.

Houston competed in the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association his junior and senior years, then after graduating from Page High in 2014, is attending the University of Tennessee-Martin and competing collegiately. Luke, who didn’t get to start rodeo until his high school days were over, attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he rode bareback horses independently. He graduated in 2015 with a psychology degree and will attend nursing school in January.

The brothers competed together at rodeos sanctioned by the International Pro Rodeo Association (IPRA) last year, with both of them qualifying for the IPRA’s Finals, held in January in Oklahoma City. Last year, Houston had a membership in the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), which sanctions the Franklin Rodeo; this year, both men have a PRCA membership and will compete in Franklin.

Competing in front of the hometown crowd is not always easy, Luke said, “It seems like when you’re far away from home and nobody knows you, that’s when you ride your best.” The boys grew up attending the Franklin Rodeo.

Houston is the recipient of a rodeo scholarship provided by the Franklin Rodeo. This is the second year he has won the scholarship. He will graduate in 2018 from the University of Tennessee-Martin with a degree in ag-business. The boys’ mother (and Joey’s wife) is Judy Herbert.

The Franklin Rodeo is May 18-20, with performances beginning each night at 7. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children, and all seats are reserved. Tickets can be purchased online at FranklinRodeo.com or at the gate. For more information on the Franklin Rodeo, visit the website (FranklinRodeo.com) or its Facebook page.

LOCAL RESIDENT RECEIVES DEGREE FROM UT MARTIN

MARTIN, Tenn. — A Calhoun County resident was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elms Center on the UT Martin campus.

Alyssa Marie Vanlandingham, of Hampton, received an undergraduate degree.
UT Martin offering 3 summer orientation sessions for incoming freshmen

Published: Monday, May 15th 2017, 10:24 am CDT
Updated: Monday, May 15th 2017, 10:46 am CDT
Written by Steve Polbst, Director

(KFVS) - Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at the University of Tennessee at Martin have three remaining opportunities to register for Summer Orientation and Registration, or SOAR.

SOAR sessions are an opportunity to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin August 28.

Remaining SOAR sessions will be held June 2, June 16 and July 14.

Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

The registration fee is $45 for each admitted student and $20 per person for any parents, guardians, siblings or other individuals accompanying the student.

Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes.

Each event will begin with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center.

An official welcome will follow at 8:45 a.m. and students will divide into groups to meet their orientation leaders at 9:15 a.m. Informational programs will be held at 10 a.m. and noon, with lunch on-campus at 11 a.m.

Students will then participate in the first-year flight plan session at 1 p.m. before registering for classes with a faculty adviser at 1:30.

Students will receive their official Skyhawk cards during checkout from 2:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

“I think SOAR was very helpful,” Evelyn Turner, a freshman biology major from Clarksville, said. “It gave me a feel for the campus and a chance to meet some of the people I would have classes with later. I got to meet my academic adviser and make connections with other people in my major's department. I became a SOAR staff member because I know how hard transitions are and how chaotic the first semester may seem. To have someone who has been there before help you through your first experience with college is a blessing, and it starts your collegiate journey on the right foot.”

For more information or to register to attend the SOAR session of your choice, click here or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Enrollment open for 2 STEAM camps at UT Martin

Published: Monday, May 15th 2017, 10:17 am CDT
Updated: Monday, May 15th 2017, 10:39 am CDT
Written by Noland Cook, Director

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - Students entering grades five through 11 can participate in one of two STEAM camps at the University of Tennessee at Martin this summer.

STEAM camps combine science, technology, engineering and mathematics with art and replace the UT Martin STEM camps held in previous years.

"STEAMing Past STEM Camp" for rising fifth through eighth-grade students will be held June 5-9, and "UT Martin Summer STEAM Camp" for rising ninth through 11th-grade students will be held June 12-16. Both camps will meet from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the UT Martin main campus. Registration is $45 per student, which includes a camp T-shirt and all necessary supplies. All students should bring a sack lunch on each day of activities.

Campers will participate in a week long space mission to the planet "Zork," where they will construct a spacecraft and other transportation equipment, build new communications devices to contact loved ones back on Earth and find ways to entertain themselves in space.

Activities include the investigation of concepts in chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics using analytical instruments; the application of technology to solve engineering challenges; the use of computer applications to create new animations; and the creation of artistic media to reflect the camp theme.

Participants will race carbon dioxide-powered vehicles and rockets as well as compete for the best cartoon series, animated video, computer game and performance piece awards.

Dr. Louis Glover, UT Martin assistant professor of education, will direct both camps. Glover joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011 after teaching in Dallas, Texas, where he was a secondary mathematics and science educator. UT Martin students will assist Glover with camp administration.

Both UT Martin STEAM camps are funded in part by the Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, which reduces the cost of participation per student. The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, of which the Northwest Tennessee hub is a part, is committed to helping Tennessee educators inspire and train the next generation of leaders. It is operated by a partnership between the Tennessee Department of Education and Battelle Education.

For more information about either STEAM Camp or to register, click here and select the appropriate camp name under the heading “children and youth.”

Contact Debbie Mount, UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach, at 731-881-7082 or email dmount@utm.edu, for further assistance.
Lenagar inducted into Order of Engineers

Austin Lenagar of Munford (center) was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Lenagar is pictured with the dean of UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences Dr. Richard Helgeson (right) and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.

GUEST SPEAKER — Dr. Richard Robinson (left) of the University of Tennessee at Martin, mentor of Jennifer Horbelt Bonds of television station WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Ky., joined her when she spoke recently at the Union City Kiwanis Club's May Student of the Month luncheon. She elaborated on the many facets of her job and what a typical day is like as an on-air news anchor. Club president John Cooper presented her with a certificate of appreciation.
Henry Countians graduate from UT Martin

Several Henry Countians received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring commencement ceremony held May 6 at the Tom and Kathleen Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

A total of 16 graduates from Henry County received either a bachelor's or master's degree in various fields of study.

Kayla Renae Berryhill of Buchanan received a master's degree.


Owens also was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony just before the commencement ceremony that day. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Owens was inducted by Dr. Richard Helgeson, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chairman of the Department of Engineering.

Deidre Freeman of Paris is pictured in front of the Tom and Kathleen Elam Center just before the spring commencement ceremony May 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Freeman received a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and is one of 15 Henry Countians to receive a bachelor's or master's degree this spring from UT Martin.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is incorporating arts into their middle school and high school STEM camps for the first time this summer.

In the new 'STEAM' camp combining science, technology, engineering, mathematics and art, campers will participate in a mock space mission where they construct a spacecraft and communications devices and entertain the crew. UT Martin Education outreach director Debbie Mount said she hopes the inclusion of the arts will boost participation.

"It gives students who have a specialty in the arts an opportunity to express it and grow it," Mount said. "The camp may also introduce some arts activities to someone who's not done a lot with the arts before."

Mount said students can expand on ideas from the classroom in the summer camp. The program also includes competitions for cartoon series, animated video, computer game and performance piece. Students entering grades five through 11 can participate in one of the two camps this June.

STEAMing Past STEM Camp for fifth through eighth-grade students will be held June 5-9, and UT Martin Summer STEAM Camp for ninth through 11th-grade students will be held June 12-16 on UT Martin main campus.
Man vs. Beast: A night at the Franklin Rodeo

Sliding his right hand into a leather-laced glove, Houston Herbert makes sure his rigging is tight.

There doesn't need to be any room to wiggle as he mounts it onto his spur board, a stationary piece of plywood designed to help him practice bareback horse riding for the Franklin Rodeo.

Williamson County's longest-running annual event is set for May 18-May 20, where both Houston and his brother, Luke, will perform.

Preparation is left up to Houston Herbert, 21, who has been rodeoing since he attended Page High School. Going through the movements in his College Grove front yard, he must make sure they are precise.

"You go through the fundamentals and that helps you get down to muscle memory," he said. "You don't have time to think when you're riding."

Standing a few feet away in the grass, Luke agrees. The two practice multiple times a week in addition to strength training and stretching exercises.

"Most people don't even really know what we do," 24-year-old Luke Herbert said with a laugh. "Even though I've told my friends, they all think I am out there riding a bull. But doing the rodeo is just like anything else. When you break it down, it becomes complex. It's not brute strength, and it's technique.

"It's a man versus beast sort of deal, and I like to win."

The rush

Getting into rodeo was a decision both Herbets made later in life.

Neither of them grew up doing it, but the two had an almost an immediate interest hearing about their dad's experiences. The elder Herbert competed in multiple arenas before the two of them were born.

The Herbets have always had horses around them from childhood, but never thought about straddling the kind that could hurl them to the ground in less than eight seconds.

Wanting something similar to the rush of football, Luke thought he would give it a shot. The first time riding bareback is a complete blur, he said.
"I don't remember," he said. "It's such an adrenaline rush, and you're so scared you black out. As soon as you start thinking about what you are doing is when it starts to go badly."

Houston Herbert practices on his spur board, which helps strengthens his technique for when he performs. (Photo: Emily R. West)

The two started out with some family friends' horses, and eventually Houston was winning state championships in high school before moving up to the University of Tennessee-Martin on a scholarship. He now rides regularly throughout the year, training on mechanical devices and intensely competing throughout the summer.

The corner of his right eye has a popped blood vessel, remnants of his last competition in early May.

"There's nothing worse in the world and it's miserable and terrible when it's going bad," Houston said. "A lot of times it could be that way. But when it's going good and you get that adrenaline rush, there's nothing better."

**The hometown crowd**

Houston Herbert's duffel bag has everything he needs before he steps inside the Williamson Ag Expo Center.

Inside is gear, ranging from dull spurs to a thick, padded vest he wears for protection. Down to the decorative chaps and the neck brace to prevent whiplash, he is ready. Still, performing at home brings about an added pressure.

"You're kind nervous," Houston Herbert said. "It's a lot of people you know. It's a lot different when you're way away from home. Because when you're here and (if) you were to do bad, you do it in front everyone you know."

But in the hour before his time inside the chute -- before he rides out into the arena, his mind is only focused one thought.

"You're always chasing that high you're getting off it and you're wanting to perform to your best," he said. "If you don't draw a good horse, it can be frustrating, but you want to go again. You're gambling that you're better than the animal and everyone else that enters that night."

**If you go**

The Franklin Rodeo starts May 18 and runs through May 20. The event starts each night at 7 p.m. with concessions opening at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are $10 for children ages 12 and under and $20 for adults; all seats are reserved.

Tickets can be purchased online at FranklinRodeo.com or at the gate. For more information, visit the rodeo's website, call 615-RODEO-11 or find the rodeo on Facebook.
Luke and Houston Herbert will compete together in the Franklin Rodeo, which is Williamson County's longest running annual event. (Photo: Emily R. West)

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP — Grant Larcom of Union City, a piano student of Dr. Elanie Harriss, has received the 2017 Philharmonic Music Guild of Martin scholarship. He will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he will begin his studies as a music major this fall. The $500 scholarship is given only to students attending UT Martin. With him is Dr. Harriss.

STUDENTS ATTEND SKILLS DAY — The 2017 nursing education class at Westview recently attended UTM Nursing Skills Day. The UTM junior nursing class organized skills and presentations to share with high school seniors. Students attending had the opportunity to learn about IV's, injections, mental health, emergency medicine, patient care and basic skills needed to excel in the medical field. Students attending were (front row, from left) Paige Gunter, Jesse Shell, Carli Stricklin, Chelsi Spencer, Emily Fowler, Mindy Roberts, Megan Murphy, Sarah Vowell, Hailey Segura, BethAnn Crowe, Kayla Peete, Laych Nassar, (middle) Dallas Laney, Chris Webb, Abigale Plunk, Charlyce Davis, Jacob Smith, Camryn Donavant, Gabby Nutting, Josh Smith, (back) Harsh Patel, Austin Scates, Brady Whittaker, Makelle Milligan, Jonathan Kirkland, McKinney Baker, Joshep Aguilar. Not pictured are advisors Carolyn Glover, RN-BSN and Kim Alexander.

http://www.tennessean.com/si
STEAM camps slated for 5-8 grade students

Students entering grades five through 11 can participate in one of two STEAM camps at the University of Tennessee at Martin this summer. STEAM camps combine science, technology, engineering and mathematics with art and replace the UT Martin STEM camps held in previous years.

STEAMing Past STEM Camp for rising fifth through eighth-grade students will be held June 5-9, and UT Martin Summer STEAM Camp for rising ninth through 11th-grade students will be held June 12-16. Both camps will meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the UT Martin main campus. Registration is $45 per student, which includes a camp T-shirt and all necessary supplies. All students should bring a sack lunch on each day of activities.

Campers will participate in a weeklong space mission to the planet “Zork,” where they will construct a spacecraft and other transportation equipment, build new communications devices to contact loved ones back on Earth and find ways to entertain themselves in space.

Activities include the investigation of concepts in chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics using analytical instruments; the application of technology to solve engineering challenges; the use of computer applications to create new animations; and the creation of artistic media to reflect the camp theme.

Participants will race carbon dioxide-powered vehicles and rockets as well as compete for the best cartoon series, animated video, computer game and performance piece awards.

Dr. Louis Glover, UT Martin assistant professor of education, will direct both camps. Glover joined the UT Martin faculty in 2011 after teaching in Dallas, Texas, where he was a secondary mathematics and science educator. UT Martin students majoring in educational studies will assist Glover with camp administration.

Both UT Martin STEAM Camps are funded in part by the Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, which reduces the cost of participation per student. For more information about either STEAM Camp or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php and select the appropriate camp name under the “children and youth” heading.
CASTRO GRADUATES — Paulina Castro of Martin participated in spring commencement exercises May 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Castro received a bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree.

MOON INDUCTED — Sungho Moon (center), of South Korea but living in Martin, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Moon is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.

EUBANK RECEIVES COMMISSION — Mercee Eubank of Greenfield received her commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army during a ceremony May 5. Eubank completed her ROTC training with the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Battalion and graduated from UT Martin on May 6. She is pictured with Lt. Col. Lowell Howard, UT Martin professor of military science.

TARI INDUCTED — Burcu Tari (center), of Turkey but living in Martin, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Tari is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.
WALKER INDUCTED — Ben Walker (center), of Dresden, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Walker is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.

SOAR orientation continues for freshmen

Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at the University of Tennessee at Martin have three remaining opportunities to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates, and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin Aug. 28.

Remaining Summer Orientation and Registration sessions — known as SOAR — will be held June 2 and 16, and July 14. Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

The registration fee is $45 for each admitted student and $20 per person for any parents, guardians, siblings or other individuals accompanying the student. Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes, so no additional expenses are required during SOAR.

Each event will begin with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will follow at 8:45, and students will divide into groups to meet their orientation leaders at 9:15. Informational programs will be held at 10 a.m. and noon, with lunch on-campus at 11 a.m.
UT grad heading for Disney College

Shelby Johnson McNeese is what the theatre world sometimes calls a “triple threat.” She can sing, she can dance, she can act—often at the same time!

The Ashland City native received her bachelor’s degree May 6 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring commencement ceremony, and with a movie speaking role and several commercials already under her belt, she’s preparing to begin the Disney Program, one of the most coveted internships available.

