WINNING DESIGNS — University of Tennessee at Martin students Brad Lyell of Union City and Christina Hobson (right) of Leesburg, Fla., recently displayed their winning 2018 Milan No-Till Field Day logos. Joining them was Sarah Haig, assistant professor of fine art.

UTM students design Milan No-Till logos

University of Tennessee at Martin students Brad Lyell of Union City and Christina Hobson of Leesburg, Fla., designed the official logos for the 2018 Milan No-Till Field Day, hosted every other year by the University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Milan.

This event is one of the largest crop production field days in the nation, and this year’s activities mark the event’s 30th anniversary.

No-Till Field Day organizers chose Ms. Hobson’s and Lyell’s designs from a pool of submissions from fellow UT Martin senior graphic design majors. Lyell’s design will be used on event programs, while Ms. Hobson’s will adorn event caps. This is the second time event officials have allowed UT Martin students to submit design proposals.

“We gathered several of our field and office staff and laid all the designs on our conference table and started making selections. It took several votes, but we finally decided to go with the two designs,” said Dr. Blake Brown, director of the UT AgResearch and Education Center at Milan. “All the work submitted was exceptional.”

When asked how this experience will help her professionally, Ms. Hobson said the project was extremely beneficial. “My future is doing work just like that, so I got to step into it before graduation,” she said. Real-world work is an important component of UT Martin academics, and Lyell says the exercise helped improve his professional communications skills.

Sarah Haig, assistant professor of art, has facilitated the design competition among her students for the past two field day events.

For more information, contact Ms. Haig at (731) 881-3404 or shaig1@utm.edu.
LOCAL STUDENT COMPLETES NED RAY MCWHERTER INSTITUTE — Benjamin Ort (center, left), of Medina, completed a curriculum of personal and professional development courses through the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute. The institute provides select undergraduate students with professional presentation training, networking opportunities and both domestic and international travel experiences. Ort majored in management and will receive his bachelor’s degree from UT Martin during commencement exercises May 5. He is pictured with (l-r) Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; and Dr. Melanie Bruce and Dr. Jerald Ogg, two of six institute faculty mentors.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018

Jones becomes first recipient of Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service

Daniel (Danny) Jones, a UT Martin junior from Franklin became the first recipient of the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service and was recognized at a ceremony at UT Martin on April 22. Jones is a double major in marketing and management in the College of Business and Global Affairs; he is an Eagle Scout and successful entrepreneur.

Kiwanis president Vickie Hazelwood, who was present for the recognition, said, “Danny Jones embodies the spirit of the Kiwanis Award for leadership and service. He has led the way through his involvement in the Student Government Association, and he is a part of the Leaders in Residence program where he gained a proficiency in the Student Leadership Challenge.”

Jones currently serves as Secretary General for the Undergraduate Alumni Council, treasurer for the UTM Collegiate Bass Anglers Team, and Social Media Managing Editor for The Pacer collegiate newspaper. He holds memberships in honor societies, including the National Society of Leadership and Success, Phi Eta Sigma, and Beta Gamma Phi.

The $1,000 award was begun with an initial contribution to establish the endowment by S. K. Airee, longtime professor of chemistry at UT Martin, and his wife Shashi. On February 15, 2017, officers and charter members of the Martin Kiwanis Club joined University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver to celebrate the establishment of an endowment for the annual Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service.

This award honors students whose leadership and volunteer activities reflect the Kiwanis motto of “improving the world, one child and one community at a time.” The $1,000 award is administered by the UT Martin Office of Student Affairs with input from the Martin Kiwanis Club and the adviser of the UT Martin Circle K Club.

Eligible students must have at least sophomore standing; a minimum GPA of 3.00; have been either an Eagle Scout, Gold Girl Scout or an active member of the Key Club or Circle K Club; and have completed a major service project.

This first award, given during the 2018 academic year, marks the golden anniversary of the Martin Kiwanis Club, which was established in May 1968.
’Glass cow’ among curiosities at old UTM college farm

By LINDA PLUNK
Special to the Press

My grandfather, Guess Golsby Gatewood, began working at “the college,” as we called it, in the mid-1950s. He moved from his father Jim Gatewood’s farm situated on Weakly and Hyndsvor roads, where he worked almost like a tenant farmer. This move opened up a whole new world to me. They had moved “To Town,” and even the small town of Martin was much different than the country. I stayed with my grandparents every weekend and sometimes through the week. The college as like another town on the west side of our town. Most residents never set foot on the campus, unless they worked or attended classes there. At that time UTM was called UT Martin Branch.

Occasionally, my grandfather would take me along with him on the weekends and during the summer breaks to the college buildings that he cleaned as a custodian. This was a very fascinating place for a curious young girl.

The building I remember most was probably the science building. In the 1959 annual, this was referred to as the ABL Building. I am sure there is still someone around who knows what this stood for.

There were wide halls inside and some were lined with display windows. Inside one display area were large glass jars. If my memory is correct, these jars were filled with alcohol or preservative and contained specimens of animals. It seemed like some displayed the growth of a baby through the months of development. Others had malformed fetuses of different animals. Inside one of the classrooms was a skeleton on display. For some reason I was told the name of the skeleton was Leaner, but maybe it should have been Lena. I always felt very respectful of the remains of some unknown person and a little fearful at the same time.

My grandfather later worked on the college farm. The south side of the campus was the location of the chicken houses, and I think the peach orchard was also there.

Eggs were harvested and sold. I don’t know where the best eggs were taken, but many local people purchased cracked eggs for 25 cents a dozen. The membrane was still in place; only the shell would have small cracks or some other imperfection. As far as I know, our family never suffered any ill effects from eating cracked eggs.

The peaches would be packed into crates and loaded onto a two-ton truck to be delivered somewhere, possibly to Greenfield at the Porter Brothers produce warehouse. I was too young to ask, but not too young to enjoy a peach. They were so large and juicy. I haven’t eaten a peach that ever tasted as good.

This part of the campus has been dormitories since the late ‘60s.

One other oddity on the agricultural campus that was unusual to me was the cow with the glass stomach. It was used for teaching purposes, and I always felt so sorry for it. Looking back now, I realize that it probably felt fine after it recovered from having the glass door inserted on the side of its body. It was used to teach students about bovine digestion. Anyway, years later I saw that cow in its old age. As a schoolbus driver, I had brought a group of kindergarten students on a field trip to the UTM farm. The old cow was near the dairy building. I asked Harry Henderson about it at the time, and he confirmed it was the same cow. It must have finally died of old age.

My grandfather often mentioned some of the people that he worked for and with at the time. He spoke highly of Mr. Earl Kneppe, who was over the ag engineering department; Mr. John E. McMahen (Mr. Mac), who was the department head; and W.W. (Red) Freeman, supervisor of custodians. They were all longtime staff at the college.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host a gubernatorial forum from 5-7 p.m. May 10 in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. Attendees must have a ticket to enter the auditorium. Tickets can be downloaded free of charge until May 7 by visiting eventbrite.com and searching for “WestStar.”

A welcome reception for attendees and candidates will begin at 4 p.m. in the Boling University Center Welcome Center. Both events are open to the public, and a link to a live webcast of the forum will be made available closer to the event date.

All attendees must enter through the main doors to the Boling University Center off the Mt. Pelia Road parking lot. Metal detectors will be used at the doors, and all bags are subject to search. No one will be permitted to enter Watkins Auditorium while a candidate is speaking.

Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, will serve as forum moderator. Each candidate will have 15 minutes to discuss questions posed by Kinnard, and speaking order will be randomly determined prior to the event.

Diane Black, a Tennessee congresswoman representing the 6th District; Randy Boyd, former commissioner of Tennessee Economic and Community Development; Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville; Craig Fitzhugh, minority leader of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Beth Harwell, speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; and Bill Lee, president and CEO of Lee Company in Nashville, have confirmed participation in the event.

Candidates will be introduced by Brett Lashlee, chairman of the 2018 WestStar Leadership Development class, following official welcomes from Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. The forum is coordinated by the 2018 WestStar class as a group project.

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu.
Erin Young wins scholarship

Erin Young of Henning received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Scholarship Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university's annual Honors Day ceremony April 8. This award is reserved for a returning student majoring in chemistry, and honors the legacy of longtime UT Martin faculty member Dr. Norman Campbell. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Riplian wins UTM awards

Nathaniel Newlin of Ripley received the W.A. Tarr Award, the Geology Student Leadership Award and the Geology Student Research Award during a ceremony April 24 for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences includes the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the Department of Military Science and Leadership.

Byrd, students attend African American Leadership Conference

Ripley High School Principal Stephen Byrd, right, and RHS students, from left, Charles Brown, Lillie Brown, Shanya Steward and Ray Washington attended the African American Leadership Conference last week in Jackson, Tenn.
CNN host, political commentator and author Van Jones returned to his hometown of Jackson for a welcome home program at St. Paul CME Church and to speak at Lane College’s 2018 spring commencement.

GAIL BAILEY/THE JACKSON SUN

Jones’ springboard

CNN host comes home for Lane

Brittney L. Jackson  Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

CNN host, political commentator and author Van Jones returned to his hometown of Jackson for a welcome home program at St. Paul CME Church and to speak at Lane College’s 2018 spring commencement.

People from small towns and small schools are often underestimated, Jones said, but it's about how strong your springboard is and how hard you hit it.

"I have the strongest springboard of anybody I have met in public life right here in Jackson, Tennessee, right here in St. Paul, right here in these public schools," Jones said.

Jones graduated from Jackson Central-Merry High School and University of Tennessee at Martin, and then from Yale Law School. He has worked in the White House, with pop icon Prince, and been in the presence of great people like Oprah, he said — all because of his strong springboard.

See JONES, Page 9A
Jones

Continued from Page 3A

From Jackson to wherever you want

"It is scary having black children in this world today," Jones said as he addressed the graduates.

However, he highlighted that fate does not determine one's destiny. Fate is the body, family and time you were born into — but those things should not be able to determine your future.

Jones also advised the grads to keep their egos small and their souls big, as big egos can get you in trouble but a big soul can get you anywhere.

After the address, Jones was presented with an honorary degree from Lane College.

"I am a product of Lane College, and I just want them to know they can go wherever they want to go, they can do whatever they want to do," Jones said.

"This world is here for them. They’ve got a great springboard right here in West Tennessee."

His grandfather was the president of Lane, from 1950-1970; his parents, aunts, uncles and cousins graduated from Lane, he noted.

Having a hometown and a home church with roots is something Jones is proud of — because not everyone has that to come back to.

"I am proud to be from Jackson, Tennessee," Jones said.

What’s next?

"The Van Jones" shows airs on CNN every other Saturday at 6 p.m., and he is currently working on a show called "Redemption," where people who have done "heinous acts" make amends.

Jones is also working on several other projects.

"I'm doing everything I can to have my voice be heard — because we need to hear from good people in this country right now," Jones said.

Reach reporter Britney Jackson at bjackson@gannett.com or 731-425-9643.

THE FAYETTE FALCON

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

$2,000 Awarded to UT Martin Somerville Center Students

UT Martin Somerville Center Education Major Abbey German and Agriculture Business Major Danielle Ables have been awarded $1,000 each from the Alex Haley Fund. This fund was established to assist first generation higher education students as a need-based scholarship that provides funding for tuition and educational materials. Abbey and Danielle are both in their junior year at the Somerville Center. They have shown exemplary work at the center with determined efforts to do well academically.

While attending summer classes, they will be student volunteers for Kid College the week of June 11-15.

"Being a UT Martin Somerville Center student is very special. We are a family that is always here to help no matter the situation. We understand that life happens, but that shouldn’t keep you from reaching future goals," said Kara Tapp, UT Martin Somerville Center Director.

For more information about the UT Martin Somerville Center or Kid College, give them a call at 901-465-7313.
Several Weakley County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony April 24.

Sarah Alford, of Dresden, was named an outstanding first semester college student in agriculture for the fall 2017 semester.

Will Bratton, of Martin, received the Best Student Teaching Award for introductory geology.

Christina Chain, of Dresden, received the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Student Group Senior Award.

Sarah Holcomb, of Martin, was named an outstanding dual enrollment student.

Ben Kendall, of Dresden, received the Future Surveyor Award.

Ashley Kite-Rowland, of Martin, received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Spencer Legins, of Martin, was named an outstanding dual enrollment student.

Robert Mehhorn, of Martin, received the Lt. Col. David K. Bell Scholarship and the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award.

Ashley Mendez, of Sharon, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Kirsti Nordstrom, of Dresden, was named an outstanding freshman in family and consumer sciences.

Kaitlyn Sanders, of Greenfield, received the Outstanding Hospitality and Food Services Management Student Award, the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Student Group Outstanding Member Award and the Outstanding FCS Ambassador Award.

Jacey Sims, of Martin, received the Outstanding Fashion Merchandising Student Award.

The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences includes the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the Department of Military Science and Leadership.

Sarah Alford

Will Bratton

Sarah Holcomb

Ben Kendall
Smith Wins Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award

Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is one of five higher education faculty or staff members statewide to win a 2018 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award, as chosen by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission taskforce. The award was officially presented during a reception April 27 in Nashville.

Dr. Smith, who has taught in the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies since 2012 and focuses on teaching future educators how to instruct children with various kinds of special needs, has also served as director of the Area 7 Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics since 2014.

"Dr. Smith teaches by example, and his students benefit from his efforts both in the community and in his classroom. But it is not only his college students who profit, it is the students who participate in regional Special Olympics events and their teachers and family members who watch them succeed in their chosen competitions," wrote UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver in Smith's nomination letter.

The mission of Area 7 Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The experience gives participants continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

As director, Smith organizes events and activities for special needs students in his service area and raises funds to support Special Olympics. He has helped raise almost $65,000 for the organization through events such as the Polar Plunge, Over the Edge rappelling challenge and the Unity 5K race, as well as through grants and partnerships with other area organizations.

- He was selected to be track and field coach of Team Tennessee for the Special Olympics USA national games in 2014 and received the Master Teacher of Honor award from the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education in 2016. He has also served on the board of directors of the Tennessee Education Association and as secretary of the National Education Association Caucus for Educators of Exceptional Children. Smith is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin and was named Kiwanian of the Year in 2015.

The Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award is named for the late state representative Harold Love, who was instrumental in passing legislation to create community service recognition programs at the state level in 1991. Each year, five students and five faculty or staff members from the state’s higher education institutions are chosen from nominations statewide.

Kameron Echols, then a UT Martin student, won one of the student awards in 2017 for his work with the Martin Housing Authority. Echols is now a staff member with the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions.
MCCALL RECEIVES AWARD —
Greenfield science teacher Robert McCall (center) was awarded the 2018 UT Martin Sigma Xi Chapter Outstanding High School Math/Science Teacher Award at the annual UT Martin-Murray State Sigma Xi Research Symposium held April 21, at the UT Martin Paul Meek Library. Established in 1886 at Cornell University, The Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society is an interdisciplinary organization designed to recognize excellence in research and to encourage cooperation across scientific fields. Traditionally, the UT Martin Sigma Xi Chapter presents an award annually to a high school teacher in the region who exemplifies excellence in either math or science teaching. This year’s recipient was chosen for his dedication to and resourcefulness in science teaching. McCall has taught chemistry, physical science and Biology II at Greenfield High School since 2014. McCall invests his time and talents in the development of his students. In an effort to broaden his students’ experiences, he coordinates summer research opportunities with the UT Martin Chemistry Department and Union University School of Pharmacy. His students have participated in UT Martin’s Scholarfest and Brain Awareness Day. Most recently, a group of McCall’s students was selected from high school students across the state to present their research at the Tennessee Junior Academy of Sciences at Belmont University in Nashville. On hand for the honor were (from left) Biology II students Matti Sellers, Brandon Cooper, Jordan Williams and Andrew Cole.

K-KIDS LEARN ABOUT WILDLIFE — More than a dozen K-Kids joined in the fun of learning about Tennessee Wildlife Superlatives at a meeting held recently at Martin Elementary School. Jordan Ramey (left) and Caleb Lamontagne of the University of Tennessee at Martin Wildlife Society visited with the students. They explained about what the Wildlife Society does in the way of improving the environment for local wildlife and presented a program about outstanding Tennessee animals. Among the superlatives of wildlife featured in their presentation were the following: largest, bull elk; prettiest, painted bunting; fastest, peregrine falcon; most ferocious, weasel; deadliest, mosquito. The students had plenty of questions as they learned more about wildlife and the environment. The motto of K-Kids is “We build,” and the stated vision is “To develop competent, capable caring leaders through the vehicle of service.” Anita Bell is the advisor for K-Kids, and she has been assisted throughout the year by Sara Sieber.
**WC residents receive awards at ceremony**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Areli Aguilar</td>
<td>Gallien Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Fieser</td>
<td>Norman Lillegard Outstanding Philosophy Student Award.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Mendez Garcia</td>
<td>Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Undergraduate Student Award.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Kite-Rowland</td>
<td>Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Graduate Student Award.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Sanders</td>
<td>Student Group of the American Association of Family and Consumer Science Award.</td>
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Five Weakley County residents recently received awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony April 8. Those recognized were:

- Areli Aguilar, of Martin, received the Gallien Award.
- Emma Fieser, of Martin, received the Norman Lillegard Outstanding Philosophy Student Award. She was also inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.
- Ashley Mendez Garcia, of Sharon, received the Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Undergraduate Student Award.
- Ashley Kite-Rowland, of Martin, received the Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Graduate Student Award.

For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, contact the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020.
Leading gubernatorial candidates to appear at Martin forum next week

As the race for a new governor for Tennessee heats up, most of the major candidates in the race will appear at a forum in Martin next week.

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host a gubernatorial forum from 5 to 7 p.m., May 10, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. Attendees must have a ticket to enter the auditorium. Tickets can be downloaded free of charge until May 7 by visiting eventbrite.com and searching for “WestStar.”

A welcome reception for attendees and candidates will begin at 4 p.m. in the Boling University Center Welcome Center. Both events are open to the public, and a link to a live webcast of the forum will be made available closer to the event date.

All attendees must enter through the main doors to the Boling University Center off the Mt. Pelia Road parking lot. Metal detectors will be used at the doors, and all bags are subject to search. No one will be permitted to enter Watkins Auditorium while a candidate is speaking.

Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, will serve as forum moderator. Each candidate will have 15 minutes to discuss questions posed by Kinnard, and speaking order will be randomly determined prior to the event.

Diane Black, a Tennessee congresswoman representing the 6th District; Randy Boyd, former commissioner of Tennessee Economic and Community Development; Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville; Craig Fitzhugh, minority leader of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Beth Harwell, speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; and Bill Lee, president and CEO of Lee Company in Nashville, have confirmed participation in the event.

At press time, Republican candidates Basil J. Marceaux St. and Kay White and Democratic candidate Mezianne Vale Payne had not confirmed they would attend. A total of 26 candidates are running as independents and none has committed to the event.

State primary elections will be held Aug. 2.

Candidates will be introduced by Brett Lashlee, chairman of the 2018 WestStar Leadership Development class, following official welcomes from Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. The forum is coordinated by the 2018 WestStar class as a group project.

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu.

CAMPUS FIRST — The Martin Business Association sponsored a ribbon-cutting on the UTM campus for the state’s first on-campus drug take-back box. Suzanne Harper, director, Weakley County Prevention Coalition, told the overflowing crowd that such a collective effort is an example of why the county is on the forefront of addressing issues like the opioid crisis. Chancellor Keith Carver commended students such as the SOARx (Students Organized Against Drugs) members in attendance for their work in building awareness. SOARx staffed the box for the day and distributed 32 lock boxes in the campus’ first-ever Drug Take Back Day. On Saturday’s national Drug Take Back Day, three community locations added to the effort and 61 pounds of prescription drugs were collected.
Scholars

NATHANIEL NEWLIN, of Ripley, received the W. A. Tarr Award, the Geology Student Leadership Award and the Geology Student Research Award during a ceremony April 24th for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences includes the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the Department of Military Science and Leadership.

