Local Visits Morocco With UTM Leadership Program

Alex Dunn (back row, center right), a health and human performance major from Dresden, traveled to Morocco and Spain with the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute in March. The Ned Ray McWherter Institute is a three-year professional development program that provides travel, networking and leadership opportunities to select UT Martin students across all majors. The institute's junior cohort plans a spring international trip each year to a country where neither English is the official language nor is the United States dollar the official currency. Dunn, along with nine other class members, chose to travel to both Morocco and Spain, becoming the first cohort to visit two continents. During the trip, students visited sites such as the Royal Palace of Madrid and the Plaza de Toros bullring in Madrid, Spain, as well as the Atlas Mountain range and the Jema el-Fnaa market in Marrakech, Morocco. Pictured at Riad Hidden, a traditional Moroccan house where the cohort stayed in Marrakech, are (front row, l-r) Dr. Carrie Humphreys, UT Martin assistant professor of political science and international studies; students Mary Lane Minatra, Meera Patel, Savannah Stanely and Willie McNeal; Ikram Ouinkhir, riad manager; (back row) students Brooke Boshers, Stone Craft, Kalen Royal, Dunn, Erin Young and John Fritts. For more information about the Ned Ray McWherter Institute, contact Joyanne Gansereit, program coordinator, at 731-881-3620.

Local UTM Student Invited to Join Business Honors Society

Heidi James, of Dresden, was invited into the University of Tennessee at Martin’s chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, an international honors society that recognizes business students. This honor is awarded to students in the upper 10 percent of their programs in the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. An induction ceremony will be held April 25 at UT Martin. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
DCHS students receive scholarships to attend UT-Martin

Several Dyer County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2019-2020 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Caleigh Jo Erwin, daughter of Joe and Rachel Erwin, of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. She received the Golightly Foundation Family and Consumer Science Scholarship and the Achieve Scholarship.
- Macy Jones, daughter of Brian and Brandye Jones, of Dyersburg, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship and the Billy and Carol Vestal Future Farmers of America Scholarship.
- Alea Russell, of Dyersburg, daughter of Candace Watson and Marcus Russell, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Advance Scholarship.
- Leanna Williams, of Dyersburg, daughter of Dashelle Gourley, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.

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

At the college level

Rebecca Davis of Hornbeak has been awarded scholarships to the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2018-19 academic year. A senior, she received the Information Systems Award and the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for their freshman year in the 2019-20 academic year. They include:
- Madison Butner, daughter of Chris and Allison Butner of Union City, who received the Achieve Scholarship.
- James Ramsey, son of Joseph and Katie Ramsey of Union City, recipient of the Achieve Scholarship.
- Dayton Thompson of Union City, son of Jamie and Ashley Merrell and Chris and Edie Thompson, who received the Excellence Scholarship.
**UT Martin to welcome high school musicians**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its second annual “Chancellor’s Orchestra” concert at 3 p.m. May 11 in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

This event is free to the public.

About 15 high school string players from around the state will come to UT Martin on May 10 to rehearse and audition for chair placements in an honors orchestra.

Dr. Angela Ammerman, coordinator of music education, and Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will co-conduct the orchestra in the final performance.

The winner of a solo competition will also perform during the afternoon concert.

The winner of this competition must be a graduating high school senior who plans to attend UT Martin in fall 2019 in pursuit of a music degree. The soloist will also receive a music scholarship, not to exceed $4,000.

Plus, the concert will be accompanied by the presentation of two awards: the Orchestra Director of the Year Award, presented to an outstanding string teacher, and the Chancellor’s Award for Orchestral Advocacy, presented to an administrator or community member who actively supports orchestra programs for young musicians.

Award nominations are submitted by orchestra teachers, students, parents, administrators, peers, colleagues and community members who have recognized their outstanding work.

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**College students visit Spain and Morocco**

Third-year students in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute have the opportunity to travel internationally during the spring semester each year.

The 2019 trip included stops in both Spain and Morocco, making this the first time an NRMI cohort has visited two continents in one week.

NRMI is a unique personal and professional development program that not only prepares select students for the workforce but gives them opportunities to visit places they may never otherwise.

This international travel opportunity differs from a traditional travel-study because it is planned by the students themselves. The class votes on which country or countries to visit, with the primary criteria being that English cannot be an official language and the U.S. dollar cannot be the official currency.

The students also divide the days of the trip among themselves, and each two-person team is responsible for planning the itinerary for a chosen date. This results in a widely varied schedule, which this year included palace and city tours, camel rides, bullfighting, cooking classes, European marketplaces and hiking.

Erin Young, a junior chemistry major from Halls, said she and her partner planned a full day in Spain. After visiting the Royal Palace and the largest flea market in Europe, the group participated in a food tour of the city.

“We had two guides, and it was about three hours long,” she said. “They took us to different popular spots in a small area of the city ... and we would go and sit down at whatever restaurant it was for 10 to 15 minutes and try whatever specialty they had. Our guides would order for us and then bring it to us and explain the significance of the dish and what it was made out of.”

They ended the evening with a live flamenco show. “I was just amazed at all the energy they had. ... It was really cool to see that side of the culture,” she said.

Traditional cuisine was a theme throughout the trip, and the group’s time in Marrakesh, Morocco, included a cooking class.

“We were making chicken tagine, which is a traditional Moroccan dish. We got the chickens, and they were live. This man just pulls them out, and he starts preparing them. ... It was really surprising because we could watch it all happen,” said Mary Lane Minatra, a junior agriculture major from Rockvale.

The group then purchased vegetables and other ingredients from the marketplace and returned to a traditional residence to prepare their lunch with the instruction of a local woman.

Visiting a developing country like Morocco showed the students another side of life and caused them to think about the conveniences they take for granted in the United States.

“I think a lot of us don’t really appreciate what we have here until we see something somewhere else, and so I was able to come to the states and realize that some of the things we have here are taken for granted,” Ms. Minatra said.
UC Health Occupations Students Get Real World Experience

By Mike Hutchens, UC Schools Communications Director

Union City, Tenn.—Students in the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Club at Union City High School have been getting some real-life experience this school year.

They got a little more with a field trip recently to the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Jr. Nursing Department at UTM hosted eight students from Union City High School who are a part of HOSA with several of them involved in a first-year Nursing Education CNA program at UCHS.

A number of different stations were set up to introduce the Union City contingent to different aspects of nursing.

UC students practiced giving injections on mannequins, worked with catheter care and wheelchair patients and even did some animal therapy.

The experience was the latest for part of a group of 19 seniors in the program, which is essentially an introduction to the health care profession.

The group has gained valuable on-the-job experience performing clinicals this year at The Waters, visiting the health care/retirement facility on a twice-weekly basis where they’ve done everything from feeding patients to transporting them to changing diapers.

“They’ve gotten some real-world experience there, and the trip to UTM was a really good eye-opener for some of them, too,” said Jessica Tuck, the teacher of the class and herself a UT Martin alumnus. “I think the whole year has opened their eyes some to everything nursing entails.

“The students got bits and pieces by touring the department at UTM, just like they’ve gotten bits and pieces from their time at The Waters this year. It’s been some real-world stuff.”

The field trip was open to all West Tennessee seniors at high schools with such nursing classes.

“They’ve really gotten to see what this profession is all about. Some of them, I think it further entrenched the idea that this is what they want to study and to pursue as a profession,” Tuck added.

“Some of the others, though, I think it’s showed them that they might want to explore another field.”

Students in the class will sit for state boards May 22.

They will receive certification from having completed the class.
University of Tennessee trustees appoint new student and faculty members for 2019-2020 terms

Monica Kast, Knoxville News Sentinel  Published 12:22 p.m. ET May 1, 2019

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees appointed a non-voting student member and a faculty member to the Education, Research and Service committee.

The Executive Committee on Wednesday unanimously approved Spencer Ammen, a junior at UT-Knoxville, as the non-voting student representative on the Board of Trustees. The committee also unanimously approved Jefferson Rogers, a professor of geography at UT-Martin, as a voting member of the Education, Research and Service Committee.

Selections for student and faculty representatives rotate between UT campuses. Student and faculty members are nominated by the provost of each campus, and faculty members are nominated by the deans and approved by the chancellor and provost (/story/news/education/2019/02/05/ut-executive-committee-place-members-committees-plan-march-meeting/2723655002/).

Ammen is majoring in accounting and is from Abingdon, Virginia. In his application letter submitted to the Board of Trustees, Ammen said that he understands "the immense pressure that comes with this title and do not take them lightly."

"If appointed to this prestigious position, I would work tirelessly to represent the concerns of all students on campus and voice those concerns to the members of the board," Ammen wrote.

Ammen will begin as the student trustee on July 1 and his term will last until June 30, 2020.

Trustee Kim White said she was looking forward to working with a new student representative, and pointed to the input current student representative Kenneth Packer's role.

"We've seen from Kenneth being on the Board how much students can provide input and insight and I look forward to working with him," White said.

Rogers has been at UT-Martin since 1995 and has been a member of the faculty senate twice, once as the faculty senate president. He was also a voting faculty trustee for one year, according to UT-Martin Chancellor Keith Carver's nomination letter.

Rogers received a unanimous nomination from the faculty senate for nomination to the Education, Research and Service Committee.

"Having already served two separate terms on the Faculty Senate... I thought my days of faculty representation were over," Rogers wrote in his application for the position. "However, I felt that this nomination from my peers was too much of an honor to simply reject."

Rogers said he is a "believer in the concept of 'shared governance' within institutions of higher education," and would use shared governance between faculty and administration as a member of the committee.

Rogers will begin on the committee on July 1 and his term will last until June 30, 2020.
Local colleges and universities see decrease in crime on campus

May 1, 2019 by Brittany Kyles

JACKSON, Tenn. — According to yourlocalsecurity.com, the University of Tennessee at Martin is the safest college campus in the state of Tennessee.

"Our officers are doing an excellent job on their patrols," said Chad Worley of the UTM Office of Public Safety.

Other colleges and universities in Tennessee have seen decreases in their crime rate from 2017 to 2018, according to a report by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Lane College’s Vice President for institutional advancement and Chief of Staff Darlette Samuels said their numbers have also declined.

“We are very pleased with the report that was recently released," said Darlette Samuels, Lane College’s Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Chief of Staff.

“We’ve actually added a 5-layer of security here at the college campus, which is more on a student level," said Chief Steaven Joy, Director of Campus Safety and Security of Lane College.

Chief Joy said there’s an app for students to report crime.

It’s called “Live Safe.” Students can report crime to local authorities on campus via photo, video and description.

“We want you to feel safe when you come to lane college campus,” Chief Joy said.

Since using the security plan, Chief Joy said the number of burglaries and thefts at Lane have decreased.

According to the report, crime has also gone down at UT Martin.
“People who work here, people who attend here, they do a great job of what they’re supposed to do, looking out for each other,” Worley said.

Meanwhile, WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News reached out to Union University, who questioned the accuracy of the report.

They said due to errors in reporting by the TBI, they are talking with them to have corrections made.

Communications Director for the TBI Josh Devine said the data in the report is the data submitted by the law enforcement agencies from Union University.

But Devine said if any data needs to be updated to send them to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Area women complete UTM Nursing program

Rachel Carpenter, of Holladay, and Shelbey Hicks and Emily Ibarra, both of Camden, have completed all requirements of the UTM Bachelor of Science in nursing program, preparing them to pursue licensure as registered nurses. Thirty-two students completed the program this year and will receive their degrees during UTM’s commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 4.

The rigorous 3-year nursing program includes more than 900 hours of clinical experience and has produced high-quality nurses for more than 45 years. For more information about the nursing program, contact the UTM Department of Nursing at 731-881-7131.
UTM welcomes high schoolers for Chancellor’s Orchestra

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its second-annual “Chancellor’s Orchestra” concert at 3 p.m. May 11 in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. This event is free to the public.

About 15 high school string players from around the state will come to UT Martin on May 10 to rehearse and audition for chair placements in an honors orchestra. Dr. Angela Ammerman, coordinator of music education, and Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will co-conduct the orchestra in the final performance.

The winner of a solo competition will also perform during the afternoon concert. The winner of this competition must be a graduating high school senior who plans to attend UT Martin in fall 2019 in pursuit of a music degree. The soloist will also receive a music scholarship not to exceed $4,000.

The concert will also be accompanied by the presentation of two awards: the Orchestra Director of the Year Award, presented to an outstanding string teacher, and the Chancellor’s Award for Orchestral Advocacy, presented to an administrator or community member who actively supports orchestra programs for young musicians. Award nominations are submitted by orchestra teachers, students, parents, administrators, peers, colleagues and community members who have recognized their outstanding work.

For more information about the performance, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402 or visit utm.edu/chancellorsorchestra.
ROTC AWARDS — The Department of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Tennessee at Martin held their Awards Ceremony April 26 in the UTM Student Center. Students were dressed in their Army Service Uniforms with bow tie for military dress. Shown here is Cadet Alexys L. Smith, a criminal justice major from Clarksville, Tenn., receiving the ROTC Award from Daughters of the American Colonists chapter member Aline Robert. Guest speaker was Lt. General John Castellaw USMC (Ret.) who graduated from this university many years ago. The students honored Lt. Col. Lowell E. Howard, Jr., Professor of Military Science UT-Martin who is leaving to go to Fort Knox. The Col. Gideon Macon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonists is in Paris, Tennessee and hopes to continue to support the UT Martin ROTC program to help make the Skyhawk Battalion successful.

UTM offers mobile device monitoring class for parents

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a community course on mobile device monitoring from 5:30-7:30 p.m., May 14, on the main campus.

Olivia Phifer, a manager in the UTM Office of Information Technology Services, will instruct parents and guardians of young children and teens on ways to track and filter apps and web access on a smart phone.