“Being a performer, of course, Disney is the dream. ... I applied and within two days I had a phone interview. It moved really quickly, and two weeks later I got the email saying that I had been accepted. My job, as I know it right now, is in attractions. ... My dream would be to work on the Haunted Mansion ride,” she said. Eventually she plans to audition as a performer in the Disney Main Street Parade and see where life may take her from there.

A regular on UT Martin’s Vanguard Theatre stage, McNeese says the performance “bug” hit her early in life. “It started when I was really young. I’ve always heard that as a child ‘The Wizard of Oz’ was my favorite VHS and that I watched it every day until I broke it. When I was three or four, my mom’s father passed away, and I got up at his funeral and sang ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow,’ and I knew every word.

Entertaining Life — Shelby McNeese (right), of Ashland City, has graduated from UTM and is planning an internship at Disney College. She is pictured with her husband, John McNeese.

So I’ve always been a bit of a performer,” she said. “Then I got into community theatre.... I got a part in the choir for ‘The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,’ and I had no lines, but I got to sing. And that was the beginning of the end. They say it’s a bug, and once you’re bitten, you’re stuck with it.”

With five years of classical voice training on her side, McNeese’s original goal was to attend a musical theatre school in New York City and break onto the Broadway scene. Attending UT Martin started out as a more down-to-earth reality, but McNeese says the faculty and staff she found in the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts are one of the main reasons she’s accomplished so much so soon.

“The faculty in the theatre department really pushed me and wanted me to take every opportunity offered to me. They made me feel like I could do anything I wanted to do, and I feel prepared to step out into the real world. They really gave me opportunities I wouldn’t have had otherwise,” McNeese said.

Growing up so close to Nashville, McNeese has had opportunities to appear as a background extra in more than one episode of the TV show “Nashville” as well as snag an appearance in the Nashville-filmed movie “Novitiate,” which appeared at the Sundance Film Festival this year. Her work as a young nun in “Novitiate” earned her a small speaking part, which translates to a film credit in her name and eligibility to join the Screen Actors Guild.

McNeese has also appeared in two commercials for Mothers Against Drunk Driving and as a recurring background role in “Sun Records,” filmed in Memphis.

“One of my biggest influences would be Audrey Hepburn. ... She was a really incredible person. She started out kind of like me, just in the background, and then she ended up being this huge star,” McNeese said. “After her career she was a really big humanitarian and made lots of trips and was very involved with UNICEF. She was full of beauty and grace, and she did so many incredible things in such a short amount of time.”

McNeese walked the commencement stage May 6. She and her new husband, John McNeese, will soon move to Florida for Shelby’s six-month internship assignment, which both hope could turn into a long-term position and lead to days on the silver screen or Broadway stage.
Three Carroll Countians Inducted Into Order of Engineers

MARTIN (May 12) — ANDREWS INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF ENGINEERS — Michael Andrews (center), of Trezevant, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Andrews is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.

MARTIN (May 12) — BROTHERTON INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF ENGINEERS — Jan Brotherton (center), of Hollow Rock, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Brotherton is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.
MARTIN (May 12) — TEETER INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF ENGINEERS — Dalton Teeter (center), of McKenzie, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Teeter is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.

ALEX CHAPMAN
MARTIN, Tenn. (May 16, 2017) — Alex Chapman, of Bruceton, completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2017 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 5 and will finish a six-week internship in an area practice before receiving her degree in the fall. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.

JEANA CURTIS
MARTIN, Tenn. (May 18, 2017) — Jeana Curtis, of McKenzie, completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2017 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 5 and will finish a six-week internship in an area practice before receiving her degree in the fall. Curtis was also honored with the program’s Olsen Award. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.

UT-Martin Students Complete Vet-Tech Program
Local Residents get UTM degrees

MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Bradford – Anna Renee Roberson, Cate Michael Walter;
- Dyer – Blake Derrick Cooper, Chelsey Ann Cunningham, Timothy Lownsdale, John Patrick Reed, Marilyn A. Vaughn;
- Humboldt – Bailey Nicole Alexander, Emily Lynee Fly, Landon Chance Griffin, Cullencea Deonna Moore;
- Medina – Mikel J. Boals II, Dalton C. Cook, Ryan Blake Hooper, Daniel M. Irvine, Cassidy Nicole Sheehan;
- Milan – Morgan Brittany Acuff, Brooks A. Becton, Sara Nicole Bradford, Caitlyn Nicole Brown, Jerry Michael Cannon, Kathryn Leighann Dunlap, Kory Taylor Galloway, Jenna M. Sellers, Chad A. Warden;
- Rutherford – Cassidy A. Caldwell, Haley Rae Davis, Melody K. Pafford, Shayna Rena Petty, Tara Averie Poe, Tyler Curtis Richardson;
- Yorkville – Kaitlyn Brook Carlton.

The student receiving a graduate degree was:
- Trenton – Mallory Leanne Pope Brimm.

LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE NURSING PINS – (l-r) Macey Ward of Trenton, and Morgan Acuff of Milan, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Nursing graduates. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. The students received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6. Also pictured below is Loretta Transon of Medina.
Local students receive nursing pins

From left, Stacey Ray, Mary Webb and Sarah Hays, of Parsons; Hayley Pearcy, of Decaturville; Brooke Johnson and Victoria Duke, both of Parsons, and Tad Ward, of Decaturville, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5 for the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Nursing graduates. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. The students received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6.

Harriss inducted into Order of Engineers

Matthew Harriss (center), of Bath Springs, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Harriss is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.
UT Martin programs rank nationally and statewide

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online degree programs are again making national lists for their quality and value.

The UT Martin online master of business administration degree is ranked 14th in CollegeChoice.net’s list of the “50 Best Online MBA Degrees for 2017.”

The hybrid MBA program blends both online and on-campus course options, and the MBA for financial service professionals offers a specialized degree for those who already have work experience in this sector. The program takes 20 months to complete and is currently ranked 36th in the best online programs by U.S. News & World Report.

The university’s online master of science in education degree with a major in school counseling is also recognized on a national scale. The program is ranked 14th by CollegeValuesOnline.com and is the only Tennessee program to be included. The UT Martin program is noted as one of the fastest to complete, requiring only 18 months of full-time study, in addition to an internship.

UT Martin itself has been included among the top 20 schools in the state by BestColleges.com and comes in 16th above Middle Tennessee State University (17th) and Belmont University (19th).

For more information on UT Martin rankings, contact the Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
At the college level

Ian Everett Garrigan, a 2008 graduate of Union City High School, will graduate from medical school next week and begin a residency in internal medicine.

He will graduate summa cum laude with a doctorate of medicine May 26 from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine.

He will do his residency in internal medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center Joint Base Lewis McChord in Tacoma, Wash.

After graduation from high school, Garrigan earned a bachelor of science degree in cell and molecular biology from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2012, graduating magna cum laude, and a bachelor of science degree in chemistry in 2013 from UT Martin, again graduating magna cum laude.

He was in the Army Health Professions Scholarship Program, where he held the rank of second lieutenant from 2013 until the present. He will be promoted to the rank of captain May 26 upon graduation from medical school.

Garrigan is the son of David and Tarina Garrigan of Mason Hall and Rebecca Garrigan of Panama City Beach, Fla. His grandparents are Carolyn and William Crouch, the late J.C. Doyle, Katherine Garrigan and the late Paul Garrigan, all of Union City.

Garrigan will be honored at a graduation/moving-away party this Saturday from 2-5 p.m. in the Cantina Room at Jones-Walker Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4862 on North Clover Street in Union City. All friends and family are invited.

King inducted into Order of Engineers

Cody King, center, of Gates, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. King is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson, right, Dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.
McLemore wins several awards
A Lauderdale County resident received several awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony April 25. Amy McLemore of Ripley received the W.A. Tarr Award, the Outstanding Geology Student Leadership Award, the Best Student Teaching Award for introductory geology and the Geology Student Service Award. She also received the William T. McCutchen Geology Award during UT Martin's annual Honors Day celebration April 9.

Simpson graduates from UTM
Brooklyn Simpson of Ripley participated in spring commencement exercises May 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Simpson received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

Edwards takes part in UTM graduation
Camikka Renelle Edwards of Ripley participated in spring commencement exercises May 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Edwards received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Summer Reading Clinic At UTM
The ability to read confidently is a fundamental skill for every growing child, and some need a little extra assistance between school years. The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students entering grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

The Reading Center will be open for summer sessions June 5-30 by appointment. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 for the month, plus $25 for a required workbook.

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

Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.
Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at the University of Tennessee at Martin have three remaining opportunities to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates, and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin Aug. 28.

Remaining Summer Orientation and Registration sessions – known as SOAR – will be held June 2 and 16, and July 14. Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

The registration fee is $45 for each admitted student and $20 per person for any parents, guardians, siblings or other individuals accompanying the student. Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes, so no additional expenses are required during SOAR.

Each event will begin with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will follow at 8:45, and students will divide into groups to meet their orientation leaders at 9:15. Informational programs will be held at 10 a.m. and noon, with lunch on-campus at 11 a.m.

Students will then participate in the first-year flight plan session at 1 p.m. before registering for classes with a faculty adviser at 1:30. Students will receive their official Skyhawk cards during checkout from 2:30-5.

For more information or to register to attend the SOAR session of your choice, visit utm.edu/soar or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Doug Cook Chosen As Faculty Scholar

Doug Cook (center) of Martin, professor and chair, University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, was selected as the university's Featured Faculty Scholar for the spring 2017 semester. He is pictured with Dr. Jerald Ogg, university provost, and Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, during a reception in his honor May 4.
Local Students Receive Nursing Pins

(I-r) Rhiannon Forrester, Caitlyn Brundige and Taylor Swaim, all of Martin, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5 for the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Nursing graduates. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. The students received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6.

Walker Inducted Into Order Of Engineers

Ben Walker (center), of Dresden, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Walker is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will observe Memorial Day with an annual commemoration ceremony beginning at 9 a.m., May 26, on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on University Street. At approximately 10:30 a.m., officials from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission will install UT Martin as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. Community members, veterans and visitors are invited to attend both events.

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, a 1995 UT Martin graduate, will serve as the featured speaker during the 2017 Memorial Day commemoration ceremony. Baker is the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard, and assists the adjutant general with the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen.

He has served as cavalry and armor officer, maintenance and logistics officer, and in various command and staff assignments within the Tennessee Army National Guard. He received a commission from the Tennessee Military Academy in 1985 and completed a bachelor's degree from UT Martin in 1995. Baker later received a master's degree from Touro University and graduated from the United States Army War College in 2011.

Baker served overseas in Kuwait in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and again in 2008 as commander of the 30th Combat Sustained Support Battalion in Iraq. His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Memorial Day is held on the last Monday in May each year and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States. Born out of the Civil War, it was originally known as Decoration Day but was renamed when it became a federal holiday in 1971.

In case of inclement weather, the commemoration ceremony will be held in the UT Martin Student Life Center located at 199 Moody Avenue.

The VETS Campus induction ceremony will take place following the commemoration ceremony. The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act, passed into law in 2014, established this program of recognition for higher education institutions that not only prioritize outreach efforts for veterans, but successfully deliver services necessary to create supportive educational environments where student veterans can prosper. The "VETS Campus" title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

Cadets from UT Martin's Skyhawk Battalion assist soldiers from the U.S. Army National Guard in raising the stars and stripes during UT Martin's Memorial Day commemoration ceremony May 27, 2016.
LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE NURSING PINS: Pictured from left Molly Green, Abby McBride and Heather Fair, all of Dyer County, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5 for the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Nursing graduates. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. The students received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6.

PRESSON INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF ENGINEERS: Jarred Presson (center), of Newbern, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Presson is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.
STUDARD INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF ENGINEERS: Luke Studard (center), of Dyersburg, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Studard is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.

FREDERICK INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF ENGINEERS: Janet Frederick (center), of Dyersburg, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6 before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Frederick is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson (right), dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.
SOAR Dates Set For UT Martin

Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at the University of Tennessee at Martin have three remaining opportunities to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates, and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin August 28th.

Remaining Summer Orientation and Registration sessions, known as SOAR, will be held June 2nd, June 16th, and July 14th. Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

Each event will begin with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will follow at 8:45, and students will divide into groups to meet their orientation leaders at 9:15. Informational programs will be held at 10 a.m. and noon, with lunch on-campus at 11 a.m.

Students will then participate in the first-year flight plan session at 1 p.m. before registering for classes with a faculty adviser at 1:30. Students will receive their official Skyhawk cards during checkout from 2:30 through 5.

“I think SOAR was very helpful. It gave me a feel for the campus and a chance to meet some of the people I would have classes with later. I got to meet my academic adviser and make connections with other people in my major’s department,” said Evelyn Turner, a freshman biology major from Clarksville. “I became a SOAR staff member because I know how hard transitions are and how chaotic the first semester may seem. To have someone who has been there before help you through your first experience with college is a blessing, and it starts your collegiate journey on the right foot.”

For more information on the registration or to register to attend the SOAR session of your choice, visit utm.edu/soar or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020. Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes, so no additional expenses are required during SOAR.

King Inducted

CODY KING, center, of Gates, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 6th before commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. King is pictured with Dr. Richard Helgeson, right, dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Robert LeMaster, left, professor and chair, Department of Engineering.

Scholar

BROOKLYN SIMPSON, of Ripley, participated in the spring commencement exercises May 6th at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She earned a bachelor of science degree in biology.
SORORITY LEGACY - Participants prepare to cut the ribbon signaling official completion of UTM's Sorority Village. The ceremony was held indoors due to rain. Attendees included (from left) Mary Wiggins, Kallyn Austin, and Suzanne Powers (Alpha Delta Pi); Linda Jessup Jennings, Madison Vaughn, and Kathy Prince Bucy (Chi Omega); Miranda Rutan, UT Board of Trustees member; Dr. Keith Carver, UTM chancellor; Brigatte Curcio, UTM Panhellenic Council president; Petra McPhearson, UTM interim vice chancellor; Vicki Fry Whitworth, McKell Wilbanks, and Phyllis Fletcher Pritchett (Alpha Omicron Pi); and Betty Allen Langley, Joanna Signore, and Vickie Shackelford (Zeta Tau Alpha).

Camden woman helps dedicate UTM’s Sorority Village

Vicki Fry Whitworth remembers a time when sororities at the University of Tennessee at Martin met in small “lodges” located in campus apartments. Driving from her home in Camden to participate in the dedication of the university’s new Sorority Village allowed her to see a dream come true.

Whitworth, an alum of Alpha Omicron Pi and a 1979 UTM graduate, was emotional as she talked about the impact of the village for past, present, and future sorority members. “Well, it means that we have a home,” she said. “The girls have a beautiful home to meet in and to have events in. It means that our alumnae can come back and have a place to gather and meet. It means everything!”

Whitworth joined other alumna, current sorority members, and university officials to celebrate completion of the university’s first sorority houses on Friday, April 28. Rainy weather failed to dampen spirits as the 1:30 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony was moved indoors.

Panhellenic sororities began at UTM in 1961 and historically did not have houses. This began to change in October 2013 when ground was broken for the $2.8 million Sorority Village project. The UT chapters of Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Chi Omega, and Zeta Tau Alpha officially took possession of their respective houses Dec. 1, 2016.