ERIN YOUNG, daughter of David and Kim Young, of Henning, received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Scholarship Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university’s annual Honors Day ceremony April 8th. This award is reserved for a returning student majoring in chemistry and honors the legacy of longtime UT Martin faculty member Dr. Norman Campbell. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, call 731-881-7020.

The Camden Chronicle Thursday, May 3, 2018

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MARTIN

Reserve tickets for the UTM Gubernatorial Forum by May 7

UTM’s WestStar Leadership Program will host a gubernatorial forum from 5-7 p.m., May 10, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. Attendees must have a ticket to enter the auditorium. Tickets can be downloaded free of charge until May 7 by visiting eventbrite.com and searching for “WestStar.”

A welcome reception for attendees and candidates will begin at 4 p.m. in the Boling University Center Welcome Center. Both events are open to the public, and a link to a live webcast of the forum will be made available closer to the event date.

All attendees must enter through the main doors to the Boling University Center off the Mt. Pelia Road parking lot. Metal detectors will be used at the doors, and all bags are subject to search. No one will be permitted to enter Watkins Auditorium while a candidate is speaking.

Meg Kinnard, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press, will serve as forum moderator. Each candidate will have 15 minutes to discuss questions posed by Kinnard, and speaking order will be randomly determined prior to the event.

Confirmed participants include Diane Black, a Tennessee congresswoman representing the 6th District; Randy Boyd, former commissioner of Tennessee Economic and Community Development; Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville; Craig Fitzhugh, minority leader of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Beth Harwell, speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; and Bill Lee, president and CEO of Lee Company in Nashville.

Candidates will be introduced by Brett Lashlee, chairman of the 2018 WestStar Leadership Development class, following official welcomes from Dr. Keith Carver, UTM chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. The forum is coordinated by the 2018 WestStar class as a group project.

For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or vgrimes@utm.edu.
Lewis receives UT Martin award

By Special to The Daily Herald
 Posted May 5, 2018 at 12:01 AM
 Updated May 5, 2018 at 8:10 PM

Emily Lewis, of Columbia, was named an outstanding first semester college student in agriculture for the fall 2017 semester during a ceremony April 24 for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. (Courtesy photo)

UT-Martin Names Information Officer

Posted on May 6, 2018 by Charles Choate in Local News

The University of Tennessee-Martin has named a new chief information officer.

Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver announced that Amy Belew assumed the position effective May 1st.

Belew had filled the position in an interim capacity since November of 2016, and was one of four finalists to participate in open-forum campus discussions in March.

Dr. Carver said during her time as interim chief information officer, Ms. Belew helped guide Information Technology Services through a reorganization and helped the campus community navigate changes to both the email client and our learning management system.

Ms. Belew first joined the UT Martin community in 2000 as a systems analyst, then served as an IT administrator until 2012 before moving into a role as interim director of systems administration and infrastructure, academic computing, security, video network, applications development and operations.

She holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a Master of Business Administration degree from UT Martin.
Several Gibson County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony April 24.

• Remington Burch, of Trenton, received the Jerry Bussell ROTC Scholarship and a scholastic scholarship from the American Legion.

• Morgan Conder, of Humboldt, received the Outstanding Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassador Award and the Outstanding Phi Upsilon Omicron Member Award.

• Erin Kelley, of Milan, received the Outstanding Gerontology Student Award.

• Grady Potts, of Humboldt, received the Col. Tom Elam Alumni Scholarship Award and the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award.

• Kaitlyn Ritter, of Dyer, received the Outstanding Dietetics Student Award, the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the Dietetic Association Outstanding Member Award.

The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences includes the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the Department of Military Science and Leadership.

https://www.tennessean.com/

Robertson's Torgersen joins U.T. Martin honor society

Robertson County Times Published 2:16 p.m. CT May 8, 2018

Torger Torgersen, of Cross Plains, was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society on April 10 during the chapter’s annual induction ceremony and banquet.

Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 127 was founded at UT Martin in 1971 and honors students, faculty and staff who have reached high levels of academic success.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honors society for all academic disciplines.

(Photo: Raffe Lazarian / UT Martin)
Miss Dixie PAC Lauren Dixon holds story time with the young ladies attending the Princess Tea Party April 21 at the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon.

GAIL BAILEY
Special to Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Miss Dixie PAC Lauren Dixon played hostess at a Princess Tea Party April 21 at the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon. Each young lady attending was crowned by Miss Dixie PAC and received her own tiara.

The young participants dressed in tea party attire and enjoyed treats, music, tea party games and posing for pictures with Miss Dixie PAC.

All proceeds from the event went to support the Children's Miracle Network.

Dixon, of Parsons, is a senior nursing student at the University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center. She was named Miss Dixie PAC 2018 in August, and will compete in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June. The Miss Dixie PAC Pageant is held each year in memory of television star Dixie Carter who was once a runner-up in the Miss Tennessee Pageant.
Tennessee Gubernatorial Candidate Forum at UT Martin Thursday

By MATT MARKGRAF • MAY 9, 2018

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting a gubernatorial candidate forum Thursday evening. The WestStar Leadership program is sponsoring the event.

The participating candidates are:

- former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean
- Tennessee House minority leader Craig Fitzhugh
- former state Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd
- state House speaker Beth Harwell
- Lee Company President and CEO Bill Lee
- Sixth District Congresswoman Diane Black

Associated Press political and legal affairs reporter Meg Kinnard is moderating the forum. The event is from 5 to 7 in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium.

Tennessee's primary elections are on August 2.

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Governor forum focuses on issues important in west Tennessee

May 9, 2018 by AP

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) - A gubernatorial forum this week is focusing on issues important to west Tennessee.

The event is taking place Thursday at the University of Tennessee at Martin and will be moderated by West Tennessee native Meg Kinnard, a political and legal affairs reporter with The Associated Press. The forum is hosted and coordinated by the university’s WestStar Leadership Program.

U.S. Rep. Diane Black, former state Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd, former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, state House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh, state House Speaker Beth Harwell and Lee Company CEO Bill Lee have confirmed participation.

Tennessee’s primary elections are August 2.
Carver encourages graduates to be involved in community

By DONNA RYDER

Getting involved in community is important.
And that is just what University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver expects of the 18 Adult Leadership Obion County Class of 2017-18 graduates.

Carver was the guest speaker at the class graduation ceremony last week at Poplar Meadows Country Club near Union City.

As a graduate of the WestStar program, he is familiar with leadership programs which allow their students to "peek under the tent" at the county's businesses, industry and education.

"Great leadership programs do that and they help build communities," he said.

Carver shared that when he was 7, he had a traumatic life event. He said he did not know how to process it, so his mother took him to a counselor. The counselor encouraged him to write or draw something everyday. He said he has written something in his journal every day now for 40 years.

"Great life events are what you learn from, experiences and time together," he said.

Carver, who graduated high school in 1988, shared with the leadership class the top 10 things to remember in life.

1. When you don't know what to do, remember do no harm until you do. He said people need to pause and think about what to do, not making decisions in a hurry.

Addressing the graduates specifically, Carver said, "Now that the program has invested in you, you need to invest in the county. Be proud of your community and waive its flag."

Following Carver's address, Rachael McKinney, Amy Stone and Stacey Haynes made a presentation on the class project, which was to form a 501c3 for the Obion County Back Pack Program. This will allow residents to make donations to the non-profit organization and file it on their taxes.

Ms. McKinney said they partnered with Beulah Baptist Association and are hoping that churches will take on the responsibility of providing food and packing back packs for individual...
schools.

Mrs. Stone said right now the program is only for Obion County School System students, as officials with the Union City School System have noted they are currently providing for their students. She said Union City may join the program at any time if officials there decide to do so.

Ms. McKinney said she has decided to stay on with the program and will serve on the board.

"What better way to provide for the future than to help those who can’t help themselves," Ms. Haynes said.

Class members and their sponsors include: Sharon Allman by Polk Glover, Penny Chesteen by Obion County Public Library, Dr. Laura Clark by Sullivan Dentistry, Jacob Crowe by Leaders Credit Union, Jeanette Davis by Hamilton Ryker, Charity Deaton by Jackson Energy Authority, Jordan Elmore by Mahindra, Joyanne Gansereit by the University of Tennessee at Martin, Nicole Gray by Warner Law Firm, Audrey Gregg by Tim and Shirley Doss, Ms. Haynes by JD Distributors, Julie Huggins by Refuge Church, Ashley King by Kiwanis Club of Union City, Ms. McKinney by Commercial Bank and Trust, Blake Miller by Herman Jenkins Motors, Mrs. Stone by Polk Glover, Penny Webber by Hamilton Ryker and Karl Ullrich Sr. by Union City Board of Education.

Mrs. Chesteen, Ms. Haynes and Ms. King all had perfect attendance.

The 2017-18 board of directors included president Carolina Conner and members Michele Barnes, Michelle Bing, Charlene Burpo, Greg Dozier, Lindsay Frilling, Emily Hall, David Harris, Tyler Hayes, Mandy Hinson, Travis Johnson, Nicole Kincade, Amber Parker, Seth Rhenberg, Lauren Tanner and Holly Turner.
OC HONOREE — Kaleb Byars of Rives received a Dean’s Scholar Award for both economics and finance, as well as a Faculty Scholar Award, during the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs’ annual awards banquet recently. The College of Business and Global Affairs is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and houses the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science and the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems.

EARNED AWARD — Macy Thompson of Union City received the Madeline Hall Pritchett Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university’s annual Honors Day ceremony recently. Ms. Thompson is a senior studying human performance. This award is given by the Weakley-Obion County Alumnae Association of Chi Omega Fraternity to an active chapter member for extracurricular achievements, academic excellence and leadership qualities.

TROY HONOREE — Matthue Vanwormer of Troy received a Faculty Scholar Award recently during the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs’ annual awards banquet. The College of Business and Global Affairs is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and houses the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science and the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems.

At the college level

Slade Murray of South Fulton was named an outstanding first semester college student in agriculture for the fall 2017 semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He was one of several local students who received awards from the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences during a ceremony recently.
New CIO chosen at UTM

Amy Belew is the new chief information officer for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Her appointment became effective May 1 and was recently announced by Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

Ms. Belew has filled the position in an interim capacity since November 2016 and was one of four finalists to participate in open forum campus discussions in March.

"During her time as interim chief information officer, Amy helped guide Information Technology Services through a reorganization and helped the campus community navigate changes to both our email client and our learning management system. I have no doubt she will continue to help keep UT Martin technology current going forward," Carver said.

Ms. Belew first joined the UT Martin community in 2000 as a systems analyst. She then served as an IT administrator until 2012 before moving into a role as interim assistant chief information officer and interim director of systems administration and infrastructure, academic computing, security, video network, applications development and operations.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a master of business administration degree from UT Martin.

The university’s chief information officer directs a 40-person staff to support campus infrastructure, enterprise applications, instructional technology, and help desk and client support. The CIO also manages budgets for both the Information Technology Services and technology fee accounts and serves on the chancellor’s leadership team.

The search committee for this position included both faculty and staff members as well as student representation. Dr. Rich Helgeson, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, served as committee chairman.

New dean to begin July 1 at UT Martin

Dr. Shadow Robinson, chair of the department of physics at Millsaps College, has been chosen as the new dean of the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

The appointment is effective July 1.

Dr. Rich Helgeson, interim university provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced the appointment last week.

"It is an incredible time to be joining the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences," Robinson said. "The college faculty and staff are unsurpassed in their dedication to the success of their students and offer a wide range of educational experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Those experiences prepare UT Martin graduates to enter the world ready for successful careers and with the life skills necessary to be leaders in their communities and our shared world.

"I am humbled by this opportunity and cannot wait to get to work on behalf of the students and faculty of the college and the university."

In addition to his role as department chair, Robinson also serves as director of the Millsaps College Compass Curriculum, which is the general education experience for Millsaps students.

He is also director of both the college’s pre-engineering and dual-degree engineering programs and the James Observatory.

Robinson has been part of the Millsaps College faculty since 2008 and held faculty positions at the University of Southern Indiana, Eastern Kentucky University and Lexington Community College before that time.

He holds bachelor’s degrees in both physics and mathematics from the University of Kentucky in Lexington and a doctoral degree in theoretical nuclear physics from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

"Dr. Robinson is excited to serve with us here at UT Martin, and I am glad to have him as a member of our faculty. I believe he will be a strong leader for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences in the years to come," Helgeson said.

Dr. Jennifer Greenwood, professor of biology, has served as interim dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences since fall 2017. She will return to the classroom with the fall 2018 semester and retain her position as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.
Both schools take part in African American conference

Students from Halls High School and Ripley High School attended the 20th annual African American Leadership Conference at the STAR Center in Jackson, Tenn., on April 26. This conference is sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program. Students participated in an all-day session with business leaders from West Tennessee and heard sessions from keynote speaker, Stan Bell, V101 Radio Personality and educator with Memphis City Schools, Dr. Eric Jones, Superintendent from Jackson Madison County Schools, and Lt. Tyron Currie of the Memphis Police Department, who discussed crime in the African American community. Lauderdale County high school students were two of the four high schools represented at the conference. Participants included, from left, HHS Principal Suzanne Keefe, Charles Brown, Jaylan Tate, Quintaya Wilder, Anton Bennett, Destinee Humphrey, Lillie Brown, Shanya Steward, Ray Washington, RHS Principal Stephen Byrd.

Roots of Rhythm to tour West Tennessee in May

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Ensemble will take its Roots of Rhythm performance on the road May 10-12 to visit seven regional schools.

The ensemble will give private appearances May 10 at Pope Elementary School in Jackson and Selmer Elementary School in Selmer. A public performance at Southaven High School in Southaven, Mississippi, will begin at 6 p.m. that evening. The tour will also include private performances at White Station Middle School in Memphis and Houston Middle School in Germantown on May 11, with a public performance beginning at 5 p.m. at Memphis University School. The spring tour will end May 12 with private performances at Colonial Middle School in Memphis.

There is no charge to attend the public performances. Those with children attending schools on the tour schedule should contact the school directly regarding guest attendance.

Roots of Rhythm is a unique percussion performance combining music, history and geography to show the migration of musical patterns around the globe. The ensemble performs with a variety of instruments native to countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, Mali, Brazil and others.

For more information on the Roots of Rhythm performance or to book a future tour date for your school, visit utm.edu/roots.
Local residents among recent UTM graduates

Several Obion County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 5 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus in Martin, Tenn.

Among students receiving undergraduate degrees were, from South Fulton, Taylor Hope Allen, Brittany Denise Benjamin, Lauren A. Brooks, Joshua Keith Hollowell, Samantha St. John, James Ryan Moore, David Bartlett Netherland, Abigail R. O'Neal, Ryan Hennings Prince, Brianna Ariel Rinker, and Kimberly Dyan Schwartz.

Students from Fulton receiving undergraduate degrees were Sara Allison Caldwell and Courtney Elaine Pickard.

The student receiving a graduate degree, from South Fulton, was Lvnita Fowler Pierce.

UT-M GRADS

Several Lauderdale County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement May 5th in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Ashley N. Adkins, of Ripley, received a graduate degree.

Those receiving undergraduate degrees included, Trevor Reece Belton and Leah Beth Jacobs, both of Halls; Jacob C. Winters, of Henning; and Gabrielle Leigh Arwood, Regina R. Toomes-Bledsoe, Marygrace Burnett, Carling Michelle Champion, Kirstie Mae Childress, Breshandria T. Copeland, Victoria Elaine Dean, Caitlyn Danielle Gitchell, Courtney Johnson, Amy Elaine McLeomore, Nathaniel T. Newlin, Janet BriAnna Oates, Stacy Mishele Rogers, Cari Anne Scott, Brooklyn Layne Simpson, Sheila C. Whitehorn, and Tammi T. Winbush, all of Ripley.
Press writer receives Paul Meek Award at UTM commencement

Rachel Melton of Sharon received a Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin spring 2018 commencement exercises May 5. These awards showcase outstanding community and campus service by graduating students and are the only awards given during commencement each semester.

Melton earned a bachelor of fine arts degree with a concentration in graphic design. Her undergraduate artwork can be seen in areas such as the UT Martin Department of Music and Dresden High School. She led a team of 19 students to create artwork for the UT Martin children’s book “The Story of Baby Skyhawk” and collaborated with classmates to create artwork for both the 2016 and 2017 UT Martin homecoming festivities.

She also worked part-time for several years for the Weakley County Press.

MELTON, FROM PAGE 1

and completed a two-year research project focused on the visual history of Weakley County. Her community service activities include painting window panels for the city of Bradford, designing graphics for the Special Olympics of West Tennessee Polar Plunge event and designing the Weakley County seal.

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

This award was originally established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents.

THE JACKSON SUN

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

Roots of Rhythm to tour West Tennessee in May

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There is no charge to attend the public performances. Those with children attending schools on the tour schedule should contact the school directly regarding guest attendance.

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For more information on the Roots of Rhythm performance or to book a future tour date for your school, visit utm.edu/roots.
Miss Bright, Miss Culver named
UC Kiwanis Students of the Year

By MEGAN DAME
Staff Reporter

Sixteen students from Obion County Central and Union City high schools were honored at the annual Union City Kiwanis Club Student of the Year banquet at Obion County Central High School.

Fourteen students were awarded $500 scholarships to go toward their future pursuits of higher education. Two students, Anna Bright from OCCHS and Alexis Culver from UCHS, were lauded as the 2018 Kiwanis Students of the Year.

The room was full of outstanding students, all of whom had been honored as Kiwanis Students of the Month throughout the school year, and their families. Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was the keynote speaker and brought UTM “swag” with him that was given to students through a drawing. The items included UTM T-shirts, towels and more.

Kiwanian Joe Ward recognized every student by giving them a brief moment to introduce themselves and their parents. He also collected every student’s name tag for the UTM swag drawing.

Of the 14 scholarships given to students, seven were given in memory or honor of past or present Kiwanians who have served the club and county.

The scholarships given are funded by the Union City Kiwanis Club through various fundraisers held throughout the year, such as Pancakes in November, sponsor placemats at the Student of the Year banquet and Burgers in the Park, which will be held May 17 at Kiwanis Park in Union City.

Kiwanian Randy Thetford took a few moments to explain the criteria and methodology used to determine the Students of Year awards and scholarship recipients. He explained while grades are a large part, there is more which is factored into the scoring system. The three areas applicants are scored under are success, need and giving back.

Having good grades and high test scores is very important and weighs in with other awards won under the success category. Individual student need is also considered, as the Kiwanis Club works to help students to become successful citizens. Helping a student who can’t afford the ever-rising expenses of going to a facility of higher learning is one idea the club is founded on.

The final area, and one of equal if not more importance, is how the students give back to their community. The Kiwanis Club was established as a group of people giving back to their community where they, themselves have found success. The students the club looks to honor, recognize and serve are the ones who have the same values and ideas towards giving to the community. The selection committee looks at each student’s record of community service, church involvement and helping their neighbors. The kind of students who are likely to one day become Kiwanians themselves.

This year, the Kiwanis Club selected 14 local students who feel best demonstrate the Kiwanis Club values.

UCHS students receiving scholarships were McKenzie Lamb, in memory of Hap and Myrtle Barton; Kennedy Arnold, in memory of Bill Hairston; Brittney Contreras, in memory of Harold Jenkins; MollyBeth Blackwell, in honor of Kiwanis Club president Seth Rhenberg; Kaylee Caudill, Claire Wisener and Kenedy Sisson, Kiwanis scholarships.