The course registration fee is $20 per person, and the class will cover smart phone and tablet set-up and ways to block restricted content, track device usage time and location, set usage limits and other parental controls.

Phifer will also cover new features in the latest operating system versions for popular smart phones and discuss applications such as Spyzie, Life360, Famisafe and others. Both Apple and Android devices will be covered. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/non-degree/martin.php. For assistance registering, contact UT Martin outreach at (731) 881-7104.

BRIEFS FROM PAGE 1

As Spyzie, Life360, Famisafe and others. Both Apple and Android devices will be covered. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/non-degree/martin.php. For assistance registering, contact UT Martin outreach at (731) 881-7104.
UTM Grad Travels From Washington State For Degree

MARTIN, Tenn. — Samuel Steel joined other graduating University of Tennessee at Martin seniors during both the traditional Grand Finale celebration walk April 25 on the main campus and commencement May 4 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. However, Steel traveled a bit farther than most to cross the commencement stage.

The Redmond, Washington, resident and his family made their first visit to Martin to celebrate Steel’s accomplishment of earning an online master’s degree.

Steel was born in California, moved often through his teenage years and eventually attended the University of California Santa Barbara, where he earned an economics degree in 1987. His first career was in public accounting as a CPA and auditor with then “Big Eight” accounting firm Arthur Andersen, but life events and changing interests led him to the consulting world as a part-time chief financial officer. Steel has since traveled the world working as a CFO for mining and mineral companies and has earned a good living, but he wanted to accomplish more. “I just wasn’t having the kind of success I wanted to, and I didn’t really have any credibility or credentials, and I thought, ‘I want to get a (master’s) degree,’” he said. Steel first considered a degree in mining, but he had some agriculture and farming background and was interested in resource sustainability. He searched “natural resources” on the Web and eventually discovered UT Martin’s highly regarded online Master of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resources. What he discovered was as a double and affordable degree-program option that accommodated work travel and raising a young family. He considers himself a good student, but the degree program was challenging, especially the large amount of homework required. “I don’t know if I’ve ever over achieved. ... I’m one of those people that I’m like really good at everything, but I’m not the best at anything,” he said as he reflected on his many work and life experiences. “Whatever it is that I apply myself to, I have to work hard.” His efforts paid off, and a journey across the country to receive his degree was an opportunity he could not miss.

Coming to Northwest Tennessee was an eye-opening experience as he connected in person for the first time with the area, campus and people that made his online degree possible. “I was blown away,” he said, adding, “It’s like a big old campus, ... and I thought, ‘Wow, this is amazing.’” His visits around the university eventually led to a proud walk across the commencement stage Saturday when he received his degree. His wife, Joana Mae, and seven-month-old daughter, Chloe Ann, were in the audience to share the moment.

Steel readily talks about his faith and gives God credit for the journey that brought him to Tennessee. He will rely on his faith for what lies ahead, which likely includes more education and maybe work in Tennessee. “When we learn to let go, then we can learn to receive,” he said of trusting faith to provide direction in his life. As for the benefits of education, he said, “I love learning. Learning just makes me feel so different about everything, and it’s just such a really good feeling.”

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed the capacity audience and later conferred degrees to students from 62 Tennessee counties, 28 states outside of Tennessee and seven nations in addition to the U.S. The university’s Office of Academic Records reported that 718 students were eligible to graduate at the conclusion of spring semester. A total of 550 graduates participated in commencement exercises, which included 526 undergraduates and 24 graduates.

Following a piano performance by graduating music major Gian Garma, of Martin, Carver introduced the commencement speaker, Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, executive director for Complete Tennessee. The veteran administrator is responsible for developing and implementing the programming necessary to support Tennessee’s vision to increase the number of state residents who hold postsecondary degrees by year 2025. He previously served as assistant vice chancellor at the Tennessee Board of Regents and also held several administrative posts at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin.
Photo: Samuel Steel is pictured with his wife, Joana Mae, and their daughter, Chloe Ann, before UT Martin’s spring commencement, May 4, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The family traveled to the campus for the first time to celebrate Steel’s graduation from the university.

Obion Co. Students Complete UTM Vet Tech Program

MARTIN, Tenn. - Elizabeth Gibson, of Union City, and Marissa Howard, of Rives, recently completed the University of Tennessee at Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program's academic requirements and are now qualified to complete a six-week field internship with a veterinary clinic or research facility. They will receive their bachelor's degrees in December. For more information on the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts at jroberts@utm.edu (mailto:jroberts@utm.edu) or 731-881-1071.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Henry County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Paris – Andrew Blake Allen; Katelyn Nicole Caldwell; Adam Chisolm; Rebecca Allison Dean; Autumn Alayne England; Kelsey Jean Faith; Hailey Deshay Frizzell; Jade S. Hamilton; Caleb Porter Hawley; Andrew Kirby Michael Key; Erica Nicole Little; Jeffrey Todd Marshall; Jacob Hall Robinson; Jonathon Alexander Sulcer; Landon Neil Thomas; Vincent Logan Vine; Candice Michelle Wyatt.
- Puryear – Jerod W. Grooms.

MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Obion County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Hornbeak – Laken Dyan Kirk.
- Obion – Kiernan Scott Coursey; Jeriana Marie Grimes; Allison Mackenzie Priest; Ericka R. Reaves; Juliane Elizabeth Rudd.
- Rives – Christa Lee McKnight.
- South Fulton – Samantha E. Connor; Melanie Amber Johnson; Caitlyn Alexandra McClain; Benjamin Robert St. Onge.
- Troy – Hayden Gage Thomas Cary; Diana Garcia Franco; Mason Nicholas Hoffman; William Shaw Logan; Charles Ronald Douglas Marshall; Rebecca Lynn Robb; Alexandria Elora Sharp; Stephan Thomas Smith.
- Union City – Blake Thomas Berner; Matthew Allen Edmaiston; John Steven Harpole; Molly Rose Hill-Tibbs; Marissa H. Howard; Angelique Marie Kendall; Morgan Alexandra Martin; Barbara Paige Russell; Holly Anne Seng; Chasity Nichole Smith; Eric Ramirez Torres; Michael P. Whitman; Zackary Aaron Williamson; Alexandra Nichole Wilson.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Connor Jackson Alley; Lillie Deshawn Barner; Hunter Lee Cochran; Thomas Wayne Doster Jr.; Alex Lea Dunn; Carly Denise Greer; Thomas Denham Sims; Joshua Cole Terry; Joshua Travis Walker.
- Gleason – Tabithia Kaytlynn Baker; Brahm Peter Greve II; Dalis Lampkins; Harley Dewayne Martin; Avery Orr.
- Greenfield – Damon Patrick Biddle; Darian Lenae Black; Jessica Lyn Johnson; Kaitlyn Leigh Sanders.
- Martin – Christopher Travis Ables; Mariella A. Aguilar; Barrett Judson Belote; Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla; Andrea Nicole Brooks; Seth Allen Carr; Cameron Neil Cates; Denver Crittendon; Morgan Elizabeth Curlin; George Emmett Daniel; James Thomas Eskew; Mary Elizabeth Fortner; Gian Mari Garma; SarahJane Gillespie; Brandon L. Hauhe; Seth Taylor Hayes; Jesse M. Hazlewood; Addison N. Hazlewood; Sara E. Hibbard; Katelyn Elizabeth Howell; Amanda K. Lund; Summar Nassar; Amber Owensby; Ivie Marie Pfenning; Jennifer Sue Robinson; Colton Carl Rogers; Adrian Entela De Sagon; Kaitlyn R. Scott; Madison Nelson Shumake; Alex Andrea Smith; Chelsea A. Thweatt; Nathan Edward Williamson; Koltin Blake Winstead.
- Sharon – Cathrine Aryanna Marie Harvey; Shawna Renee Sampson; Brandon Kyle Stacks.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Riley E. Laster; Amy L. Rogowski.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 19 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu (http://utm.edu/).

Manchester student graduates from UT Martin

Press Release 5/7/2019

A Coffee County resident was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The student receiving an undergraduate degree was Manchester’s Miracle Eleasah Jones.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 19 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
MURRAY - Dr. Stephen Lacewell, a Murray State University faculty member, was honored with the 2019 Distinguished Professor Award on April 4. Lacewell is a professor of finance at Murray State, where he has taught since 1999. He also serves as director of the university’s Center for Banking and Finance.

The Distinguished Professor Award is a student-nominated honor and was established in 1964 to recognize an outstanding faculty member who has had a profound and positive influence on students, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Lacewell was presented with the prestigious Golden Apple award in a surprise ceremony at the Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business led by university administration, including Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson.

“This award is a huge honor, considering all of the fantastic faculty members here at Murray State University,” Lacewell said. “I tell my students constantly to find a profession they absolutely love, because it makes all other areas of their lives more enjoyable. I have been doing what I love for the last 20 years and have been blessed to work with some of the finest students anywhere right here in Murray, Kentucky.”
Jacie Trimm, a finance/commercial banking major, was one of the students that nominated Lacewell. She said his personalized approach to teaching made him an easy choice for the award.

“I felt Dr. Lacewell deserved this award after seeing all the behind-the-scenes work he does to get his students jobs after graduation,” Trimm said. “He brings in different speakers to give students insight on different career options while notifying them when a business is looking to hire. He cares for his students’ success and it shows.”

Lacewell created the area in finance with a commercial bank management option at the university in the spring of 2016 and additionally serves on the faculty of the Barret Graduate School of Banking, the Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking and the Southeastern School of Banking.

He received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Tennessee at Martin, his MBA with a finance concentration from Murray State University and an M.S. in finance and a Ph.D. in finance with minors in economics and statistics from Mississippi State University. He has also taught classes and published research internationally.

Other honors Lacewell has received include the university’s Max Carman Outstanding Teacher Award, Sigma Phi Epsilon’s Professor of the Year, Alpha Phi Alpha Outstanding Faculty Award and much more.

“Dr. Lacewell epitomizes excellence in his professorial role,” said Dr. Tim Todd, dean of the Bauernfeind College of Business. “He engages students in his courses with real-world, applied examples in the banking and financial world. I’m proud to have him as a colleague and friend, and I thank the Murray State University Alumni Association for bestowing this high honor on Steve.”

http://www.wenkwtpr.com/

UTM To Offer Community Class On Mobile Device Monitoring
   ☑️ MAY 7, 2019 AT 9:34 AM ▶️ POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a community course on mobile device monitoring from 5:30-7:30 p.m., May 14, on the main campus. Olivia Phifer, a manager in the UT Martin Office of Information Technology Services, will instruct parents and guardians of young children and teens on ways to track and filter applications and web access on a smart phone. The course registration fee is $20 per person, and the class will cover smart phone and tablet set-up and ways to block restricted content, track device usage time and location, set usage limits and other parental controls. Phifer will also cover new features in the latest operating system versions for popular smart phones and discuss applications such as Spyzie, Life360, Famisafe and others. Both Apple and Android devices will be covered.
   For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php. For assistance registering, contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104.
UT Martin announces spring graduates from Williamson County

Several Williamson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Arrington – Shaun M. Brosemer.
- Brentwood – Cameron S. Smith.
- College Grove – Ali A. Schwartz
- Fairview – Garrett Austin Wall.
- Franklin – Amie L. Newman.
- Nolensville – Daniel Jones; Nathan Mark Kleiner; Kendall Nikol Wepking.
- Spring Hill – Carly Smith; Anna Louise Whitt.
- Thompsons Station – Grace Noelle Roberts.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 19 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.

Gibson Co. students receive UTM scholarships

MARTIN, Tenn. — Two Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2019-2020 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Asia Brown, of Trenton, daughter of Latisha Williams and Tyrone Brown, will be a freshman. She received the Golightly Foundation Family and Consumer Science Scholarship, the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Achieve Scholarship.
- Kaley Holland, daughter of Michael and Pamela Holland, of Milan, will be a freshman. She received the Dean Scholarship.
Degree from UT Martin awaited Washington state resident

Samuel Steel joined other graduating University of Tennessee at Martin seniors during both the traditional Grand Finale celebration walk April 25 on the main campus and commencement Saturday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. However, Steel traveled a bit farther than most to cross the commencement stage. The Redmond, Washington, resident and his family made their first visit to Martin to celebrate Steel's accomplishment of earning an online master's degree.

Steel was born in California, moved often through his teenage years and eventually attended the University of California Santa Barbara, where he earned an economics degree in 1987. His first career was in public accounting as a CPA and auditor with then "Big Eight" accounting firm Arthur Andersen, but life events and changing interests led him to the consulting world as a part-time chief financial officer. Steel has since traveled the world working as a CFO for mining and mineral companies and has earned a good living, but he wanted to accomplish more.

"I just wasn't having the kind of success I wanted to, and I didn't really have any credibility or credentials, and I thought, 'I want to get a (master's) degree," he said. Steel first considered a degree in mining, but he had some agriculture and farming background and was interested in resource sustainability. He searched "natural resources" on the Web and eventually discovered UT Martin's highly regarded online Master of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

What he discovered was family. He considers himself a good student, but the degree program was challenging, especially the large amount of homework required. "I don't know if I've ever over achieved. ... I'm one of those people that I'm like really good at everything, but I'm not the best at anything," he said as he reflected on his many work and life experiences. "Whatever it is that I apply myself to, I have to work hard." His efforts paid off, and a journey across the country to receive his degree was an opportunity he could not miss.

Coming to Northwest Tennessee was an eye-opening experience as he connected in person for the first time with the area, campus and people that made his online degree possible. "I was blown away," he said, adding, "It's like a big old campus, ... and I thought, 'Wow, this is amazing.'"

His visits around the university eventually led to a proud walk across the commencement stage Saturday when he received his degree. His wife, Joana Mae, and their daughter, Chloe Ann, were in the audience to share the moment.