Private opening ceremonies were held at each house in recent months, culminating with the ribbon-cutting event for the entire village. The Pat Head Summitt Chi Omega House, named for the UTM graduate and legendary Lady Vol basketball head coach, is currently the only house with a formal name.

Dr. Keith Carver, UTM chancellor, thanked alumni for their vision to start housing funds many years ago that made the project’s funding possible. He added, “This village is really a tribute to the power of legacy, a legacy honoring the past, celebrating the present, and looking forward to a bright future.”

Dr. Charley Deal, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations, is among university officials involved in the project from the beginning. “The village project brought together all the alumnae. They’re more engaged now,” Deal said. “They are building that legacy for the next generation, and even after it’s built, they’re continuing to give.”

Whitworth’s 15 years of involvement in the project represents the spirit of other sorority alumni who saw the village from start to completion. Not only is she proud for her own sorority’s new house in the village, but she is equally pleased for the future of UTM’s Greek life system. “I think it’s a huge plus for our Greek system because now we can involve more people. Our wish is for everybody to have a chance to participate in Greek life.”

For more information on the Sorority Village project or UTM’s Greek Life organizations, call 731-881-7527 or email rstephe5@utm.edu.
UTM urges new freshmen to SOAR

Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at UTM have three remaining opportunities to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates, and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin Aug. 28.

Remaining Summer Orientation and Registration sessions – known as SOAR – will be held June 2 and 16, and July 14. Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

The registration fee is $45 for students and $20 per person for any other persons accompanying the student. Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes, so no additional expenses are required during SOAR.

For more information or to register to attend the SOAR session of your choice, visit utm.edu/soar or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Local students graduate from UTM

Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Cain Barnes, Gage W. Brewer, Jeffrey Tysen Goodlow, Gaylon Daniel Harris, Matthew T. Henderson, Jennifer Rose Kramer, James Clay Michael Palmer, Austin Neal Parsley, Alexandria D Phillips, Dillon Thomas Quinton, Jacob A. Rogers, Timothy Merritt Spence, Benjamin R. Walker, Amanda Nichole Young;
- Palmsville – Jennifer Alford, Laura Marie Bell, Christopher Michael Davis;
- Sharon – Kyle William Dortch, Courtney Denise Plunk, Audrey Sloan Waterfield.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Greenfield – Jonathan Cole Shepherd;
- Martin – Ashraf Y. Alqasa; Jacob Barrett Harris, Derek Tyler Johnson, Priscilla Colleen Callis Price, Nathaniel E. Sedergren.

International students graduate

Several international residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Melbourne, Australia – Alycia Marie LeMerle;
- Amberg, Germany – Tamara Lynn Beurd;
- Tokyo, Japan – Haruka Naito, Hiromi Naito;
- Mexico City, Mexico – Imelda Rodriguez Olvera;
- Brampton, Ontario – Saphyra Tafari Coombs-James;
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – Abdullah Alanazi, Faisal Farhan Alanazi, Saleh Alasghah, Abdullah Alnasser;
- Safwa, Saudi Arabia – Hassan Alhanabi;
- Saha, Saudi Arabia – Roqyah Alhatem, Mohammed Alismail;
- Seoul, South Korea – Hyer yeong Oh;
- Istanbul, Turkey – Burcu Tari.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Broumana, Lebanon – Chadi Hayek;
- Great Shelford Cambridge, United Kingdom – Jodie Tiley.
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM — Sarah Blanton of Martin completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2017 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 5 and will finish a six-week internship in an area practice before receiving her degree in the fall. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM — Kala Brents of Martin completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2017 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 5 and will finish a six-week internship in an area practice before receiving her degree in the fall. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM — Erica Clayton of Martin completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2017 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 5 and will finish a six-week internship in an area practice before receiving her degree in the fall. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.
Martin graduate planning to plumb the depths of history

For Georgia Brown, May 6 not only marked the end of her time as an undergraduate student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, it brought the past 22 years of living in Martin to a close.

After receiving a bachelor of arts degree in history during UT Martin's commencement exercises, Brown plans to attend the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in the fall of 2017. She will work toward receiving a double master's degree in history and library science with the goal of becoming an archivist.

Brown can trace her love of history back to an early age. Social studies have always come naturally to her and became something she continues to enjoy.

"There's just something about cause-and-effect relationships, how one event will spur another event or shape something else. I've always been fascinated by that, so I can't even really pin down a part of history that I like. I just love history in general," she said.

Her interest in all aspects of history can be seen in the different projects she has worked on as an undergraduate student. Brown, a member of UT Martin's University Scholars Program, completed a two-year research project titled "Beware of Greeks Bearing Opinions: Ancient Greek Perception of Persia and the Shifting Rhetoric of Eastern Otherness," which focused on Greek writers and how their tone about the Persian people shifted over time.

Brown's internship with the university's Paul Meek Library Archives and Special Collections gave her research opportunities to help with upcoming book projects.

She has also done research using the Holland McCombs papers for a book about John F. Kennedy conspiracies. McCombs was a well-known Time Magazine writer whose papers are housed in the library.

"Working on these projects has helped me develop my research skills more thoroughly, something I am grateful for as I go into graduate school. I really enjoy research and primary documents, and my plans to be an archivist will (include) helping other people with their research goals," she said.

Brown has also served in leadership roles through her involvement with various campus organizations. Her titles in the University Scholars Organization have included historian, treasurer and president.

She has also served as president of the history club and worked as a student supervisor for the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

"Leadership roles help prepare you for anything in life, so they'll be the best things for my career. I've also met so many people who have helped me figure out who I am. I've grown a lot as a person because of them," she said.

As her undergraduate experience comes to an end, Brown looks forward to seeing the results of her hard work, as well as the opportunity to move to a new city.

"I'm really excited, but it's kind of bittersweet. Coming to UT Martin was probably one of the best decisions I've ever made, but I've lived in Martin for 22 years, and I think it's time for a breath of fresh air and to do something different," she said.

Brown is the daughter of Dr. Laura Brown, UT Martin professor of health and human performance, and the late Brian Brown, both of Martin.
UT Martin Names Rich Helgeson as Interim Provost

By MATT MARKGRAF - MAY 18, 2017

The University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver has named Dr. Rich Helgeson as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Helgeson is current dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. He succeeds Dr. Jerald Ogg who returns to a teaching position this fall in the Department of Communications.

Carver said earlier this month the university is extending the search for the next chief academic officer and that he would appoint an interim. According to a release, Helgeson is expected to hold the position for a year. The search committee is collecting resumes through August when they will reconvene with interviews anticipated in winter 2018 and a person named to fill the 2018-19 academic year.
UT Martin Appointments Announced

The dean of the UT Martin's Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been named interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, has named Dr. Rich Helgeson to succeed Dr. Jerald Ogg who returns to a teaching position this fall in the Department of Communications.

Also Dr. Jennifer Greenwood, professor and interim chair for the Department of Biological Sciences, will become interim dean for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

The vice chancellor for academic affairs articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university's core academic mission. The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor’s absence.
his return to the classroom this fall, and I'm grateful for his willingness to change his plans and to fill this critical interim role," Carver said in a university-wide announcement.

"He has distinguished himself both as a faculty member and an administrator during his time at the university. ... UT Martin's academic programs are in excellent hands."

The vice chancellor for academic affairs articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university's core academic mission.

The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor's absence. Helgeson came to UT Martin in 1998 as an engineering faculty member and rose through the ranks to his current dean's position.

He is a registered professional civil engineer in Tennessee and a member of several professional societies.

He has an extensive list of presentations and publications, both from his professional career as a practicing engineer and as a faculty member.

Helgeson holds bachelor's degrees from California State University-Chico and Loyola University at Los Angeles, a master's degree from Loyola University at Los Angeles and a doctorate from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

He is a U.S. Army and Vietnam War veteran.

Greenwood began at UT Martin in 2006 and holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University, a master's degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and a doctorate from the University of Georgia.

"We are fortunate Dr. Greenwood is willing to act as interim dean during this time of transition," said Dr. Jerald Ogg. "She has done a tremendous job as chair of a complex and active department, and she will serve both Dr. Helgeson and her college well."

Résumés for the provost position are being collected through August. The committee will reconvene in August with on-campus interviews anticipated in winter 2018 and a person named to fill the position starting with the 2018-19 academic year.

UT Martin launched a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs after Dr. Jerald Ogg decided to return to the faculty this fall in the UT Martin Department of Communications.

Ogg came to the university as a faculty member in 1987 and has served as provost and vice chancellor since 2011.

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 on the search process, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.
Smith helps improve UT Martin Library

Ty Smith (center, left), of Selmer, assisted faculty and staff from the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library in their efforts to update and expand the facility's juvenile literature collection this past year. UT Martin hosted an Assessment Day poster contest April 27 to allow campus units to showcase their assessment tactics. The Paul Meek Library's presentation tied for third place in the competition. Smith joined library representatives Patricia Sanders (far left) and Heidi Busch (center, right) to accept the award from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver (far right).

Local students receive nursing pins

(Left-right) Shelby Stevens, of Ramer; Colton Granse, of Adamsville; and Kayla Payne, of Selmer, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5 for the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Nursing graduates. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. The students received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6.
McGuffin Named UT-Martin Athletic Director

The University of Tennessee-Martin has named Kurt McGuffin as the new Athletic Director for the Skyhawks.

McGuffin is the current director of athletics for Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri, and is expected to start in Martin on June 28th.

Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said McGuffin was selected from a pool of outstanding candidates, and has the skills and abilities to guide the athletic program into the future.

He has more than 18 years of experience directing college athletics, including work at Kansas State and the University of Colorado, and has been at his current position for almost six years.

McGuffin said he plans to hit the ground running, and will begin developing long distance relationships with program donors and coaches before arriving on campus.

"Kurt has shown steadfast dedication to our student-athletes, coaches and the community," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "He has a lot to show for his time here, including facility improvements, the addition of six sports and the athletic and academic success of our student-athletes."

"I want to thank Dr. Vartabedian and the rest of the Missouri Western community for the opportunity to serve as the Director of Athletics the last five-and-a-half years," McGuffin said. "I will cherish the many memories and successes that we were able to share together. All of those could not have been possible without tremendous community support, the outstanding work of our athletic administrative staff, coaches and most of all our student-athletes."

A national search for Missouri Western's eighth athletic director will begin immediately. Dr. Jeanne Daffron, provost and vice president for academic affairs, will chair the search committee.

"We are moving forward quickly, but thoroughly," Dr. Vartabedian said. "We want a seamless transition in leadership to continue Missouri Western's success on the field and in the classroom."
McGuffin gets jump on duties as UTM’s new athletic director

By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports

Kurt McGuffin is ready to be a Skyhawk.
In fact, he is already working on getting familiar with UT Martin athletics a little over a month before officially taking over as the school’s athletic director.

McGuffin was formally announced as the new AD today, taking over the position that has been under interim directors Kevin McMillan and Mike Swaim since Julio Freire stepped down in March 2016 for a position at the University of Pittsburgh.

“Kurt is a top choice selected from a pool of outstanding candidates, and we are excited to welcome him into the Skyhawk family,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.
“I believe he has all the skills and abilities necessary to guide our athletics program into the future.”

McGuffin has already begun some legwork so he can hit the ground running on June 28.

“Even before that (date), I’ve asked chancellor Carver to give me some names of key people — whether they’re donors or people on campus — that I need to meet with,” McGuffin told The Messenger. “Like I said in my interview, this is all about relationships and selling the University of Tennessee at Martin to the region, just like chancellor Carver has done a wonderful job of doing. And, then it’s just getting in with those coaches and establishing those relationships before a lot of our student-athletes come back.

“And, then once fall hits, it’s getting with the student-athletes. I think, sometimes that’s what athletic directors forget — student-athletes are what make us. Student-athletes and coaches are what it’s all about. Relationships for all those are very important, especially in these first three months.”

McGuffin comes to UTM from Missouri Western, where he served as athletic director since Oct. 31, 2011. Previously, he had worked in the athletic departments at Colorado and Kansas State. He has degrees from Kansas State and Wichita State.

While a to-do list is still a work in progress, McGuffin has addressed some areas that will likely be atop the agenda are fundraising and facilities.

At times, the two will work hand-in-hand.

McGuffin built a reputation as a fundraiser in his previous athletic department stops. While at Missouri Western, Missouri, he was able to see an upgrade in several facilities, highlighted by $38 million in improvements to Spratt Memorial Stadium, home of the Griffons’ football and soccer teams.

“It will take some time to evaluate our facilities and see where we are financially heading into the football season,” McGuffin said. “I have to look into how we are selling our season tickets and our marketing for that and all the fall sports. That will take time, and we will do our due diligence when that time comes.

“That (fundraising) is something I’ve grown up in this business doing, and it’s something you have to do, no matter if you’re the University of Texas or the University of Tennessee at Martin. Texas thinks they have problems because they don’t have enough money. Well, you know, everybody doesn’t have enough money.”

Bringing in money to the department will be a daily priority under McGuffin, and he said everyone in the department has to be aware of that.

(See Page 9, Col. 2)

McGuffin ...

(continued from page 10)

...all in.

“It doesn’t just come sitting behind your desk,” McGuffin said. “It comes by making fundraising and development a daily priority. I think that sometimes when a person gets in the athletic director’s chair, suddenly they’re worried about coaches or worried about budgets or worried about a student-athlete or parent and forget to make that fundraising call or that stewardship call or write that thank-you note. So, you need a plan, and you have to make it a priority, because if you don’t, just hoping somebody is going to give you a check isn’t a plan.

“It’s something where you have to get everyone on board. Your staff has to understand that the Skyhawk Club is a priority to join. When we look at the list of the members, and you’re not on it, then why shouldn’t someone say to you, ‘Why should I support it if you don’t even support it.’ We really have to drill that home with our staff to where it becomes contagious.

“It can’t just be me fundraising. I’m never going to have enough time to do it. So, we need to have everyone on board with those priorities.”

Accomplishing all of his goals, even those not even known yet, will take a community interested in the success of the university.

McGuffin said he felt that from the people he met and places he went during his official interview process as well as a secret trip back to the area he recently made with his wife.

What he saw made him realize he wanted to be the next AD at UTM.

“It was the people and the pride they have in that town,” he said. “I’m from a small town, and sometimes you can see in a smaller town the pride they have in certain things. I think the campus and UT Martin are a big center point for Martin. I think the pride the people had and the people who showed up for all the interview sessions had an invested interest in who was going to be the next leader of that department.

“When I brought my wife back a couple of weeks ago on a sort of incognito tour, she might have seen things that I didn’t see. When you’re interviewing, you’re caught up in selling yourself, but she saw a clean town and that pride.”
Atkins graduates as University Scholar

May 22, 2017

http://www.covingtonleader.com/

Spencer Atkins of Covington (pictured left) graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 6 with the designation of “University Scholar.” Those receiving this distinction complete a specialized curriculum of honors courses and a two-year research project alongside a faculty mentor. Atkins was one of 13 students to earn the distinction this semester and is pictured with his mentor, Dr. Matthew Braddock, assistant professor of philosophy.

Summer piano camp offered by UT Martin

Published: Tuesday, May 23rd 2017, 2:03 pm CDT
Updated: Tuesday, May 23rd 2017, 2:46 pm CDT
Written by Mike Payne, Director

http://www.kfvs12.com/

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a summer piano camp in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, June 12-16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Advanced-level and intermediate piano students who have completed the seventh through 12th grades are invited to attend.