OCCHS students who received scholarships were Mollie Johnson, in memory of Frances Bryant, in memory of Roberl Crockett, in memory of Robert Wood; and Kari O’Steen, Grace Crockett, Sara Jane Kendall and Arianna Hill, Kiwanis scholarships.

Who better to speak to a group of soon-to-be graduates of Obion County and Union City high schools than a college chancellor?

That is exactly who the Union City Kiwanis Club invited to speak at the 2018 Student of the Year banquet in University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

Carver shared that he is a West Tennessee native from Crockett County who spent many years living with his wife and children in the Knoxville and Memphis areas. He said they jumped at the chance to return home to West Tennessee last year when he was named chancellor at UTM.

Carver spoke to the group about simple principles of work ethic and values through which he has found success. They include working hard to help those around you. By working with people, you are not only helping them, but yourself, he said.

He encouraged the students to know what they are capable of, but at the same time, remain humble and recognize that others can do what it is they have been hired to do. The difference between being “replaceable” and “invaluable” is work ethic. By striving to be better than the normal, you increase your personal value, he said.

Carver emphasized the importance of remembering those who helped get you to where you are and value your time with them while you still have time with them. He told the students to be prepared for anything as much as they possibly can, but in a moment in which they are lost or don’t know what to do, consider the options before making a rash, unclear decision. It may hurt much more than it helps.
STUDENTS OF THE YEAR — Union City Kiwanis Club Students of the Year Alexis Culver (left) of Union City High School and Anna Bright of Obion County Central High School spent a few moments talking with guest speaker Dr. Keith Carver after the club's 2018 Student of the Year banquet Tuesday night at OCCHS. Dr. Carver, who serves as chancellor for the University of Tennessee at Martin, spoke to an audience comprised of students and their parents.

Governor forum set for tonight

MARTIN (AP) — A gubernatorial forum tonight is focusing on issues important to West Tennessee.

The event is taking place at the University of Tennessee at Martin and will be moderated by West Tennessee native Meg Kinnard, a political and legal affairs reporter with The Associated Press. The forum is hosted and coordinated by the university’s WestStar Leadership Program.

U.S. Rep. Diane Black, former state Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd, former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, state House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh, state House Speaker Beth Harwell and Lee Company CEO Bill Lee have confirmed participation.

Tennessee’s primary elections are Aug. 2.
Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

May 10, 2018

Several Wayne County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 5, 2018, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Daniel J. Couchoud and Cory Daniel Parker from Clifton; Jamison Berry Brewer and Kaylee Smith from Collinwood; and Brandon L. Ginsberg, Justin Adam Melson, and Haley B. Morris from Waynesboro.

Local residents graduate from Tennessee at Martin

tstratton  May 10, 2018 Updated 4 hrs ago

Several Chester County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 5 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Alyson Michelle Brown, Natalie N. Clayton, Clayton Dale Hilton, Brandon David Jones, Jerry Stanley Rowland, Jr. and Margaret Ann Weatherly.
Jones receives UT Martin Leadership Award

May 10, 2018

Brandon Jones, of Henderson, received a Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin spring 2018 commencement exercises May 5. These awards showcase outstanding community and campus service by graduating students and are the only awards given during commencement each semester.

“Brandon is an excellent leader in everything that he does,” wrote Rachel Stephens, assistant director for student life, in Jones’ nomination letter. “He has made a huge impact in his four years on our campus in every area from student organizations to fraternity and sorority life. ... His professionalism and work ethic are unparalleled.”

Jones received a bachelor’s degree in communications with a concentration in public relations. During his time at UT Martin, he served as a mentor for the Black Student Mentoring Project; a campus liaison for the National Pan-Hellenic Council; and a planning committee member for both the Black Graduate Recognition Ceremony and Black Student Welcome Week.

He was active in many campus organizations, including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the National Association of Black Journalists and served the community by helping with voter registration drives, Greekfest Service Night and a Thanksgiving food drive, among other activities. He is a recipient of the Northwest Tennessee Alpha Outstanding Service Award and the Harold Connor Scholarship.

Dr. Paul Meek served the UT Martin campus as executive officer, dean, UT vice president or chancellor from 1934 to 1967. This award was originally established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents.
HEADED TO UTM — The next step for Obion County Central High School cheerleader Alexis Barnett will be cheering on the Skyhawks at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The senior recently committed to the Skyhawks cheer team by signing scholarship papers. The day was celebrated by (from left) OC cheerleading coach Chastity Homra; her mother, Hope Williams; and UTM co-head cheerleading coaches Jessica and James Woody. Miss Barnett comes off a year that culminated in two second-place finishes at the National High School Cheerleading and World School competitions in the Junior Varsity Coed division in February in Orlando, Fla., as well as a National Championship in 2017.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018

THE JACKSON SUN

Roots of Rhythm to tour West Tennessee in May

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For more information on the Roots of Rhythm performance or to book a future tour date for your school, visit utm.edu/roots.
Mallory Spisak earns honors at UT Martin

May 11, 2018

Mallory Spisak graduated from UT Martin on May 5 with a major in English and minor in Religious Studies. In April Mallory received the Jenna S. Wright Short Story Award during the Honor's Award Ceremony. For the past three semesters, she has been a student assistant in the Writing Center. Mallory is the daughter of Amy Spisak and Mike Spisak and the granddaughter of Steve Spisak and Carol Holmstrom of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Larry and Mary Grisham of Sharon, TN.

Local student receives honors day award

May 11, 2018

Shelby Day, of Murfreesboro, received the Outstanding Agriculture Student Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university's annual Honors Day ceremony April 8. Day is a senior studying agricultural business. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.
WestStar Leadership Program’s class hosts gubernatorial forum

By American Unity - May 11, 2018

ERIN CHESNUT, UT MARTIN
Published 10:38 a.m. CT May 11, 2018

Forum moderator Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, interviews Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville and one of six gubernatorial candidates who participated in the event Thursday, May 10, 2018. (Photo: Submitted)

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018 hosted a gubernatorial forum Thursday on the university’s main campus. Six candidates for the Tennessee governor’s office participated in the interview-style event, and Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, served as forum moderator.
“West Tennessee will play a pivotal role in the gubernatorial race; it is highly probable that the election will be won or lost based on West Tennessee voters,” said WestStar class member Yvette Blue, associate superintendent and chief academic officer of Haywood County schools. “It is very important to learn the unique perspective of each candidate. Being able to make an informed decision is critical to the growth and prosperity of West Tennessee in the next decade.”

“The (WestStar) class felt lucky that we were going through WestStar during an election year, and we jumped on the chance to hold a forum,” added class member and Milan Mayor B.W. Beasley. “As leaders of West Tennessee, it is imperative that we make the issues of West Tennessee known. We have a unique voice, since we come from communities all across West Tennessee.”

Approximately 350 people attended the event and heard the candidates’ views on issues such as agriculture, the opioid epidemic, school safety, economic development, and the quality and accessibility of health care, technology and education in rural areas. A wider audience watched the forum live via online webcast or listened via local and regional radio.

“The WestStar motto is ‘shaping the future of West Tennessee.’ Since we cover the entire region, we felt it was important to have the candidates come to West Tennessee to a rural location and discuss how they plan to positively change our landscape as it pertains to economic development, education, etcetera,” WestStar Executive Director Charley Deal said. “The candidates enjoyed the format, and two candidates told campus police that this was the best event they had attended and that the crowd was the most respectful of those at other locations.”

In attendance were Diane Black, a U.S. Representative for Tennessee’s 6th District; Randy Boyd, former commissioner of Tennessee Economic and Community Development; Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville; Craig Fitzhugh, minority leader of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Beth Harwell, speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; and Bill Lee, president and CEO of Lee Company in Nashville. Black, Boyd, Harwell and Lee represent the Republican Party, while Dean and Fitzhugh are running on the democratic ticket.
The entire forum broadcast is archived and available online at: utm.edu/2018forum

For more information, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.

The WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018 hosted a gubernatorial forum Thursday, May 10, 2018, in Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling University Center. (Photo: Submitted)
Local student graduates at UT-Martin
Published 12:57 am Saturday, May 12, 2018

Special to The Daily News

A Washington Parish resident was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 5 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus in Martin, Tenn.
The student receiving an undergraduate degree was Brandi N. Pittman of Bogalusa.

UTM honors Lebanon's Shores
Submitted May 12, 2018 Updated May 12, 2018

Ashley Shores, of Lebanon, has been recognized by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications, earning the Chairman's Outstanding Senior Award for the broadcasting course sequence and a Communications Academic Excellence Award.
WestStar hosts gubernatorial forum

Erin Chesnut
UT Martin

Martin — The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2018 hosted a gubernatorial forum Thursday on the university's main campus. Six candidates for the Tennessee governor's office participated in the interview-style event, and Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, served as forum moderator.

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The entire forum broadcast is archived and available online at: utm.edu/2018forum

For more information, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.
Locals inducted into Order of Engineers

ERIN CHESNUT
UT MARTIN

MARTIN – Ben Davenport and William Dunnavant, both of Jackson, and Stephen Harris, of Beech Bluff, were inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 5 before the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring commencement. 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. Davenport graduated May 5, while Dunnavant will finish his degree in December.
Locals attend WestStar event in Nashville

White and Associates President Tommy Allmon and Chancery Court Judge Tony Childress recently attended the WestStar event in Nashville to visit with their elected officials. WestStar is an adult leadership organization formed through UT-Martin. The group is comprised of local individuals who are interested in making an impact in their community. Rep. Bill Sanderson encourages everyone to look into this organization. (Pictured left to right): Judge Tony Childress, Sanderson, Marjie Sanderson, and Tommy Allmon.

State Gazette photo/ submitted

Robertson earns UTM departmental award

Submitted May 14, 2018 Updated 3 hrs ago

Kevin Robertson, of Mt. Juliet, received the Outstanding Agricultural Business Student Award during a ceremony on April 24 for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences includes the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the Department of Military Science and Leadership.

https://www.wilsonpost.com/
Gean receives student employee award

5/15/2018

submitted photo

Award winners Trevor Belton and Mary Rachel Gean are congratulated by Maloan family representatives Jennifer, Colin, and Kate Stroh, and Sharon and Mike Maloan.

Raffe Lazarian

Mary Rachel Gean, of Monroe, was honored with a Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award from University of Tennessee at Martin during a recent presentation.

Gean is a junior majoring in family and consumer sciences with a concentration in food and nutrition. She works in UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach and is instrumental in tracking and resolving issues reported with distance-learning technology and equipment on the main campus and at each of UT Martin’s five outreach centers.
"In the Office of Educational Outreach, Mary Rachel is the one student worker that we depend on most with a variety of important tasks touching each area of our operation and helping a number of people. She is extremely hard working, dependable and trustworthy," wrote Eric Bell, director of the central office, in Gean's nomination letter. "Mary Rachel also serves as a strong example to students. Her level of both internal and external customer service has a daily positive impact on both our office and campus."

The Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award is named for the late Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who was a strong advocate of student employment. It recognizes exemplary work ethic and commitment to the university. The award is given each semester to a student nominated by his or her supervising office or department.

For more information contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT Martin

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 5, 2018, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Medina - Noah Scott Allen, Shelby Dannon McMinn, Marshall Wyatt Pearson, Tanner Rene' Petty, Emily Michelle Poole, Kathryn Learray Woods;
- Bradford - Madison Kendal Adams, Tanya Chopra, Daniel Alexander Cochran, Elisabeth Caitlynn Oleta Dowland, Grant Donald Hampton, Alexandra Marie Harris, Jeremy Beau Reynolds, Johnathan Sison;
- Dyre - Christopher D. Barkley, Ophelia Riley Dae, Addi-son Lynn Davidson, Autumn D. Greene, Cadyn Malynn Griffin, Kaitlyn Alaina Ritter, Kimberly Nichole Roberson;
- Gibson - Seré Catherine Jackson;
- Goat City - Shelby L. Carter;
- Humboldt - Haley Brooke Branum, Austin W. Mosier, Kristin Paige Taylor, Kayla Elizabeth Tinnon, Avery Michael Wesson
- Rutherford - John A. Floersh, Taylor Beth Fuqua, Charles Michael Morris, Shayna Reny Petty;

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Milan - Holly Crystal West;
- Trenton - Olivia Leigh Phifer, Lauren Tyree Moeller.

Haley Riggs
Samuel Reeves

GRADUATES TAKE PROFESSIONAL PLEDGES – Hugh Pinckley, of Trenton; Samuel Reeves and Haley Riggs, both of Milan, were recognized as new professionals in their chosen fields during individual ceremonies May 4-5 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Pinckley and Reeves were inducted into the Order of Engineers, and Riggs recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge to join the nursing profession. All three students graduated with bachelor’s degrees May 5 during UT Martin’s spring commencement ceremony.

UTM reading clinics open June 4-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice per week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill.

Call the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 to register and schedule a testing appointment.
Governor’s forum draws comments from candidates

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

Education was at the top of the list when candidates came to Martin on Thursday night to discuss their priorities if elected governor.

The gubernatorial forum, held at Watkins Auditorium on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was sponsored by the WestStar Leadership Program and moderated by Meg Kinnard, a Memphis native and UTM supporter who is an award-winning political journalist with the Associated Press.

Appearing at the event were Karl Dean, former Nashville mayor; Craig Fitzhugh, minority leader of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Randy Boyd, former Tennessee Economic and Community Development commissioner; Beth Harwell, speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Bill Lee, president and CEO of Lee Company in Nashville; and Diane Black, Tennessee congresswoman representing the 6th District.

“A critical area is keeping teachers,” Karl Dean said in his opening remarks. “You have to pay to attract the best and pay to retain them.

Democrat Craig Fitzhugh concurred, saying more post-secondary education needed to be stressed, and teachers should be paid more.

Republican Randy Boyd spoke of his support for the Drive to 55, a state campaign to have 55 percent of all citizens with some post-secondary education by the year 2025.

“Right now we don’t have the system down right,” Harwell admitted, as the state once again experienced problems with TNReady testing.

Bill Lee said better education was the key to drawing more industry to rural Tennessee. “We desperately need skilled workers,” he said. “It’s expensive but we see FORUM, PAGE 2

ON THE SPOT — Forum moderator Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, interviews Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville and one of six gubernatorial candidates who participated in the event. The event drew 350 attendees and many more joined through a webcast and local newscasts.
"The tariffs as proposed now aren't good for Tennessee," Boyd said.
"I'm gravely concerned [about tariffs]," Harwell said, "but I trust the President that he has a long-term plan." Bill Lee said he hoped the tariffs were "a leverage point" for Trump.
On the issue of healthcare, Democrats favored the expansion of Medicaid by accepting federal funds, while the GOP candidates stressed more efficient healthcare systems at the state level.
Kinnard managed to surprise all the candidates with a question designed to determine their insight into the West Tennessee economy. What is the break-point price per bushel for a soybean farmer to make a profit?
Only two attempted to answer. Bill Lee said $9.50, while Diane Black said $9.
While Kinnard did not provide an answer to the question during the forum, The Messenger contacted Chuck Daunchower, University of Tennessee Extension Service area farm management specialist, Friday morning. He said the break-point price varies based on variable and fixed costs, as well as land costs. He said accounting for a five-year average of 47 bushels per acre, the break-point price per bushel today would be $8.63.
"It was great for the citizens of this area to be able to meet the candidates for governor personally," said Deane Argabright, chair of the Weakley County Democratic Party. "I was happy to hear the strong support from Dean and Fitzhugh for such areas as public education and the expansion of Medicare and Medicaid. In addition, it was valuable to hear a common concern expressed by candidates of both parties regarding the adverse impact of tariffs on local farmers and businesses."
"I thought the forum was very well presented," said David Hawks, chair of the Weakley County Republican Party. "The questions were excellent; it was very informative. Our state will be in good hands after the election."
Hawks said he saw attendees from throughout the region, including nearby counties of Dyer, Henry, Gibson, Lake and Obion.
"West Tennessee will play a pivotal role in the gubernatorial race; it is highly probable that the election will be won or lost based on West Tennessee voters," said WestStar class member Yvette Blue, associate superintendent and chief academic officer of Haywood County schools. "It is very important to learn the unique perspective of each candidate. Being able to make an informed decision is critical to the growth and prosperity of West Tennessee in the next decade."
The (WestStar) class felt lucky that we were going through WestStar during an election year, and we jumped on the chance to hold a forum," added class member B.W. Beasley, mayor of the city of Milan. "As leaders of West Tennessee, it is imperative that we make the issues of West Tennessee known. We have a unique voice, since we come from communities all across West Tennessee."
Approximately 350 people attended the event and heard the candidates' views on issues such as agriculture, the opioid epidemic, school safety, economic development, and the quality and accessibility of healthcare, technology and education in rural areas. A wider audience watched the forum live via online webcast or listened via local and regional radio.

LEARNING ABOUT THE CANDIDATES — The WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2018 hosted a gubernatorial forum May 10 in Watkins Auditorium of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling University Center.
GRADUATES TAKE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE - (l-r) Shawna Cox and Brooke Baker, both of Martin; Lora Phillips, of Gleason; and Sloan Winters, also of Martin, participated in a pinning ceremony May 4 for the University of Tennessee at UT Martin’s Department of Nursing. Graduating nursing students took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which includes the promises to abstain from harmful substances, keep patient affairs confidential and remain devoted to excellent patient care. The students all received Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees during UT Martin commencement exercises May 5.

http://www.memphisdemocrat.com/

Shelby Westhoff Earns Degree from UT Martin

MARTIN, TN – A Scotland County resident was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 5, 2018, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus in Martin, Tennessee.

Shelby Ann Westhoff of Memphis graduated from the western Tennessee school, which offers 17 different undergraduate degrees programs and more than 100 academic areas of study.

Posted on May 15, 2018 at 5:50 pm
Rainey named new MJHS principal

Leigh Anne Rainey has been named the new principal of Mt. Juliet High School. Wilson County Schools made the announcement on Friday, May 11. She will take over after current principal Mel Brown retires at the end of June.

Rainey has been the principal at Mt. Juliet Middle School since January 2017. During her 22 years in education, she has taught science and been an administrator in multiple districts in Tennessee and Arkansas.

A graduate of Franklin High School, she received her undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry from University of Tennessee at Martin and her master's degree in instruction and curriculum leadership from the University of Memphis.

Though she is the current middle school principal, she said her comfort zone has always been high school. She was previously the executive principal at Jonesboro High School in Arkansas. Her time at MJMS, however, has given her a new perspective for the foundation of high school learning.

"It has really driven home the point to me that the middle schools and the high school have got to work together seamlessly in order for the child to have a true 6-12 education experience," she said. "If you don't have those two pieces working together very closely, there's a lot of gaps."

She said the middle and high schools must ensure a smooth transition for students moving forward in their learning. According to Rainey, she and Brown have already been working toward that goal, and she will continue doing so with the new MJMS principal.

Rainey said she is excited to return to a high school setting.
“It’s a fabulous school, and I’m excited about the opportunity to step in and see how far we can take it,” she said.

The facilities, students and faculty, she said, make it an experience she has never had as an administrator, and she is looking forward to it.

Because plans for the next school year have already been set in motion, she said she will spend much of her first year at MJHS listening and learning from students, parents and faculty.

“It’s their school, not mine,” she said. “I’m their steward.”

Wilson County Schools Director Dr. Donna Wright said that while it’s never easy to say goodbye to a beloved principal like Mel Brown, she’s pleased to have someone who has the experience and knowledge of our community to continue building on the strong foundation that’s already been laid at Mt. Juliet High School.

“Leigh Ann has developed such a strong rapport with our students and parents, even in the short time she’s been in our district,” said Wright. “I have no doubt that it will serve her well, as she transitions to the high school. We’re truly blessed to have someone who already lives in our community, with the skills and experience to help make this a seamless transition.”