Steel readily talks about his faith and gives God credit for the journey that brought him to Tennessee. He will rely on his faith for what lies ahead, which likely includes more education and maybe work in Tennessee. "When we learn to let go, then we can learn to receive," he said of trusting faith to provide direction in his life. As for the benefits of education, he said, "I love learning. Learning just makes me feel so different..."

CONGRATS GRAD — Samuel Steel is pictured with his wife, Joana Mae, and their daughter, Chloe Ann, before UT Martin's spring commencement Saturday at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The family traveled to the campus for the first time to celebrate Steel's graduation from the university.
GRADS
FROM PAGE 1

about everything, and it's just such a really good feeling." UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed the capacity audience and later conferred degrees to students from 62 Tennessee counties, 28 states outside of Tennessee and seven nations in addition to the U.S.

The university’s Office of Academic Records reported that 718 students were eligible to graduate at the conclusion of spring semester. A total of 550 graduates participated in commencement exercises, which included 526 undergraduates and 24 graduates.

Following a piano performance by graduating music major Gian Garma, of Martin, Carver introduced the commencement speaker, Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, executive director for Complete Tennessee. The veteran administrator is responsible for developing and implementing the programming necessary to support Tennessee’s vision to increase the number of state residents who hold postsecondary degrees by year 2025.

He previously served as assistant vice chancellor at the Tennessee Board of Regents and also held several administrative posts at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin.

Lovett used the symbol of a fence as he congratulated graduates for overcoming the challenges that stand in the way of completing a college education.

“The fence represents the hurdles, the hardships, and the herculean effort that make up your success journey in this college experience,” he said.

“Some actions were minor; others tested every fiber of your being. The fence symbolizes the barriers faced when you first make the choice to enroll in college and all that took place to bring you here to this point in your life.”

He reminded the audience that some have a clearer view than others for finding a way over or through this fence.

His father was a college faculty member, so he was better prepared than others “to see over the fence.” For others, the way to college success is more difficult, and he gave the example of a college friend who faced many challenges in his quest to earn a degree.

“When I think about completing college and the challenges and hardships of what many of our students face, I’m reminded of one of my former classmates who his journey started at the front door of his home in Brooklyn, New York, right around August, time for school to start,” Lovett said.

“He had a duffle bag in his hands, and his parents were watching TV on the couch in that front part of the house. And he simply said, ‘I’m getting ready to go to go to college.’ And they just looked at him and told him, ‘Good luck.’”

The friend rode a bus from Brooklyn to Washington, D.C., where Lovett and others met him that first night. A homeless shelter and Lovett’s floor became places for the friend to land until he could secure a job to pay for room and board and the rest of his college expenses. “So, make no mistake,” Lovett said.

“What you have accomplished today is a great feat, and I think of that fence and what it means to each and every one of us, knowing that some have had more hurdles to cross than others.”

Lovett also noted a significant upside to the challenges that individuals face when earning a college degree.

“Whatever the story, however the journey played out for each of you, you have successfully crossed that fence that has alluded so many,” he said. “Were it not for the hurdles, hardships and heroics, you would never know what greatness was inside of you.”

He closed his remarks by urging the new graduates to give back through their money and time.

“I ask each and every one of you, as you venture into the world after this commencement, to make a deliberate effort to do something about this growing fence,” he said. “Give consistently and cheerfully to the university’s foundation to help the most-in-need students with the resources they need to complete college.”

Mentor enrolled and soon-to-be college students, so that many may have the encouraging voice they need to know that there is promise and hope beyond the completion fence.”

Lovett concluded with a quote about overcoming barriers from legendary boxer Muhammad Ali: “Impossible is just a word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they’ve been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It’s an opinion. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing.”
UTM partners with Italy for study abroad program

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

When 15 students and professors from the University of Tennessee at Martin traveled to Italy in 2017, they spent 11 days in Siena, a city in the heart of Tuscany with a population of around 15,000. When told their next stop would be Rome, the students were surprised to hear that the trip would include a visit to the Vatican and a tour of the Sistine Chapel. They were also told about the possibility of attending a cooking class with local chefs.

"The students didn't want to leave Siena," said one of the students who had previously studied in Italy. "They were so excited to be in Rome and they weren't ready to leave."

On Thursday at The Lindell in Martin, Luca Bonomi, president of Dante Alighieri Society (DAS) of Siena, traveling with a member of his board of directors Vicenzo Morano, and the University of Siena, and the University of Tennessee Chancellor Keith Carver, signed a partnership agreement that establishes a long-term, faculty-led program between UTM, the DAS and the University of Siena. The 2017 trip provided the introduction to Bonomi and was followed by a fall 2018 trip with Ostenson and 20 students completing the first full semester abroad.

The next group will travel this year to conduct a full semester of English, music, art history and sociology courses. A series of workshops presented by artists local to the Tuscan region are planned. Excursions to Rome, Venice, Florence, and the Tuscan countryside, as well as cooking lessons at DAS's culinary school are also on the agenda.

"We're creating this partnership to target the underserved study abroad population. The way we are going to do it is to make the cost equivalent to a semester," said one of the students who had previously studied in Italy.

ITA Italy From page 1

This offers new opportunities," he stated, adding that UTM will be the school of record for the coursework, which means that students from other U.S. schools would also attend and receive UTM credit for study abroad.

"The experience teaches us something about ourselves," he added, noting that students had shared messages from Francesco Frati of the University of Siena and noted that the University includes 1,500 international students with 25 percent of the programs taught in English. He expressed gratitude to UTM and said of his third visit to Martin, "I can really understand why Southern hospitality is so well known."

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One of his takeaways was a newfound bravery, he said. "I came out of my shell. I will continue to go back and hope that other students will have the opportunity."

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Symbols of the upcoming agricultural partnership were served as part of the evening meal as gifts of wine and pecorino cheese from the Tuscany region were placed by honey farmed at UTM.

"People from my high school are going there" was the reply, he recounted and then countered the false assumption regarding the student population by noting UTM has students from more than 43 states and 21 countries.

"It is hard to make a big place small but at Martin we can make it as big as you want it to be," he stated.

"A program like this takes students from a small intimate learning environment and gives them the world."
POSTSECONDARY SIGNING DAY – Westview High School recognized all seniors with postsecondary plans - technical schools, military, colleges and universities - at a "signing ceremony" on Monday morning. Principal Jeromy Davidson reported 108 of the 128 graduating have made plans for further learning at 25 different institutions. Westview staff captured a photo of each student signing their commitments while Weakley County School leadership looked on. Refreshments were also served. See the Press’ and Westview’s Facebook pages for more photos.
Katie High named UTM interim business dean

Longtime University of Tennessee administrator and educator Dr. Katie High has been named the interim dean for the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. High will succeed Dr. Ross Dickens, who accepted the dean's position for the Auburn University at Montgomery College of Business. She returns to UT Martin, where she previously served as vice chancellor for student affairs from 2001 to 2006. Her appointment is effective July 1, 2019.

"Dr. High is a familiar name and a proven leader for UT Martin and the University of Tennessee," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "She has held key leadership roles over the years and is an advocate for student success. I am confident we will all benefit from her knowledge and wisdom."

High retired in 2017 as vice president for academic affairs and student success for the University of Tennessee System following 35 years of university service. She also held the positions of assistant vice president for academic affairs, associate senior vice president, and served twice as chief of staff for the UT president. High holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Miami University in Ohio and a Doctor of Education degree from UT Knoxville.

"Retirement is great, but the chance to work back at UT Martin is even better," High said. "The interim dean job will be a challenge for me. I'll have a learning curve, a steep one, and I'll be relying heavily on the faculty and staff in the college to help us all succeed."

High said that reaffirming accreditation for the college by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) will be her highest priority. She will also assist Cavalier with UT Martin Strategic Plan implementation.

"I'm excited about the progress UT Martin has made regarding increasing enrollments, but our work there is certainly not complete," she said. "I look forward to helping in that area (enrollment management) any way that I can."

UT Martin offers course on mobile device monitoring

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a community course on mobile device monitoring from 5:30-7:30 p.m., May 14, on the main campus.

Olivia Phifer, a manager in the UT Martin Office of Information Technology Services, will instruct parents and guardians of young children and teens on ways to track and filter applications and web access on a smartphone.

The course registration fee is $20 per person, and the class will cover smart phone and tablet set-up and ways to block restricted content, track device usage time and location, set usage limits and other parental controls. Phifer will also cover new features in the latest operating system versions for popular smart phones and discuss applications such as Spyzie, Life360, FamiSafe and others. Both Apple and Android devices will be covered.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php. For assistance registering, contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104.
MCCCH nurses talk about their careers

JOHN WRIGHT • jwright@murrayledger.com  May 8, 2019

Veteran Murray-Calloway County Hospital Med Surg Director Lisa Moss, left, visits with MCCH Director of Planning & Marketing Melony Morgan Monday afternoon at the hospital. Moss has been with the hospital for all 35 of her years as a professional.

JOHN WRIGHT/Ledger & Times

MURRAY — In a day and age where health care’s volatility causes many of its employees to bounce around from one city to another, there are still those that go somewhere and stay a while.

Murray-Calloway County Hospital has several of those stories and as National Nurses Week is celebrated this week, three of the hospital’s veterans talked about their time in Murray.

Lisa Moss is one example of this longevity. A native of nearby Paris, Tennessee, she knew she would be a nurse as young as the third grade. While still in undergraduate courses at the University of Tennessee-Martin, where her best friend’s mother, also a nurse at Henry County Medical Center in Paris, had trained, she visited MCCH in January 1983 to establish contact for possible job opportunities later.

“The director of nursing at the time was Bonnie Yates, so I just walked in one day to the secretary’s office and the secretary at the time was Bobbie Waters. So I told her that I was getting ready to graduate and just wanted to know who I can talk to about getting a job here. Well, Miss Yates wasn’t busy so Bobbie took me right into her office and I sat down and talked to her,” Moss said Monday, some 38 years after Yates hired her.

“I didn’t even fill out an application that day. She hired me on the spot. She told me what shift, what floor, when to show back up, so I actually had a job in January before I graduated that May. A lot of my classmates didn’t believe me and I said to them, ‘Hey! You need to get over to Murray and talk to that secretary because she took me right into the director of nursing’s office and they hired me on the spot.’ It was a little different than it is today.”

Moss is now the hospital’s medical-surgical director and has lived in Murray the past 28 years. However, after making transition from floor nurse to administrator, she said one thing remains constant.
"Helping people," she said. "I'm a manager now, but I feel like I'm interviewing and selecting staff to take care of patients here that could be their parents or family members. They could be my family and I have been a patient here and they've taken care of me, but I feel like that small thing (selecting employees) is one thing I can do for Murray."

Carol Perlow, now the hospital's director of education services, has been at MCCH since 1986 since arriving from Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington (after getting into the profession in 1976 upon graduating from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond). She said her path differed from that of Moss in that nursing was not something she had wanted to pursue when she was a child.

"I was actually looking toward special education," she said. "I don't know if it is the fact that it is nursing so much as it is knowing that I'm in a helping profession.

"I think I like it so much because no day is the same and you can make a difference in the lives of people, and that was especially the case when I was a material child clinical specialist (in Lexington). We did a lot with high-risk mommas, so we were there to help get them settled into the Ronald McDonald House (where families of children requiring intensive care stay)."

Carolyn Thorn has been in nursing 40 years, with the last 39 years and 6 months being at MCCH. Now the hospital's director of regulatory compliance, Thorn achieved registered nurse status in 2001 after spending the first several years as a license practical nurse. Like Moss, she also knew someone close to her who was a nurse: her mother.

"My mom graduated from Murray State the same year I graduated LPN school, but I hadn't really followed her into that. The main reason I did it was because I was a single parent and needed to make a living for me and my child," Thorn said. "So Mom said, 'I think you need to get into something like that.' She was right. I've loved every minute of it.

"I never thought about staying here this long, it's just something you don't think about, really. You just love what you do."

For Moss, the nursing legacy looks like it will continue in her family. Her daughter, Shelby, is about to enter the nursing school at Murray State.

"We've had quite a few (talks about it) but I've been encouraging her. I haven't discouraged her at all," Lisa said, going back to what her grandmother in Cottage Grove, Tennessee told her many years ago. "My grandmother had always encouraged me to be a nurse. She came from a family of 12 siblings and she would tell me that (with nursing) there's always people for you to take care of; you'll always have a job. So I knew my whole life what I was going to do."

Danielle Caster of Sedali, was recently recognized as a faculty scholar for the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs during an awards banquet. Faculty members in this college select one student to receive this distinction every year.
Local student receives scholarship

Press Release  May 8, 2019

A Coffee County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2019-2020 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Anabelle Layne, of Manchester, daughter of Justin and Joyce Crites and Kendall and Lorie Layne, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor Scholarship.

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

The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met recently to discuss the university's enrollment strategy, fundraising plans and proposed budget during its regular summer meeting.

A webcast of that meeting will be made available at utm.edu/advisoryboard.

Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of enrollment services and student engagement, presented the university’s enrollment strategy and gave prospective numbers for the fall 2019 freshman class.

Mantooth says UT Martin is making contact with all eligible sophomore, junior and senior-level high school students across the state of Tennessee and is showing a positive trend to meet fall 2019 enrollment goals for both incoming freshmen and transfer students.

According to Mantooth, more than 8,800 freshman applications have been received for the fall 2019 semester — an increase of more than 1,100 applications as compared to fall 2018. Of those applications, more than 5,700 students had been admitted as of April 22 and 1,172 of those indicate the intention to enroll in fall courses.

Transfer student numbers are also positive, with 672 transfer students admitted as of April 22 and 269 of those indicating the intention to enroll.