Registration fee per student is $275.

Activities include piano lessons and ensemble coaching from camp director Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music.

There will also be an introduction to the harpsichord and daily sight-reading instruction as well as musical theory classes and organ lessons.

Special topics will include a look at the life of Franz Joseph Haydn, a study of sonata form using composer Franz Schubert's "Fantasie in F Minor" for piano duet and a performance by the UT Martin University Trio.

Participants will present a public program of solo and ensemble performances for their parents, family and friends on June 16 at 4 p.m.

Camp scholarships are available for a limited number of students based on application and those wishing to apply for one must contact Dr. Harriss before Thursday, June 1.

This is a commuter camp and registration does not provide on-campus housing.

Please contact Dr. Harriss as soon as possible if campus housing is needed.

Early registration is recommended because slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration forms and additional information are available online at this website.

Contact Dr. Harriss for assistance at 731-881-7411 or by going to this email.

Lunch will be available in the Skyhawk Dining Hall on campus.
UT Martin selects athletics director

Kurt McGuffin of Missouri Western State University chosen

MARTIN - Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics for Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo., has been named the new director of intercollegiate athletics for the University of Tennessee at Martin. He initially visited the UT Martin campus for an open forum April 19 and is expected to begin work June 28.

"Kurt is a top choice selected from a pool of outstanding candidates, and we are excited to welcome him into the Skyhawk family," UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. "I believe he has all the skills and abilities necessary to guide our athletics program into the future."

"I've served at big schools like Kansas State and Colorado, I've served at medium-sized schools like Wichita State and Idaho, and then I've also served as athletics director here at Missouri Western — a division II school. With a variety of experience at all levels, I can bring ideas to the table that may work at (UT) Martin. I think that's important," he said.

The McGuffin family is leaving a large city with a population of approximately 80,000 people, but they are excited to get back to their small-town roots. "I'm from a town of about 7,000, and my wife is from a town of 3,500," he said. "We look forward to smaller class sizes for our kids and getting back to ... a community like we were raised in."

The appointment was made after a university search committee, chaired by Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving, reviewed applications from a national pool. Four finalists were identified in early April, and the search committee presented its final recommendation to Chancellor Carver after conducting on-campus interviews and open forum sessions with each candidate.

McGuffin fills the post previously held by Julio Freire. Kevin McMillan and Mike Swaim have filled the position as interim directors since Freire's departure from the university in March 2016.

"I appreciate the dedication Kevin and Mike have shown in guiding the athletics program through this transition period. Their outstanding service and leadership came during an important time for Skyhawk athletics," Carver said.

A public welcoming reception for McGuffin and his family will be scheduled at a later date.

UT Martin is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference and competes in NCAA Division I in both men's and women's sports and the Football Championship Subdivision. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.

McGuffin has been with Missouri Western State University for almost six years, where he has been involved in budget management and fundraising, facility enhancements, student-athlete academic improvements and the addition of new athletic options. Prior to beginning his career with MWSU, McGuffin served as both assistant athletics director and director of athletics development at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo., and as senior associate athletics director for external operations at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan.

He holds a Bachelor of Science from Kansas State University and a Master of Science from Wichita State University. Overall, he has more than 18 years experience directing collegiate athletics.

"I'm grateful to the committee and to Dr. Carver for having faith in me to lead the department at (UT) Martin. It's going to be a lot of fun, but athletics is also a lot of work. We plan to go in and hit the ground running as soon as I get there," McGuffin said. In fact, he plans to begin developing long-distance relationships with program donors and coaches even before arriving on campus.

"Everything that we do will be about relationships. My relationships first with our coaches, since I'm coming during the summer, then connecting with the student-athletes as soon as possible when they get back in the fall," he said. "(I will) build relationships with whoever is on campus working (this summer) — the admissions group and financial aid and everybody else that's there. That's important. At a smaller school, in a smaller community, all we have is each other. We have to make sure our relationships are good."

McGuffin feels his experience at every level of athletics administration at a wide variety of school sizes and types will benefit the Skyhawk program in the future.

See McGuffin, Page 10A
McGuffin chosen to lead

UT Martin athletics as the new AD

From University Relations

Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics for Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo., has been named the new director of intercollegiate athletics for the University of Tennessee at Martin. He initially visited the UT Martin campus for an open forum April 19 and is expected to begin work June 28.

"Kurt is a top choice selected from a pool of outstanding candidates, and we are excited to welcome him into the Skyhawk family," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "I believe he has all the skills and abilities necessary to guide our athletics program into the future."

McGuffin has been with Missouri Western State University for almost six years, where he has been involved in budget management and fundraising, facility enhancements, student-athlete academic improvements and the addition of new athletic options.

Prior to beginning his career with MWSU, McGuffin served as both assistant athletics director and director of athletics development at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo., and as senior associate athletics director for external operations at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan.

He holds a Bachelor of Science from Kansas State University and a Master of Science from Wichita State University. Overall, he has more than 18 years of experience directing collegiate athletics.

"I'm grateful to the committee and to Dr. Carver for having faith in me to lead the department at (UT) Martin. It's going to be a lot of fun, but athletics is also a lot of work. We plan to go in and hit the ground running as soon as I get there," said McGuffin. In fact, he plans to begin developing long-distance relationships with program donors and coaches even before arriving on campus.

"Everything that we do will be about relationships. My relationships first with our coaches, since I'm coming during the summer, then connecting with the student-athletes as soon as possible when they get back in the fall," he said. "(I will) build relationships with whoever is on campus working (this summer) - the admissions group and financial aid and everybody else that's there. That's important. At a smaller school, in a smaller community, all we have is each other. We have to make sure our relationships are good."

McGuffin feels his experience at every level of athletics administration at a wide variety of school sizes and types will benefit the Skyhawk program in the future.

"I've served at big schools like Kansas State and Colorado. I've served at medium-sized schools like Wichita State and Idaho, and then I've also served as athletics director here at Missouri Western - a division II school. With a variety of experience at all levels, I can bring ideas to the table that may work at (UT) Martin. I think that's important," he said.

The McGuffin family is leaving a large city with a population of approximately 80,000 people, but they
are excited to get back to their small-town roots.

"I'm from a town of about 7,000, and my wife is from a town of 3,500," he said. "We look forward to smaller class sizes for our kids and getting back to ... a community like we were raised in."

The appointment was made after a university search committee, chaired by Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving, reviewed applications from a national pool.

Four finalists were identified in early April, and the search committee presented its final recommendation to Chancellor Keith Carver after conducting on-campus interviews and open forum sessions with each candidate.

McGuffin fills the post previously held by Julio Freire. Kevin McMillan and Mike Swaim have filled the position as interim directors since Freire's departure from the university in March 2016.

"I appreciate the dedication Kevin and Mike have shown in guiding the athletics program through this transition period. Their outstanding service and leadership came during an important time for Skyhawk athletics," said Carver.

A public welcoming reception for McGuffin and his family will be scheduled at a later date.

UT Martin is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference and competes in NCAA Division I in both men's and women's sports and the Football Championship Subdivision.

---

**Ag internships at UTM offer valuable experience**

As the school year was winding down The University of Tennessee at Martin students were doing a myriad of tasks. Students were packing up their belongings to head home for the summer, finishing their final exams, and looking everywhere they could for internships or summer jobs that can help them gain experience prior to their graduation.

As we all know, the agriculture industry is all about a hands-on experience. The agriculture sector thrives on individuals whom enter the job force with more than a degree and more than knowledge about the agriculture industry. The employers in this industry thrive on finding employees who can bring experience to the job that they are wishing to obtain. Internships are jobs or programs that students work at to establish a job in their desired field and gain job experience.

Internships are an ideal way for undergraduate students to gain this experience. This sort of experience is an item they can add to a resume and skills they can gain which they will be able to add to any job they are looking to obtain.

Internships are more than "resume builders." Internships are a way for students to gain experience and sets students apart from others when it comes to applying for jobs. Internships shape the future of one's career. Internships fit into the schedule of most busy college students as they typically take place in the summer.

The agriculture industry is the number one industry for internships for undergraduate students. I got a chance to talk to University of Tennessee at Martin student Josh Johnson about his internship experience, and what he gained from the internship.

"I went in to my internship thinking I was just in for a summer job," Johnson said, "but left my internship with exposure to the agriculture industry and experience I would not have been able to get from anywhere else. I got a chance to work with livestock, test furrow slices for cover crops, and make connections with potential employers whom I may come across after I graduate."

Examples of agriculturally related internships in our area include: The UT Experiment Station in Jackson Tennessee, Pioneer, Monsanto, Farm Bureau, Farm Credit, Tractor Supply, Co-op and many more. These businesses hire undergraduate students who are looking to work diligently throughout the summer, working while learning at the same time. This is proven to be the most effective type of learning experience for students. Some jobs that these students complete in these jobs include landscape services, seed salesman, outreach specialist, field crop researcher, dairy operators, and University of Tennessee at Martin positions.

Asking questions is a great way to expand on the exposure students get in the field from an internship position. Many employers will provide recommendation letters to students who have completed a successful internship. The agriculture industry provides ample opportunities for internships. Internships are an ideal way for students to get their foot in the door with a company, gain more knowledge and experience in the industry in which they wish to pursue, and launch themselves into the career of their dreams.
Reading clinics to begin June 5

The ability to read confidently is a fundamental skill for every growing child, and some need a little extra assistance between school years. The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students entering grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade-level reading standards.

The Reading Center will be open for summer sessions June 5-30 by appointment. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 for the month, plus $25 for a required workbook.

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

Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.

UTM names interim provost, dean

The University of Tennessee at Martin last week announced the appointment of an interim provost and an interim dean.

Dr. Rich Helgeson, current dean of UTM's College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been named interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs by Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor. Helgeson will succeed Dr. Jerald Ogg, who returns to a teaching position this fall in the department of communications. Dr. Jennifer Greenwood, professor and interim chair for the department of biological sciences, will become interim dean for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. Both appointments are effective Aug. 1.

Carver announced a search extension May 3 to identify the university's next chief academic officer. He also announced his decision to appoint an interim while the search continues. Carver said Helgeson is well prepared to lead the university's academic programs as interim provost until the position is filled. He expects Helgeson to hold the position for a year.

"Dr. Helgeson previously announced his return to the classroom this fall, and I'm grateful for his willingness to change his plans and to fill this critical interim role," Carver said in a university-wide announcement. "He has distinguished himself both as a faculty member and an administrator during his time at the university. UT Martin's academic programs are in excellent hands."

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

Helgeson came to UT Martin in 1998 as an engineering faculty member and rose through the ranks to his current dean's position. He is a registered professional civil engineer in Tennessee and a member of several professional societies. He has an extensive list of presentations and publications both from his professional career as a practicing engineer and as a faculty member. Helgeson holds bachelor's degrees from California State University-Chico and Loyola University at Los Angeles, a master's degree from Loyola University at Los Angeles and a doctorate
PROVOST, FROM PAGE 1
from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a U.S. Army and Vietnam War veteran.
Greenwood began at UT Martin in 2006 and holds a bachelor’s degree from Boston University, a master’s degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and a doctorate from the University of Georgia.
“We are fortunate Dr. Greenwood is willing to act as interim dean during this time of transition,” said Ogg. “She has done a tremendous job as chair of a complex and active department, and she will serve both Dr. Helgeson and her college well.”
Resumes for the provost position are being collected through August. The committee will reconvene in August with on-campus interviews anticipated in winter 2018 and a person named to fill the position starting with the 2018-19 academic year.
UT Martin launched a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs after Ogg decided to return to the faculty this fall in the UT Martin Department of Communications. Ogg came to the university as a faculty member in 1987 and has served as provost and vice chancellor since 2011.
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 on the search process, contact Czyz at aczy@tennessee.edu.

INTERIM DEAN — Dr. Jennifer Greenwood is pictured at the university’s Reelfoot Lake Environmental Field Station in Samburg, Tenn. She was named interim dean for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

LOCAL FAMILY VISITS UT MARTIN — (From left) Monica Reese and Hayley Shumake of Martin visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Spring Preview Day on May 13. High school students and their families were able to tour the UT Martin campus, speak with representatives from a variety of academic areas, and learn more about campus housing, financial aid opportunities and the admissions process. Shumake is a student at Westview High School. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
LOCAL FAMILY VISITS UT MARTIN – (From left) Lora and Blaine McDonald, of Martin, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Spring Preview Day on May 13. High school students and their families were able to tour the UT Martin campus, speak with representatives from a variety of academic areas, and learn more about campus housing, financial aid opportunities and the admissions process. Blaine is a student at Westview High School. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.

LOCAL FAMILY VISITS UT MARTIN – (From left) Charlyse Davis of Sharon and her aunt, Raven Miller, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Spring Preview Day on May 13. High school students and their families were able to tour the UT Martin campus, speak with representatives from a variety of academic areas, and learn more about campus housing, financial aid opportunities and the admissions process. Davis is a graduate of Westview High School. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
Kid College Returns to UT Martin

MARTIN — The annual University of Tennessee at Martin Kid College experience returns to the main campus June 12-16 for another round of summer fun. Classes are enrolling now for children entering kindergarten in fall 2017 through those entering the fifth grade.

Parents can register each child for up to five courses, and the registration fee is based on the number of courses selected. The base fee is $30 for the first course and $25 per course for each additional section. Some courses also have supply fees, which are payable to the course instructor on the first day of Kid College.

Classes for kindergarten through second grade include junior space camp, dance camp, drawing, softball, karate, messin' with mixtures, simple machines, chemical reactions, bowling, choir and many others. Students in third through fifth grades can choose many of the same topics, with the addition of several age-appropriate courses.

Specific course descriptions, schedules, additional information for parents and registration materials are available online at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php. Scroll to the bottom and select “kid college” from the menu of children's courses.

Wednesday will again be picture day, and all students are encouraged to wear their UT Martin Kid College T-shirt, which is included in the price of registration. June 16 will end with Kid College Open House from 4:30-6:30 p.m., during which family and friends are invited to view the work completed by students throughout the week.

For more information or for assistance registering, contact Debbie Mount, UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach, at 731-881-7104.

The Lauderdale Voice, Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Ripley grad takes part in UTM registration

Hanna Hardister, left, Ripley resident and graduate of Ripley High School, registered for fall courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration session May 22. She is pictured with her mother, Shella Hardister. UT Martin’s fall semester begins Aug. 28, and incoming freshman class will move into campus housing Aug. 24. Incoming students who have already received acceptance packages can register for an upcoming SOAR session June 2 and 16 or July 14 at utm.edu/soar. To schedule a campus tour or find out more about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.
INDEPENDENT APPEAL  

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017

Students receive nursing pins

Three local students earned their nursing pins after graduating the University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Nursing. Ramer's Shelby Stevens (from left), Colton Gramse of Adamsville and Kayla Payne of Selmer, participated in a pinning ceremony on May 5. Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers. The students received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6.

McGuffin named new UTM athletic director

Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics for Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo., has been named the new director of intercollegiate athletics for UT Martin. He is expected to begin work June 28.