HCHS senior DaeShuana Aldridge will receive a scholarship of $9,200 per year for up to four years at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she will major in vocal performance. She will participate in the UTM Vocal Studio and will study under the direction of Amy Yeung.

Aldridge said that she wants to pursue a career in vocal performance and music education. She has been involved with the HCHS vocal arts program for four years. She has also been an HCHS Madrigal for two years, where she has performed at numerous venues, festivals and programs.

She placed third chair at the All State competition and seventh-chair at the All Northwest competition. Aldridge was also selected as the “most talented” for the class of 2018.

She performed at the 2017-18 HCHS Black History Month program, where she received a standing ovation from her teachers and peers for her solo of “Wade in the Water.”
UTM's Dr. Clinton Smith earns award for service

Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin, is one of five higher education faculty or staff members statewide to win a 2018 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award, as chosen by a Tennessee Higher Education Commission taskforce. The award was officially presented during a recent reception in Nashville.

Smith has taught in the UT Martin Department of Educational Studies since 2012 and focuses on teaching future educators how to instruct children with various kinds of special needs.

He has also served as director of the Area 7 Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics — which includes Obion County — since 2014.

"Dr. Smith teaches by example, and his students benefit from his efforts both in the community and in his classroom. But it is not only his college students who profit, it is the students who participate in regional Special Olympics events and their teachers and family members who watch them succeed in their chosen competitions," UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver wrote in Smith's nomination letter.

The mission of Area 7 Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The experience gives participants continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

As director, Smith organizes events and activities for special needs students in his service area and raises funds to support Special Olympics. He has helped raise almost $65,000 for the organization through events such as the Polar Plunge, Over the Edge rappelling challenge and the Unity 5K race, as well as through grants and partnerships with other area organizations.

He was selected to be track and field coach of Team Tennessee for the Special Olympics USA national games in 2014 and received the Master Teacher of Honor award from the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education in 2016. He has also served on the board of directors of the Tennessee Education Association and as secretary of the National Education Association Caucus for Educators of Exceptional Children.

Smith is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin and was named Kiwanian of the Year in 2015.

The Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award is named for the late state representative Harold Love, who was instrumental in passing legislation to create community service recognition programs at the state level in 1991. Each year, five students and five faculty or staff members from the state's higher education institutions are chosen from nominations statewide.

Kameron Echols, then a UT Martin student, won one of the student awards in 2017 for his work with the Martin Housing Authority. Echols is now a staff member with the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

EFFORT LAUDED — Taylor Heathcock of Union City was named an outstanding first semester college student in agriculture for the fall 2017 semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She was recognized at a recent ceremony for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

TROY HONOREE — Bryleigh Jennings of Troy was recently named an outstanding first semester college student in agriculture for the fall 2017 semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The award from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences was presented during a recent ceremony.
Obion County students graduate from University of TN at Martin

Several Obion County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement recently.

Lynnita Fowler Pierce of South Fulton was among the students awarded graduate degrees.

Among the students who received undergraduate degrees were:

- Hornbeck — Elycia Laura Duke, Darcey Hayden Jones and Daniel H. Short;
- Kenton — Cameron B. Spencer and Darryl L. Walker Jr.;
- Obion — Kristin Seaton Hale, Grayson Taylor Jones and Ashton Elizabeth Priest;
- Rives — Brad Nicholas Lyell, Taylor Brooke Morrow, Shelly Neill Pate and Rebecca Marie Wisdom;
- South Fulton — Taylor Hope Allen, Brittany Denise Benjamin, Lauren A. Brooks, Joshua Keith Hollowell, Samantha St. John, James Ryan Moore, David Bartlett Netherland, Abigail R. O’Neal, Ryan Hennings Prince, Brianna Ariel Rinker and Kimberly Dyan Schwartz;
- Troy — Dana Lynn Barnett, Haley Marie Cook, Ricky Clay Dotson, Lauren Ashley Jones and Ashlyn M. Runions;

STUDENT SUCCESS
— Elizabeth Blackburn of Rives was named an outstanding freshman in family and consumer sciences during a recent ceremony for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Several local students were honored.

STUDENT STANDOUT
— Audrey Glover of Union City was named an outstanding freshman in family and consumer sciences during a recent ceremony recently for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. A number of local students earned honors.

UTM reading clinics open June 4-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice per week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill.

Call the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 to register and schedule a testing appointment.
Brig. Gen. Tommy Baker (UT Martin '01) spoke during the 2017 Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at UT Martin.

Annual Memorial Day Commemoration Set For May 25

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony will begin at 9 a.m., May 25, on the lawn outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building on University Street. U.S. Army Col. David Strauss will speak during the ceremony.

Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

Strauss has served in the infantry as a platoon leader, executive officer and company commander. He has also held several posts in special forces units, including company commander at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. He has been deployed to more than five countries and holds honors such as the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from UT Martin and a Master of Military Arts degree in theatre operations from the Command and General Staff College.

Memorial Day is held annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming 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.

For more information, contact Dorothy Gillon, UT Martin Coordinator of Public Occasions, at 731-881-7501.
Governor’s Forum Held At University of Tennessee at Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018 hosted a gubernatorial forum May 10 on the university’s main campus. Six candidates for the Tennessee governor’s office participated in the interview-style event, and Meg Kinnard Hardee, a political and legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press who bylines as Meg Kinnard, served as forum moderator.

"West Tennessee will play a pivotal role in the gubernatorial race; it is highly probable that the election will be won or lost based on West Tennessee voters," said WestStar class member Yvette Blue, associate superintendent and chief academic officer of Haywood County schools. "It is very important to learn the unique perspective of each candidate. Being able to make an informed decision is critical to the growth and prosperity of West Tennessee in the next decade."

"The (WestStar) class felt lucky that we were going through WestStar during an election year, and we jumped on the chance to hold a forum," added class member B.W. Beasley, mayor of the city of Milan. "As leaders of West Tennessee, it is imperative that we make the issues of West Tennessee known. We have a unique voice, since we come from communities all across West Tennessee."

Approximately 350 people attended the event and heard the candidates’ views on issues such as agriculture, the opioid epidemic, school safety, economic development, and the quality of life in West Tennessee.

"The forum was a great opportunity to discuss these issues with the candidates," said Hardee. "It was a informative and engaging experience for the students and the community."
FORUM
from page 1

and accessibility of healthcare, technology and education in rural areas. A wider audience watched the forum live via online webcast or listened via local and regional radio.

"The WestStar motto is 'shaping the future of West Tennessee.' Since we cover the entire region, we felt it was important to have the candidates come to West Tennessee to a rural location and discuss how they plan to positively change our landscape as it pertains to economic development, education, etc."

said Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. "The candidates enjoyed the format, and two candidates told campus police that this was the best event they had attended and that the crowd was the most respectful of those at other locations."

In attendance were Diane Black, a U.S. Representative for Tennessee’s 6th District; Randy Boyd, former commissioner of Tennessee Economic and Community Development; Karl Dean, former mayor of Nashville; Craig Fitzhugh, minority leader of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; Beth Harwell, speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives; and Bill Lee, president and CEO of Lee Company in Nashville. Black, Boyd, Harwell and Lee represent the Republican Party, while Dean and Fitzhugh are running on the democratic ticket.

The entire forum broadcast is archived and available online at utm.edu/2018forum.
Residents Inducted Into Order of Engineers

MARTIN, Tenn., May 11, 2018 — RESIDENTS INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF ENGINEERS — Nick Fortner, of Martin; Andy Grissom, of Gleason; Austin Gullett, of Greenfield; and Elina Guet, a Russian student living in Martin, were inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 5 before the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring commencement. 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.
LOCAL FAMILY CELEBRATES GRADUATION – Brooke Baker (center) of Martin and her family celebrated her graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 5. Baker received her bachelor of science in nursing degree during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. She is pictured before the ceremony with family members (from left) Jon Hankins, Joseph Sipes, Alison Hankins and Travis Hankins. More than 600 students participated in the May 5 ceremony to accept their degrees from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. For more information on UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

GRISOM BECOMES SECOND LIEUTENANT – Andy Grissom (left) of Gleason received his military commission May 4 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Grissom, a cadet in the UT Martin ROTC battalion, earned the rank of second lieutenant and has been assigned to the Tennessee Army National Guard’s 212th Engineer Company in Paris. He is pictured taking the commissioning oath given by Lt. Col. Lowell Howard (right), UT Martin professor of military science and leadership. Noah Luckett, a fellow cadet, is pictured in the background. Grissom received his bachelor’s degree in engineering May 5 during UT Martin’s spring commencement ceremony.
Local graduate lands position with Cigna headquarters

Dedication in the classroom has its rewards for college students as they prepare for careers, but making real-world connections before graduation can create important opportunities. Annabelle Cormia worked hard to earn a computer science degree, which she received May 5 during commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. However, reaching out to a university alum is what paved the way for the internship that earned Cormia a full-time position with Cigna Insurance. She will begin her new career in July at the company's headquarters in Connecticut.

"I'm very excited. I'm a little nervous about starting the next chapter of my life, but overall, I'm very, very excited," said Cormia, whose college experience began in fall 2014 following her graduation from Westview High School. However, her interest in computer science began in 2012 when she attended the five-week Governor's School for Emerging Technologies at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. This experience introduced her to computer programming, and she began to consider college majors that would lead to opportunities in the programming field. Her search led her to computer science and UT Martin.

"I liked that [computer science] was a developing field with a lot of opportunity and the fact that there are opportunities in every industry, whether it's health care or security," she said. "You can work anywhere you want to." The university's bachelor's degree program in computer science prepares graduates for various technical positions or graduate studies in computer science. The program achieved a significant milestone in fall 2017 by earning independent accreditation for the first time from the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET.

"Computer science exposes students to challenging academic work and is similar in many ways to electrical engineering. "I think the most challenging part for me has been the theory behind the practical applications," Cormia said. "It was kind of challenging because you have to know why you're doing everything before you do it. It took me a while to get the hang of it, but once I did I was really grateful for that skill."

In recent years, students in the program have been encouraged to venture outside of the classroom and participate in regional computer science competitions and internships. The university has served as a host site for two years for the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest, a competition in which Cormia has participated. She sees this experience as a way to learn valuable problem-solving skills. "You really learn how to break problems down into each of their parts and work through them to come to a final conclusion," she said.

A life-changing break came for Cormia when she sought a computer science internship during her junior year. Students are responsible for arranging internships, and the search can be intense. "I probably ended up applying to 30 or so internships, but I also started reaching out to alumni who I knew had graduated from the computer science program," she said. "And I kind of found out where they were working, if their company offered any internships, where I could apply, if they could offer me a reference or referral, and so this led me to contact Chauntrell Clay."

Clay is employed by Cigna Insurance in Nashville and completed the company's internship program during her time at UT Martin. She was Cormia's peer counselor in the university's Peer Enabling Program, which groups freshmen with similar academic interests under the guidance of a faculty mentor and a PEP leader. Clay graduated in 2015 with a computer science degree and, although Clay and Cormia eventually became friends, she had another reason to remember Cormia, who was one of only two females in the PEP group of approximately 25 computer science students. Clay encouraged Cormia to apply for the Cigna internship program, and she was accepted.

Cormia spent the summer of 2017 working at Cigna's headquarters in Bloomfield, Connecticut, near the state capital of Hartford. The company website describes Cigna as "a global health service company with 95 million customers around the world and more than 40,000 employees worldwide." Cormia was assigned to the company's security engineering team, which performs security reviews for internally developed computing applications. Her impressive work performance earned her a job offer and will take her back to Bloomfield this summer for a full-time position as a member of the cloud engineering team that maintains the company's cloud resources. "I'm really excited to be joining that team," she said. "I think I'm going to be exposed to a lot of new things and a lot of new technology... I'm really excited to get experience in that."

Things are happening quickly for Cormia, and she knows some adjustments lie ahead as she prepares to work full-time in a different part of the country. "I wasn't sure how I was going to feel in a corporate environment, but I really liked the security and the structure of it," she said of her internship experience. Cormia also isn't too concerned about moving from the South to the Northeast, although she knows that the culture and the food are a little different. "I've never been much of a food person anyway, but there is a severe lack of sweet tea," she said as she laughed.

Cormia can now look back on her academic experience and appreciate how it has prepared her for what lies ahead. "I think the computer science program at UTM has really done a great job of laying a foundation for me to build on," she said. Her keys to success are simple common sense: "I think that all it comes down to is that you have to work hard.
[and] stay focused. You have to ask for help when you need it even when you don't want to. You have to surround yourself with good people, and you have to be kind. But I think that holds true for any area you choose to study.”

Cormia's recent successes make sense for Dr. Joshua Guerin, associate professor and interim chair for the university's department of computer science. "I have had the opportunity to work with Annabelle from her very first semester in Freshman Studies to her final semester at UT Martin," he said. "I know Annabelle to be a hard worker who gets along well with both professors and student colleagues. ... I was not surprised at all when she told me that her supervisors [at Cigna] were so impressed with her work that they decided to offer her a full-time position in their cloud engineering team.”

Cormia's family will remain in Tennessee when she leaves for her new home in Connecticut, but they will make big changes as well. Cormia's family will leave Martin and return to the Knoxville area where they are originally from. Her mother, Susan, has worked at UT Martin for the past six years, but she has recently accepted a position in the Min H. Kao Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UT Knoxville. Her father, Ross, is currently a manufacturing engineer at Nortek in Dyersburg; and her brother, Riley, is a recent graduate of Westview High School and will attend UT Knoxville starting this fall. “They seem genuinely excited for me to have this opportunity to live and work somewhere new, and to have a new adventure.”

Cormia heeded her own advice when she sought help to secure the internship that led to her first job right out of college. And, although Connecticut's supply of sweet tea might be lacking, Annabelle Cormia has earned an even sweeter opportunity to begin her career with a company that allows her to pursue her passion in computer science.
Area students receive degrees from UTM

Several Benton County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held Saturday, May 5, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UTM campus. More than 600 students participated in the ceremony to accept their degrees from UTM Chancellor Keith Carver.

Camden students completing undergraduate degrees included Britney E. Baker, Devon T. White, Sarah A. Ward. Graduates from Holladay were Elijah S. Carpenter and Stephen J. Stinson.

On Friday, May 4, Carpenter participated in a pinning ceremony for the UTM Department of Nursing. Graduating nursing students took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which includes promises to abstain from harmful substances, keep patient affairs confidential, and remain devoted to excellent patient care. Carpenter received a BS in nursing degree during graduation.

BIG DAY - Sarah Ward (center) and her parents Lori and Mark Ward celebrated her graduation from UTM with a BS degree on May 5.
UTM reading clinics open June 4-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice per week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill.

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

http://www.rrstar.com/

Accolades

Posted May 18, 2018 at 7:17 PM
Updated May 18, 2018 at 7:17 PM

Graduations

Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio: Kaleb Gottfred of Rockford and Christopher Brauns of Stillman Valley.

University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria: Devon Jay Michael Pace of Byron.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Michael William Martin of Rockford.

University of Tennessee at Martin: Katelyn Elizabeth Cunningham of Rockford.

Two Memphis students get over $19 million in scholarship offers

Ron Maxey
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

A tradition of academic achievement at Whitehaven High School continues this year, with graduating seniors receiving millions of dollars’ worth of scholarship offers from hundreds of colleges and universities. Since Principal Vincent J. Hunter launched Academic Signing Day several years ago to highlight classroom achievement, the school’s seniors have raked in big bucks in scholarships from schools nationwide courting them. This year is no exception.

Over $8 million in scholarships, acceptance into at least 1 school in each state

More than half a dozen high achievers talked Tuesday about their success stories at the school, which the data website Niche has said ranks highly in SAT/ACT scores, state testing and enrollment in Advanced Placement classes, among other factors.

“I have to say I owe it all to the guidance counselors,” said Sarolyn Fox, 18, who will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“If it weren’t for them, I probably would never have applied to as many schools as I did.”

Fox received $8.9 million in scholarship offers from about 200 schools — at least one school in each state.

Over $10 million in scholarship offers

Then there’s Meaghen Jones, who leads the way with $10.7 million in offers from 213 schools.

“I'll just piggyback on what Sarolyn said,” Jones added. “The counselors made sure we were part of the school’s optional program, which boosted our GPAs and prepared us for the ACT and SAT.”

Headed to Tennessee State University in fall

Jones will attend Tennessee State University in Nashville, where she will be joined by another of Whitehaven’s top achievers, Jayla Woods. Woods got $8.9 million in offers from about 160 schools.

“I have always wanted to attend an HBCU (historically black colleges and universities),” said Woods, who wants to be a sports dietitian. “I want to do a double major in nutrition and athletic training, and TSU will let me do that.”

It’s no accident that TSU came looking for Jones and Woods.

The school has targeted high achievers like them as a way to improve the university’s retention and graduation rates.

A tradition of academic achievement at Whitehaven High School continues this year, with graduating seniors Meaghen Jones, left, and Jayla Woods being offered almost $20 million in scholarships collectively from nearly 400 schools. JIM WEBER / THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

‘Experience TSU’ initiative

TSU President Glenda Glover also announced sweeping changes in 2016 to raise admission standards aimed at attracting the best and brightest students. And TSU’s “Experience TSU” initiative sought out the top students from four specific markets — Memphis; Nashville; Birmingham, Alabama; and Atlanta.

At Whitehaven, Alexis Nesbitt, Kassi Wallace, Jada Palmer and Ramesha James join Fox, Woods and Jones as top achievers.

All the students spoke of the family atmosphere, with generations of friends and family attending there, as part of the conducive learning environment that allowed them to achieve.

“It’s really personal to us,” Hunter, the principal, told ABC News last year as the school’s academic success gained national attention.

An alumnus of the school himself, Hunter noted that 32 staff members graduated from Whitehaven.

Woods, an only child, said her parents were an important factor in her success as well as the family environment at school.

Woods’ parents, Vearnvon and Jacquelyn Woods, are college graduates.

“They are the biggest influence in my life,” Woods said. “They push me every step of the way to be successful in everything I undertake.

“So, I guess I am trying to follow in their footsteps to be the best person I can be.”
Internship Leads To Computer Science Career For UTM Grad

MAY 19, 2018 AT 3:41 PM POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Photo – Annabelle Cormia (center) is pictured May 5 before UT Martin commencement with her father, Ross, and her mother, Susan.

MARTIN, Tenn. – Dedication in the classroom has its rewards for college students as they prepare for careers, but making real-world connections before graduation can create important opportunities. Annabelle Cormia of Martin worked hard to earn a computer science degree, which she received May 5 during commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin. However, reaching out to a university alum is what paved the way for the internship that earned Cormia a full-time position with Cigna Insurance. She will begin her new career in July at the company’s headquarters in Connecticut.

“I’m very excited. I’m a little nervous about starting the next chapter of my life, but overall, I’m very, very excited,” said Cormia, whose college experience began in fall 2014 following her graduation from Westview High School in Martin. However, her interest in computer science began in 2012 when she attended the five-week Governor’s School for Emerging Technologies at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. This experience introduced her to computer programming, and she began to consider college majors that would lead to opportunities in the programming field. Her search led her to computer science and UT Martin.

“I liked that (computer science) was a developing field with a lot of opportunity and the fact that there are opportunities in every industry, whether it’s health care or security,” she said. “You can work anywhere you want to.” The university’s bachelor’s degree program in computer science prepares
graduates for various technical positions or graduate studies in computer science. The program achieved a significant milestone in fall 2017 by earning independent accreditation for the first time from the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET.