New enrollment and retention initiatives include the inaugural Transfer Student Bootcamp to be held this summer and financed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and a partnership with ReUp Education, an organization that specifically recruits students with incomplete college degrees to finish their education at UT Martin.

Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for advancement, reviewed UT Martin’s fundraising progress and priorities for the coming fiscal year. UT Martin raised $7.5 million during fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) and has raised $6 million so far in fiscal year 2019, which ends June 30. These funds are applied to student scholarships and grants, capital projects such as new academic facilities, athletic programs and special projects across university areas.

Key fundraising opportunities for the coming fiscal year include the Chancellor's Academic Excellence Fund, which is an unrestricted scholarship fund used to recruit and retain the state's high-achieving students; the Innovation and Product Realization Facility, often called “The Garage”; a new fine arts concert hall; the Ned Ray McWherter Institute; an indoor athletic facility; the UT Promise Scholarship Program initiated by the UT System; and several new initiatives within the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Petra McPherson, vice chancellor for finance and administration, presented the university’s proposed operating budget for the 2019-20 academic year, which will not be finalized until it is approved by the UT Board of Trustees during its June meeting in Knoxville. As of this time, UT Martin expects to receive $35.4 million in state appropriations, which is only a small part of the anticipated operating costs of approximately $147 million for fiscal year 2020.

Ms. McPherson anticipates a 2 percent increase in the student maintenance fee, also called “in-state tuition,” paid by all students, which is below the recommended level set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The mandatory fees paid by most students could also increase by half a percent-age point, resulting in a total cost increase of 2.5 percent for the coming academic year.

The board also reviewed the processes for submitting recommendations to the UT president regarding the campus strategic plan and operating budget, which have been established by the UT Board of Trustees.

The advisory board welcomed new members during this meeting.

Katie Ashley, senior advisor for government affairs and economic development at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, was appointed to the board by Haslam and confirmed by Gov. Bill Lee earlier this year. She is a 2008 UT Martin graduate and will serve on the board until June 30, 2020.

Ms. Ashley served as state director of legislation, the governor’s chief strategist and advisor for legislative matters, from her appointment in October 2017 until accepting her current position in October 2018. The Crockett County native was instrumental in Haslam’s Drive to 55 initiative and with the passage of the Tennessee Promise and FOCUS Acts.

Lauren Carter, a rising sophomore from Olive Branch, Miss., was officially introduced as the new student representative to the board and will begin her term July 1. She will represent the student body on the advisory board for the 2019-20 academic year and replaces Devin Majors, who plans to graduate in December of this year.

Ms. Carter is one of three students nominated by the student body to serve, and Chancellor Keith Carver selected her after a round of individual interviews. The next regular meeting of the UT Martin Advisory Board will be held Sept. 20. Agenda information will be distributed one week prior to the meeting date.
Mobile device monitoring course set

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a community course on mobile device monitoring from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday on the main campus.

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OC students awarded degrees

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

The event, held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, featured an address by Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, executive director of Complete Tennessee.

Among those who received undergraduate degrees, listed by hometown, were:

- Hornbeak — Laken Dyan Kirk.
- Obion — Kiernan Scott Coursey, Jeriana Marie Grimes, Allison Mackenzie Priest, Ericka R. Reaves and Juliane Elizabeth Rudd.
- Rives — Christa Lee Knight.
- South Fulton — Samantha E. Connor, Melanie Amber Johnson, Caitlyn Alexandra McClain and Benjamin Robert St. Onge.

CHosen for award
— Audrey Adams of Union City received the Margrethe Ahlschwede Literary Award in Personal Essay and Creative Nonfiction from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the university’s annual Honors Day ceremony recently. This award is given by the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. She was also inducted into the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society during a recent ceremony.

Named scholar
— Kiernan Coursey of Obion was named a Dean’s Scholar by the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs for the 2018-19 academic year.

Given award
— Rebecca Davis of Hornbeak received the Information Systems Award recently during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony. This award is given by the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems.

Student honored
— Hannah Carlisle of South Fulton received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Scholarship Award recently during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony. This award is given by the Department of Chemistry and Physics at UT Martin.
FINISH NURSING PROGRAM — Diana Ramos Franco (left) of Troy and Paige Russell of Union City have finished the University of Tennessee at Martin’s bachelor of science in nursing program. This rigorous three-year program includes more than 900 hours of clinical experience and has produced high-quality nurses for more than 45 years. Thirty-two students completed the program this year and receive their degrees during UT Martin’s commencement ceremony this past Saturday. (Photos courtesy of Christie’s Photography in Martin)

UTM HONOR — Hailey Slaughter of Union City received the Outstanding English Student Award recently during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony. This award is given by the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

HUFF HONORED — Darrell Huff of Union City received the Outstanding Criminal Justice Student Award recently during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Honors Day ceremony. This award is given by the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

EARNED MASTER’S — Denise Westbrook of Memphis recently received her master of science degree in family and consumer science from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She also graduated from UT Martin in 2013 with a degree in dietetics. A 2008 graduate of Union City High School, she is the daughter of Willie and Mary Bell of Union City.

RECOGNIZED — Brie Cobb of South Fulton was named a Faculty Scholar by the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs for the 2018-19 academic year.
UT Martin Advisory Board Considers Enrollment, Fundraising, Budget

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met April 24 to discuss the university’s enrollment strategy, fundraising plans and proposed budget during its regular summer meeting. A webcast of that meeting will be made available at utm.edu/advisoryboard.

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The next regular meeting of the UT Martin Advisory Board will be held Sept. 20. Agenda information will be distributed one week prior to the meeting date.

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

Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dresden - Connor Jackson Alley; Lillie Deshawn Barner; Hunter Lee Cochran; Thomas Wayne Doster Jr.; Alex Lea Dunn; Carly Denise Greer; Thomas Denham Sims; Joshua Cole Terry; Joshua Travis Walker.
- Gleason - Tabithia Kaytlynn Baker; Brahm Peter Greve II; Dalis Lampkins; Harley Dewayne Martin; Avery Orr.
- Greenfield - Damon Patrick Biddle; Darian Lenae Black; Jessica Lyn Johnson; Kaitlyn Leigh Sanders.
- Martin - Christopher Travis Ables; Mariella A. Aguilar; Barrett Judson Belote; Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla; Andrea Nicole Brooks; Seth Allen Carr; Cameron Neil Cates; Denver Crittendon; Morgan Elizabeth Curlin; George Emmett Dantel; James Thomas Eskew; Mary Elizabeth Fortner; Gian Mari Garma; Sarah Jane Gillespie; Brandon L. Hauge; Seth Taylor Hayes; Jesse M. Hazelwood; Addison N. Hazelwood; Sara E. Hibbard; Katelyn Elizabeth Howell; Amanda K. Lund; Summer Nassar; Amber Owensby; Ivie Marie Pfenning; Jennifer Sue Robinson; Colton Carl Rogers; Adrian Entela De Sagon; Kaitlyn R. Scott; Madison Nelson Shumake; Alex Andrea Smith; Chelsea A. Thweatt; Nathan Edward Williamson; Koltin Blake Winstead.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dresden - Riley E. Laster; Amy L. Rogowski.

Local Students Finish UTM Nursing Program

Madison Nelson Shumake and Katelyn Howell Walker, both of Martin, have finished the University of Tennessee at Martin's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. This rigorous three-year program includes more than 900 hours of clinical experience and has produced high-quality nurses for more than 45 years. Thirty-two students completed the program this year and will receive their degrees during UT Martin's commencement ceremony May 4. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Nursing at 731-881-7131. Photos courtesy of Christie's Photography in Martin.
Several Benton County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held on Saturday, May 4, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center at UTM.

Students from Camden receiving undergraduate degrees included Shelby Hicks, Breydon Horton, Emily Ibarra, Stephanie R. Kee, Troy W. Kelly III, Ashley N. Phifer, Brody S. Seaton, Raegan N. Taylor, Kwnten C.A. Wassman, and Kayla M. White. Jack O. Barrett, of Big Sandy, and Rachel Carpenter, of Holladay, also graduated with Bachelor's degrees.

Sara B. Kilgore, of Camden, completed a Master of Science degree in education, with the intent of becoming a special education teacher. Noted Kilgore, "I could not have imagined a better student teaching experience than what I had at Briarwood with Lori Markum Eaton and Judy Brandenburg. These ladies are phenomenal special education teachers!"

High school science teacher Melissa Watkins Baylor also graduated on Saturday with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership. Baylor completed her program of study at Bethel University in McKenzie. She is an integral part of the faculty at Big Sandy School, and involved in a variety of school activities.

Two Benton County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2019-20 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director of the Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Dylan Kelley received the Henry Earl Thompson TLM Association Scholarship. A 2015 graduate of Camden Central High School, Kelley will be a senior in the fall and is the son of Loy and Patty Kelley, of Eva.

Landon Smith received the Dr. David O. Patterson Scholarship. The son of Micah Smith and Heather Smith, of Camden, Smith is a 2018 graduate of Camden Central High School and will be a freshman at UTM in the fall.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by calling 731-881-7040 or by sending a request to the UTM Office of Financial Aid, 205 Admin. Bldg., UTM, Martin, TN, 38238.
The University of Tennessee at Martin officially broke ground on the creation of a dedicated space to be known as "The NPHC Greek Garden at Unity Circle" during a ceremony April 24. This tribute area will honor the "Divine Nine" traditionally African American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin.

"This is not just a great day for our students and not just a great day for our Greek-letter organizations and for our alums. This is a historic and important day for UT Martin," said Chancellor Keith Carver.

"With the construction of the Greek Garden, we celebrate the Divine Nine. We also celebrate our students and our diversity and our commitment to the future." said John Abel, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.

"The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed its first black Greek-letter organization way back in 1970 with the arrival of Delta Sigma Theta. Many more would follow, and collectively they would leave a legacy that continues to impact our campus and community even to this day. We are gathered here to commemorate these contributions and celebrate their legacies," he said.

Ashton Sawyer, a senior from Gallatin, addressed the crowd as the current president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council at UT Martin. He noted that UT Martin's first African American president and vice-president of the Student Government Association, homecoming queen, and many other campus leaders have all been part of the council and have contributed to the legacies left by the Divine Nine in recent years.

"This moment here today captures a commitment by the University of Tennessee at Martin to celebrate our NPHC members and our diverse backgrounds and accomplishments to the campus. We..."
established a culture that positively influences the campus experience at UT Martin, and our presence is felt in the surrounding communities," he said.

"We hope that this place serves as a reminder of our legacy, of our commitment to service and our impact on the campus here at UT Martin — past, present and for many years to come."

The ceremony ended with remarks from Monice Hagler, a partner in The Hagler Law Group, PLLC, in Memphis and member of the UT Martin Advisory Board. Hagler is a 1975 UT Martin graduate and an alumna of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

"It is my extreme pleasure to be here today to be excited along with the Divine Nine and all of you who have participated in making this day happen," she said.

"As an alumna to the UT Martin campus, this dedication represents a salute to the values and mission of all of the Divine Nine. As an advisory board member, I am pleased that there is such a strong commitment to the support of the Divine Nine, and this Greek Garden is a visible sign of that dedication because gardens speak life."

The new garden area will feature individual plaques with information on the founding and purpose of each of the National Pan-Hellenic Council chapters on the UT Martin campus.

An official dedication ceremony is scheduled to take place at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 2 during UT Martin's homecoming festivities.

The nine National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations represented at UT Martin are Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Phi Sorority Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs at (731) 881-7525.
AGR 'Mom' reaps rewards serving as fraternity housemother

By SABRINA BATES
News Producer

Raising more than 50 guys seems like a daunting task. But for Jerrie Conley, being a housemother to AGRs has been a way of life for her since 2011.

Monday through Friday, Conley is “mom” to more than 50 members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity as part of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Conley is carrying on the tradition of “Momma Children” – who was housemother before Conley took over. Conley said she often jokes she was “mom to a house full of boys who all have a different dad.”

From sewing on suit buttons to mending ripped pants during rope pull (which do not get washed that week as they might bring the team a bit of bad luck) to wiping away tears when one of the boys gets his heart broken and helping them prep for interviews, Conley said being a mom for the AGRs isn’t much different to raising her own children.

The house has chore charts. The brothers of the fraternity take turns cooking and cleaning. Conley serves as their life guide when needed and helps them along the way with everything from classwork to relationship advice.

As a mother to two girls and one boy, Conley has spent her life as a “mom” to not just her kids, but others who share their children with her.

She was a schoolteacher for 34 years. The difference between first-graders and the college students? These children are much bigger.

With many of the students staying in the house for up to four years of their life, it is easy for Conley to get attached as she considers them family members.

Just this year, she started making scrapbooks for the students who graduated from UT Martin this semester. She is also making scrapbooks for her children that have already moved on.

“Being there for them, helping them out and watching them go through this part of their life is very rewarding for me,” Conley said.

Even after they graduate and some have moved on, Conley still travels to attend weddings and visit during significant times in their lives post college.

She gets excited when they do well academically. And helps them celebrate milestones in their relationships.

Conley said one of her memorable moments is when she discovered a bouquet of flowers that she thought the boys had picked up for Miss Greek. The bouquet was actually for Conley as a gift from the AGRs.

When they have outside activities, Conley is found on the sidelines cheering them on as one of their biggest fans. As hosts of Miss Greek, AGR receives suggestions from Conley for activities and provides tidbits for the boys to help them be the perfect gentlemen.

Throughout the year, the fraternity members dedicate time to raise money for worthy causes. They also host mixers with sororities. They even hold a Bible study at the house each week.

Conley said she is incredibly proud of the group of boys that call her “mom” at their home away from home. While it can be emotional for the retired schoolteacher, her rewards reach well beyond the walls of the fraternity house on University Street in Martin.
Advisory Board talks strategy, devises plans

The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met April 24 to discuss the university’s enrollment strategy, fundraising plans and proposed budget during its regular summer meeting. A webcast of that meeting will be made available at utm.edu/advisoryboard.

Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of enrollment services and student engagement, presented the university’s enrollment strategy and gave prospective numbers for the fall 2019 freshman class. Mantooth says UT Martin is making contact with all eligible sophomore, junior and senior-level high school students across the state of Tennessee and is showing a positive trend to meet fall 2019 enrollment goals for both incoming freshmen and transfer students.

According to Mantooth, more than 8,800 freshman applications have been received for the fall 2019 semester — an increase of more than 1,100 applications as compared to fall 2018. Of those applications, more than 5,700 students had been admitted as of April 22 and 1,172 of those indicate the intention to enroll in fall courses. Transfer student numbers are also positive, with 672 transfer students admitted as of April 22 and 269 of those indicating the intention to enroll.

New enrollment and retention initiatives include the inaugural Transfer Student Bootcamp to be held this summer and financed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and a partnership with ReUp Education, an organization that specifically recruits students with incomplete college degrees to finish their education at UT Martin.

Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for advancement, reviewed UT Martin’s fundraising progress and priorities for the coming fiscal year. UT Martin raised $7.5 million during fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) and has raised $6 million so far in fiscal year 2019, which ends June 30. These funds are applied to student scholarships and grants, capital projects such as new academic facilities, athletic programs and special projects across university areas.

Key fundraising opportunities for the coming fiscal year include the Chancellor’s Academic Excellence Fund, which is an unrestricted scholarship fund used to recruit and retain the state’s high-achieving students; the Innovation and Product Realization Facility, often called “The Garage,” a new fine arts concert hall; the Ned Ray McWherter Institute; an indoor athletic facility; the UT Promise Scholarship Program initiated by the UT System; and several new initiatives within the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Petra McPhearson, vice chancellor for finance and administration, presented the university’s proposed operating budget for the 2019-20 academic year, which will not be finalized until it is approved by the UT Board of Trustees during its June meeting in Knoxville. As of this time, UT Martin expects to receive $35.4 million in state appropriations, which is only a small part of the anticipated operating costs of approximately $147 million for fiscal year 2020. McPhearson anticipates a two percent increase in the student maintenance fee, also called “in-state tuition,” paid by all students, which is below the recommended level set by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The mandatory fees paid by most students could also increase by half a percentage point, resulting in a total cost increase of 2.5 percent for the coming academic year.

The board also reviewed the processes for submitting recommendations to the UT president regarding the campus strategic plan and operating budget, which have been established by the UT Board of Trustees.

The advisory board welcomed two new members during this meeting. Katie Ashley, senior advisor for government affairs and economic development at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, was appointed to the board by Haslam and confirmed by Gov. Bill Lee earlier this year. She is a 2008 UT Martin graduate and will serve on the board until June 30, 2020.

Ashley served as state director of legislation, the governor’s chief advisor and strategist for legislative matters, from her appointment in October 2017 until accepting her current position in October 2018. The Crockett County native was instrumental in the Governor’s Drive to 55 initiative and with the passage of the Tennessee Promise and FOCUS Acts.

Lauren Carter, a rising sophomore from Olive Branch, Mississippi, was officially introduced as the new student representative to the board and will begin her term July 1. She will represent the student body on the advisory board for the 2019-20 academic year and replace Devin Majors, who plans to graduate in December of this year. Carter is one of three students nominated by the student body to serve. Chancellor Keith Carver selected her after a round of individual interviews.

The next regular meeting of the UT Martin Advisory Board will be held Sept. 20. Agenda information will be distributed one week prior to the meeting date.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
UTM ADVISORY BOARD — Pictured prior to the April 24 meeting of the UT Martin Advisory Board are board members (seated, from left) Lauren Carter, incoming student representative for the 2019-20 academic year; Julia Wells; Katie Ashley; Monice Hagler; (standing) Dr. Chris Caldwell, faculty representative; Hal Bynum; Art Sparks, chairman; Devin Majors, outgoing student representative for the 2018-19 academic year; and Chancellor Keith Carver.

BECK RECOGNIZED — Lyndsey Beck (right) of Martin received the Carl Seale Student Teacher Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Educational Studies during a reception May 1. 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. Beck is pictured with Hollianne Carver (left), wife of UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, and Tina Brown, cooperating teacher at Martin Elementary School.
Lampkins receives UTM commencement award

Dalis Lampkins of Gleason received one of two Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2019 commencement exercises May 4. These awards showcase outstanding community and campus service by graduating students and are the only awards given during commencement each semester.

Lampkins received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science during commencement exercises and recently completed a position as a public policy intern with the University of Tennessee Office of Government Relations and Advocacy in Nashville. She spent her undergraduate years serving as a Peer Enabling Program mentor for incoming freshmen and was active in the Student Government Association and Chi Omega Xi Zeta chapter.

She also participated in the 48th and 49th general assemblies of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State legislature, serving as both deputy secretary of state and elections commissioner.

Lampkins is also the sole student participating in a research project titled “The Impact of Deregulation on Reelfoot Lake Wildlife Refuge” alongside Dr. Patrick Baker and Dr. Anderson Starling, both faculty members in the UT Martin Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science. She has presented her research findings at several conferences including the Midwest Political Science Association Conference and the Academic Business World International Conference.

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.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dresden — Connor Jackson Alley; Lillie Deshawn Barner; Hunter Lee Cochran; Thomas Wayne Doster Jr.; Alex Lea Dunn; Carly Denise Greer; Thomas Denham Sims; Joshua Cole Terry; Joshua Travis Walker.
- Gleason — Tabitha Kaytlynn Baker; Brahms Peter Greve II; Dalis Lamping; Harley Dewayne Martin; Avery Orr.
- Greenfield — Damon Patrick Biddle; Darian Lenae Black; Jessica Lyn Johnson; Kaitlyn Leigh Sanders.
- Martin — Christopher Travis Ables; Mariella A. Aguilar; Barrett Judson Belote; Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla; Andrea Nicole Brooks; Seth Allen Carr; Cameron Neil Cates; Denver Crittendon; Morgan Elizabeth Curlin; George Emmett Daniel; James Thomas Eskew; Mary Elizabeth Fortner; Gian Mario Gianna; Sarah-Jane Gillespie; Brandon L. Haube; Seth Taylor Hayes; Jesse M. Hazlewood; Addison N. Hazelwood; Sara E. Hibbard; Katelyn Elizabeth Howell; Amanda K. Lund; Summar Nassar; Amber Owensby; Ivie Marie Pfennig; Jennifer Sue Robinson; Colton Carl Rogers; Adrian Entela De Sagon; Kaitlyn R. Scott; Madison Nelson Shumake; Alex Andrea Smith; Chelsea A. Thewatt; Nathan Edward Williamson; Koltin Blake Winstead.
- Sharon — Cathrine Ayanna Marie Harvey; Shawna Renee Sampson; Brandon Kyle Stacks.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dresden — Riley E. Laster; Amy L. Rogowski.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 19 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.

UTM DEGREES
Lauderdale County students, who received undergraduate degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement May 4th, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus, include Jason Bryant Dukes, Ellary Jo Gillon, Chad Allen Lewis, and James Trevor Wright, all of Halls; and Sarah Gail Barnes, Theresa Michelle Bernard, Terrie L. Bishop, Constance Bonds, Caleb S.

Hamblen county residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Hamblen County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Morristown — Chantal Marie Wilson; Cherie Ranae Wilson.

https://www.citizentribune.com/
UT Martin dancer found dead
May 12, 2019 by Jillianne Moncrief

UNION CITY, TN - Obion County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a 20-year-old woman. Her body was found on Saturday evening in Union City.

Obion County Sheriff Karl Jackson said just after 6:30, deputies were called to Joe Fry Lane where family members of 29-year-old Tony Markee Mosley were trying to force their way into his home.

At the scene, Deputies learned that Mosley had come to the door covered in blood but retreated into the home. As deputies then attempted to get into the home, Mosley opened the door and collapsed from stab wounds to his body.

Officers entered the home and found the body of 20-year-old Decora Alexander. She was a member of the UT Martin dance team. The team has confirmed her death with a post on Facebook. (https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=344805769551236&id=300491260649354)

Officers report that Alexander had multiple stab wounds to her body.

Mosley was transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital in Union City, then transferred to another facility. He was listed in critical but stable condition.

The investigation into the death of Alexander is ongoing by the Sheriff's Office with help from Union City Police Department Lt. Derrick O'Dell.

Alexander was a UT Martin student and a member of the dance team for the Skyhawks basketball team.

UT Martin mourns dance student-athlete Decora Alexander
May 12, 2019 by Jillianne Moncrief

MARTIN, TN. - The University of Tennessee at Martin is mourning the loss of Decora Alexander, a freshman health and human performance major who died on Saturday evening. She was 20 years old.

Alexander was a dance student-athlete at UT Martin. She was part of the 11-member Skyhawk dance squad that regularly entertained the crowds at UT Martin's home basketball games.

“Although Decora was young, she had a strong positive influence on all of her teammates,” Skyhawk head dance coach Jessi Woody said. “She was always working to be a better dancer and wanted to see her teammates grow and succeed with her. She will be greatly missed both on and off the court.”

Before attending UT Martin, Alexander graduated from Union City High School in her hometown of Union City, TN.
MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin mourns the loss of Decora Alexander (https://utmsports.com/roster.aspx?rp_id=1106), a dance student-athlete who passed away on Saturday evening. She was 20 years old and from Union City.

Alexander was majoring in health and human performance during her freshman year at UT Martin. She was part of the 11-member Skyhawk dance squad that regularly entertained the crowds at UT Martin's home basketball games as well as the 2019 Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Championship tournament held in Evansville, Ind.

"Although Decora was young, she had a strong positive influence on all of her teammates," Skyhawk head dance coach Jessi Woody (https://utmsports.com/coaches.aspx?rc=181) said. "She was always working to be a better dancer and wanted to see her teammates grow and succeed with her. She will be greatly missed both on and off the court."

Before attending UT Martin, Alexander graduated from nearby Union City High School.
Board members at Everett-Stewart Regional Airport will soon announce the winner of a public relations competition by UT-Martin students.

Four teams of graduating Seniors performed the task for the airport, with a monetary prize to be awarded to the selected winner.

During their latest board meeting, UT-Martin Communications Department professor Dr. Richard Robinson spoke about the request from Airport board Chairman Wayne McCreight.

Board members were scheduled to announce the winner at last weeks meeting, but an additional review of the teams work was suggested.

Chairman McCreight then announced that a decision would be made within the next week to 10 days.

Several Chester County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus. The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Matthew Kel Beshires; Taylor Jeffrey Harrison; Bethany Lynn Moore; Chad Wayne Sellers; and Kendyl Dawn Smith, all of Henderson.
Longtime UTM softball coach Donley Canary announces retirement

Posted on May 14, 2019 by Steve James in Local Sports

Longtime UT Martin softball coach Donley Canary has announced his retirement.

In his 18-year head coaching career, Canary guided the Skyhawks to a pair of OVC regular season championships, two OVC Tournament championships and three postseason appearances. His 581 wins are not only a school record but are the fourth-most in conference history, as he earned the OVC Coach of the Year award on two separate occasions (2010, 2012).

"After much thought and deliberation, I have decided to step down as the head coach at UT Martin," Canary said. "I want to thank the University for allowing me to serve in this position for 18 years. It has been a great honor and privilege to do so. Next, I want to thank former athletic director Phil Dane for taking a chance on a young assistant baseball coach to lead his softball program. Hopefully, I did not disappoint him or the University."

Canary came to UT Martin from his alma mater Tennessee Tech, where he held various positions in athletics before taking his first head coaching job with the Skyhawks. He coached two OVC Players of the Year, two OVC Pitchers of the Year, two OVC Tournament Most Valuable Players, four OVC Freshmen of the Year and 99 All-OVC selections over his 18 seasons at the helm.

Canary's success was evident from the beginning, as he brought in a stellar recruiting class for his first UT Martin squad in 2002. The Skyhawks won 14 more games than the previous season and were lauded as the second-most improved Division I softball program in the nation.

In just Canary's third season as skipper, UT Martin posted a 40-21 record — the first of two 40-win campaigns in his career. The Skyhawks also compiled a .720 winning percentage (18-7) against conference foes in 2004, firmly establishing the foundation as an OVC powerhouse.

UT Martin's first-ever OVC Tournament championship came in 2009. The Skyhawks entered the field as the No. 4 seed and dramatically rallied to win five straight games after an opening round loss to advance to the NCAA Tournament. It marked the first time in OVC history that a team had come out of the first round loser's bracket to eventually win the crown.

That momentum carried forward into the 2010 campaign, as UT Martin went 47-11 with a remarkable 22-3 league record to bring home the school's first OVC regular season title.

A truly historical season was in store for 2012, as the Skyhawks seized both the OVC regular season and tournament championships en route to their second NCAA Tournament appearance in four years. In the process, UT Martin swept the OVC's three major postseason awards of Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year and Coach of the Year.

The 2017 season featured a pair of milestones for Canary and the Skyhawk program. Canary won his 500th career game on March 1 and was later honored for his accomplishment at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association convention in Las Vegas. The 2017 UT Martin squad went 39-20 overall with a 13-5 conference record, earning an at-large berth into the inaugural National Invitational Softball Championship postseason event.

Overall, Canary's Skyhawk teams qualified for the OVC Tournament in 16 out of his 18 seasons at the helm.

Canary also oversaw several facility improvements at Bettye Giles Field during his tenure, including the building of the 7,000-square foot Baseball/Softball Fieldhouse as part of "Skyhawk Park" area of campus. A hitting facility was installed early in his tenure while the infield received an update in 2013 with a turf field halo ring that facilitated performance and improved maintenance. Additional renovations were implemented following the 2018 season with new grandstand seating behind home plate with handicap accessibility.