"Kurt is a top choice selected from a pool of outstanding candidates, and we are excited to welcome him into the Skyhawk family," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. "I believe he has all the skills and abilities necessary to guide our athletics program into the future."

McGuffin has been with Missouri Western State University for almost six years, where he has been involved in budget management and fundraising, facility enhancements, student-athlete academic improvements and the addition of new athletic options. Prior to beginning his career with MWSU, McGuffin served as both assistant athletics director and director of athletics development at the University of Colorado in Boulder and as senior associate athletics director for external operations at Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan.

He holds a Bachelor of Science from Kansas State University and a Master of Science from Wichita State University. Overall, he has more than 18 years of experience directing collegiate athletics.

McGuffin feels his experience at every level of athletics administration at a wide variety of school sizes and types will benefit the Skyhawk program in the future.

"I've served at big schools like Kansas State and Colorado, I've served at medium-sized schools like Wichita State and Idaho, and then I've also served as athletics director here at Missouri Western - a division II school. With a variety of experience at all levels, I can bring ideas to the table that may work at (UT) Martin. I think that's important," he said.
UT Martin SOAR dates are best time for freshmen to register

Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at the University of Tennessee at Martin have three remaining opportunities to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates, and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin August 28.

Remaining Summer Orientation and Registration sessions – known as SOAR – will be held June 2 and 16, and July 14. Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

A registration fee is for each admitted student and per person for any parents, guardians, siblings or other individuals accompanying the student. Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes, so no additional expenses are required during SOAR.

Each event will begin with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will follow at 8:45, and students will divide into groups to meet their orientation leaders at 9:15. Informational programs will be held at 10 a.m. and noon, with lunch on-campus at 11 a.m.

Students will then participate in the first-year flight plan session at 1 p.m. before registering for classes with a faculty adviser at 1:30. Students will receive their official Skyhawk cards during checkout from 2:30-5.

“I think SOAR was very helpful. It gave me a feel for the campus and a chance to meet some of the people I would have classes with later. I got to meet my academic adviser and make connections with other people in my major’s department,” said Evelyn Turner, a freshman biology major from Clarksville.

“I became a SOAR staff member because I know how hard transitions are and how chaotic the first semester may seem. To have someone who has been there before help you through your first experience with college is a blessing, and it starts your collegiate journey on the right foot.”

For more information or to register to attend the SOAR session of your choice, visit utm.edu/soar or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Loretta Transom graduates UTM, receives nursing pin

Loretta Transon, of Medina, participated in a pinning ceremony May 5 for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Nursing graduates.

Those nursing students graduating in the spring 2017 semester were honored during the ceremony and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which will guide them in their careers.

Transon received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree during UT Martin commencement exercises May 6.
UT CHANCELLOR –
Dr. Keith Carver (left), originally from Crockett County, is now the chancellor at UT Martin, a position he accepted last January. Dr. Carver told Humboldt Rotarians last week that he had two goals coming into the position—making student experience the very best possible, and connect and reconnect locally by enrolling more West Tennessee students at UTM. Joining Carver is T.O. Lashlee.

One-day ACT prep course offered at UTM Parsons

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT college entrance exam are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, June 3, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center. Rosemary Livingston, ACT prep facilitator at Riverside High School in Decaturville, will give participants insight into improving performance and boosting scores. Students will learn about test structure, time management and other test-taking tips. Students are highly encouraged to purchase "The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition" and bring the book to class.

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

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
COMPLETES PROGRAM — Taylor Martin (center) of Union City recently completed the requirements of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Ned Ray McWherter Institute and graduated with the designation "McWherter Innovator." The McWherter Institute is a specialized program of courses designed to challenge select students. The program requirements are in addition to the student's regular area of academic study. Martin was congratulated by Dr. Teresa Collard, associate professor of communications and NRMI faculty mentor, and UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.

RECEIVES AWARD — Kait Scott (left) of Kenton received one of two Dr. Jerald Ogg Communications/Public Relations Endowments during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet recently. These awards are given to outstanding public relations students to help fund internships or travel-study opportunities. Ms. Scott, a sophomore, was joined by Andrew Brown, lecturer of communications, and Brooke Boshers, the second award recipient.
UTM HONOREE — Ashton Priest (right) of Obion received one of two Wayne Tansil Scholarships during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet recently. These scholarships are given to outstanding news-editorial students. Ms. Priest, a junior, was joined by Sarah Knapp (left), the second recipient, and Tomi Parrish, instructor of communications.

'SOARING AT UTM — Steven Langford of Union City attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration recently. Langford, a graduating senior from Obion County Central High School, was joined at the event last month by his mother, Sherri Langford, a 2015 and 2017 graduate of UT Martin. SOAR is held to introduce students to UT Martin’s curriculum and campus resources and allows attendees to register for classes and meet faculty and advisers. It is a mandatory event for all incoming freshmen. Another session was held earlier this week, and upcoming sessions will be held June 2, June 16 and July 14.
Library director named at UTM

Dr. John Burch Jr. has been named director of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Paul Meek Library.

Burch, formerly professor and dean of library services at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Ky., assumed his new duties May 15.

Burch began his career with Campbellsville University as director of library services and assistant professor in 2000 and worked his way up the ladder, handling such areas as library services, online programs and distance learning along the way.

Before moving to Campbellsville, he served in the libraries of both Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark., and Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Berea College and a master of science degree in library science, a master of arts degree and a doctoral degree from the University of Kentucky.

He has been involved in the writing of nine books, numerous chapters and articles in scholarly journals, and a long list of book reviews, reference entries and professional papers.

“Dr. Burch is an experienced library professional and a welcome addition to the campus community. He is excited about joining the (Division of) Academic Affairs team, and I look forward to working with him to move the university forward,” said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs.

The library director is responsible for determining library outcomes to support the university’s strategic plan and curriculum goals, preparing and executing the library budget, supporting the university’s accreditation plan and coordinating the efforts of library staff to curate appropriate academic collections.

“One of my initial projects is to build upon the library’s existing assessment system to better inform the evaluation of the student learning outcomes embedded in the information literacy sessions taught by librarians,” he said.

He also seeks to improve library services to meet the needs of the entire campus community, including online and distance-learning students as well as those attending classes at UT Martin’s five educational outreach centers.

Burch fills the position previously held by Dr. Charles Julian.

Sam Richardson, chief archivist and curator, has filled the post in an interim capacity since Julian’s departure from the university.

A university search committee chaired by Dr. Jared Teague, associate professor of engineering, reviewed applications from a national pool before making final recommendations for the position to Ogg.
Registered At UT

HANNA HARDISTER, left, of Ripley, pictured with her mother, Shelia, registered for fall courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration session May 22nd. A graduate of Ripley High School, her fall semester at UT Martin begins August 28th, and the incoming freshman class will move into campus housing August 24th. Incoming students who have already received acceptance packages can register for an upcoming SOAR session June 2nd and 16th or July 14th at utm.edu/soar.

UTM offers summer reading clinic

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

The Reading Center will be open for summer sessions June 5-30 by appointment. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 for the month, plus $25 for a required workbook.

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

Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.

Local students visit UT Martin

(I-r) Ronnie Kinkennon and Ana Grace Ashe, both of Selmer, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin for Spring Preview Day on May 13. High school students and their families were able to tour the UT Martin campus, speak with representatives from a variety of academic areas, and learn more about campus housing, financial aid opportunities and the admissions process. Kinkennon and Ashe are both students at McNairy Central High School. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage.
Local students graduate from UT Martin

Published: May 25, 2017

Several Robertson County residents were among those who received undergraduate degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

They were Samantha Jade Knight (Adams), Austin Edward Anderson (Cedar Hill), Cory Douglas Pryne (Greenbrier), Josiah T. Roberts (Springfield) and Christopher J. Barrow, Jamie Nicole Gantt and Hannah Beth Morton of White House.

LOCAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES FROM UT MARTIN

MARTIN, Tenn. - Several Madison County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 6, 2017, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Beech Bluff - Jamie L. Creech, Anna Maria Reid, Kristen Welch; Jackson - Skyler Xavier Austin, Doris K. Bobbitt, Michael James Brown, Janisha Shantell Buntyn, Christopher David Carmichael, Caitlyn Michelle Davidson, Deontre K. Dugan, Travis William Estes, Mitchell N. Evans, Tiffany Ashleigh Hammers, Matthew Tyler Harris, Blake Daniel Hazelwood, Tyler Kee Helton, Juanita Lazelle Jones, Anna Sergeevna Koshkalo, William Tyler Lindsey, Alexander Molbert, Paige Chanteal Mulvain, Katelyn M. Odom, Hayden Michael Presson, Loretta Pruitt, Amber Elizabeth Rea, Mareb Hadi Saleh, Nada Nazem Salloukh; Kaledeth Danielle Strickland, Michaela Cheyenne Strickland, Todd Justin Thomas, Jeffrey Lee Walker, Kathelene Marie White; Medon - Rebecca Clair Reddinger; Oakfield - Justin Paul Brister.
Students entering grades 5-11 can participate in one of two STEAM camps at UTM this summer. STEAM camps combine science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.

UTM Summer STEAM Camp for rising 5th-8th grade students will be held June 5-9, and STEAM Camp for rising 9th-11th grade students will be held June 12-16. Both camps will meet from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the UTM main campus.

Campers will participate in a weeklong mock space mission, where they will construct a spacecraft and other transportation equipment, build new communications devices to contact loved ones back on Earth, and find ways to entertain themselves in space.

Activities include the investigation of concepts in chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics using analytical instruments; the application of technology to solve engineering challenges; the use of computer applications to create new animations; and the creation of artistic media to reflect the camp theme.

Participants will race carbon dioxide-powered vehicles and rockets as well as compete for the best cartoon series, animated video, computer game, and performance piece awards.

Dr. Louis Glover, UTM assistant professor of education, will direct both camps. UTM students majoring in educational studies will assist Glover with camp administration.

Both UTM STEAM Camps are funded in part by the Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, which reduces the cost of participation per student. Registration is $45 per student, which includes a camp T-shirt and all necessary supplies. All students should bring a sack lunch on each day of activities.

For more information about either STEAM Camp or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php and select the appropriate camp name under the "children and youth" heading. For assistance, contact Debbie Mount, UTM Office of Educational Outreach, at 731-881-7082 or email dmount@utm.edu.
McGuffin named UTM athletics director

Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics for Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo., has been named the new director of intercollegiate athletics for UTM. He initially visited the UTM campus for an open forum April 19 and is expected to begin work June 28. The appointment was made after a university search committee reviewed applications from a national pool.

"Kurt is a top choice selected from a pool of outstanding candidates, and we are excited to welcome him into the Skyhawk family," said Dr. Keith Carver, UTM chancellor. "I believe he has all the skills and abilities necessary to guide our athletics program into the future."

McGuffin has been with Missouri Western State University for almost six years, where he has been involved in budget management and fundraising, facility enhancements, student-athlete academic improvements, and the addition of new athletic options. Prior to beginning his career with MWSU, McGuffin served as both assistant athletics director and director of athletics development at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo., and as senior associate athletics director for external operations at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan. He holds a B.S. from Kansas State University and an M.S. from Wichita State University. Overall, he has more than 18 years of experience directing collegiate athletics.

"I'm grateful to the committee and to Dr. Carver for having faith in me to lead the department at Martin. It's going to be a lot of fun, but athletics is also a lot of work. We plan to go in and hit the ground running as soon as I get there," said McGuffin. In fact, he plans to begin developing long-distance relationships with program donors and coaches even before arriving on campus.

"Everything that we do will be about relationships. My relationships first with our coaches, since I'm coming during the summer, then connecting with the student-athletes as soon as possible when they get back in the fall," he said. "That's important. At a smaller school, in a smaller community, all we have is each other. We have to make sure our relationships are good."

McGuffin fills the post previously held by Julio Freire. Kevin McMillan and Mike Swaim have filled the position as interim directors since Freire's departure from the university in March 2016. A public welcoming reception for McGuffin and his family will be scheduled at a later date.

UTM is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference and competes in NCAA Division I in both men's and women's sports and the Football Championship Subdivision. For more information, contact the UTM Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

UTM offers summer piano camp June 12-16

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a summer piano camp from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., each day the week of June 12-16, in the UTM Fine Arts Building. Intermediate and advanced-level piano students who have completed the grades 7-12 are invited to participate.

Registration is $275 per student, and activities include piano lessons and ensemble coaching from camp director Dr. Elaine Harriss, UTM professor of music, as well as musical theory classes and organ lessons, an introduction to the harpsichord and daily sight-reading instruction. Lunch will be available on campus in the Skyhawk Dining Hall.

Special topics will include a study of sonata form using composer Franz Schubert's "Fantasie in F Minor" for piano duet, a look at the life of Franz Joseph Haydn and a performance by the UTM University Trio.

Participants will present a public program of solo and ensemble performances at 4 p.m., June 16, for parents, family and friends.

Scholarships are available for a limited number of students based on application. Those wishing to apply for a camp scholarship must contact Harriss before June 1.

This is a commuter camp, and on-campus housing is not provided with registration. If campus housing is needed, contact Harriss as early as possible.

Slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and early registration is advised. Additional information and registration forms are available online at utm.edu/departments/piano/pianocamp.php. For assistance, contact Harriss at 731-881-7411 or by email at elaineh@utm.edu.
The UTM Parsons Center held a graduation reception on Monday, May 8, honoring the largest graduating class in the center's history. A total of 59 students earned degrees this year through the center.

Graduates completed majors in education, nursing, social work, interdisciplinary studies, criminal justice, and psychology. The Parsons Center also recently added agriculture business and business management degrees to its curriculum.

Brooklyn Black, a 2015 criminal justice graduate, spoke about how her degree from the UTM Martin Parsons Center prepared her in her career as a Police Officer. Dr. Charley Deal, Vice Chancellor of Alumni Services, welcomed the new graduates to the UTM Alumni Association.
Memorial Day to be marked throughout the county

On Monday the nation honors those service people killed in battle through almost 250 years of American history.

Local events will be held at the courthouse square in Dresden and on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The courthouse ceremony begins at 11 a.m. on Memorial Day.

Events include the laying of a wreath at the veterans memorial and World War I and II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq roll calls, a dove release, the Fallen Soldier Memorial observance and a gun salute. The event will conclude with the playing of "Taps."

Keith Dunning, Ret. SFC, will provide special music and Tim Hardy, Ret. MSG, will be the guest speaker.

The University of Tennessee at Martin will observe Memorial Day with an annual commemoration ceremony beginning at 9 a.m. Friday on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building on University Street. At approximately 10:30 a.m., officials from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission will install UT Martin as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Campus in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. Community members, veterans and visitors are invited to attend both events.

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, a 1995 UT Martin graduate, will serve as the featured speaker during the 2017 Memorial Day commemoration ceremony. Baker is the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard, and assists the adjutant general with the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen.

He has served as cavalry and armor officer, maintenance and logistics officer, and in various command and staff assignments within the Tennessee Army National Guard. He received a commission from the Tennessee Military Academy in 1985 and completed a bachelor’s degree from UT Martin in 1995. Baker later received a master’s degree from Touro University and graduated from the United States Army War College in 2011.

Baker served overseas in Kuwait in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and again in 2008 as commander of the 30th Combat Sustained Support Battalion in Iraq. His awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Memorial Day is held on the last Monday in May each year and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States. Born out of the Civil War, it was originally known as Decoration Day but was renamed when it became a federal holiday in 1971.