A life-changing break came for Cormia when she sought a computer science internship during her junior year. Students are responsible for arranging internships, and the search can be intense. "I probably ended up applying to 30 or so (internships), but I also started reaching out to alumni who I knew had graduated from the computer science program," she said. "And I kind of found out where they were working, if their company offered any internships, where I could apply, if they could offer me a reference or referral, and so this led me to contact Chauntrell Clay."

Clay is employed by Cigna Insurance in Nashville and completed the company's internship program during her time at UT Martin. She was Cormia's peer counselor in the university's Peer Enabling Program, which groups freshmen with similar academic interests under the guidance of a faculty mentor and a PEP leader. Clay graduated in 2015 with a computer science degree and, although Clay and Cormia eventually became friends, she had another reason to remember Cormia, who was one of only two females in the PEP group of approximately 25 computer science students. Clay encouraged Cormia to apply for the Cigna internship program, and she was accepted. Cormia spent the summer of 2017 working at Cigna's headquarters in Bloomfield, Connecticut, near the state capital of Hartford.

Cormia's family will remain in Tennessee when she leaves for her new home in Connecticut, but they will make big changes as well. Cormia's family will leave Martin and return to the Knoxville area where they are originally from. Her mother, Susan, has worked at UT Martin for the past six years, but she has recently accepted a position in the Min H. Kao Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UT Knoxville. Her father, Ross, is currently a manufacturing engineer at Nortek in Dyersburg; and her brother, Riley, is a recent graduate of Westview High School and will attend UT Knoxville starting this fall. "They seem genuinely excited for me to have this opportunity to live and work somewhere new, and to have a new adventure."

UTH reading clinics open June 4-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice per week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill.

Call the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 to register and schedule a testing appointment.
Bolivar mayor named emerging leader

Erin Chesnut
UT Martin

Julian McTizic, mayor of the city of Bolivar, received the African American Conference Emerging Leader Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program during its annual African American Leadership Conference held April 26.

McTizic currently serves on the boards of directors for Southwest Tennessee, Bolivar General Hospital Healthcare and the Young Elected Officials Network. He is also a member of the Bolivar Rotary Club and the Leadership Hardeman County class of 2018.

In addition to the Emerging Leader Award, McTizic has also earned such honors as the Multi-Millionaire Salesman Award and the Woodmen of the World’s Sure Start Award.

The African American Conference Emerging Leader Award is given annually to an individual under 40 years of age who has made a positive impact in his or her city or county during the past year. Potential candidates are nominated by current conference committee members and must have strong records of leadership in West Tennessee during the past five years.

Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic (right) accepts the African American Conference Emerging Leader Award from Evelyn Robertson Jr., WestStar class of 1997.

SUBMITTED
Haywood principal receives outstanding leadership award

Erin Chestnut
UT Martin

Latonya Jackson, principal at Haywood High School, received the African American Conference Outstanding Leadership Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program during its annual African American Leadership Conference held April 26.

Jackson has taught seventh-grade English and science in Tipton County, served as school counselor for Brighton Middle School, and held the posts of assistant principal and principal at Ripley Middle School. She became principal at Haywood High School in the spring of 2018.

She holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Memphis, a master's degree with a focus in school counseling from the University of West Alabama and a master's degree in educational leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University.

The African American Conference Outstanding Leadership Award is given annually to an individual who has made a positive impact in his or her city or county during the past year. Potential candidates are nominated by current conference committee members and must have strong records of leadership in West Tennessee during the past five years.

For more information, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298.
UTM's Memorial Day commemoration set

Erin Chesnut
UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony will begin at 9 a.m., May 25, on the lawn outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building on University Street. U.S. Army Col. David Strauss will speak during the ceremony.

Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

Strauss has served in the infantry as a platoon leader, executive officer and company commander. He has also held several posts in special forces units, including company commander at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. He has been deployed to more than five countries and holds honors such as the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from UT Martin and a Master of Military Arts degree in theatre operations from the Command and General Staff College.

Memorial Day is held annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming 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.

For more information, contact Dorothy Gillon, UT Martin coordinator of public occasions, at 731-881-7501.
WOODS GRADUATES FROM UTM — Kathryn Woods, of Medina, celebrated her graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 5. Woods received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. More than 600 students participated in the May 5 ceremony to accept their degrees from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

LOCAL FAMILY CELEBRATES GRADUATION — Haley Riggs (center), of Milan, and her family celebrated her graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 5. Riggs received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. She is pictured before the ceremony with her parents, Darren and Kim Riggs. More than 600 students participated in the May 5 ceremony to accept their degrees from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. For more information on UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

UT Martin... (Continued from Page 1) including company commander at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. He has been deployed to more than five countries and holds honors such as the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

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The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Tuesday, May 22, 2018

UT Martin schedules Memorial Day ceremony

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Memorial Day commemoration ceremony is set for Friday morning.

The program will begin at 9 a.m. on the lawn outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building on University Street.

U.S. Army Col. David Strauss will speak during the ceremony.

Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

Strauss has served in the infantry as a platoon leader, executive officer and company commander. He has also held several posts in special forces units.

(See Page 5, Col. 3)
UT Martin’s Kid College Returns June 11-15

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin is now registering children for the 2018 Kid College program on the main campus in Martin. Kid College is 9 a.m.-3 p.m., June 11-15, for children entering kindergarten through fifth grade. Parents can register each child for up to five classes, and individual time schedules will vary based on the courses selected.

The registration fee is $30 per class and is due at the time of registration. Pre-registration is required, and the fee includes a T-shirt. Some courses have individual supply fees which must be paid directly to the course instructor on the first day of class. Children who will attend Kid College all day must bring lunch from home.

Class choices for children entering kindergarten through second grade include cheerleading, chemical reactions, karate, bowling, music, disc golf, backyard farming and junior space camp. Selections for students in third through fifth grades include Physics, advanced karate, paint lab, adventures in engineering, creative computers, basketball and disc golf. A complete list of courses is available on the Kid College website.

Parents will be sent an email June 6 containing each child’s class schedule, supply fees and other important information. Please contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 if you do not receive this email.

Visit utm.edu/kidcollege to register online, see a complete list of course options and find extended information for parents. For assistance or more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104.

Carroll Countians Inducted Into Order of Engineers

MARTIN (May 11) — Madeline Stokes, of Huntingdon, and Garrett Wright, of Trezevant, were inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 5 before the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring commencement. 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. Stokes and Wright both received Bachelor of Science in Engineering degrees.
Keenan Graduates from UT Martin

MARTIN (May 5) — Michael Keenan (center left) of McKenzie and his family celebrated his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 5. Keenan received his Bachelor of Music degree during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. He is pictured before the ceremony with family members (L to R) Josh, Charro, Thomas, Sierra and Joseph Keenan. More than 600 students participated in the May 5 ceremony to accept their degrees from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. For more information on UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

 Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 5 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Milan - Holly Crystal West; Trenton - Olivia Leigh Phifer, Lauren Tyree Moller.
RECEIVES SCHOLARS' MEDALLION – Ashlyn Parry (left), of Trenton, completed the rigorous University Scholars program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She received a medallion marking her accomplishment during a reception May 5 prior to the university’s spring commencement ceremony. Parry, a health and human performance major with emphasis in exercise science and wellness, conducted two years of undergraduate research with Dr. Ajit Korgaokar, assistant professor of health and human performance.

ACT prep course at UTM Jackson Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host a one-day ACT preparation course for high school students from 4:30-8:30 p.m., June 5. Registration is $45 per student.

Alex Beene, course instructor, serves as lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and has extensive experience working with high school juniors and seniors to prepare for national exams such as the ACT and the SAT. Students taking his courses in the past have increased their individual scores by an average of 3.4 points.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is now located at 2046 N. Parkway in Jackson in Jackson State Community College’s McWherter Building.

An ACT preparation course is also available June 7 at the UT Martin Somerville Center.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/general and select your course location. Assistance is also available over the phone by contacting the UT Martin Department of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

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Parents will be sent an email June 6 containing each child’s class schedule, supply fees and other important information. Please contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7014 if you do not receive this email.
FAMILY CELEBRATES — John-Alex Warner (center) of Union City and his family celebrated his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. Warner received his bachelor of music degree during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Before the ceremony, he visited with family members, including (from left) grandmother Rita Winter; sister Ariana Warner; parents Mellany and Jack Warner; and grandparents Lelia and John Warner Jr. More than 600 students participated in the ceremony to accept their degrees from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

Summer reading clinics set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice per week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill, according to a spokesman.

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

UT Martin Sets Orientation Event

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event June 1st from 8:30 a.m. through 1 p.m. The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 9 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9 a.m., followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options.

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

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend.

An additional Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20th. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

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

TREVOR BELTON, center, of Halls, and his family, from left, Grace, Dustin, Stephen, Megan and Virgie Belton, celebrated his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin May 5th. Belton received his bachelor of arts in music degree during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. More than 600 students participated in the ceremony to accept their degrees from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. For more information on UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Inducted

JACOB WINTERS, of Henning, was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony May 5th before the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring commencement. 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.

Teacher Recognized

KELSEY LUMPKIN, right, of Ripley, was honored May 2nd with the Carl Seale Student Teacher Award for the spring 2018 semester from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies. This award is given in memory of Dr. Carl Seale, who served the university from 1971 to 1992. Award winners are chosen for exhibiting exceptional classroom instruction, excellence in classroom management, professionalism and potential for leadership in the teaching profession. Lumpkin studied agricultural education and completed her student teaching rotation at Dyer County High School. She is pictured with Dr. Will Totten, chair, UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources.
TREVOR BELTON, of Halls, was honored with a Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin during a recent presentation. Belton received a bachelor of arts in music degree May 5th during UT Martin’s spring commencement exercises. He worked with the UT Martin Office of Housing as assistant hall director before graduation and was responsible for maintaining hall security, supervising a staff of resident assistants and student desk workers, and assisting campus residents with housing concerns.

The Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award is named for the late Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who was a strong advocate of student employment. It recognizes exemplary work ethic and commitment to the university. The award is given each semester to a student nominated by his or her supervising office or department.

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., June 1.

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Alex Beene, course instructor, serves as lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and has extensive experience working with high school juniors and seniors to prepare for national exams such as the ACT and the SAT. Students taking his courses in the past have increased their individual scores by an average of 3.4 points.

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For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/general and select your course location. Assistance is also available over the phone by contacting the UT Martin Department of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
Wilson County game warden Tanner Romsdale, left, checks an Old Hickory Lake mallard during waterfowl season.

No dull moments for Wilson warden

LARRY WOODY / THE LEADENOM DEMOCRAT
larrywoody@gmail.com

After graduating from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's training academy four years ago, Tanner Romsdale was assigned to Wilson County and charged with enforcing hunting, fishing and boating regulations in the 550 square-mile area.

As he approaches his four-year anniversary, he says there have been no dull moments.

"It definitely keeps me busy," says the personable Romsdale, a native of Lawrenceburg and graduate of UT-Martin. "I run into something new and different almost every day."

One morning Romsdale received a frantic call from a Lebanon woman reporting a snake in her garage and pleading for help.

"From the way she sounded I was expecting some sort of big, dangerous snake," Romsdale says, "but when I got there I found a harmless little 10-inch garter snake that had got stuck in a glue trap set for insects. I got it loose, carried it back into the woods and released it. I assured the lady she had nothing to worry about."

Romsdale encountered a more serious incident when he caught two young men shooting a deer from a roadway.

"I found the shell casings, and when I lined them up with where the dead deer lay, the shots from the high-powered rifle were right toward a house about 150 yards away," he says. "I told them they were fortunate they didn't kill someone."

The two were issued a citation, one of many Romsdale writes for such serious violations as road hunting. He also is called to investigate reports of trespassing and hunting without permission. (To contact Romsdale call the TWRA regional office, 615-781-6622 and the information will be relayed to him.)

In addition to patrolling the land, Romsdale is also assigned to Old Hickory Lake, the Wilson County section of the Cumberland River and other area waters. He says most water-related violations involve lack of mandatory safety equipment on boats, and improper boat registration.

"Sometimes the registration is expired and sometimes it's in the wrong name," he says. "For example, a lot of people don't know what that when a boat changes hands the registration has to be changed too."
Romsdale advises every boat owner to periodically review the current Tennessee Boating Guide, available for free at most outdoors outlets.

As for fishing violations, the majority involve not having a license.

“There’s a wide range of excuses,” Romsdale says. “They didn’t know they needed a license, they left it at home, they forgot to renew their old one … I explain that it’s their responsibly to know the regulations and abide by them.”

The same goes for creel limits and size limits.

“I don’t run into many creel limit violations,” Romsdale says, “but sometimes I’ll check someone who has some under-sized crappie, bass or hybrids. Sometimes they don’t know the regulations about size limits, and sometimes they know and still keep under-sized fish.”

When Romsdale was assigned to Wilson County he and wife Katelyn were newlyweds. Earlier this year son John arrived. With his being on call 7-24, finding time to spend with his family can be a challenge for Romsdale.

“My wife is understanding,” he says. “She knew this is what I wanted to do all my life, and she’s very supportive.”

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**THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS**

**THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018**

**COMPLETES PROGRAM —** Hallie Butler (left), of Martin, completed the rigorous University Scholars program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She received a medallion marking her accomplishment during a reception held on May 5, prior to the university’s spring commencement ceremony. Butler, a psychology major, conducted two years of undergraduate research with Dr. Angie MacKewn, professor of psychology.

**MELTON RECOGNIZED —** Rachel Melton (left), of Sharon, completed the rigorous University Scholars program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She received a medallion marking her accomplishment during a reception held May 5, prior to the university’s spring commencement ceremony. Melton, a fine and performing arts major with emphasis in graphic design, conducted two years of undergraduate research with Sarah Haig, assistant professor of art.
Judge Brandon O. Gibson offers practical wisdom to graduating class

Chad Danter started college in 2012 at the University of Tennessee at Martin, knowing that a college degree was necessary to move ahead in his career. He realized his dream May 5 as he joined more than 600 graduates who received degrees during spring commencement in the university’s Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Judge Brandon O. Gibson, one of 12 Tennessee Court of Appeals judges, was commencement speaker.

Danter, of Dyersburg, knows about hard work. He was raised on a New Jersey dairy farm and joined the U.S. Navy following graduation from high school in 1987. He served as an electronics technician at the now-closed Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico until 1992 and then at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Memphis in Millington until he left the military for civilian life in 1995.

He began a career in food manufacturing that same year with Tootsie Roll Industries at the Charms Company in Covington. Six years later, he joined The Hershey Company in Memphis where he was promoted to maintenance supervisor in 2009 before becoming a line leader in gum packaging in 2017. The Memphis plant produces Ice Cubes gum, as well as Ice Breakers and Breath Savers mints in a competitive world market, so workdays are full as the company grows.

The decision to pursue a college degree offered obvious benefits for Danter, but the path to a degree wasn’t easy because of his daunting schedule. Danter commutes a total of four hours daily from his Dyersburg home to the Hershey facility in Memphis, and 60-plus hour workweeks are the norm. Fortunately, his advanced military training earned him 47 hours of credit toward the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree, but all other college credit was earned through the UT Martin Ripley Center and UT Martin Online.

His reward for years of study and effort was graduating Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 grade point average.

“I have a restless discontent for the status quo,” Danter said. “So I don’t know how to not do my best at the things that I attempt to do.” Those closest to him fully understand his drive for success. “Well, like I’ve told him a million times, he’s the smartest man I’ve ever met … so anything he
puts his head to, he does,” said his wife, Karen, who is a middle school math teacher. “He’s the hardest-working man I’ve ever known,” added his son Benjamin, a photographer for News 2, WKRN-TV in Nashville.

With his new degree in hand, Danter expects career doors to open, and he is grateful to now have extra time for his family and to pursue his passion for golf and flying (he is a pilot). Even though he and his family have sacrificed to reach this moment, he has no regrets about the experience.

“Everything was well worth doing,” he said. “I enjoyed almost every class I did. Every one of them had their challenges. There were some challenging professors who wanted more out of me and pushed me to a higher level.”

University Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed the capacity Elam Center audience that included graduating students from 56 Tennessee counties, 27 states outside of Tennessee and the countries of Australia, China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Following a performance by members of the university’s Department of Music, Carver introduced Gibson, who was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals by Gov. Bill Haslam in December 2013 and sworn in Sept. 1, 2014. She was later retained in a statewide retention election in August 2016 and is currently the only female judge sitting on the court. Gibson holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Mississippi State University and a law degree from Southern Methodist University. Her parents attended UT Martin and met when they were students at the university.

Gibson, who is originally from Dyer County, offered graduates and the audience practical wisdom through a countdown of “the top-10 things I wished someone had emphasized to me when I graduated from college.” She urged graduates to take time to have fun in the midst of busy careers, to remember that “a college degree is not a golden ticket,” and to prepare for failure sometime during their careers.

“Even if you’re graduating at the top of your class, you will fail at some point,” she said. “But failure is necessary for growth — without it, you’d never mature or progress. What matters the most is how you recover from that failure. Learn from it and keep going.”

She urged graduates to never stop learning as a photo of her 74-year-old father taking his first flying lesson was shown on the arena’s digital screen. “Now, consider he’s also still trying to learn how to work his iPhone,” she said as the audience laughed. Gibson also noted the importance of connecting with people in a world of technology.

“Social media is no replacement for true connection. I’ve got a number of my connections that are here in the audience today,” she said. “They’ve completely helped me get where I am. It’s really hard to succeed flying solo — it takes a team. … Make it a mission to truly connect with others from all areas of your life and not just on social media.”

Gibson emphasized the importance of being kind and helping others, making work-life balance a long-term goal and that the best years are ahead for those graduating.

“I know a lot of people say that college are the best four or five years of your life, but I promise you that your best days are ahead of you,” she said. “Your futures are bright, and you will do amazing things.”

She reminded graduates that the degrees they were receiving prepared them to go anywhere to pursue their dreams, and the time to venture out into the world is now rather than later. Gibson closed by urging the graduates to change the world and not be “limited to doing whatever it is your college degree says you ought to be doing.”

“Gracious, I’ve got two degrees in agri-business, and I am not selling farm chemicals these days,” she said. “If you want to go in a different direction, ‘go.’ Jump at opportunities to change your city, your state, your nation and your world. If you see something that needs to be changed, do it. You are your generation’s best hope.

Chad Danter (r) receives congratulations for completing his degree from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver on May 5 during spring commencement in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
Fine arts grads create scholarship

Future students planning to study the visual arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have another potential source of scholarship funding available thanks to the 2017-18 student officers of the League of Striving Artists.

Rachel Melton, LSA president, and six other league officers established the League of Striving Artists Achievement Scholarship to help future visual arts students fund their education and artistic passion while at UT Martin. The annual award is the first student-organization-funded scholarship for visual arts students and will be open to those studying graphic design, art education and studio art beginning with the spring 2019 semester. The criteria will consider service to the chapter and the community as well as academic achievement and scholarship.

"The League of Striving Artists works to develop students through academics, service learning and leadership. This scholarship allows us to further that vision by supporting students who model academics and involvement, both on campus and locally," said Melton. "This is the first mid-level scholarship for a student in the visual arts at UT Martin. I’m very enthusiastic about the impact I know it will have in helping our majors progress toward their goals and in serving as a recognition of involvement and leadership within the organization and on campus."

Melton says the scholarship fund has been a long-term goal within the organization and is the result of fundraising over several years. While the scholarship requirements and initial funds were established by the leadership team, more than 50 members of LSA worked together to contribute.

"(This scholarship) is a great way for the work of past and current members to pay it forward to future students who are involved with the organization and in promoting the arts at UT Martin," said Melton.