"I want to thank my wife and son for supporting me through 26 years of college coaching," Canary said. "Coaching at this level is totally consuming. It is a job with few days off if one wants to succeed at this level. One of my strengths is my passion and love for the game. It is also my greatest weakness. I have put the game and striving to win in front of my family many times and they understood my drive to excel at the college level. I wanted to be the best at my profession. I hope retirement will offer me the chance to slow down and enjoy some things I have missed over my college coaching career."
BELOTE GRADUATES — Barrett Belote (center) of Martin received a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Tennessee at Martin during commencement exercises May 4. He is pictured with his parents, David and Dawne Belote.

More than 700 UT Martin students were eligible to receive degrees this semester, and 550 participated in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, executive director for Complete Tennessee, served as commencement speaker.

WILLIAMSON GRADUATES — Nathan Williamson graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 4. Earlier that morning, the Martin native was inducted into the Order of Engineers. Williamson is shown with Dr. Shadow Robinson (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.
UT MARTIN GRADUATES — Emmett Daniel (center), of Martin, received a bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Tennessee at Martin during commencement exercises May 4. He is pictured with family members (from left) Drew Daniel, Margaret Vaughn, Dr. Bonnie Daniel and Dr. George Daniel. More than 700 UT Martin students were eligible to receive degrees this semester, and 550 participated in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, executive director for Complete Tennessee, served as commencement speaker.

ALLEY GRADUATES — Connor Alley of Martin graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 4 after being inducted into the Order of Engineers during a separate ceremony that morning. Alley is shown with Dr. Shadow Robinson (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.
GRADUATE — On May 4, Mark Hawkins, a native of Martin, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin and was inducted into the Order of Engineers. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Hawkins graduated cum laude. Hawkins is shown with Dr. Shadow Robinson (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.

COWARD GRADUATES - Martin's Greg Coward was inducted into the Order of Engineers and then graduated cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 4. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Coward is shown with Dr. Shadow Robinson (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.
Guardsman finishes college TN STRONG

Harry Evbuomwan, originally from Nigeria, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin May 4 with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and a focus on sport business. Evbuomwan is currently living in Huntingdon and is part of the Tennessee Army National Guard 190th Engineer Co. based in McKenzie.

He started his bachelor’s degree in 2003 at Lane College in Jackson and later transferred to Union University. However, life plans often change, and he found himself leaving school in 2008. In 2017, Evbuomwan came to UT Martin to finish what he started with the help of the new Tennessee STRONG financial aid program.

"I felt comfortable going back to school and that UT Martin would be the best choice for me," he said. "(Johnny) Dyer helped me a lot with how to get all the things I needed with the ... (Tennessee) STRONG Act." Dyer is the UT Martin veteran services coordinator and works closely with all student-veterans at the university's main campus and West Tennessee centers.

The Tennessee STRONG Act, proposed by former Gov. Bill Haslam and made official by the state legislature in May 2018, provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees. The last-dollar scholarship is used to fill any gaps remaining after other financial aid options have been applied.

"It’s helped me a lot to go to school and know that I would have enough to go to school and finish my degree on time," said Evbuomwan.

Evbuomwan currently works in corrections at the Carroll County Jail in Huntingdon. However, he wants to use his degree to help young people stay away from that environment.

"I’m hoping to try to work with maybe high school kids to become a coach. ... (Sports) build character. It helps them to see that it doesn’t matter how you look at it, it doesn’t matter where you’re from, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything that you choose to do)," he said.

Evbuomwan was one of more than 700 students eligible to receive UT Martin degrees for the spring 2019 semester.
Baby girl inspires mother to finish degree

An unexpected pregnancy threw Katelyn Walker of Martin into a tailspin, but the little girl who followed has made all the difference.

"It wasn't really about being pregnant, but I have a real problem with control and planning," said Walker, who was a second-year nursing student when she discovered she was going to be a mother. "I had this 20-year plan for my life, and that didn't happen. I was freaking out about that, but I don't see a better way it could have worked out. She has been my motivation to finish school."

Walker, a graduate of Westview High School, took the Florence Nightingale Pledge during the Department of Nursing pinning ceremony May 3 before receiving her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree May 4. Her daughter, Isabella, and husband, Hunter, were in the audience to cheer her on, just as they have for the past year and a half since Isabella's arrival.

"Hunter has been so supportive. He'll probably be more glad for me to graduate than I am. There have been some nights when I've been at the library until midnight, one o'clock in the morning, and he's done everything (with Isabella)," Walker said. "They're the reason I'm able to do this."

"I think, school-wise, my time-management is better because it has to be. I think before I had her, I could put things off, ... but now you have to get everything done during naptime and while she's asleep," she added. "When I came back to school, she was five weeks old, and I felt out of place in college. ... But I think the beautiful thing about this campus and the class sizes is that you get close with your professors; you get close with your classmates. That (feeling) lasted about three weeks, and then they would invite me to all things they would have invited me to before, and I just brought her with me. ... It's made me more motivated to finish and to do my best and not just pass the classes."

Walker says the support of the UT Martin nursing faculty and staff, as well as her classmates, played a major role in her ability to finish her degree. She was allowed to take breaks from class and clinicals to pump breastmilk for her infant daughter and often brought Isabella to study sessions and other activities outside of class time.

"It wasn't special treatment; it was just that they cared," she said. Several other members of the 2019 nursing class have children as well, and the group bonded quickly.

With diploma in hand, Walker is preparing to begin a nurse residency program at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital this summer with the goal to land in the oncology and hospice department an area close to her heart.

"In the residency program, you get to rotate through your top picks. I picked emergency, postpartum, and oncology and hospice. Oncology and hospice is really where my heart is, and so I hope I get a job there," she said. "Both my great-grandparents were in hospice, and I know the difference it makes to have a good hospice nurse. It's not so much about skills and getting stuff done in a timely manner; it's more about making that patient's transition as smooth as possible. It's about keeping the patient comfortable and supporting the family. You get to know the families (better)."

Walker knows the UT Martin nursing program has prepared her to excel in whatever area she may ultimately call her own. She also acknowledges that she does not and could not ever know everything about the nursing field, and she feels this humility is encouraged by program instructors.

"It's a very hard program, but in clinical we work with (students from) other schools, ... I feel like I know more than the other nursing school (students), and I feel like I'm more willing to admit what I don't know. Our instructors don't penalize you for not knowing something, and I think that's prepared me more than anything to go into a clinical setting," said Walker. She knows an inability to admit confusion can be fatal in her profession, and she isn't willing to let her own ego get in the way of a patient's care.

Ultimately, Walker's focus always comes back to Isabella, the baby she didn't plan.

"I think what I've gained the most from this, and what I hope that she knows (one day), is that life 100 percent doesn't go as planned. But it works out anyway. You can do what you want to do, regardless of how your plans get mixed up in the middle of it," she said. "When I first got pregnant, I thought I would never finish my college career. But that hasn't been true. I think I'm finishing it stronger now than I would have before because I want to -- for her. I want her to know that she can do anything she puts her mind to (do)."
Regional summit held at UTM

Almost 250 people representing 28 colleges and universities from six states attended the inaugural Skyhawk Regional Retention Summit held at the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 7-8. Attendees and facilitators brought perspectives from two and four-year, public and private, faith-based and state institutions to the discussion on student success and perseverance to graduation across the southeastern United States.

"Obviously, we want to deepen our understanding of the issues that hinder our students in persisting to graduation. That's an incredibly simple statement with an incredibly complicated set of answers," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, when discussing the purpose of the summit. He said he also hopes the institutions in attendance will build networks and create partnerships with others based on the ideas presented during the various discussions.

"(This summit) is a lot bigger than we expected, but what it communicates is that, ... in this region, we all have the same challenges, and we understand that those challenges don’t stop at the state lines," Cavalier said.
The main day of summit activities began Wednesday with a welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, who discussed the importance of developing relationships with each student and finding out what barriers may exist in their lives to keep them from completing their degrees. He then stressed the difference one faculty or staff member can make in the life of a struggling student by simply taking steps to help them overcome those barriers.

"That’s why we’re all here today. It’s our responsibility. We’re in this for the people business, but we’re really in this to help our students persist and succeed and graduate and contribute back,” he said.

Summit keynote speaker Dr. John Gardner, chief executive office of The Gardner Institute, spoke on the lessons institutions in the United States have learned about student success and retention in the past 30 years, focusing on the need to increase equity and opportunity for students of all backgrounds.

He presented data to show the nationwide decline in enrollment across higher education institutions at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels, and stressed the importance of reaching students during their first transition year into college, whether that be as traditional freshmen straight out of high school, dual-enrollment students or as transfer students from another institution.

Gardner is nationally known in the education field as the founder of “The First-Year Experience” movement, which he says should focus on those areas of college life that are truly shared by all incoming students. These areas include introductory courses in the common curriculum as well as experiences with parking, dining services and registration, among others.

Mike Krause, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, spoke during the lunch hour and discussed changes needed in higher education in Tennessee. He highlighted several state institutions that have made changes to their orientation, registration and first-year experience processes with promising results and proposed ideas for new initiatives in other areas.

“(THEC) brought a tribe out here from our office because we want to learn from you. Nobody graduates from THEC. We want to support you all; we want to come to campus and find out how, as a coordinating agency, we can help you succeed,” Krause said.

Cavalier says the summit was a success overall, and plans are already underway to host a second event next May. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Academic Affairs at (731) 881-7010.

Weakley County Young Professionals announce quarterly Lunch & Learn

The Weakley County Young Professionals will hold the quarterly Lunch & Learn Thursday, noon-1 p.m. at the Northwest Tennessee Development District Conference room.

Guest speaker for the lunch will be Chancellor Keith Carver from the University of Tennessee of Martin.

The service project for this lunch will be the Captain’s Pantry.

UTM is working to combat food insecurity for its students with the Captain’s Pantry. Students in need can pick up food items between 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. regardless of their housing situation.

Please bring one or more of the following food items to be donated on behalf of the WCYP: applesauce, canned chicken or tuna, cooking oils, crackers, granola bars, instant potatoes, boxed meals, canned pasta, peanut butter, rice or ramen noodles. You can also donate online at utm.edu/skyhawks or make a monetary donation.

The day of the lunch, the cost for non-members is $15.00 which covers your lunch from Zaxby’s. All PAID members eat free, but remember to RSVP so we have an accurate food count!

More information can be found on our Facebook page or by emailing wcypyoungprofessionals@gmail.com.
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 4.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Bradford — Colton Dwayne Barber; Kelsey Suzanne Bratton; Anna Catherine Eaton; Hayli Marie Serrault; Katherine LeeAnn Smith; Sarah Elizabeth Terry.
- Brazil — Sarah Elizabeth Dodd.
- Dyer — Chelsey Brooke Dodd; Hannah Brook Hutchison; Summer Faith Lindsey; Hallie Nicole McCurdy; Cody Scott Reynolds; Riley Austin Sweat.
- Humboldt — Jonathan Maxwell Andrews; William Gregory Boling; Charles W. Brackeen; Marcus S. Cherry; Joann Lanitica Jones; Grady Lee Potts; Janet Leigh Wagner.
- Kenton — Logan Cochran; Brayden Scott Williams.
- Medina — Reagan Wesley Barnhart; Reilly Colton Browning; Ariel Alexis Dunavan; Graham T. Hopper; Jessica Lynn Nowell; Gage Michael Schneebberger; Chandler Blake Whittaker; Joshua Michael Young.
- Milan — Lucas Beau Bledsoe; Freeman Andrew Brown; Morgan Leigh Caldwell; Morgan Nicole Conder; Sarah Jo Cunningham; Madison Brooke Dowdy; Candy Pearl Farley; Kaitlyn Marie Frandsen; Catherine Davis Ing; Cy Aubrey Pemberton; Hannah Marie Powell; Jessica Rose Schaefer.
- Rutherford — Lexi Michelle Rahm; Logan Christopher Rahm; Morgan Kate Selph.
- Trenton — Remington Levi Burch; Lillian Margaret Forester; Olivia Grace Gibson; Ross Collins Johnson; Matthew Lewis; Hohner Kadin Porter; Kennedy Elizabeth Yergin.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Milan — Christine Taylor Anderson.
- Trenton — Benjamin Thomas Sanders.
Lewis graduates from UTM

Chad Lewis of Gates received a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the University of Tennessee at Martin during commencement exercises May 4. More than 700 UT Martin students were eligible to receive degrees this semester, and 550 participated in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, Executive Director for Complete Tennessee, served as commencement speaker.

Two From Wayne County Graduate as Engineers From UT Martin

May 15, 2019

Jaylen Bevis, of Waynesboro, and Gage Kerr, of Lutts, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 4 after being inducted into the Order of Engineers during a separate ceremony that morning. 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. The graduates (center in each photo) are pictured with Dr. Shadow Robinson (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.
Dr. Katie High returns as interim business dean

Longtime University of Tennessee administrator and educator Dr. Katie High has been named the interim dean for the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. Dr. High will succeed Dr. Ross Dickens, who accepted the dean’s position for the Auburn University at Montgomery College of Business.

She returns to UT Martin, where she previously served as vice chancellor for student affairs from 2001 to 2006. Her appointment is effective July 1.

“Dr. High is a familiar name and a proven leader for UT Martin and the University of Tennessee,” said Dr. Philip Acree, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “She has held key leadership roles over the years and is an advocate for student success. I am confident we will all benefit from her knowledge and wisdom.”

Dr. High retired in 2017 as vice president for academic affairs and student success for the University of Tennessee System following 35 years of university service. She also held the positions of assistant vice president for academic affairs, associate senior vice president and served twice as chief of staff for the UT president.