In case of inclement weather, the commemoration ceremony will be held in the UT Martin Student Life Center located at 199 Moody Avenue.

The VETS Campus induction ceremony will take place following the commemoration ceremony. The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act, THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017

MEMORIAL DAY, FROM PAGE 1

passed into law in 2014, established this program of recognition for higher education institutions that not only prioritize outreach efforts for veterans, but successfully deliver services necessary to create supportive educational environments where student veterans can prosper.

The "VETS Campus" title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enroll-

MEMORIAL DAY, FROM PAGE 1

ment.

UT Martin will become one of 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
MARKING THE DAY — Cadets from UT Martin’s Skyhawk Battalion assist soldiers from the U.S. Army National Guard in raising the stars and stripes during UT Martin’s Memorial Day commemoration ceremony May 27, 2016.

ROTC AWARD PRESENTED — The Department of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently held its awards ceremony in the Student Life Center in Martin. Presenting the United States Daughters of 1812 medal was Aline Gray Roberts, a member of Tulip Grove Chapter of Jackson to Cadet Enrique Bagley, of Hickman, Ky., a nursing major. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Lt. Col. Lowell E Howard Jr., professor of military science UT-Martin; (Roberts); (Bagley); guest speaker, Col. Henry C. Ruth III “Hank” Retired, U.S. Army; and (at the podium) emcee for the UTM ROTC Dining Out, Cadet Glenndon Adams.
Dr. John Burch Jr. named new Paul Meek Library director

Dr. John Burch Jr., formerly professor and dean of library services at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Ky., has assumed his new duties.

Burch began his career with Campbellsville University as director of library services and assistant professor in 2000 and worked his way up the ladder, handling such areas as library services, online programs and distance learning along the way. Before moving to Campbellsville, he served in the libraries of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark., and Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.

He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Berea College, and a master of science in library science, a master of arts degree and a doctoral degree from the University of Kentucky. He has been involved in the writing of nine books, numerous chapters and articles in scholarly journals, and a long list of book reviews, reference entries and professional papers.

"Dr. Burch is an experienced library professional and a welcome addition to the campus community. He is excited about joining the [Division of] Academic Affairs team, and I look forward to working with him to move the university forward," said Dr. Jerald Ogg, UT Martin vice chancellor for academic affairs.

The library director is responsible for determining library outcomes to support the university's strategic plan and curriculum goals, preparing and executing the library budget, supporting the university's accreditation plan and coordinating the efforts of library staff to curate appropriate academic collections.

Burch begins his new position with accreditation and student assessment in mind. "One of my initial projects is to build upon the library's existing assessment system to better inform the evaluation of the student learning outcomes embedded in the information literacy sessions taught by librarians," he said. He also seeks to improve library services to meet the needs of the entire campus community, including online and distance-learning students as well as those attending classes at UT Martin's five educational outreach centers.

Burch fills the position previously held by Dr. Charles Julian. Sam Richardson, chief archivist and curator, has filled the post in an interim capacity since Julian's departure from the university.

A university search committee chaired by Dr. Jared Teague, associate professor of engineering, reviewed applications from a national pool before making final recommendations to Ogg.

The Jackson Sun  Friday, May 26, 2017

UTM names new library director

Dr. John Burch Jr. has been named director of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Paul Meek Library. Burch, formerly professor and dean of library services at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Ky., assumed his new duties May 15.

Burch began his career with Campbellsville University as director of library services and assistant professor in 2000 and worked his way up the ladder, handling such areas as library services, online programs and distance learning along the way. Before moving to Campbellsville, Burch served in the libraries of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark., and Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.

The library director is responsible for determining library outcomes to support the university's strategic plan and curriculum goals, preparing and executing the library budget, supporting the university's accreditation plan and coordinating the efforts of library staff to curate appropriate academic collections.

Burch fills the position previously held by Dr. Charles Julian. Sam Richardson, chief archivist and curator, has filled the post in an interim capacity since Julian's departure from the university.
UT Martin hosts 17th annual Memorial Day Commemoration

by Bethany Thompson

MARTIN, Tenn. — While many may see this long holiday weekend as the perfect time to head out of town, grill out or plan fun activities to kick off the unofficial start of summer, it’s also a time meant for reflections.

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its 17th annual Memorial Day Commemoration on the front lawn, Friday morning.

“Veterans are a real fabric in the community here at UT Martin, but also in the city of Martin and Northwest Tennessee. We’re happy to celebrate that,” Chancellor Keith Carver said.

General Tommy Baker, of the U.S. Army and Tennessee National Guard, is a UTM Alum and encouraged the community to remember why our heroes serve.

“This part of the state is very patriotic, always has been. I think this campus is very representative of the kind of campus across the nation that really respects military service,” General Baker said.

General Baker addressed the crowd, thanked the veterans for their years of service, but also said thank you for those in attendance for taking the time to remember.

“We live in a very busy society and we all have a lot of things going on. I think as a nation we have got to continue to remember our fallen,” the General said.

Officials from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission also installed UT Martin as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus during the ceremony.
University faculty and staff, community members and veterans joined state officials Friday as the University of Tennessee at Martin was named a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus, making it one of 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The event, held at 10:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom, followed the university’s annual Memorial Day commemoration ceremony.

The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act, passed into law in 2014, established this program of recognition for higher education institutions that not only prioritize outreach efforts for veterans, but successfully deliver services necessary to create supportive educational environments where student veterans can prosper.

The VETS Campus title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

Johnny Dyer, UT Martin veteran services coordinator, offered remarks on the importance of services for veterans on college campuses. He spoke of his own experience after enrolling at UT Martin following his military service.

While he did well his first semester, even making the chancellor’s honor roll, Dyer faced the same challenges that so many other veterans face on a daily basis.

“I felt isolated; I had...” (See Page 5, Col. 4)
Joe Walker and Joe Exum served in different wars, but both have the same appreciation for military service and its significance. They both experienced firsthand the sacrifices made by those in the military, and they joined others at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 17th annual Memorial Day commemoration held at 9 a.m. Friday on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building.

Sacrifice was the theme of remarks offered by keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard. He is a Huntingdon native and a 1995 UT Martin graduate.

Walker is a Martin resident and a World War II veteran who served from 1943-46 with the U.S. Army combat engineers. He and his fellow soldiers built more than 40 bridges across Europe following the Allied invasion of Normandy, France. Memorial Day is an annual reminder that the sacrifices made in past wars are not forgotten.

"Well, it brings to memory the military from way back, and to me it really shows the appreciation of the community and all for this great country," said Walker, a 49-year university employee who worked in the physical plant and housing.

He also lost a brother in the war, making Memorial Day especially meaningful. Exum, also of Martin, is a 1969 UT Martin graduate and member of the university’s Army ROTC Battalion during his time at the university. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971 and then later in the Tennessee National Guard.

Perfect weather provided the backdrop for the event as the university’s Army ROTC Battalion presented the colors, followed by the singing of the national anthem by Dr. Roberto Mancusi, UT Martin associate professor of music. Timothy McClain, president of the Skyhawk Veteran’s Association, gave the invocation and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed attendees.

Dr. Carver, attending his first Memorial Day Commemoration as university chancellor, introduced the speaker but first read a poem written by his mother in honor of his grandfather and his grandfather’s twin brother from Crockett Mills. Both enlisted in the military in the last 1930s and served in three wars.

After reading the poem he said, "And I’m honored to be associated with a university that every year makes sure that a part of our legacy, part of the fabric of this institution, is to celebrate and honor Memorial Day, which is just so incredibly important."

Baker enlisted as a private in the Tennessee National Guard in 1980, graduated in 1981 from Huntingdon High School and was commissioned in 1985 after five years of enlisted service. He completed his UT Martin education as a non-traditional student and became a full-time guard member in 2001.

Today, he is responsible for the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen in the Tennessee National Guard. He opened his remarks by thanking retired general officers and veterans for their service and those in the audience for their attendance.

"It’s really about the fact that you took the time to show up and honor our country’s fallen," he said as he acknowledged the large crowd.

Baker noted that Memorial Day was established by presidential decree May 5, 1868, and observed later that month with the decoration of Confederate and Union graves at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

"Unlike Veterans Day, Memorial Day honors those who have given all," he said. "Since George Washington commanded the Continental Army, 42 million Americans have served the colors. A million of them have been killed in its (the country’s) defense. Another million-and-a-half have been wounded. The human toll has been extraordinary.

"We gather here today to honor those Americans who died while defending their country and for fighting for something they believed in. As Americans we are free to pursue our hopes and dreams all because of their sacrifice."

Baker reminded the audience that Memorial Day retains its significance as the country remains at war. "Americans in the past kept Memorial Day rather quietly, pausing to remember at least for a little while, the kind of men and women that so willingly gave the last full measure," he said. "And a new ‘greatest generation’ continues to fight and struggle against the merciless enemy on our behalf in Afghanistan, in places all around the globe. They are the best our country produces and have consciously put every American above their own selfish interests."

Baker reported more than 6,700 military men and women from all branches of military service, including 22 Tennessee National Guardsmen, have been killed in action since 9/11.

"Some would portray these as victims, but they are not victims," he said. "They knew what they were about and were doing what they wanted to do."

"Because of their (the military’s) sacrifices, and because of who came before them, we are still a free people," Baker said as he closed. "The debt we owe all of them cannot be expressed in word or deed, but we must simply utter a passionate ‘thank you’ from the depths of our hearts. Thanks to you for coming here today and continuing to honor their service and sacrifice."

Lt. Col. Lowell Howard Jr., UT Martin professor of military science, concluded the program by recalling President Ronald Reagan’s 1986 Memorial Day address at Arlington National Cemetery.
Mr. Reagan reminded us that today is the day we put aside to remember our fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again," Howard said. "It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who are at rest. It's a day to be with the family and remember."

A rifle salute followed by the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and the Martin Police Department, and "Taps" was played by UT Martin student Chloe Lollar, a junior music major from Humboldt.

Fuquas joins DLN advisory council

The Delta Leadership Network held an orientation for new members of its 2017-18 advisory council, including Landy Fuqua of Martin and Mayor Bill Rawls of Brownsville representing the State of Tennessee. Fuqua is the director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center.

DLN provides graduates of the annual Delta Leadership Institute's Executive Academy with opportunities to engage in continued learning, information sharing, and collaboration at regional levels within their state and across the Delta region. The Advisory Council promotes collaborative projects and networking that help alumni support community and economic development projects that will help create and retain jobs, build local communities, and improve lives.

"Landy Fuqua is an outstanding leader who contributes a great deal to the growth and development of Northwest Tennessee and the Delta region," said Delta Regional Authority Chairman Chris Masingill. "I look forward to working with this incredibly accomplished set of Delta leaders to improve the capacity of our local leadership."

The advisory council also helps to plan DLN's annual conference, which brings together more than 200 alumni to discuss policy areas important to the region's success and learn about new models for community improvement. Fuqua and Rawls were elected by their fellow DLN members in Tennessee and confirmed by Delta Regional Authority leadership to serve a one-year term.

"I am humbled and honored to be chosen to serve on the advisory council and represent the great state of Tennessee. I believe the relationships developed in the Delta Leadership Network promote positive impact and cultivate economic growth in our region. I value the opportunity to make personal connections with fellow alumni, working together, to ensure the Delta Regional Authority succeeds in its mission," said Fuqua.

The Delta Leadership Institute is a program of the Delta Regional Authority in partnership with the University of Alabama, Arkansas State University, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Through its Executive Academy, DLN has provided leadership development to 500 community leaders over 12 years and strengthened skills development, information sharing, and regional collaboration.

DLN maintains an environment for continued education and engagement for its alumni through the Delta Leadership Network. Learn more at dra.gov/leadership.

The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development in 252 counties and parishes across eight states. To date, the DRA's SEDAP investments, together with its state and local partners, have leveraged federal resources into nearly $3.5 billion in public and private investment into local small business owners, entrepreneurs, workforce improvement and infrastructure development projects. DRA investments have helped to create and retain more than 37,000 jobs, train more than 7,300 workers for 21st Century jobs, and deliver water and sewer improvements to more than 66,000 residents.
UT Martin named one of 20 Veterans Education Transition Support campuses in Tennessee

Dozens of university faculty and staff, community members and veterans joined state officials Friday as the University of Tennessee at Martin was named a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus, one of 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

The event, held at 10:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom, followed the university’s annual Memorial Day commemoration ceremony.

The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act, passed into law in 2014, established this program of recognition for higher education institutions that not only prioritize outreach efforts for veterans, but successfully deliver services necessary to create supportive educational environments where student veterans can prosper. The “VETS Campus” title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

Johnny Dyer, UT Martin veteran services coordinator, offered remarks on the importance of services for veterans on college campuses. Dyer spoke of his own experience after enrolling at UT Martin following his military service.

While he did well his first semester, even making the chancellor’s honor roll, Dyer faced the same challenges that so many other veterans face on a daily basis. “I felt isolated; I had adjustment issues; I suffered from PTSD. I was working a full-time job, supporting a family and was just too proud to ask for help,” Dyer said. This ultimately lead to him leaving UT Martin to continue his career with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Union City.

After Goodyear closed its doors in 2011, Dyer returned to UT Martin. It was then he met Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, and together the pair founded the Skyhawk Veteran’s Association. In addition to Dr. Carls, Dyer also thanked many others at UT Martin who helped make the VETS Campus designation possible, including Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

“Support at this university comes straight from the top. Dr. Carver has been outstanding ... not only to the student veterans, but to everybody here,” he said.

Dr. Carver also offered remarks, highlighting what the honor means to UT Martin. “We want our nation, our states, and our region’s veterans to know that we want them here, and we want to assist them in obtaining their degree,” Carver said.

“Above all we know the extraordinary sacrifices made by you our service men and women, and want everyone to know that we have gone through transformational changes on this campus to bring the things that are necessary to create a veteran-friendly environment for your transition, and for your growth and your matriculation at UT Martin,” he said.

Carver closed, “With the help of the funding from the competitive Veteran Reconnect Grant, this is going to help prepare us ... for the future as a university and recruit even more student veterans to ease their transition to the campus and see them through to graduation. And folks, that’s the right thing to do.”

Following Carver’s remarks, Sen. Mark Norris, (R-Collierville), a sponsor of the Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act of 2014, offered his remarks.

“UT Martin is well known as one of West Tennessee’s leading military friendly universities ... it adds to that distinction today, officially, as Tennessee’s 20th VETS campus,” Norris said.

“So, while history is made here today, it’s not the past, it’s the future to which we look. For those who helped us keep the peace, we work to keep the promise that your future holds. Today UT Martin officially becomes the state of Tennessee’s partner in this important work, and we welcome it, and we welcome you,” he said.

The program concluded with the presentation of the VETS Campus designation certificate by THEC officials Tom Morrison, assistant executive director of Veterans Education, and Mitch Currey, educational specialist for Veterans Education.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UTM marks Memorial Day, selection as VETS campus

HONORING THE FALLEN — Bill Stout (right) of Martin and Ed Southern of Union City salute as "Taps" is played at the UTM Memorial Day commemoration on Friday.
Joe Walker and Joe Exum served in different wars, but both have the same appreciation for military service and for Memorial Day's significance. They both experienced firsthand the sacrifices made by those in the military, and they joined others at the University of Tennessee at Martin's 17th annual Memorial Day Commemoration held at 9 a.m., Friday, May 26, on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Sacrifice was the theme of remarks offered by keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard. Baker is a Huntingdon native and a 1995 UT Martin graduate.