The 2017-18 LSA leadership team consisted of Melton, president; Caitlynn Dowland, vice president; Kaitlyn Frandsen, secretary; Olivia Gibson, treasurer; Tanya Chopra, historian; Benjamin Reiter, public relations; and Chelsey Gordon, service coordinator. Melton, Dowland and Chopra all received their bachelor’s degrees May 5 during UT Martin’s spring commencement ceremony. Jason Stout, associate professor of art, serves as the LSA faculty adviser and worked closely with the group to establish the new scholarship fund.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this scholarship can do so at utmforever.com by clicking “Contribute to UT Martin,” choosing “other funds not listed” and specifying “League of Striving Artists” in the description field.

For assistance donating, contact the UT Martin Office of Advancement at 731-881-7623 or email Mary Baker, senior development assistant, at HYPERLINK "email: mfbaker@utm.edu"mfbaker@utm.edu.
UTM, From Page 1

Strauss has served in the infantry as a platoon leader, executive officer and company commander. He has also held several posts in Special Forces units, including company commander at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. He has been deployed to more than five countries and holds honors such as the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from UT Martin and a master of military arts degree in theatre operations from the Command and General Staff College.

Memorial Day is held annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming 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.

For more information, contact Dorothy Gillon, UT Martin coordinator of public occasions, at 731-881-7501.
Martin, Tenn. – U.S. Army Col. David Strauss, a 1993 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, spoke May 25 during the university’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building.

Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

In honor of Memorial Day, Strauss shared the story of a friend and former comrade-in-arms, Capt. Timothy Ian McGovern, of Idaville, Indiana.

"I first met Tim in 2006 when I was a brand-new major assigned to the fourth heavy-brigade combat team, first cavalry division, at Ft. Bliss, Texas," he said. "He was a good soldier in garrison. He was a good soldier, but he wasn't a great soldier. ... But then we deployed (to Mosul, Iraq). And when we deployed, there was a whole new Tim that emerged."
Martin, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin main campus and all educational outreach centers will become smoke-free July 1. The announcement came May 23 in a campus-wide email from Petra McPhearson, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

The policy states that “the University of Tennessee at Martin promotes a healthy (and) safe work, educational and living environment. Furthermore, our campus community acknowledges that long-term health hazards may accrue to people who are subjected to second-hand smoke. A smoke-free UT Martin campus encourages a green and clean environment, prepares our faculty, staff, and students for other smoke-free environments in their future, and can be a source of UT and UT Martin pride in supporting a major wellness initiative.”

This new policy applies to all faculty, staff and students, as well as campus visitors and contractors, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The policy includes e-cigarettes and applies to all areas owned or operated by the university. This comprises university buildings, including adjacent sidewalks and building entrances; outdoor property and grounds, including parking lots and recreational areas; indoor and outdoor athletic facilities and venues; and all motor vehicles owned or rented by the university. Smoking is also prohibited inside personal vehicles parked on university property.

There will be no designated smoking areas on university property. Those found to be in violation of this policy will be reported to UT Martin supervisors, the Office of Student Affairs or the Department of Public Safety, as appropriate.

To read the policy in full or access smoking-cessation resources, visit utm.edu/departments/ehs.
Transfer, adult orientation at UTM

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., June 1.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 8:30-9 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9, followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30-10:45. Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options.

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

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend. An additional Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

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

UTM reading clinics open June 4-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice per week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill.

ACT prep course at UTM Jackson Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host a one-day ACT preparation course for high school students from 4:30-8:30 p.m., June 5. Registration is $45 per student.

Alex Beene, course instructor, serves as lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and has extensive experience working with high school juniors and seniors to prepare for national exams such as the ACT and the SAT. Students taking his courses in the past have increased their individual scores by an average of 3.4 points.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is now located at 2046 N. Parkway in Jackson in Jackson State Community College’s McWherter Building.

An ACT preparation course is also available June 7 at the UT Martin Somerville Center.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/general and select your course location. Assistance is also available over the phone by contacting the UT Martin Department of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
Strauss explained how McGovern served as brigade engineer officer at a time when improvised explosive devices were in heavy use in and around Mosul. In this position, he was responsible for coordinating the protection of areas which blasts from car bombs and other IEDs had rendered vulnerable.

"That’s when I really found Tim in his natural light," said Strauss. "You see, Tim was responsible for coordinating all that, but he didn’t actually have to go out on the ground. He could do everything that he needed to do from the safety of the forward operating base, or FOB. But instead, he would ride on the vehicles. ... He would make sure that the support was on the ground, and he would make sure it was right. And because he routinely went out to the blast areas, he quickly knew exactly what was needed when a blast occurred."

Strauss said McGovern was promoted to serve as commander of the only engineer company in the brigade, a position with dangerous responsibilities.

As commander, McGovern was responsible for coordinating these teams from the safety of the forward operating base. However, he chose to accompany his soldiers on their routes at his own personal risk.

"On Oct. 31, 2007, about a month before we were scheduled to redeploy back from Mosul to Ft. Bliss, Tim was killed while leading a route reconnaissance patrol and engaging the enemy," Strauss continued.

"Instead of looking at this tragic event with sadness – and it is sad – I would ask you instead to celebrate all the Tim McGovern’s of our military. You see, Tim did not do what was expected of him. Tim did so much more," he said. ‘There is a strength of character that only comes out when a service member, knowing the dangers, willingly steps forward in the service of our country and says, ‘I’ll do that job.’"

"On Memorial Day, we all remember all of the fallen soldiers and service members, but I think it’s a special time to reflect on the greatness of a country that inspires the actions and the sacrifices of the Tim McGovern of this world," said Strauss. He urged the audience to go forward not simply in observance of Memorial Day, but in celebration of the lives lost in battle and the country so many have died to protect.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver thanked Strauss for his remarks and thanked the audience for their attendance. The program ended with a 21-gun salute from the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and City of Martin Police Department and the playing of “Taps” by UT Martin music student Chloe Lollar, a senior from Humboldt.

For more information on UT Martin’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
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Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

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"There was no requirement for him to go out and actually conduct route clearance. But if Tim was a good soldier in garrison, he was an excellent soldier in combat. And he was a true leader of warriors," said Strauss. "He would not ask soldiers (to do) that which he would not do himself, and by conducting route clearance patrols, Tim knew exactly what his soldiers were going through. He knew exactly what they needed, and he knew exactly what he could expect of them. More importantly, his soldiers knew exactly what they could expect of Tim. ..."

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The program ended with a 21-gun salute from the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and City of Martin Police Department and the playing of "Taps" by UT Martin music student Chloe Lollar, a senior from Humboldt.
Leaders Credit Union awards scholarships to four area students

Leaders Credit Union announced the winners of the Martha Britt Scholarship to four outstanding students in West Tennessee.

The $1,000 per-year-for-four-years scholarship, awarded to one student-leader in West Tennessee, was given to Zachary Yarbrough of Trinity Christian Academy.

Leaders Credit Union also awarded three one-time $1,000 scholarships to students in Bartlett, Union City, and other areas served by the credit union. Recipients of this award include Caleb Fitzhugh of Jackson, Claire Wisener of Union City, and Lorianne Robinson of Bartlett.

Leaders also rewards employees with graduating seniors with a $1,000 scholarship for higher education. Recipients this year include Mary Claire Lancaster, Emily White and Kallie Pickens.

Zachary Yarbrough, Presidential recipient, is graduating from Trinity Christian Academy with a cumulative 4.57 GPA and plans to attend University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Caleb Fitzhugh of Jackson is graduating from Trinity Christian Academy with a cumulative 3.6 GPA and plans to attend Middle Tennessee State.

Claire Wisener of Union City is graduating from Union City High School with a cumulative 4.0 GPA and plans to attend University of Tennessee at Martin.

Lorianne Robinson of Bartlett is graduating from Faith Heritage Christian Academy with a cumulative 3.96 GPA and plans to attend University of Memphis.

"The Martha Britt Scholarship honors both our past and our future here at Leaders Credit Union, and we are proud to be a small part of these students’ academic journeys toward success," President and CEO of Leaders Credit Union Todd Swims said.

UTM reading clinics open June 4-28

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

Visit utm.edu/transfairorientation to register. There is no fee to attend. An additional Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

For information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Miss UTM uses platform to help disabled hunters

Miss UT Martin Morgan Martin poses with Galen Schrock from Hwy 45 Lawn and Garden after donating a wheelchair accessible hunting blind to TWRA and TWRF at Reelfoot Lake on Wednesday, thanks to the funds she raised from a sporting clay event. The blind will be placed at Buffalo Ridge to be used by wheelchair bound hunters. SUBMITTED

Brittney L. Jackson  Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

With a heart for hunting and the great outdoors, Miss UT Martin Morgan Martin fell in love with pageantry when her cheerleading team hosted Miss South Fulton in Union City as a fundraiser. She decided to participate and won.

The following year she competed at the Strawberry Festival in Humboldt and found herself loving the comradery and being out in the community.

Through pageants Martin has been able to make friends she otherwise would not have, and join the special sisterhood that is Miss Tennessee.

“I think that was really what got me hooked,” Martin said.

In November 2017 when Martin secured her spot in the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, for the first time, she was “overwhelmed” with happiness and all the work that would follow.

Wheelin' Sportsmen

Although Martin is a contestant in Miss Tennessee, she’s no stranger to the outdoors and hunting. Martin started hunting with her dad, Jeff Martin, around 4 years old.

In high school she was a competitive skeet

See HUNTERS, Page 2A
Hunters

Continued from Page 1A

shooter, which is the shooting of a clay target launched into the air to simulate the flight of a bird.

Morgan mostly hunted ducks with her dad, but recently killed her first turkey, Jeff noted.

Growing up loving the outdoors and hunting, Morgan wanted to make sure her Miss Tennessee platform reflected that aspect of her life so she chose Wheelin' Sportsmen, an organization for wheelchair bound or disabled hunters.

"We really want them to be able to experience everything they did before they were hurt," Morgan said.

Wheelin' Sportsmen was founded in 2000 at the National Wild Turkey Federation because NWTF realized the importance of helping people with disabilities enjoy the outdoors and sporting events.

Most of the hunting grounds in West Tennessee aren't wheelchair friendly so they have to use wheelchair accessible hunting blinds.

Through a sporting clay competition in Carroll County, Morgan was able to raise enough money to buy a wheelchair accessible blind, and donate it to the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency in Shane Hall's honor.

With TWRA and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation, Hall started "Moment of Freedom," a program that provides resources for disabled hunters.

"His goal was to have some wheelchair accessible hunting opportunities all across the state," TWRA Wildlife Information Specialist Lance Rider said. "Hunting and fishing — just any kind of outdoor recreation."

Hall was wheelchair bound for about the last four years of his life due to an accident that broke his back. He died of cancer a few years ago.

"Moment of Freedom" has helped create several hunting and fishing opportunities for disabled hunters across the state.

The blind will be placed at Buffalo Ridge Refuge in Waverly to be used by wheelchair bound hunters. It will be the first permanent handicap accessible blind at Buffalo Ridge Refuge, and hopefully the first of several to be placed all over the state, Rider said.

The wheelchair blinds allow hunters to easily roll in and out on their own, Morgan added.

"She's very sincere about the Wheelin' Sportsmen," Jeff said. "Her work with the Wheelin' Sportsmen and the Wounded Warriors was going on before she won Miss UTM, and it'll go on into her more adult years."

Jeff, who is the Wildlife Manager at Reelfort Lake, got involved with Wheelin' Sportsmen as part of TWRA's outreach program. He started taking wheelchair bound hunters out, and Morgan jumped in to help him.

The more she worked with them and heard their stories, the more she wanted to help.

Everyone who volunteers at a handicap accessible hunt always comes out feeling rewarded and happy to help, despite the extra work, Rider said. It's always good to help and provide them with opportunities to do what they enjoy.

"This has been such a rewarding program for me because it's something I'm so close to," Morgan said.

Before Hall, Rider wasn't aware of all the challenges disabled hunters faced. The first obstacle is just finding an opportunity to go out.

TWRA and TWRF want to continue making opportunities for disabled sportsmen in Hall's honor, Rider said, adding that he would be "ecstatic" about the new blind at Buffalo Ridge.

"Sometimes they may not harvest what they're out to do, but they're so happy that they just have a chance to go," Rider said.

Hunting, shooting and the outdoors has been a big part of her life so she wants to help others have that same experience, she said. It's a relaxing escape from life, and a family affair as all her siblings hunt, too.

Of course, Jeff was proud when she won Miss UTM but even more proud that she chose Wheelin' Sportsmen as her platform. It made everything more special because it is something they got involved with as a family.

About Morgan

Since winning Miss UTM, Morgan has been practicing for the interview portion of the competition by keeping up with current events and practicing her flute solo for talent. Morgan learned to play the flute in sixth grade and has been playing ever since.

Growing up, her family liked to sing "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" so she decided that was the perfect song to play.

Morgan is an exercise science major at UTM and has already been accepted into Union University's pharmacy program upon graduation in 2019, following in her grandfather's footsteps.

The Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant will be held June 20-23 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

"Everyone dreams of winning Miss Tennessee, and that includes me," Morgan said.

No matter what happens, Morgan will continue supporting her platform and carry on with pharmacy school.

Reach reporter Brittney Jackson at bljackson@gannett.com or 731-425-9643.
Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Morgan Martin poses at a sporting clay fundraiser in Carroll County. With the raised funds, Martin donated a wheelchair accessible hunting blind to the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. SUBMITTED
Friday’s Memorial Day Commemoration at UT Martin featured an emotional speech by a U.S. Army Colonel and university Alum.

Colonel David A. Straus delivered his speech in front of a receptive crowd by telling the story of a brave serviceman.

The event at UTM commemorates all fallen service men and women in the surrounding region and throughout the nation who have served the U.S. throughout the world.

In the midst of true danger, Colonel Straus said McGovern exemplified the true nature of service and sacrifice.

Jokingly known for small mishaps, Colonel Straus said many things happened to McGovern beyond his control.

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**Transfer and adult orientation scheduled June 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin**

kmorris  May 28, 2018

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Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options.

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

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend. An additional Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Brown wins UTM chemistry award

May 29, 2018 Updated May 29, 2018

Lane Brown, center, of Murfreesboro, recently won the Nancy Hinds Service Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) Department of Chemistry and Physics. Brown is a junior chemistry major and served as a teaching assistant in chemistry courses during the 2017-18 academic year. She is a member of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and conducts undergraduate chemistry research with Dr. Jozsef Devenyi, UTM professor of chemistry. The Nancy Hinds Service Award, named for retired chemistry professor Dr. Nancy Hinds, right, is awarded to one student each spring who has gone above and beyond to serve the department during the past year. Also pictured is Dr. Charles Thomas, left, chair, UTM Department of Chemistry and Physics.
Emma Martin of Murfreesboro registered for classes May 22 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration event. Corson graduated from Oakland High School.

No Smoking Ban at UT-Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin main campus, and all educational outreach centers, will become smoke-free on July 1st.

The announcement was made in a campus-wide email from Petra McPhearson, the vice chancellor for finance and administration.

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Colonel reflects on greatness of US through its soldiers

U.S. Army Col. David Strauss — a 1993 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin — shared the story of a comrade-in-arms Friday during the university’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony.

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In honor of Memorial Day, he shared the story of a friend and former comrade-in-arms, Capt. Timothy Ian McGovern of Idaho, Ind.

"I first met Tim in 2006 when I was a brand new major assigned to the fourth heavy-brigade combat team, first cavalry division, at Fort Bliss, Texas," he said. "He was a good soldier in garrison. He was a good soldier, but he wasn’t a great soldier. ... But then we deployed (to Mosul, Iraq). And when we deployed, there was a whole new Tim that emerged."

Col. David Strauss

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Colonel...

(Continued from Page 1)

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"On Oct. 31, 2007, about a month before we were scheduled to redeploy back from Mosul to Fort Bliss, Tim was killed while leading a route reconnaissance patrol and engaging the enemy." Strauss continued.

"Instead of looking at this tragic event with sadness — and it is sad — I would ask you instead to celebrate all the Tim McGoverns of our military. You see, Tim did not do what was expected of him. Tim did so much more," he said. "There is a strength of character that only comes out when a service member, knowing the dangers, willingly steps forward in the service of our country and says, ‘I’ll do that job.’"

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UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver thanked Strauss for his remarks and thanked the audience for their attendance. The program ended with a 21-gun salute from the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and City of Martin Police Department and the playing of "Taps" by UT Martin music student Chloe Lollar, a senior from Humboldt.
UT Martin students create augmented reality project

"I've always been the tech guy in my family," said Cody Robertson of Union City. "Since before I could read, my mom had me on a computer, and I got to tell her stories to type into the word processor. I could write my stories, and then she would print them out, and I could actually hold them and see what I had written."

This love of writing stories ultimately became a love of writing computer code, and Robertson took the next step in his journey earlier this month when he graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

While still an undergraduate student, Robertson participated in the UT Martin University Scholars Program, a selective academic program that requires participants to complete two-year research projects before graduation.

Robertson and fellow scholar Beth Allmon, an engineering major from San Diego, combined their efforts to create the components for a tactile holographic program that allows a user to see and manipulate a shape created by ultrasound waves.

These tactile holograms are a form of augmented reality, which seeks to add to and modify the user's existing world. This differs from virtual reality devices, which are designed to completely replace the existing world with a new environment.

Ms. Allmon, a senior slated to graduate in the fall of 2018, is focusing her studies in electrical engineering. With this skill set, she developed the hardware needed to produce ultrasound waves while Robertson focused on the software required to make the waves visible.

Ms. Allmon's device uses 64 transducers — small (See Page 5, Col. 1)
UT Martin...
(Continued from Page 1) components which turn electrical voltage into sound waves.

"Sound is a wave that moves really, really fast. The higher the frequency, the faster it is moving," she explained. Ultrasound operates at a frequency outside the range of human hearing, so the device makes no audible noise when activated. However, the movement of those sound waves, when controlled by a computer program, create a change in pressure that can be felt by the user.

"When you move something really, really fast like that, if I can control how it's powered, you can feel it," she said. "If I just turned (the device) on and left it on, you wouldn't feel anything. So I have to turn it on and off so you get a texture change."

Ms. Allmon compared this phenomenon to a person wearing socks. When a person wears socks all day long, the pressure on the skin is constant, and the brain simply tunes out the signal as unnecessary information, she said. But when the wearer removes the socks and the pressure changes, then you feel the fabric as it shifts. The same concept holds true with ultrasound waves. When they remain constant, the information is tuned out, but when they pulse on and off, their presence can be detected where the waves intersect.

Ms. Allmon and Robertson originally set out to create a small-scale version of a holographic project engineered at the University of Bristol in England, but ran into some initial setbacks.

"What I had originally designed was a flat array with the transducers (like the Bristol project)... When you have a line of transducers, if you turn them all on at the same time, you're not going to feel anything because their waves don't touch each other. But, if you power them in a delay, all of their waves stack up in the middle, and that's where you get that focal point," she said.

This created a problem because every individual transducer must be manually coded, and the team's two-year research project did not allow enough time to master the expertise needed to accomplish this task. So, Ms. Allmon decided to use a bowl-shaped array instead.

"Basically, it allows me to run all (the transducers) off the same signal, and because of the way they are positioned (along the inside of the bowl), it produces a physical delay," she explained. "They just happen to point at the same spot."

This intersection is where a user can feel a small point hovering above the bowl — invisible without Robertson's software input.

"There are two things (Ms. Allmon's device) is missing, and that is to make (the projection) visible and to add interaction to it," he said.

Robertson combined the use of Smarteye Glass, Augmented Reality Glasses, developed by Sony, and Kinect Motion Tracker, by Microsoft, to gather and display the information needed to make the project visible.