Dr. High holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Miami University in Ohio and a Doctor of Education degree from UT Knoxville.

“Retirement is great, but the chance to work back at UT Martin is even better,” Dr. High said. “The interim dean job will be a challenge for me. I’ll have a learning curve, a steep one, and I’ll be relying heavily on the faculty and the support staff in the college to help us all succeed.”

Dr. High said reaffirming accreditation for the college by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) will be her highest priority.

She will also assist Cavalier with UT Martin Strategic Plan implementation.

“I’m excited about the progress UT Martin has made regarding increasing enrollments, but our work there is certainly not complete,” Dr. High said. “I look forward to helping in that area (enrollment management) any way that I can.”

University plans camp aimed at musicians

High school students who are interested in becoming music educators are invited to register for the new summer camp opportunity at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors can attend camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 3-14 on the UT Martin main campus. Registration is $250 per student.

The first week focuses on instruction for peer teaching, conducting, lesson planning and classroom management, while the second provides hands-on teaching experiences and observations while working with local school children during UT Martin Kid College.

Dr. Angela Ammerman, assistant professor of music and coordinator of the UT Martin music education program, will instruct both weeks. She holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, Boston University and George Mason University, all in music education.

Camp participants will not be permitted to stay on campus overnight and must have a local residence or transportation available. Students should also bring their lunch each day of camp.

Online registration is required prior to camp attendance. Visit umt.edu/camps and choose “music camp” from the menu. For more information or assistance registering, contact UT Martin educational outreach at (731) 881-7104.

Vet tech program accredited

The American Veterinary Medical Association’s Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities elevated the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program to full accreditation status during its recent meeting.

The program has enjoyed initial accreditation status since it was first reviewed during the spring 2014 semester.

The program welcomed its first students in 2011 as one of fewer than 25 four-year veterinary health technology programs nationwide, and the first class graduated in spring 2014. Since the program’s creation, 176 students have completed both academic and internship requirements for graduation.

Graduates earn a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a major in animal science and an emphasis in veterinary health technology. They must then sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam to become licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee.

The UT Martin program features hands-on experience with small, large and exotic animal species in several areas and a required six-week internship.
US Army colonel to speak at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at 9 a.m. May 24 in the north plaza between the Boling University center and the Paul Meek Library on the main campus.

The ceremony will include the installation of a military battle cross outside the library.

An open house for the UT Martin Veteran’s Lounge, which has relocated to room 131 in Gooch Hall, will follow the ceremony.

U.S. Army Col. Jack Usery (U.S. Army) will serve as this year’s speaker.

Usery graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently the senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville.

A photo of the Martin native went viral online in 2017 after a bystander saw him stand at attention to salute a passing funeral procession in the pouring rain.

Members of Union City-based Jones-Walker Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4862 will present the colors, while Hannah Kent, a UT Martin music education major from Humboldt, will sing the national anthem at the start of the program.

Usery will speak following an official welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

Chloe Lollar, a UT Martin alumna from Martin, will play “Taps” at the conclusion of the program.

Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States of America. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming a federal holiday in 1971.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

UT Martin preparing for annual Kid College

Parents of children entering kindergarten through fifth grade can register their children for Kid College to be held June 10-14 on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus.

Registration is $30 per class, per child, with a maximum of five classes per child.

The first class block begins at 9 a.m. and final pick-up is at 3 p.m. Individual schedules will vary based on class selection.

Some courses have individual supply fees which must be paid directly to the course instructor on the first day of class. The initial registration fee includes a Kid College T-shirt, and all students are encouraged to wear their T-shirts on Wednesday for picture day.

Children who will attend Kid College all day must bring a lunch from home.

Class choices for children entering kindergarten through second grade include disc golf, science lab, kids in the kitchen, bowling, mission to Mars, basketball and painting, among others. Options for children entering third through fifth grades include adventures in engineering, animal careers, karate, yoga, violin, mission to Mars, science lab, painting and soccer, among others.

A full list of available courses can be found on the Kid College website at utm.edu/kidcollege.

Parents will be sent an email June 5 containing each child’s class schedule, supply fees and other important information. Anyone who does not receive the email after registering should contact UT Martin outreach at (731) 881-7104.

Kid College activities will also be held June 3-7 at the UT Martin Somerville Center; June 24-27 at the Parsons Center; and June 24-28 at the McNairy County Center/Selmer.

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 UT Martin outreach at the number listed above.
UTM To Host Camp for Future Music Educators

MARTIN, Tenn. — High school students who are interested in becoming music educators are invited to register for a new summer camp opportunity at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors can attend camp from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., June 3-14, on the UT Martin main campus. Registration is $250 per student.

The first week focuses on instruction for peer teaching, conducting, lesson planning and classroom management, while the second provides hands-on teaching experiences and observations while working with local schoolchildren during UT Martin Kid College. Dr. Angela Ammerman, assistant professor of music and coordinator of the UT Martin music education program, will instruct both weeks. Ammerman holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, Boston University and George Mason University, all in music education.

Camp participants will not be permitted to stay on campus overnight and must have a local residence or transportation available. Students should also bring their lunch each day of camp.

Online registration is required prior to camp attendance. Visit utm.edu/camps and choose “music camp” from the menu. For more information or assistance registering, contact UT Martin educational outreach at 731-881-7104.

Kid College Returns to UTM June 10-14

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UTM Vet Tech Program Granted Full Accreditation

MARTIN, Tenn. – The American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities elevated the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program to full accreditation status during its April 25-28 meeting. The program has enjoyed initial accreditation status since it was first reviewed during the spring 2014 semester.

The program welcomed its first students in 2011 as one of fewer than 25 four-year veterinary health technology programs nationwide, and the first class graduated in spring 2014. Since the program’s creation, 176 students have completed both academic and internship requirements for graduation. Program graduates each earn a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a major in animal science and an emphasis in veterinary health technology. They must then sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam to become licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee.

The UT Martin program features hands-on experience with small, large and exotic animal species in areas such as surgery, nursing, radiology and others. Four veterinarians and three veterinary technologists teach in the program, which includes a required six-week internship with a veterinary clinic, referral or teaching hospital, zoo or laboratory prior to graduation.

Amanda Waldon (left), licensed veterinary medical technologist and instructor in the UT Martin program, shows students Dominique Scandrett (center), of Greenfield, and De'ja Patterson, of LeVergne, the proper way to handle a rabbit during examination.
A row of American flags is shown as part of the Field of Flags display along University Street in Martin.

UTM To Host Memorial Day Commemoration

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at 9 a.m., May 24, in the north plaza between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin main campus. The ceremony will include the installation of a military battle cross outside the library. An open house for the UT Martin Veteran’s Lounge, which has relocated to room 131 in Gooch Hall, will follow the ceremony.

Col. Jack Usery (U.S. Army) will serve as this year’s ceremony speaker. Usery graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently the senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville. A photo of the Martin native went viral online in 2017 after a bystander saw him stand at attention to salute a passing funeral procession in the pouring rain.

Members of the Union City JFW John-Walker Post will present the colors, and Hannah Kent, a UT Martin music education major from Humboldt, will sing the national anthem at the start of the program. Usery will speak following an official welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. Chloe Lollar, a UT Martin alumna from Martin, will play Taps at the conclusion of the program.

Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States of America. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming a federal holiday in 1971.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

For more information, contact Dorothy Gillon, UT Martin coordinator of public occasions, at 731-881-7501.
Fayette Academy is proud to recognize two outstanding students, Caroline Rinks and Jacob Cronogue, who have been accepted into the Ned McWherter Scholars Program. "With only 10% of the applicant pool selected for the Ned McWherter Program, we are incredibly proud of Caroline and Jacob for achieving this honor," noted Taylor Smith, Upper School Counselor.

The Ned McWherter Scholars Program is a state-funded program intended to encourage academically superior Tennessee high school graduates to attend college in Tennessee. Applicants must have earned a minimum 3.5 unweighted grade point average and a minimum ACT composite score of 29.

The $6,000 scholarship is renewable for four years of postsecondary studies for a total award amount of $24,000. In the fall, Caroline will attend the University of Tennessee Knoxville and Jacob will attend the University of Tennessee Martin.
Rita Young says goodbye to Central High School

By Casey Watts, Editor

Rita Young announced her retirement the Friday before Spring Break. After 49 years of teaching, she is ready to take the next step and leave her classroom behind.

By Casey Watts, Editor

After 49 years, business teacher Rita Young is retiring from Coffee County Central High School.

Last year, Young wasn't sure retirement was something she wanted, but now the 72-year-old knows it's time to say goodbye to her classroom.

"I'm not saying it maybe wasn't a goal (to reach 50 years)." Young said. "Somebody said 'you'll know when it's time.'"

Young will still be involved in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), which she's ran for years before her daughter, Michelle Henley, took over. Young actually was in charge of FBLA before it was named that - Tennessee Office Education Club, then turned into the Office Education Association, then evolved into Business Professionals of America, which was eventually merged with FBLA. She still has jackets from the prior three organizations and is saving them, along with pictures, notes, cards and various other mementos she's collected over her nearly 50-year tender.

"I'm ready to get out of the classroom, but I'm not ready to leave the kids," Young said.

She will miss the kids and the faculty most. Many of her students are faculty at CCCHS and she's taught three generations of students. What made her time with the students special was watching them grow as people and helping build their soft skills and confidence. Young believes a teacher should teach the entire student and not just prepare them for tests.

Her other highlights include going to FBLA nationals, her students creating a 7-year long legacy in her honor of helping breast cancer patients with the school's annual fundraiser and watching students perform and having a classroom next door to Michelle.

"It's been wonderful," Young said.

"I've had some good times, it's no doubt," Young added. "I couldn't have asked for anything better."
She is being replaced by one of her former students, Andrea Freeze. Freeze is an economics teacher at the high school and taught business in the past.

**Young’s career in CCCHS**

Ever since third grade, Young knew her calling was to be a teacher. Her passion in her high school business class confirmed just what kind of teacher she wanted to be.

She graduated the University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in Business Education. She later received her Master’s in Business Education in 1974.

In January 1970, she was hired in Coffee County as a substitute teacher. She was hired as a full time teacher the following semester.

She is the last full time instructor who has been around since before the current high school building opened.

Young was a former Career and Technical Education director at the school and taught at the same time. She left the CTE director position to focus solely on teaching.

Her last day is the last day of the 2018-19 school year – May 24. Her retirement party is on Monday, May 20 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at CCCHS. All are welcome.

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**Camden man completes engineering degree**

Caleb Wassman, of Camden, graduated from UTM on May 4 after being inducted into the Order of Engineers during a separate ceremony that morning. The ceremony was conducted by Dr. Shadow Robinson, dean of the UTM College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.

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.

In the UTM engineering program, students complete a B.S. in engineering degree, choosing a concentration in civil, electrical, industrial, manufacturing, or mechanical engineering. For more information about the UTM engineering program, call 731-881-7571.

NEW ENGINEER - From left, Dr. Shadow Robinson, UTM engineering graduate Caleb Wassman, and Dr. Bob LeMaster celebrate Wassman’s graduation and induction into the Order of Engineers.
UTM ranked safest campus in state

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the safest college campus in the state of Tennessee, according to the 2019 ranking by yourlocalsecurity.com. This website uses the U.S. Department of Education’s campus safety and security analysis as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s uniform crime report to rank colleges in each state and nationwide.

The ranking includes 435 public, private and non-profit colleges offering both two and four-year degrees with at least 5,000 students enrolled. The study primarily considers four main factors: hate crimes per enrolled students, violence against women per enrolled females, property crimes per population and violent crimes per population.

According to the ranking site, these factors were calculated based on every 1,000 students, females or residents in each location, as appropriate.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation recently released the Crime on Campus Report for 2018 and shows low crime numbers for UT Martin. University data shows that 61 group A, or more serious, offenses were reported on the UT Martin campus in 2018, and 34 of these were resolved by the department. The highest number of offenses occurred in the categories for larceny/theft and drug/narcotic violations. Group B, or less serious, offenses totaled 26 reported incidents in 2018, with the highest number of reports falling into the liquor law violations category. Clearance rates for these are not included in the TBI report.

This news comes soon after the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program granted the UT Martin Department of Public Safety full accreditation status during the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police meeting held April 3 in Franklin.

For more information, contact Scott Robbins, director, UT Martin Department of Public Safety, at (731) 881-7775 or sdrobbins@utm.edu.

SEE UTM PAGE 10
UTM’s Donley Canary retires as softball HC

After transforming the University of Tennessee at Martin softball program into a perennial Ohio Valley Conference contender from 2002-19, head coach Donley Canary is retiring from his post as the school’s all-time wins leader.

In his legendary 18-year head coaching career, Canary guided the Skyhawks to a pair of OVC regular season championships, two OVC Tournament championships and three postseason appearances. His 381 wins are not only a school record, but are the fourth-most in conference history, as he earned the OVC Coach of the Year award on two separate occasions (2010, 2012).

“After much thought and deliberation, I have decided to step down as the head coach at UT Martin,” Canary said. “I want to thank the University for allowing me to serve in this position for 18 years. It has been a great honor and privilege to do so. Next, I want to thank former athletic director Phil Dane for taking a chance on a young assistant baseball coach to lead his softball program. Hopefully, I did not disappoint him or the University.”

Canary came to UT Martin from his alma mater Tennessee Tech, where he held various positions in athletics before taking his first head coaching job with the Skyhawks. He coached two OVC Players of the Year, two OVC Pitchers of the Year, two OVC Tournament Most Valuable Players, four OVC Freshmen of the Year and 99 All-OVC selections over his 18 seasons at the helm.