Walker is a Martin resident and a World War II veteran who served from 1943-46 with the U.S. Army combat engineers. He and his fellow soldiers built more than 40 bridges across Europe following the Allied invasion of Normandy, France. Memorial Day is an annual reminder that the sacrifices made in past wars are not forgotten. "Well, it brings to memory the military fight way back, and to me it (Memorial Day) really shows the appreci ation of the community and all for this great country," said Walker, a 49-year university employee who worked in the physical plant and housing. He also lost a brother in the war, making Memorial Day especially meaningful.

Exum, also of Martin, is a 1969 UT Martin graduate and member of the university's Army ROTC Battalion during his time at the university. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971 and then later in the Tennessee National Guard. Exum was a platoon leader and later acting company commander during the Vietnam War, rising to the rank of captain. He later served as company commander in the Tennessee National Guard. "It (Memorial Day) means more and more to me, I guess, the older I get," Exum said. "Finally, some appreciation is being given to veterans that, maybe in years past, not so much recognition has been given. It's more of even a popular thing now to see people come and attend (Memorial Day observances) and have appreciation for the people that are serving our country."

Perfect weather provided the backdrop for the event as the university's Army ROTC Battalion presented the colors, followed by the singing of the national anthem by Dr. Roberto Mancusi, UT Martin associate professor of music. Timothy McClain, president of the Skyhawk Veteran's Association, gave the invocation, and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed attendees.

Carver, attending his first Memorial Day Commemoration as university chancellor, introduced the speaker but first read a poem written by his mother in honor of his grandfather and his grandfather's twin brother from Crockett Mills, Tenn. Both enlisted in the military in the last 1930s and served in three wars. After reading the poem, he said, "I'm honored to be associated with a university that every year makes sure that a part of our legacy, part of the fabric of this institution, is to celebrate and honor Memorial Day, which is just so incredibly important."

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker enlisted as a private in the Tennessee National Guard in 1980, graduated in 1981 from Huntingdon High School, and was commissioned in 1985 after five years of enlisted service. He completed his UT Martin education as a non-traditional student and became a full-time guard member in 2001. Today, he is responsible for the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen in the Tennessee National Guard. He opened his remarks by thanking retired general officers and veterans for their service and those in the audience for their attendance. "It's really about the fact that you took the time to show up and honor our country's fallen," he said as he acknowledged the large crowd.

Baker noted that Memorial Day was established by presidential decree May 5, 1868, and observed later that month with the decoration of Confederate and Union graves at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. "Unlike Veterans Day, it (Memorial Day) honors those who have given all," he said. "Since George Washington commanded the Continental Army, 42 million Americans have served the colors. A million of them have been killed in its (the country's) defense. Another million-and-a-half have been wounded. The human toll has been extraordinary."

"We gather here today to honor those Americans who died while defending their country and for fighting for something they believed in. As Americans we are free to pursue our hopes and dreams all because of their sacrifice."

Baker reminded the audience that Memorial Day retains its significance as the country remains at war. "Americans in the past kept Memorial Day rather quietly, pausing to remember at least for a little while, the kind of men and women that so willingly gave the last full measure," he said. "And a new 'generational' continues to fight and struggle against the merciless enemy on our behalf in Afghanistan, in places all around the globe. They are the best our country produces and have consciously put every American above their own self interests."

Baker reported more than 6,700 military men and women from all branches of military service, including 22 Tennessee National Guardsmen, have been killed in action since 911. "Some would portray these as victims, but they are not victims," he said. "They knew what they were about and were doing what they wanted to do."

"Because of their (the military's) sacrifices, and because of who came before them, we are still a free people," Baker said as he closed. "The debt we owe all of them cannot be expressed in word or deed, but we must simply utter a passionate 'thank you' from the depths of our hearts. Thanks to you for coming here today and continuing to honor their service and sacrifice."

Lt. Col. Lowell Howard Jr., UT Martin professor of military science, concluded the program by recalling President Ronald Reagan's 1986 Memorial Day address at Arlington National Cemetery. "Mr. Reagan reminded us that today is the day we put aside to remember our fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again," Howard said. "It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who are at rest. It's a day to be with the family and remember."

A rifle salute followed by the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and Martin Police Department, and taps were played by UT Martin student Chloe Lollar, a junior music major from Humboldt.
UTM ‘S.O.A.R.’ dates reported

Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at the University of Tennessee at Martin have three remaining opportunities to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates, and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin Aug. 28.

Remaining Summer Orientation and Registration sessions—known as SOAR—will be held June 2 and 16, and July 14. Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

The registration fee is $45 for each admitted student and $20 per person for any parents, guardians, siblings or other individuals accompanying the student. Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes, so no additional expenses are required during SOAR.

Each event will begin with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will follow at 8:45, and students will divide into groups to meet their orientation leaders at 9:15. Informational programs will be held at 10 a.m. and noon, with lunch on-campus at 11 a.m.

Students will then participate in the first-year flight plan session at 1 p.m. before registering for classes with a faculty adviser at 1:30. Students will receive their official Skyhawk cards during checkout from 2:30-5.

“I think SOAR was very helpful. It gave me a feel for the campus and a chance to meet some of the people I would have classes with later. I got to meet my academic adviser and make connections with other people in my major’s department,” said Evelyn Turner, a freshman biology major from Clarksville. “I became a SOAR staff member because I know how hard transitions are and how chaotic the first semester may seem. To have someone who has been there before help you through your first experience with college is a blessing, and it starts your collegiate journey on the right foot.”

For more information or to register to attend the SOAR session of your choice, visit utm.edu/soar or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Local graduate becomes UT Martin Skyhawk

John Mack Creasy, a Decaturville resident and graduate of Riverside High School, registered for fall courses at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration session May 22. He is pictured with his father, Mike Creasy. UT Martin’s fall semester begins Aug. 28, and the incoming freshman class will move into campus housing Aug. 24. Incoming students who have already received acceptance packages can register for an upcoming SOAR session June 2 and 16 or July 14 at um.edu/soar. To schedule a campus tour or find out more about UT Martin, visit um.edu/advantage.
WJHS Participates In Mathematics Competition

Eighteen West Junior High students participated in the 2017 Middle School Mathematics contest held at University of Tennessee at Martin campus. Many of the students placed throughout the competition and are looking to participate again next school year.

UTM SOAR dates are best time for freshmen to register

Students who have been accepted to join the 2017 freshman class at the University of Tennessee at Martin have three remaining opportunities to register on campus, meet potential classmates and roommates, and interact with the faculty and staff at their college of choice before classes officially begin August 28.

Remaining Summer Orientation and Registration sessions—known as SOAR—will be held June 2 and 16, and July 14. Attendance is mandatory for incoming freshmen and is the only way for new students to register for fall semester courses.

The registration fee is $45 for each admitted student and $20 per person for any parents, guardians, siblings or other individuals accompanying the student. Fall tuition and fees are not due until the start of classes, so no additional expenses are required during SOAR.

Each event will begin with check-in and an administrative fair at 8 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will follow at 8:45, and students will divide into groups to meet their orientation leaders at 9:15. Informational programs will be held at 10 a.m. and noon, with lunch on-campus at 11 a.m.

Students will then participate in the first-year flight plan session at 1 p.m. before registering for classes with a faculty adviser at 1:30.

Students will receive their official Skyhawk cards during checkout from 2:30-5.

"I think SOAR was very helpful. It gave me a feel for the campus and a chance to meet some of the people I would have classes with later. I got to meet my academic adviser and make connections with other people in my major's department," said Evelyn Turner of Clarksville.

For more information or to register to attend the SOAR session of your choice, visit utm.edu/soar or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Joe Walker and Joe Exum served in different wars, but both have the same appreciation for military service and for Memorial Day’s significance. They both experienced firsthand the sacrifices made by those in the military, and they joined others at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 17th annual Memorial Day Commemoration held at 9 a.m., Friday, May 26, on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Sacrifice was the theme of remarks offered by keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard. Baker is a Huntingdon native and a 1995 UT Martin graduate.

Walker is a Martin resident and a World War II veteran who served from 1943-46 with the U.S. Army combat engineers. He and his fellow soldiers built more than 40 bridges across Europe following the Allied invasion of Normandy, France. Memorial Day is an annual reminder that the sacrifices made in past wars are not forgotten.

“While, it brings to mind the military from way back, and to me it (Memorial Day) really shows the appreciation of the community and all for this great country,” said Walker, a 49-year university employee who worked in the physical plant and housing. He also lost a brother in the war, making Memorial Day especially meaningful.

Exum, also of Martin, is a 1969 UT Martin graduate and member of the university’s Army ROTC Battalion during his time at the university. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971 and then later in the Tennessee National Guard. Exum was a platoon leader and later acting company commander during the Vietnam War, rising to the rank of captain. He later served as company commander in the Tennessee National Guard.

“It (Memorial Day) means more and more to me, I guess, the older I get,” Exum said. “Finally some recognition is being given to veterans that, maybe in years past, not so much (recognition has been given). It’s more of even a popular thing now to see people come and attend (Memorial Day observances) and have appreciation for the people that are serving our country.”

Perfect weather provided the backdrop for the event as the university’s Army ROTC Battalion presented the colors, followed by the singing of the national anthem by Dr. Roberto Mancusi, UT Martin associate professor of music. Timothy McClain, president of the Skyhawk Veteran’s Association, gave the invocation, and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed attendees.

Carver, attending his first Memorial Day Commemoration as university chancellor, introduced the speaker but first read a poem written by his mother in honor of his grandfather and his grandfather’s twin brother from Crockett Mills, Tenn. Both enlisted in the military in the 1920s and served in three wars. After reading the poem he said, “And I’m honored to be associated with a university that every year makes sure that one part of our legacy, part of the fabric of this institution, is to celebrate and honor Memorial Day, which is just so incredibly important.”

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker enlisted as a private in the Tennessee National Guard in 1980, graduated in 1981 from Huntingdon High School, and was commissioned in 1985 after five years of enlisted service. He completed his UT Martin education as a non-traditional student and became a full-time guard member in 2001. Today, he is responsible for the training and supervision of 13,000 soldiers and airmen in the Tennessee National Guard. He opened his remarks by thanking retired general officers and veterans for their service and those in the audience for their attendance. “It’s really about the fact that you took the time to show up and honor our country’s fallen,” he said as he acknowledged the large crowd.

Baker noted that Memorial Day was established by presidential decree May 5, 1868, and observed later that month with the decoration of Confederate and Union graves at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. “Unlike Veterans Day, it (Memorial Day) honors those who have given all,” he said. “Since George Washington commanded the Continental Army, 42 million Americans have served the colors. A million of them have been killed in its (the country’s) defense. Another million-and-a-half have been wounded. The human toll has been extraordinary.

“We gather here today to honor those Americans who died while defending their country and for fighting for something they believed in. As Americans, we are free to pursue our hopes and dreams all because of their sacrifice.”

Baker reminded the audience that Memorial Day retains its significance as the country remains at war. “Americans in the past kept Memorial Day rather quietly, pausing to remember at least for a little while, the kind of men and women that so willingly gave the last full measure,” he said. “And a new ‘greater generation’ continues to fight and struggle against the merciless enemy on our behalf in Afghanistan, in places all around the globe. They are the best our country produces and have consciously put every American above their own self interests.”

Baker reported more than 6,700 military men and women from all branches of military service, including 22 Tennessee National Guardsmen, have been killed in action since 9/11. “Some would portray these as victims, but they are not victims,” he said. “They knew what they were about and were doing what they wanted to do.”

“Because of their (the military’s) sacrifices, and because of who came before them, we are still a free people,” Baker said as he closed. “The debt we owe all of them cannot be expressed in word or deed, but we must simply utter a passionate ‘thank you’ from the depths of our hearts. Thanks to you for coming here today and continuing to honor their service and sacrifice.”

Lt. Col. Lowell Howard Jr., UT Martin professor of military science, concluded the program by recalling President Ronald Reagan’s 1986 Memorial Day address at Arlington National Cemetery. “Mr. Reagan reminded us that today is the day we put aside to remember our fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again,” Howard said. “It’s a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who are at rest. It’s a day to be with the family and remember.”

A rifle salute followed by the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and Martin Police Department, and taps were played by UT Martin student Chloe Lollar, a junior music major from Humboldt.

*DFDT*

Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker, the assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army, Tennessee National Guard, offered the keynote address during UT Martin’s 17th annual Memorial Day Commemoration held at 9 a.m., Friday, May 26, on the front lawn of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Baker is a Huntingdon native and a 1995 UT Martin graduate.
UTM Names Local Students to Spring Semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2017 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Dresden - Allison J. Baggett, Honors; Lindsey V. Barnes, High Honors; Aleya M. Brent, Highest Honors; Gage W. Brewer, Honors; Christina M. Chain, Honors; Nicholas W. Cobb, Honors; Kaitlyn E. Courtney, Highest Honors; Thomas W. Doster, Highest Honors; Alex L. Dunn, High Honors; Autumn A. Faulkner, Highest Honors; Dylan C. Hughey, High Honors; Benjamin C. Kendall, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Lamb, Honors; Bryan M. Madsen, High Honors; Amy M. McAlpin, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. McGeehe, High Honors; Tiffany L. Owens, High Honors; James C. Palmer, High Honors; Jacob A. Rogers, High Honors; Colten W. Snider, Highest Honors; Jennifer R. Sommerville, High Honors; Timothy M. Spence, Honors; Benjamin R. Walker, Honors; Asia C. Woodward, High Honors; Amanda N. Young, High Honors.

Gleason - Emily M. Bell, Honors; Dalee E. Esch, Honors; Elizabeth S. Francisco, Honors; Casey J. Greer, High Honors; Tucker D. Kail, High Honors; Dalis J. Lampkins, Highest Honors; Erica N. Little, Honors; Amanda S. Mansfield, Highest Honors; William J. Mansfield, Highest Honors; Breanna N. Martin, Highest Honors; Rachel E. Maxwell, Highest Honors; Christopher W. Mayo, Highest Honors; Nathan D. Moran, Honors; Claire E. Oliver, Honors; Avery S. Orr, Highest Honors; Wendy G. Paschall, Highest Honors; Austin M. Shafer, Honors; Carson A. Stafford, High Honors; Spencer C. Stewart, Highest Honors.

Greenfield - Leasha J. Allen, Honors; Daniel A. Bethel, Highest Honors; Blake A. Brauer, Highest Honors; Brock A. Brauer, Highest Honors; Bethany J. Cole, Highest Honors; Kendal M. Cook, Highest Honors; Hunter J. Crouse, Highest Honors; Hunter L. Dixon, Highest Honors; Brittany M. Evans, Highest Honors; Victoria D. Galey, Honors; Rachel L. Graves, Highest Honors; Katie M. Kail, High Honors; Katie L. Sanders, Highest Honors; Jamion S. Shelton, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn P. Simmons, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Simmons, Highest Honors; Brenna G. Taylor, Honors; Richard M. Willis, Honors; Cassidy M. Wren, Highest Honors.