According to Robertson, a three-dimensional object designed in an Android smartphone application is rendered as an image displayed in the augmented reality glasses. The Kinect motion tracker then observes how the user interacts with the displayed image, and this information is fed back to the Android application to update the image in real time. The result allows a user to "pick up" a projected object and "move it" as if it were a physical shape.

"You're able to actually see the change while you're doing it," he said.

While time ran out to connect the two components, Allmon and Robertson hope to merge them in the future to create an experience that is both tactile and visual.

Robertson is beginning a full-time web design position with Thoman Management Inc., based in Union City, and Ms. Allmon will finish her degree in December before applying to graduate schools to study robotics. Both feel this undergraduate experience will serve them well in their coming careers.

"It's proof that we're not just book smart," Ms. Allmon said. "We have done real things."

Robertson worked with Drs. Joshua Guerin and Kathleen Ericson, both in the Department of Computer Science; and Ms. Allmon worked with Drs. Jeff McCullough in the Department of Engineering and Jason Alexander in the Department of Physics.

The components for the ultrasound device were designed and created using UT Martin equipment. The
Strauss speaks at UTM Memorial Day service

U.S. Army Col. David Strauss, a 1993 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, spoke May 25 during the university’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building.

Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

In honor of Memorial Day, Strauss shared the story of a friend and former comrade-in-arms, Capt. Timothy Ian McGovern, of Idaville, Indiana.

“I first met Tim in 2006 when I was a brand-new major assigned to the fourth heavy-brigade combat team, first cavalry division, at Ft. Bliss, Texas,” he said. “He was a good soldier in garrison. He was a good soldier, but he wasn’t a great soldier. ... But then we deployed (to Mosul, Iraq). And when we deployed, there was a whole new Tim that emerged.”

“...The main job of the engineer company was route clearance. They had to go out and find IEDs, disarm them and render them harmless, remove them so that other convoys could travel in safety,” he explained. According to Strauss, route clearance teams would often encounter enemy forces in the process of placing explosive devices and find themselves in even greater danger.

As commander, McGovern was responsible for coordinating these teams from the safety of the forward operating base. However, he chose to accompany his soldiers on their routes at his own personal risk.

“There was no requirement for him to go out and actually conduct route clearance. But if Tim was a good soldier in garrison, he was an excellent soldier in combat. And he was a true leader of warriors,” said Strauss. “He would not ask soldiers (to do) that which he would not do himself, and by conducting route clearance patrols, Tim knew exactly what his soldiers were going through. He knew exactly what they needed, and he knew exactly what he could expect of them. More importantly, his soldiers knew exactly what they could expect of Tim. There was no doubt in anybody’s mind that Tim was going to go far and have a very successful career.”

On Oct. 31, 2007, about a month before we were scheduled to redeploy back from Mosul to Ft. Bliss, Tim was killed while leading a route reconnaissance patrol and engaging the enemy,” Strauss continued.

“I asked you instead to celebrate all the Tim McGovers of our military. You see, Tim did so much more,” he said. “There is a strength of character that only comes out when a service member, knowing the dangers, willingly steps forward in the service of our country and says, ‘I’ll do that job.’

“On Memorial Day, we all remember all of the fallen soldiers and service members, but I think it’s a special time to reflect on the greatness of a country that inspires the actions and the sacrifices of the Tim McGovers of this world,” said Strauss. He urged the audience to go forward not simply in observance of Memorial Day, but in celebration of the lives lost in battle and the country so many have died to protect.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver thanked Strauss for his remarks and thanked the audience for their attendance. The program ended with a 21-gun salute from the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and City of Martin Police Department and the playing of “Taps” by UT Martin music student Chloe Lollar, a senior from Humboldt.

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CADET RECOGNIZED — The Department of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently held its awards ceremony at the Maple Center in Murray, Ky. Cadet Alexys L. Smith of Clarksville was presented an award by Col. Lowell E. Howard Jr., professor of military science at UTM. The award was given to the department by Col. Gideon Macon Chapter of The Daughters of the American Colonists in Paris. Smith is a criminal justice major.

AWARD PRESENTED — The Department of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently held its awards ceremony at the Maple Center in Murray, Ky. Cadet Daniel J. Bell of Olaton, Ky. was presented an award, which was given to the department by The Reelfoot Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Union City. Bell is a general agriculture major.

RECEIVES AWARD — The Department of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently held its awards ceremony at the Maple Center in Murray, Ky. Cadet Faith M. Peet of Vine Grove, Ky. was presented an award by Col. Lowell E. Howard, professor of military science at UTM. The award was given to the department by Tulip Grove Chapter, of United States Daughters of 1812, Jackson. Peet is a pre-vet major.
Since January, the Tennessee Soybean Festival has been “working my way back to you” and it’s not going to take all the gold in California” to see the “more than fine” entertainment coming Martin’s way Sept. 1-9. Unless you’re as cold as ice, “you’ll want to be here for the party,” “save a horse and ride a cowboy” to take in a musical menu that spans gospel, “redneck” country, ’60s high notes, and classic rock.

On Friday, David Belote, chair of the festival committee, and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige unveiled the array of vocal performances scheduled for the festival. The line-up includes:

- The Martin Community Orchestra, Sept. 1
- Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Sunday, Sept. 2, with a fireworks show at the conclusion of the performance
- Let’s Hang On – a Jersey Boys/Four Seasons Tribute, Tuesday, Sept. 4
- The Jackson Symphony, Wednesday, Sept. 5, with fireworks integrated into the performance
- Switchfoot, Thursday, Sept. 6
- Foreigner and 38 Special, Friday, Sept. 7
- Gretchen Wilson with Jessie G then Big and Rich with Cowboy Troy, Saturday, Sept. 8

As an added attraction to Magic Monday on Labor Day, younger audiences will be treated to an up-close look at some of their favorite characters when Sesame Street Live brings familiar friends to the Festival Park Amphitheatre for two performances.

In addition to the concerts, street shows are scheduled Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Sept. 6-8. The Funny Little People walking puppets will offer multiple performances on the Oxford Street Stage as well as engaging with the crowd as they wander around town. The Shark Encounter Show is new this year and will feature a truck-sized aquarium filled with examples of the giant fish. A guide will help children and adults learn more about these amazing creatures. For those ready for even more excitement, The Nerveless Nocks Thrill Show revs up thrills on wheels in a circus-like spectacle.

Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers have been dazzling audiences for more than 60 years. Larry, Steve, and Rudy grew up singing gospel music and have returned to those roots with the release of their latest album titled, Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers: The Gospel According to Gatlin.

Let’s Hang On! is a group of 10 seasoned entertainers who are preserving the music and style of the iconic group Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. This stage show includes all the great Four Seasons’ favorites like: Sherry, Big Girls Don’t Cry, Walk Like A Man, Can’t Take My Eyes Off of You, December ‘63, Who Loves You, and more hits of the ’60s. According to the production’s website, the show is also “proud to be one of the few remaining touring productions that guarantees a live band with every show.”

The Jackson Symphony is in the 57th season of providing music programs to the citizens of West Tennessee. The orchestra employs 65-70 musicians from the region. In the 2014-2015 season, Peter Shannon became the third artistic director and conductor for the Jackson Symphony. Shannon’s artistic leadership with the professional musicians of the symphony has created a musical ensemble of unparalleled excellence.

Switchfoot’s story starts in a California garage with the release of their latest album titled, Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers: The Gospel According to Gatlin.

ENTERTAINMENT, From Page 1

the Foreman Brothers and drummer Chad Butler. The band’s website describes their climb. Armed with surfboards and cheap electric guitars, the plan was to finish college. But the indie record deal from RE:Think records offered the chance to go explore the world. And that’s just what they did.

Three records later, the Foreman brothers dropped out of the University of California-San Diego to pursue music a bit more seriously with multi-instrumentalist Jerome Pontamillas and tone-wizard Drew Shirley. Soon they had multiple songs in the Top 40, saw platinum level sales, received Grammy and Dove awards, and had a documentary produced on their journeys and process. They continue to find ways to give back to their community including partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, TWLOHA, and most notably their annual event The SWITCHFOOT BRO-AM event that helps at-risk youth in their hometown of San Diego.

After more than three decades together, 38 Special has cemented its reputation as a Southern Rock powerhouse. With sales in excess of 20 million, most associate the band with their arena-rock pop smash hits, “Hold On Loosely,” “Rockin’ Into the Night,” “Caught Up in You,” “Fantasy Girl,” “If I’d Been the One,” “Back Where You Belong,” “Chain Lightnin','” and “Second Chance.” Guitarist/vocalist Don Barnes, guitar/keyboard/vocalist Danny Chauncey, bassist Barry Dunnaway, drummer Gary Moffatt and keyboardist/vocalist Bobby Capps make up the
group that since 1976 has released more than 15 albums.

On Sept. 13, 2017, Foreigner’s catalog sales were celebrated in Business Insider magazine as hitting the Top 40 among the best selling music artists of all time. With 10 multi-platinum albums and 16 Top 30 hits, Foreigner is universally hailed as one of the most popular rock acts in the world with a formidable musical arsenal that continues to propel sold-out tours and album sales, now exceeding 75 million.

Responsible for some of rock and roll’s most enduring anthems including “Juke Box Hero,” “Cold As Ice,” “Hot Blooded,” “Waiting For A Girl Like You,” “Feels Like The First Time,” “Urgent,” “Head Games,” “Say You Will,” “Dirty White Boy,” “Long,” and “Long Way From Home,” Foreigner continues to rock the charts more than 40 years after its inception. As an added treat for festival goers, the band will be joined by the UTM choir for a special rendition of their worldwide #1 hit, “I Want To Know What Love Is.”

Gretchen Wilson’s first single, “Redneck Woman,” spent six weeks at #1. Her debut album, “Here For The Party,” sold more than 5 million copies and spawned three more Top 5 hits including, “Homewrecker,” “When I Think About Cheatin’,” and the title track, “Here For The Party.” She has won across-the-board awards including ACMs, CMA, AMAs, and Billboards, and is a Grammy winner and nine-time nominee. Her first book, the autobiographical “Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life,” landed her on the New York Times bestseller list. In July 2009, she launched her own label, Redneck Records.

Gretchen was once one of the millions of Americans who hadn’t finished high school. At the age of 34, Gretchen received her GED. Her friend and mentor, fellow musician Charlie Daniels, was a guest speaker at her graduation ceremony. She has since become an advocate to help spotlight the funding needs of adult education programs.

Big Kenny and John Rich released their first studio album “Horse of a Different Color” in 2004. This album produced four straight Top 40 country hits, including their signature “Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy.” The Martin Community Band, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, and the tribute show will be free to the public. Ticket prices for Sesame Street Live are $15 and $25. The Jackson Symphony Orchestra and fireworks performance will offer chair reserved tickets at $15 and bleacher general admission at $10.

Switchfoot ticket options are $20, $30 and $40. Special and Foreigner tickets are $35, $55 and $60. The final night with Big & Rich, Cowboy Troy, Gretchen Wilson, Jessie G and concluding fireworks includes tickets priced at $40, $60, $75 and $100.

To purchase tickets, go online to http://www.tnsoybeanfestival.org/. For anyone needing assistance, staff at Martin City Hall and the C.E. Weldon Public Library are available to help with the online purchase(s).

*See if you can match the quoted lyrics with the artists that sang them!
Tennessee Soybean Festival activities designed to draw community together

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

Soybeans were discovered in China over 5,000 years ago and finally arrived in America in the early 1800s. Nearly 100 years later American farmers began to recognize the new crop’s potential.

Now in the 25th year of the Tennessee Soybean Festival, Martin has more than realized the potential of celebrating the soybean.

The festival’s website has received comments from visitors as far away as Europe and Canada, said Brad Thompson, Martin Community Development Director and a member of the festival committee. "We want to continue to elevate our festival each year to where we are a destination... that even more people are coming simply to be a part of what we’re doing."

Those efforts have harvested a bumper crop of recognitions. The Southeast Festival and Events Association has previously awarded the Tennessee Soybean Festival gold in Children’s Programming, silver as Best Event Program and bronze as the Best Event in its category as well as several other accolades in marketing and promotion.

Last year, entered into 16 of 19 categories, the Soybean Festival walked away with 12 awards.

"We’ve outdone ourselves the last three years," noted David Belote, executive chairperson for the committee-led festival, "And, as a result, there’s always an encore problem. We’ve addressed that this year because it’s our 25th and have secured the best entertainment up we have ever had." (See story above for details.)

Along with musical draws like Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, a Jersey Boys/Four Seasons tribute show, Switchfoot, Foreigner and 38 Special, Gretchen Wilson and Big and Rich, attractions during the Sept. 1-9 event will include favors from the 25-year-history and some new crowd-pleasers.

Returning favorites include the pageants, the truck and tractor pull, Guitar As Art Exhibition, the talent show, the farmers’ market and crafts at the Makers Faire, and the BBQ cook-off.

On Labor Day, the city will once again be transformed into Magical Martin, a day of free activities catering to the child in all of us with its carnival rides, inflatables, petting zoo, themed games and crafts.

New to the children-focused day this year will be the addition of two performances of Sesame Street Live, an interactive touring show based on the children’s television show. Tickets for these performances are $15 for bleacher seats and $25 for reserved chairs.

"Eighty percent of the kids who come to Magical Martin will never set foot in a Disney park," said Belote of his desire to make the show accessible to “every primary age kid who can’t afford to be there."

See Festival, Page 4
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM - Madeline Moore of Medina completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2018 semester. They received their veterinary health technologist pins during a ceremony held May 4 and will finish six-week internships in active practices before receiving their degrees in the fall. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.

SCHOLARS’ MEDALLION - Victoria Lansdale (left), of Humboldt, completed the rigorous University Scholars program at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She received a medallion marking her accomplishment during a reception May 5 prior to the university’s spring commencement ceremony. Lansdale, a chemistry major, conducted two years of undergraduate research with Dr. Genessa Smith (right), assistant professor of chemistry. She is the daughter of Jeff and Toni Lansdale.

UTM reading clinics open June 4-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice per week on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill.
**ACT prep course at UTM Jackson Center**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host a one-day ACT preparation course for high school students from 4:30-8:30 p.m., June 5. Registration is $45 per student.

Alex Beene, course instructor, serves as lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and has extensive experience working with high school juniors and seniors to prepare for national exams such as the ACT and the SAT. Students taking his courses in the past have increased their individual scores by an average of 3.4 points.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is now located at 2046 N. Parkway in Jackson in Jackson State Community College’s McWherter Building.

An ACT preparation course is also available June 7 at the UT Martin Somerville Center.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/general and select your course location. Assistance is also available over the phone by contacting the UT Martin Department of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

**Transfer, adult orientation at UTM**

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., June 1.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 8:30-9 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9, followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30-10:45. Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options.

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

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend. An additional Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

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

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LOCAL GRADUATE REGISTERS AT UT MARTIN — (Upper Photo) Chandler Carey (left), of Medina, registered for classes May 22 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration event. Carey graduated from South Gibson High School and will be a freshman at UT Martin in the fall. He is pictured with his mother, Tiffany Carey. (Lower photo) Gracie Kyle (left), of Milan, registered for classes May 21 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration event. Kyle graduated from Milan High School and will be a freshman at UT Martin in the fall. She is pictured with her mother, Tiffanie Kyle.

LOCAL STUDENTS COMPLETE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM — Leigh Malanga, of Milan, (upper photo) and Madeline Moore, of Medina, completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2018 semester. They received their veterinary health technologist pins during a ceremony held May 4 and will finish six-week internships in active practices before receiving their degrees in the fall. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.
PERRY COUNTY 2018 GRADUATES EARNED SCHOLARSHIPS


-Kaley Arney: UTM Parsons Kickstart $800, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.


-Russell Belasic: Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Elijah Berberette: Horatio Alger National Scholarship $5000 x 5 = $25000, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Chyvia Brooks: Freed Hardeman University Basketball & Merit $28954 x 4 = $115856, Graham Family Foundation Christian University Scholarship $1000, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Ryleigh Bunch: Rhodes Memorial Scholarship $500, Maroa Sharp Rust Memorial Scholarship $500, Billie Nell Smith Memorial Scholarship $500, Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200, Buffalo River Longbeards: Kari May Memorial Scholarship $300, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Kevin Byler: Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200, Buffalo River Longbeards: Cliff Hardy Memorial Scholarship $300, Gold Card Scholarship $500, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Samuel Kade Dabbs: University of Memphis Deans Scholarship $3000 x 4 = $12000, Tommy and Linda Fesmire Memorial Scholarship $500, Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Cannon Daniel: Bethel University Opportunity Scholarship $10000 x 4 = $40000, Graham Family Foundation Christian University Scholarship $1000, MLEC Scholarship $1000.

-Addison Dudley: University of North Alabama Academic Scholarship $8000 x 4 = $32000, Honors Program Scholarship $600, UNA Foundation Scholarship $1000, Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200, Buffalo River Longbeards: Kari May Memorial Scholarship $300, MLEC Scholarship $1000.

-Emily Gore: Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Parker Hinson: Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200.

-Jayanna Inman: Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Tyler Jackson: UTM Advance Scholarship $750 x 4 = $3000, UTM Chris Ivey Scholarship $1250, Tommy and Linda Fesmire Memorial Scholarship $500, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Camron Martin: University of Memphis Tiger Success Grant $500, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Rebecca Klinger: Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200.

-Destiny Lamont: Dr. Ashley Hayes Scholarship $500, Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200.

-Trinton Leegan: UTM Parsons Kickstart $800, Brady Oliver Lee Memorial Scholarship $250, Ryan Parnell Memorial Scholarship $500, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Gretchen Mager: Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Justin Moore: UTM Achievement Scholarship $500 x 4 = $2000, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Bailey Miller: Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Jordan Miller: Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Jeff Martin: Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Grant Mash: UTM Achievement Scholarship, $500 x 4 = $2000, Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

-Blake Thomas Arnold Memorial Scholarship $200, Buffalo River Longbeards: Kari May Memorial Scholarship $300, MLEC Scholarship $1000.
Barber finishes veterinary technician program

Blair Barber of Paris will complete course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary and Health Technology Program during the summer 2018 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 4. Barber will finish her six-week internship in an active practice before receiving her degree in the fall.
Ten successful local students recently completed the first Pharmacy Technician Program at the UT Martin Somerville Center. This program represents the latest example of the fulfillment of the vision of local leaders to provide a vast array of educational opportunities through a partnership with a university system.

"A big part of our mission at the local Center includes offering an assortment of higher education curricula designed to meet the specific needs of our community," said Kara Tapp, UT Martin Somerville Director. "We are constantly evaluating our local post-secondary educational needs and strive to provide highly qualified educators. Since many of our specialty offerings are of short duration and scheduled to accommodate working students, we are able to entice teachers who are actively engaged professionals willing to share their expertise as part time educators/full time professionals." said Mrs. Tapp.

Dr. Robert L. Patrick of Oakland is one of many examples of local residents who are willing to share their expertise at the local UT Martin Somerville Center. Dr. Patrick is a 2009 graduate of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center at Memphis. He currently serves as Manager of Fred's Pharmacies in Memphis, and has completed rotations with LeBonheur Children's Medical Center, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Regional Medical Center at Memphis (The MED), and St. Jude Children's Hospital.

The Pharmacy Technician Program is designed to prepare post-secondary students for pharmacy-related careers. Dr. Patrick guided the students through concepts that included pharmacological calculations, knowledge of common pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical dosages and terminology, dispensing prescriptions, and billing and inventory control procedures.

Much of this curriculum is designed to facilitate students as they prepare for certification with the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

The UT Martin Somerville Center plans to offer the Pharmacy Technician Program again in March 2019. If you are interested in learning more about this program and how you can take advantage of UT Martin offerings here in Somerville, please call 901-465-7313.
Head Start group attends leadership conference
Dr. Lowell Winston and Pennie Futrell-Smith, both of the Northwest Tennessee Head Start Program, and Beverly Lovelace, of Lauderdale Head Start, attended the WestStar Leadership Program's African American Leadership Conference in April. The event featured Stan Bell, radio personality for V101 and a Memphis educator, as keynote speaker. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

Local finishes Vet Tech program
Teri Brooke Allred of Halls completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2018 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 4 and will finish a six-week internship in an active practice before receiving her degree in the fall. Allred was also awarded the program's Jerry D. Gresham Memorial Scholarship.
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The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 8:30-9 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9, followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30-10:45. Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options.

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

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. There is no fee to attend. An additional Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend.

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

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**ACT prep course at UTM Jackson Center**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host a one-day ACT preparation course for high school students from 4:30-8:30 p.m., June 5. Registration is $45 per student.

Alex Beene, course instructor, serves as lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and has extensive experience working with high school juniors and seniors to prepare for national exams such as the ACT and the SAT. Students taking his courses in the past have increased their individual scores by an average of 3.4 points.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is now located at 2046 N. Parkway in Jackson in Jackson State Community College's McWherter Building.

An ACT preparation course is also available June 7 at the UT Martin Somerville Center.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/general and select your course location. Assistance is also available over the phone by contacting the UT Martin Department of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
On Friday, May 25, the University of Tennessee at Martin hosted a Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building. The event was held to honor the nation’s fallen service men and women, who have served in the United States military at outposts around the world.

U.S. Army Col. David Strauss, a 1993 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, was the guest speaker during the university’s annual Memorial Day service.

Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

In honor of Memorial Day, Strauss shared the story of a friend and former comrade-in-arms, Capt. Timothy McGovern, of Idaville, Indiana.

“I first met Tim in 2006 when I was a brand-new major assigned to the fourth heavy-brigade combat team, first cavalry division, at Ft. Bliss, Texas,” he said. “He was a good soldier in garrison. He was a good soldier, but he wasn’t a great soldier. ... But then we deployed (to Mosul, Iraq). And when we deployed, there was a whole new Tim that emerged.”

Strauss explained how McGovern served as brigade engineer officer at a time when improvised explosive devices were in heavy use in and around Mosul. In this position, he was responsible for coordinating the protection of areas which blasts from car bombs and other IEDs had rendered vulnerable.

“That’s when I really found Tim in his natural light,” said Strauss. “You see, Tim was responsible for coordinating all that, but he didn’t actually have to go out on the ground. He could do everything that he needed to do from the safety of the forward operating base, or FOB. But instead, he would ride on the vehicles. ... He would make sure that the support was on the ground, and he would make sure it was right. And because he routinely went out to the blast areas, he quickly knew exactly what was needed when a blast occurred.”

Strauss said McGovern was promoted to serve as commander of the only engineer company in the brigade, a position with dangerous responsibilities.

“The main job of the engineer company was route clearance. They had to go out and find IEDs, disarm them and render them harmless, reduce them and remove them so that other convoys and the local populace could travel in safety,” he explained. According to Strauss, route clearance teams would often encounter enemy forces in the process of placing explosive devices and find themselves in even greater danger.

As commander, McGovern was responsible for coordinating these teams from the safety of the forward operating base. However, he chose to accompany his soldiers on their routes at his own personal risk.

“There was no requirement for him to go out and actually conduct route clearance. But if Tim was a good soldier in garrison, he was an excellent soldier in combat. And he was a true leader of warriors,” said Strauss. “He would not ask soldiers (to do) that which he would not do himself, and by conducting route clearance patrols, Tim knew exactly what his soldiers were going through. He knew exactly what they needed, and he knew exactly what he could expect of them. More importantly, his soldiers knew exactly what they could expect of Tim. There was no doubt in anybody’s mind that Tim was going to go far and have a very successful career.

“On Oct. 31, 2007, about a month before we were scheduled to redeploy back from Mosul to Ft. Bliss, Tim was killed while leading a route reconnaissance patrol and engaging the enemy,” Strauss continued.

“Instead of looking at this tragic event with sadness — and it is sad — I would ask you instead to celebrate all the Tim McGovern's of our military. You see, Tim did not do what was expected of him. Tim did so much more,” he said. “There is a strength of character that only comes out when a service member, knowing the dangers, willingly steps forward in the service of our country and says, 'I’ll do that job.'

“On Memorial Day, we all remember all of the fallen soldiers and service members, but I think it’s a special time to reflect on the greatness of a country that inspires the actions and the sacrifices of the Tim McGovers of this world,” said Strauss. He urged the audience to go forward not simply in observance of Memorial Day, but in celebration of the lives lost in battle and the country so many have died to protect.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver thanked Strauss for his remarks and thanked the audience for their attendance. The program ended with a 21-gun salute from the UT Martin Department of Public Safety and City of Martin Police Department and the playing of “Taps” by UT Martin music student Chloé Lollar, a senior from Humboldt.
ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP — The League of Striving Artists Achievement Scholarship has been established at the University of Tennessee at Martin to help future visual arts students fund their education and artistic passion. The annual award is the first student organization-funded scholarship for visual arts students and will be open to those studying graphic design, art education and studio art beginning with the spring 2019 semester. Representatives of the League of Striving Artists and university officials recently marked the effort. Among them were (from left, front row) students Tanya Chopra of Bradford, Bailey Radnitzer of Des Plaines, Ill., and Jordn Copeland of Hornbeak; UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver; student Chelsey Gordon of Lyles; (back row) Jason Stout, associate professor of art and LSA faculty adviser; and students Rachel Melton of Sharon, Caitlynn Dowland of Bradford, Olivia Gibson of Trenton, Violet Durden of Bartlett, Dillon Faith of Dover, Ben Reiter of Huntingdon, Brannon Kelly of Memphis and Kaitlyn Frandsen of Martin.

Student artists create scholarship

Future students planning to study the visual arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin will have another potential source of scholarship funding available thanks to the 2017-18 student officers of the League of Striving Artists.

Rachel Melton, LSA president, and six other league officers established the League of Striving Artists Achievement Scholarship to help future visual arts students fund their education and artistic passion while at UT Martin.

The annual award is the first student organization-funded scholarship for visual arts students and will be open to those studying graphic design, art education and studio art beginning with the spring 2019 semester. The criteria will consider service to the chapter and the community as well as academic achievement and scholarship.

"The League of Striving Artists works to develop students through academics, service learning and leadership. This scholarship allows us to further that vision by supporting students who model academics and involvement, both on campus and locally," Ms. Melton said.

"This is the first mid-level scholarship for a student in the visual arts at UT Martin. I'm very enthusiastic about the impact I know it will have in helping our majors progress toward their goals and in serving as a recognition of involvement and leadership within the organization and on campus."

Ms. Melton says the scholarship fund has been a long-term goal within the organization and is the result of fundraising over several years.

While the scholarship requirements and initial funds were established by the leadership team, more than 50 members of LSA worked together to contribute.

"(This scholarship) is a great way for the work of past and current members to pay it forward to future students who are involved with the organization and in promoting the arts at UT Martin," Ms. Melton said.

The 2017-18 LSA leadership team consisted of Ms. Melton, president; Caitlynn Dowland, vice president; Kaitlyn Frandsen, secretary; Olivia Gibson, treasurer; Tanya Chopra, historian; Benjamin Reiter, public relations; and Chelsey Gordon, service coordinator.

Ms. Melton, Ms. Dowland and Ms. Chopra all received their bachelor's degrees earlier this month during UT Martin's spring commencement ceremony. Jason Stout, associate professor of art, serves as the LSA faculty adviser and worked closely with the group to establish the new scholarship fund.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this scholarship can do so at utmforever.com by clicking "Contribute to UT Martin," choosing "other funds not listed" and specifying "League of Striving Artists" in the description field.
UTM to go smoke-free July 1, with no areas to be designated

The University of Tennessee at Martin main campus and all educational outreach centers will become smoke-free July 1.

The announcement came May 23 in a campus-wide email from Petra McPhearson, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

The policy states that "the University of Tennessee at Martin promotes a healthy (and) safe work, educational and living environment. Furthermore, our campus community acknowledges that long-term health hazards may accrue to people who are subjected to second-hand smoke. A smoke-free UT Martin campus encourages a green and clean environment; prepares our faculty, staff and students for other smoke-free environments in their future; and can be a source of UT and UT Martin pride in supporting a major wellness initiative."

This new policy applies to all faculty, staff and students, as well as campus visitors and contractors, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The policy includes e-cigarettes and applies to all areas owned or operated by the university. This comprises university buildings, including adjacent sidewalks and building entrances; outdoor property and grounds, including parking lots and recreational areas; indoor and outdoor athletic facilities and venues; and all motor vehicles owned or rented by the university. Smoking is also prohibited inside personal vehicles parked on university property.

There will be no designated smoking areas on university property. Those found to be in violation of this policy will be reported to UT Martin supervisors, the Office of Student Affairs or the Department of Public Safety, as appropriate.

To read the policy in full or access smoking-cessation resources, visit utm.edu/departments/ehs.

INDUCTED — Chase Bowling of Union City was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony recently before the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring commencement. 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.

SF INDUCTEE — Bart Netherland of South Fulton was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony recently before the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring commencement. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers, with participating students reciting a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field.

ENGINEER INDUCTEE — Kyle Winstead of Union City was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony recently before the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring commencement. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers.

Kid College returning to UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin is now registering children for the 2018 Kid College program on the main campus in Martin.

Kid College will be held 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 11-15 for children entering kindergarten through fifth grade.

Parents can register each child for up to five classes, and individual time schedules will vary based on the courses selected.

The registration fee is $30 per class and is due at the time of registration. Pre-registration is required, and the fee includes a T-shirt. Some courses have individual supply fees which must be paid directly to the course instructor on the first day of class. Children who will attend Kid College all day must bring lunch from home.

Class choices for children entering kindergarten through second grade include cheerleading, chemical reactions, karate, bowling, music, disc golf, backyard farming and junior space camp. Selections for students in third through fifth grades include physics, advanced karate, paint lab, adventures in engineering, creative computers, basketball and disc golf. A complete list of courses is available on the Kid College website.

Parents will be sent an email June 6 containing each child's class schedule, supply fees and other important information. Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7104 if you do not receive this email.

Kid College activities will also be held June 11-15 at the UT Martin Somerville Center, June 25-28 at the Parsons Center; July 9-13 at the McNairy County Center/Selmer, and July 11-13 at the Ripley Center. Visit utm.edu/kidcollege to register online, see a complete list of course options and find extended information for parents.
Festival lineup includes Foreigner, Gatlins, Big and Rich

Since January, the Tennessee Soybean Festival has been "walking my way back to you" and it's not going to take "all the gold in California" to see the "more than fine" entertainment coming Martin's way Sept. 1-9.

Unless you're as "cold as ice," you'll want to be "here for the party," "save a horse and ride a cowboy" to take in a musical menu that spans gospel, "redneck" country, '60s high notes and classic rock.

On Friday, David Belote, chair of the festival committee, and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige unveiled the array of vocal performances scheduled for the festival. The lineup includes:
- The Martin Community Orchestra on Sept. 1.
- Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers on Sept. 2, with a fireworks show at the conclusion of the performance.
- Let's Hang On: Jersey Boys/Four Seasons Tribute on Sept. 4.
- The Jackson Symphony on Sept. 5, with fireworks integrated into the performance.
- Switchfoot on Sept. 6.
- Foreigner and 38 Special on Sept. 7.
- Gretchen Wilson with (See Page 6, Col. 3)

Festival...

(Continued from Page 1) Jessie G, then Big and Rich with Cowboy Troy on Sept. 8.

As an added attraction to Magic Monday on Labor Day, younger audiences will be treated to an up-close look at some of their favorite characters when Sesame Street Live brings familiar friends to the Festival Park Amphitheater for two performances.

In addition to the concerts, street shows are scheduled Sept. 6-8. The Funny Little People walking puppets will offer multiple performances on the Oxford Street Stage as well as engaging with the crowd as they wander around town. The Shark Encounter Show is new this year and will feature a truck-sized aquarium filled with examples of the giant fish. A guide will help children and adults learn more about these amazing creatures. For those ready for even more excitement, The Nerveless Nocks Thrill Show revs up thrills on wheels in a circus-like spectacle.

Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers have been dazzling audiences for more than 60 years. Larry, Steve and Rudy grew up singing gospel music and have returned to those roots with the release of their latest album titled, Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers: The Gospel According to Gatlin.

Let's Hang On! is a group of 10 seasoned entertainers who are preserving the music and style of the iconic group Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. This stage show includes all the great Four Seasons' favorites like "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like A Man," "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," "December '63, "Who Loves You" and more hits of the '60s. According to the production's website, the show is also "proud to be one of the few remaining touring productions that guarantees a live band with every show."

The Jackson Symphony is in the 57th season of providing music programs to the citizens of West Tennessee. The orchestra employs 65-70 musicians from the region. In the 2014-15 season, Peter Shannon became the third artistic director and conductor for the Jackson Symphony. His artistic leadership with the professional musicians of the symphony has created a musical ensemble of unparalleled excellence.

Switchfoot's story starts in a California garage with the Foreman Brothers and drummer Chad Butler. The band's website describes their climb. Armed with surfboards and cheap electric guitars, the plan was to finish college. But the indie record deal from RE:Think records offered the chance to go explore the world.

And that's just what they did. Three records later, the Foreman brothers dropped out of the University of California-San Diego to pursue music a bit more seriously with multi-instrumentalist Jerome Fontamillas and tone-wizard Drew Shirley. Soon they had multiple songs in the Top 40, saw platinum level sales, received Grammy and Dove awards, and had a documentary produced on their journeys and process. They continue to find ways to give back to their community including partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, TWLOHA and most notably their annual event The SWITCHFOOT BRO-AM event that helps at-risk youth in their hometown of San Diego.

After more than three decades together, 38 Special has cemented its reputation as a Southern Rock powerhouse. With sales in excess of 20 million, most associate the band with their arena-rock pop smashes, "Hold On Loosely," "Rockin' Into the Night," "Caught Up in You," "Fantasy Girl," "If I'd Been the One," "Back Where You Belong," "Chain Lightning," "Second Chance," Guitarist/vocalist Don Barnes, guitarist/vocalist Danny Chauncey, bassist Barry Dunaway, drummer Gary Moffatt and keyboardist/vocalist Bobby Capps make up the group that since 1976 has released more than 15 albums.
With 10 multi-platinum albums and 16 Top 30 hits, Foreigner is universally hailed as one of the most popular rock acts in the world with a formidable musical arsenal that continues to propel sold-out tours and album sales, now exceeding 75 million.

Responsible for some of rock and roll's most enduring anthems, including "Juke Box Hero," "Cold As Ice," "Hot Blooded," "Waiting For A Girl Like You," "Feels Like The First Time," "Urgent," "Head Games," "Say You Will," "Dirty White Boy," "Long," and "Long Way From Home," Foreigner continues to rock the charts more than 40 years after its inception. As an added treat for festivalgoers, the band will be joined by the UTM choir for a special rendition of their worldwide No. 1 hit, "I Want To Know What Love Is."

Gretchen Wilson's first single, "Redneck Woman," spent six weeks at No. 1. Her debut album, "Here For The Party," sold more than 5 million copies and spawned three more Top 5 hits, including "Homewrecker," "When I Think About Cheatin'" and the title track, "Here For The Party." She has won across-the-board awards including ACMs, CMAs, AMAs and Billboard's, and is a Grammy winner and nine-time nominee. Her first book, the autobiographical "Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life," landed her on the New York Times' bestseller list. In July 2009, she launched her own label, Redneck Records.

Wilson was once one of the millions of Americans who hadn't finished high school. At the age of 34, she received her GED. Her friend and mentor, fellow musician Charlie Daniels, was a guest speaker at her graduation ceremony. She has since become an advocate to help spotlight the funding needs of adult education programs.

Big Kenny and John Rich released their first studio album "Horse of a Different Color" in 2004. This album produced four straight Top 40 country hits, including their signature "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy."

The Martin Community Band, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, and the tribute show will be free to the public. Ticket prices for Sesame Street Live are $15 and $25. The Jackson Symphony Orchestra and fireworks performance will offer chair reserved tickets at $15 and bleacher general admission at $10.

Switchfoot ticket options are $20, $30 and $40. 38 Special and Foreigner tickets are $35, $55 and $60. The final night with Big & Rich, Cowboy Troy, Gretchen Wilson, Jessie G and concluding fireworks includes tickets priced at $40, $60, $75 and $100.

To purchase tickets, go online to http://www.tnsoy-beanfestival.org/. For anyone needing assistance, staff at Martin City Hall and the C.E. Weldon Public Library are available to help with the online purchase(s).

Orientation scheduled at UTM

Adults and transfer students interested in learning more about life at the University of Tennessee at Martin are encouraged to register for the one-day Transfer and Adult Orientation event from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., June 1.

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair at 8:30 a.m. An official welcome will start at 9 a.m., followed by concurrent sessions from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Attendees will learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options.

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Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to attend, although there is no fee to attend. An additional Transfer and Adult Orientation session will be held July 20. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
Transfer, adult orientation at UTM

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UTM reading clinics open June 4-28

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will conduct personal sessions June 4-28 for students in second through 12th grades who need additional reading assistance between school years.

Students can meet with an experienced reading professional twice a week on either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Registration is $100 per student, plus $25 for a required workbook.

All students will be individually tested to determine areas of need and placed into a course designed to fill any gaps in comprehension and skill.

ACT prep course at UTM Jackson Center

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TERI BROOKE ALLRED, of Halls, completed course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2018 semester. She received her veterinary health technologist pin during a ceremony held May 4th and will finish a six-week internship in an active practice before receiving her degree in the fall. Allred was also awarded the program’s Jerry D. Gresham Memorial Scholarship. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, program director, at 731-881-1071.

TREVOR BELTON, center, of Halls, and his family, from left, Grace, Dustin, Stephen, Megan and Virgie Belton, celebrated his graduation from the University of Tennessee at Martin May 5th. Belton received his bachelor of arts in music degree during the ceremony in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. More than 600 students participated in the ceremony to accept their degrees from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. For more information on UT Martin, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
UTM declares campus smoke-free

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To read the policy in full or access smoking-cessation resources, visit utm.edu/departments/ehs.

Coyote prowls UTM campus

Workers at the Margaret M. Perry Children’s Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin had a bandit recently who was raiding their garden at night.

Chance Weldon, a graduate assistant at the center and a photographer, decided to set up a trail camera early in May.

“I wasn’t prepared to see this,” Weldon said after reviewing the footage.

He was expecting a rabbit or perhaps a raccoon. What he had recorded was a coyote.

Although coyotes are common in the countryside of Tennessee, they are seldom seen in such populated areas as a college campus. But there was something even stranger about this coyote: it was wearing a dog collar. There was even an identification tag attached to the collar.

Friday afternoon the coyote was spotted again. Weldon, determined to find out where he belonged, tried to entice the animal closer.

“He was scared of me at first, but he warmed up enough to play fetch with me,” Weldon said. “Unfortunately, he wouldn’t let me catch him or take a look at his tag.”

Over the weekend, someone managed to catch the coyote and the tag revealed the animal belonged to a licensed owner in Kentucky. The owner reportedly said the coyote had been stolen, and probably in search of food, wound up in Martin.

According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, wild coyotes are locally common due to their adaptability. They are hunted to control their damage to livestock and poultry, and for their fur pelts. They can live almost anywhere including fields, forests, farmlands, shrubland, and urban areas. Dens are usually located in remote or unused fields, often in a bank, under a hollow log, in a rock cavity, or under a deserted building.

Some counties in East Tennessee have established a bounty program to reduce the population of coyotes.

Fortunately the Skyhawk coyote made it safely home without being harmed or killed.