Martin - Areli G. Aguilar, Highest Honors; Chryseie J. Alexander, Highest Honors; Beth A. Allmon, Highest Honors; Ivan Alvarado, Highest Honors; Christopher L. Armstrong, Highest Honors; Sarah K. Arwood, Highest Honors; Brandon C. Asher, Highest Honors; Katelyn M. Austin, Highest Honors; Alexandria B. Barnes, Highest Honors; Kevin W. Bartholomew, Highest Honors; Christopher C. Bass, Highest Honors; Ellen L. Bell, Highest Honors; Lakyen M. Bell, Highest Honors; Lewis T. Bell, High Honors; Samuel J. Bell, Highest Honors; Brandon L. Bookout, Highest Honors; Kalena R. Borman, Highest Honors; Dylan S. Bradley, Highest Honors; Guy E. Brawley, Honors; Brandyn H. Brown, High Honors; Grace A. Bruner, Highest Honors; Bria Brown, Honors; Georgia L. Brown, Highest Honors; Caitlyn E. Brundige, Highest Honors; Emma R. Bruner, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Buckley, Highest Honors; Jesse Burks, Highest Honors; Hallie B. Butler, Highest Honors; Heather L. Butler, Honors; Ryan Butler, High Honors; Drew S. Cagle, High Honors; Cassandra J. Cain, Highest Honors; Seth A. Carr, Honors; Paula M. Castro, High Honors; Alison E. Clement, Honors; Courtney L. Cornwall, High Honors; Forrest N. Coleman, Highest Honors; Seth L. Coleman, High Honors; Jessica R. Cooley, Honors; Gregory S. Coward, Highest Honors; Alexandra K. Crosser, Honors; Megan C. Crow, Highest Honors; Candace M. Crumby, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Curtis, Highest Honors; George E. Daniel, Honors; Jacob L. Daniel, Highest Honors; Victoria B. Davis, Highest Honors; Adrian E. De Sagon, Highest Honors; Joshua M. Diltz, High Honors; Stephen L. Downing, Honors; Caron A. Doyle, High Honors; Susanna C. Edwards, Highest Honors; Thomas S. Elam, Honors; Jordan R. Epperson, High Honors; Emma M. Fieser, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Fieser, Highest Honors; Caitlin L. Flynn, Highest Honors; Marcia L. Ford, Highest Honors; Lexie D. Forrest, High Honors; Peyton T. Forrest, Honors; Nicholas R. Fortner, High Honors; Kayla M. Frampton, High Honors; Gihan M. Garma, Honors; Allison M. Garner, High Honors; Daniel P. Garrett, Honors; Jessica Gathings, High Honors; Sarah J. Gillespie, Honors; Kamryn L. Gittel, High Honors; Garrett M. Goodlett, Honors; Tyler L. Graham, Highest Honors; Hannah S. Grider, Highest Honors; Katelyn M. Grills, Highest Honors; Timothy A. Grissom, Highest Honors; Jennifer T. Hames, High Honors; Liberty C. Harris, Highest Honors; Nicholas R. Hart, High Honors; Brandon L. Hauhe, Honors; Addison N. Hazlewood, Highest Honors; Austin M. Hazlewood, Highest Honors; Joy N. Hazlewood, High Honors; Sara E. Hibbard, Highest Honors; Zeick H. Hicks, High Honors; Merideth G. Hinson, Highest Honors; Christina F. Hobson, Highest Honors; Whitney E. Holecz, Honors; Joshua K. Hollowell, Honors; Jake A. Hollows, High Honors; Melanie S. Howard, Highest Honors; Katelyn M. Huggins, Highest Honors; Alexandria M. Hughley, Highest Honors; Lee A. Hughley, Highest Honors; John A. Jackson, Honors; Shelby S. Jacobs-Johnston, Honors; Carly B. Johnson, Highest Honors; Michael A. Johnson, Highest Honors; Dewey R. Jones, High Honors; Lacie A. Jones, Honors; Megan M. Jones-Honors; Gary A. Kellough, Honors; Michael T. Keenan, Honors; Morgan G. Kerr, High Honors; Billy R. Killebrew, Honors; Mindy E. King, Honors; Zachary R. King, Honors; Madison E. Koon, Honors; Sierra K. Kowaleski, High Honors; Justin L. Lagace, High Honors; Andrew W. Lannom, Honors; Robert M. Larkin, High Honors; Jacob R. Last, High Honors; James C. Laubach, High Honors; Brittanie D. Lewis, High Honors; Macy K. Leyhue, Highest Honors; Emily R. Lichtenecker, Highest Honors; Jordan H. Long, Honors; Katy E. Lowry, High Honors; Amanda K. Lund, Highest Honors; Rebecca E. Lund, Highest Honors; Brendon M. Maitland, Honors; Sidditavrin Martin, Honors; Emma M. Massey, Highest Honors; Brianna K. Maya, High Honors; James D. McClanahan, Highest Honors;
Honors; Michael J. McGrath,
High Honors; Stacy K. Mc-
Grath, High Honors; Destiny S.
Meyer, High Honors; William
A. Miles, Highest Honors; Ra-
chel A. Moore, Highest Honors;
Jessica D. Morris, Highest Hon-
ors; Autumn L. Moss, Honors;
Zachary G. Moss, Honors; Ezra
F. Nance, Highest Honors; Pey-
ton Nee, Honors; Katelyn M.
Odom, Highest Honors; Levi J.
Owens, High Honors; Mari-
ssa P. Parks, High Honors; Ja-
mes C. Patton, Honors; Ashton
B. Pence, Honors; Keaton N.
Penick, Highest Honors; Ellery A.
Pennington, Honors; Hannah L.
Peppers, Honors; Ivie M. Pfening,
Honors; Michael A. Player, High
Honors; Hohner K. Porter, High
Honors; Christopher Z. Postel,
Highest Honors; Tyler J. Postel,
High Honors; Ashton E. Priest,
High Honors; Cody L. Prince,
Honors; David S. Prince, High-
est Honors; Kailee A. Pritchett,
High Honors; Kayla D. Putman,
Highest Honors; Alisa M. Quay-
le, Highest Honors; Patricia A.
Ramos, Highest Honors; Sara E.
Reagan, Honors; Cheyanne J.
Rebollar-Espinoz, High Honors;
Alycia N. Reed, Honors; Hunter
L. Reeves, Honors; Ryne J.
Reynolds, Highest Honors; Paul
E. Richards, High Honors; Con-
nor D. Rinker, High Honors;
Madison B. Robbins, Highest
Honors; Sydney S. Rob-
bins, High Honors; Timothy C.
Robertson, Honors; Jasmine
D. Rodriguez Bonilla, Highest
Honors; Kayla C. Romo, High
Honors; Brittney A. Rose,
Highest Honors; Cayce L. Rose,
High Honors; Ivory L. Rus-
sell, High Honors; Meghan
N. Sands, Honors; Brian L.
Saunders, Honors; Cole T.
Schaezner, Honors; Kathleen
Schubert, Honors; Kaitlyn R.
Scott, Highest Honors; Colton
J. Sensing, High Honors; Ash-
ley K. Shores, High Honors;
Barbara M. Signorelli, Honors;
Catherine R. Skeen, Honors;
Breanna S. Slater, High Honors;
Mallory E. Slaughter, Highest
Honors; Alex A. Smith, Highest
Honors; Jonathan C. Spencer,
Honors; Alexandra N. Stanley,
Highest Honors; Mallory H. Stan-
ley, Honors; Brooklyn N. Stev-
enson, Highest Honors; Madi-
eline M. Stokes, High Honors;
Taylor M. Stout, Honors; Damani
Taylor, Honors; Katelyn M. Taylor,
Highest Honors; Nicolas Taylor,
Honors; Stephanie L. Taylor,
Highest Honors; Jessica G.
Tejeda, Highest Honors; Chase
M. Thweatt, Honors; Chelsea
A. Thweatt, High Honors; Eli
M. Todd, Highest Honors;
Olivia M. Turner, Honors; Mary-
ann H. Upchurch, Highest Honors;
Lyndsey B. Vangeliow, Honors;
Ellen E. Vaughn, Highest Honors;
Madison N. Vaughn, Highest
Honors; John L. Vincent, High-
est Honors; Kaitlyn T. Vin-
cent, High Honors; Teddy K.
Vincent, Honors; Zachary Wa-
genmaker, High Honors; Blake
A. Walton, Honors; Caylon A.
Weathers, Honors; Stefanie D.
Webb, Honors; Kathlene M.
White, Highest Honors; Caleb
D. Williamson, Honors; Nathan
E. Williamson, Highest Honors;
Koltin B. Winstead, Honors; Luke A. Winters, Honors; Bar-
riana S. Woods, Honors; Brine
L. Woods, High Honors; Jared
F. Wortham, Highest Honors;
Kassi L. Wright, High Honors;
Jonathan R. York, Highest Hon-
ors; Tori E. York, Honors; Jason
S. Ziegler, Honors.
Palmersville – Jennifer Al-
ford, Highest Honors; Laura
M. Bell, Honors; Shannon M.
Merrell, High Honors; Lauren
S. Smethwick, Honors.
Sharon – Taylor N. Alderson,
Honors; Emily B. Allen, Hon-
ors; Rachel B. Melton, Highest
Honors; Zachary M. Morgan,
High Honors; McKenzie J. No-
bles, High Honors; Brandon K.
Stacks, Highest Honors; Audrey
S. Waterfield, Honors.
In addition, Chancellor’s
Honors Roll honorees with ties
to Weakley County include:
Atwood – Shelby B. Smith,
Honors.
Bradford – Cody E. Miles,
Highest Honors.
Lawrenceville, Ga. – Jeet V.
Patel, High Honors.
McKenzie – Sara N. Brad-
ford, Highest Honors; Ashley
J. Hughes, High Honors; Leslie
M. Todd, Highest Honors.
Paris – Dakota W. Parsons,
Honors; Lawrence E. Sims,
Honors.
Pearl City – Elizabeth C.
Lillge, Honors.
Union City – Dalton A. Tee-
er, Honors.
Dozens of university faculty and staff, community members and veterans joined state officials Friday as the University of Tennessee at Martin was named a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus, one of 20 Tennessee institutions to hold this designation from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

The event, held at 10:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom, followed the university's annual Memorial Day commemoration ceremony.

The Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act, passed into law in 2014, established this program of recognition for higher education institutions that not only prioritize outreach efforts for veterans, but successfully deliver services necessary to create supportive educational environments where student veterans can prosper. The "VETS Campus" title is a special designation given to those institutions that allocate resources to assist veterans with the transition from military service to college enrollment.

Johnny Dyer, UT Martin veteran services coordinator, offered remarks on the importance of services for veterans on college campuses. Dyer spoke of his own experience after enrolling at UT Martin following his military service. While he did well his first semester, even making the chancellor's honor roll, Dyer faced the same challenges that so many other veterans face on a daily basis. "I felt isolated; I had adjustment issues; I suffered from PTSD. I was working a full-time job, supporting a family and was just too proud to ask for help," Dyer said. This ultimately lead to him leaving UT Martin to continue his career with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Union City.

After Goodyear closed its doors in 2011, Dyer returned to UT Martin. It was then he met Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, and together the pair founded the Skyhawk Veteran's Association. In addition to Dr. Carls, Dyer also thanked many others at UT Martin who helped make the VETS Campus designation possible, including Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

"Support at this university comes straight from the top. Dr. Carver has been outstanding … not only to the student veterans, but to everybody here," he said.

Dr. Carver also offered remarks, highlighting what the honor means to UT Martin. "We want our nation, our states, and our region's veterans to know that we want them here, and we want to assist them in obtaining their degree," Carver said.

Collierville, a sponsor of the Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act of 2014, offered his remarks. "UT Martin is well known as one of West Tennessee's leading military friendly universities … it adds to that distinction today, officially, as Tennessee's 20th VETS campus," Norris said.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

---

**Summer reading clinic enrolling now**

The ability to read confidently is a fundamental skill for every growing child, and some need a little extra assistance between school years.

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

The Reading Center will be open for summer sessions Monday through June 30 by appointment. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

The registration cost is $100 for the month, plus $25 for a required workbook.

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

All sessions are taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center.

Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.
SUCCESSFUL STUDENT — Tori Seng of Union City received several awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet recently. She was congratulated by Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications. Ms. Seng, a senior, received the Dr. Gary Steinke WUTM Broadcasting Excellence Award, the M. Sue Kahle Excellence in Leadership Award and the Outstanding Senior Award for the broadcasting concentration. She was also recognized for her work as president of UT Martin's student chapter of the Radio Television Digital News Association.

STUDENT LAUDED — Holly Seng of Union City received several awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications awards banquet recently. She was congratulated by Dr. Richard Robinson, associate professor of communications. Ms. Seng, a sophomore, received the University Relations Public Relations Workship, the Dorotha and Robert Norton Scholarship and the Gary Steinke Scholarship.

STUDENT SUCCESS — Andrew Terrell of Union City received the Financial Executive International Award and was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester. Several Obion County residents received college or department-level awards.
OBION HONOREE
Parker Albright of Obion received the Cunningham Outstanding Freshman Award recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester. She was among several Obion County residents who received college or department-level awards.

EARN HONOR
Kaleb Byars of Union City was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester. Several Obion County residents received college or department-level awards.

UTM RECOGNITION
— Amber Cunningham of Obion received the William H. Baker Scholarship and was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester. She was one of several Obion County students who received college or department-level awards.

HONORS PRESENTED
— Tory Reedy of Union City received the Richard D. Chesteen Sr. Award and was recognized as a dean’s choice scholar and a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester.

EARN RECOGNITION
— Imelda Rodriguez of Union City received a Financial Management Association Award and was recognized as a faculty scholar in the College of Business and Global Affairs recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester.
Guest pianists to perform at UT Martin

Alan and Alvin Chow, twin natives of Miami, Fla., will present a recital Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Blakenship Recital Hall in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Fine Arts Building.

They will perform works by Milhaud, Debussy, Copland, Corigliano and Gershwin. They made their debut at the age of 13 as soloists with the Miami Beach Symphony. Their four-hand recitals have taken them across the country, including Steinway Hall in New York City, Orchestra Hall in Chicago and Seattle, Miami and Indianapolis, in addition to performances in Vienna, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Alan Chow was the first prize winner of the Concert Artist Guild International New York Competition and won the silver medal and audience favorite prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. Recital appearances have taken him to more than 40 states, as well as Asian tours of Japan, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. He is currently at Northwestern University, and this fall will join the faculty of the Eastman School of Music.

Alvin Chow has performed as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Shanghai Philharmonic and the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg, Austria, among others.

He also performs frequently with his wife, pianist Angela Cheng. Formerly on the faculty of the University of Colorado at Boulder, he is currently chair of the piano department and the Ruth Strickland Gardner Professor at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

This performance is made possible by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association and is in conjunction with TMTA’s 2017 state conference and competitions, which will be hosted by UTM Saturday through Tuesday.

The recital is free and the public is invited to attend.

For additional information on the performance or the TMTA conference, contact Dr. Elaine Harriss at elaineh@utm.edu.