“Coach Canary is a sure-fire Hall of Famer,” UT Martin athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. “His coaching resume speaks for itself. His impact here at UT Martin is immeasurable. He has run a quality program and his student-athletes always carry themselves with class and dignity. We all wish Donley the best of luck in his retirement.”

Canary’s success was evident from the beginning, as he brought in a stellar recruiting class for his first UT Martin squad in 2002. The Skyhawks won 14 more games than the previous season and were lauded as the second-most improved Division I softball program in the nation.

In just Canary’s third season as skipper, UT Martin posted a 40-21 record – the first of two 40-win campaigns in his career. The Skyhawks also compiled a 720 winning percentage (18-7) against conference foes in 2004, firmly establishing the foundation as an OVC powerhouse.

UT Martin’s first-ever OVC Tournament championship came in 2009. The Skyhawks entered the field as the No. 4 seed and dramatically rallied to win five straight games after an opening round loss to advance to the NCAA Tournament.

It marked the first time in OVC history that a team had come out of the first round loser’s bracket to eventually win the crown.

That momentum carried forward into the 2010 campaign, as UT Martin went 47-11 with a remarkable 22-3 league record to bring home the school’s first OVC regular season title.

A truly historical season was in store for 2012, as the Skyhawks seized both the OVC regular season and tournament championships en route to their second NCAA Tournament appearance in four years. In the process, UT Martin swept the OVC’s three major postseason awards of Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year and Coach of the Year.

The 2017 season featured a pair of milestones for Canary and the Skyhawk program. Canary won his 500th career game on March 1 and was later honored for his accomplishment at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association convention in Las Vegas. The 2017 UT Martin squad went 39-20 overall with a 13-5 conference record, earning an at-large berth into the inaugural National Invitational Softball Championship postseason event.

Overall, Canary’s Skyhawk teams qualified for the OVC Tournament in 16 out of his 18 seasons at the helm.

Not only did UT Martin softball excel on the field under Canary, but the Skyhawks also chalked up numerous academic ac-
Canary also oversaw several facility improvements at Bettye Giles Field during his tenure, including the building of the 7,000-square foot Baseball/Softball Fieldhouse as part of “Skyhawk Park” area of campus.

A hitting facility was installed early in his tenure while the infield received an update in 2013 with a turf field halo ring that facilitated performance and improved maintenance.

Additional renovations were implemented following the 2018 season with new grandstand seating behind home plate with handicap accessibility.

Canary was an All-American baseball outfielder at Tennessee Tech before graduating in 1978. He is still the school’s all-time leader with 134 walks drawn and was inducted into the Tennessee Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 1997.

He earned his Master’s degree from the University of Tennessee in 1980.

Canary and his wife Jenny, a longtime UT Martin Athletics employee, have one son, David, who is currently an assistant coach at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan. and is an assistant scout for the Kansas City Royals.

“I want to thank my wife and son for supporting me through 26 years of college coaching,” Canary said. “Coaching at this level is totally consuming. It is a job with few days off if one wants to succeed at this level. One of my strengths is my passion and love for the game. It is also my greatest weakness.

“I have put the game and striving to win in front of my family many times and they understood my drive to excel at the college level. I wanted to be the best at my profession. I hope retirement will offer me the chance to slow down and enjoy some things I have missed over my college coaching career.”

Canary... (Continued from Page 6)

**FINAL TIME** — UT Martin softball head coach Donley Canary watches his team play against Belmont in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament on May 8. Conley coached his final game that day as he announced his retirement Tuesday after 18 years as the head coach of the Skyhawks.

Photo courtesy of UTM Athletics
UTM softball boss Canary calling it a career

After transforming the UT Martin softball program into a perennial Ohio Valley Conference contender from 2002 through the recently-completed 2019 season, head coach Donley Canary is retiring from his post as the school’s all-time wins leader.

In his legendary 18-year head coaching career, Canary guided the Skyhawks to a pair of OVC regular season championships, two OVC Tournament championships and three postseason appearances. His 581 wins are not only a school record but are the fourth-most in conference history, as he earned the OVC Coach of the Year award on two occasions (2010, 2012).

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Canary came to UT Martin from his alma mater Tennessee Tech, where he held various positions in athletics before taking his first head coaching job with the Skyhawks. He coached two OVC Players of the Year, two OVC Pitchers of the Year, two OVC Tournament Most Valuable Players, four OVC Freshmen of the Year and 99 All-OVC selections.

"Coach Canary is a surefire Hall of Famer," UT Martin athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. "His coaching resume speaks for itself; his impact here at UT Martin is immeasurable. He has run a quality program and his student-athletes always carry themselves with class and dignity. We all wish Donley the best of luck in his retirement."

Canary’s success was evident from the beginning as he brought in a stellar recruiting class for his first UT Martin squad in 2002. The Skyhawks won 14 more games than the previous season and were lauded as the second-most improved Division I softball program in the nation.

In just Canary’s third season as skipper, UT Martin posted a 40-21 record — the first of two 40-win campaigns in his career. The Skyhawks also compiled a .720 winning percentage (18-7) against conference foes in 2004, firmly establishing the foundation as an OVC powerhouse.

UT Martin’s first-ever OVC Tournament championship came in 2009. The Skyhawks entered the field as the No. 4 seed and dramatically rallied to win five straight games after an opening round loss to advance to the NCAA Tournament. It marked the first time in OVC history that a team had come out of the first round losers’ bracket to eventually win the crown.

That momentum carried forward into the 2010 campaign as UT Martin went 47-11 with a remarkable 22-3 league record to bring home the school’s first OVC regular season title.

A truly historical season was in store for 2012 as the Skyhawks seized both... (See Page 7, Col. 1)
Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT Martin

5/17/2019

Several Wayne County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students from Wayne County receiving undergraduate degrees were: Morgan Gage Kerr, Collinwood; Jaylen Craig Bevis, Lauren K. Crews, Allison Nicole Love, Garin D. Morton, Kali K. Runions, Patricia Lee Thrasher, and Austin James Wilson, all of Waynesboro.
Several Sumner County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Matthew Clay Sawyer of Cottonwood; Angelinda Betts of Gallatin; Alexandria Michelle Fulcher, Logan Taylor Fulks, Rebecca Janine Moore, Michaela E. Short, Michaela Elayne Short and Helen Ashley Sims, all of Hendersonville; and Tanner Alan Craddock, Trey Dalton Hinton and Sarah Jo Lesemann, all of Portland.

The students receiving graduate degrees were: Matthew Tyler Shrum of Castalian Springs and Austin D. Swafford of Gallatin.

A 30-year Army veteran whose photo went viral in 2017 will be the speaker at Friday's Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at UT Martin.

Colonel Jack Usery graduated from UTM in 1991. He's currently the senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville.

A photo of the Martin native went viral online in 2017 after a bystander saw him stand at attention to salute a passing funeral procession in the pouring rain.

Friday's ceremony includes the installation of a military battle cross outside the library. An open house for the UT Martin Veteran's Lounge, which has relocated to room 131 in Gooch Hall, will follow the ceremony.

The UT Martin Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony is Friday morning at 9:00, in the north plaza between the Boling University center and the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin main campus.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.
UT Martin has full schedule of summer youth camps

Eight different UT Martin athletic programs are sponsoring camps this summer, ranging from May 28 through Sept. 7 at various locations on campus.

The Skyhawk women’s basketball program will host seven camps, beginning with a middle school team camp and a middle school fundamentals camp for both boys and girls on May 28-31.

A one-day tournament for middle school and high school teams will also take place on June 1. That will be followed by a Junior Skyhawks camp held jointly with the UT Martin men’s basketball program for kindergarten through fifth-grade boy and girl participants on June 10-12.

High school team camps will follow on June 12-14 and June 19-21. A women’s elite camp for grades 6-12 is also scheduled for Aug. 3.

A pair of UCA high school team cheer camps are also set for this summer. Those dates are scheduled for June 2-5 and July 16-19.

Three camps will be hosted by the UT Martin men’s basketball program, opening with a middle school team camp on June 6.

A high school team camp will follow on June 7-8 before the joint Junior Skyhawks camp with the UT Martin women’s basketball team for boys and girls from kindergarten through fifth grade June 10-12.

The Skyhawk softball program will host an exposure camp for ages 12 through a graduating high school senior June 11-12. The UT Martin equestrian program is holding two premier clinics, as well as a premier camp for ages 14-18.

The premier clinics will be held June 12-13 and June 24-25, while the premier camp will take place June 17-20.

Skyhawk baseball will also hold three camps. Youth camps for ages 5-12 will take place on both June 24-27 and July 15-18.

A prospect camp for grades 9-12 will follow on Sept. 7.

UT Martin football will hold a 7-v-7 team camp and an individual elite camp for rising ninth- through 12th-graders on July 20.

The Skyhawk volleyball program is also hosting a trio of camps, the first of which is an all-skills camp that will take place July 26-27 for ages 13-18.

Clinics for setters/defensive specialists and hitters for ages 13-18 will follow on July 28.

For a full list and additional details on all of UT Martin’s summer camps, visit this website: http://www.utm.edu/department/nondegree/camps/.

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MCWHERTER INSTITUTE COMPLETED

Alex Dunn (left) of Dresden recently completed the University of Tennessee at Martin Ned Ray McWherter Institute and was recognized during a reception April 22. Dunn received her bachelor's degree in health and human performance May 4 during commencement exercises. She is pictured with Steve Vantrease, institute director. For more information on the Ned Ray McWherter Institute, contact Joyanne Gansereit, program coordinator, at (731) 881-3620 or gansereit@utm.edu.
UTM to host music camp for high schoolers

High school students who are interested in becoming music educators are invited to register for a new summer camp opportunity at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors can attend camp from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., June 3-14, on the UT Martin main campus.

Registration is $250 per student. The first week focuses on instruction for peer teaching, conducting, lesson planning and classroom management, while the second provides hands-on teaching experiences and observations while working with local schoolchildren during UT Martin Kid College.

Dr. Angela Ammerman, assistant professor of music and coordinator of the UT Martin music education program, will instruct both weeks. Ammerman holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, Boston University and George Mason University, all in music education.

Camp participants will not be permitted to stay on campus overnight and must have a local residence or transportation available. Students should also bring their lunch each day of camp.

Online registration is required prior to camp attendance. Visit utm.edu/camps and choose “music camp” from the menu. For more information or assistance registering, contact UT Martin educational outreach at (731) 881-7104.

Vet Tech program earns full accreditation

The American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities elevated the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program to full accreditation status during its April 25-28 meeting.

The program has enjoyed initial accreditation status since it was first reviewed during the spring 2014 semester. The program welcomed its first students in 2011 as one of fewer than 25 four-year veterinary health technology programs nationwide, and the first class graduated in spring 2014. Since the program’s creation, 176 students have completed both academic and internship requirements for graduation.

Program graduates each earn a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a major in animal science and an emphasis in veterinary health technology. They must then sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam to become licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee.

The UT Martin program features hands-on experience with small, large and exotic animal species in areas such as surgery, nursing, radiology and others.

Four veterinarians and three veterinary technologists teach in the program, which includes a required six-week internship with a veterinary clinic, referral or teaching hospital, zoo or laboratory prior to graduation. For more information, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, veterinarian, professor and program director, at jroberts@utm.edu.
AWARD-WINNING — Pictured after the Tennessee Associated Press Career Day and College Awards are (from left) UT Martin students John Thornton, of Atoka; Jillianne Moncrief, of McLemoresville; Kayla Brooks, of Dickson; and Brian Affolter, of Spring Hill.

WUTM’s ‘The Hawk’ earns AP awards

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s student-run campus radio station — WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk”— represented the university during the 2018 Tennessee Associated Press Career Day and College Awards held April 27, 2019, at the John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville.

UT Martin students received first or second-place awards in six of the nine radio categories and brought home both awards for best radio sports coverage or program.

Only first and second-place awards were given this year, and UT Martin earned four first-place trophies and three second-place awards.

First-place recognitions include Kait Scott, of Martin, for “best newscast”; Jillianne Moncrief, of McLemoresville, for “best radio news story”; Brian Affolter, of Spring Hill; and Moncrief for “best use of sound”; and John Thornton, of Atoka, and Jordan Taylor, of Medon, for “best radio sports coverage/program.”

Second-place honors include Kayla Brooks, of Dickson, for “best radio feature story”; Thornton for “best radio sports reporting”; and Thornton, Taylor and Haley Carpenter, of Decaturville, for “best radio sports coverage/program.”

Scott and Affolter both graduated from UT Martin May 4 with bachelor’s degrees in communications.

WUTM is a nine-time Platinum Award winning station with the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System and has been named the best college radio station with under 10,000 students enrolled on multiple occasions.

For more information on the campus radio station or the broadcasting academic sequence, contact Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communications and station faculty adviser, at (731) 881-7555 or robins@utm.edu.
STACKS GRADUATES — Brandon Stacks of Sharon graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 4. He was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a separate ceremony held that morning. Stacks is shown with Dr. Shadow Robinson (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS GRAD — Christopher Ables (left), of Martin, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin May 4 with the distinction of “University Scholar.” This honor indicates a student was selected to participate in an exclusive honors curriculum and has completed and defended a two-year research thesis alongside a faculty mentor. Ables earned his bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a concentration in agricultural business. He completed his undergraduate thesis with the assistance of Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn (right), associate professor of agricultural engineering. For more information on the University Scholars Program, contact Dr. John Glass, director of UT Martin Honors Programs, at jglass@utm.edu.

THWEATT IS UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR — Chelsea Thweatt (left), of Martin, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin May 4 with the distinction of “University Scholar.” This honor indicates a student was selected to participate in an exclusive honors curriculum and has completed and defended a two-year research thesis alongside a faculty mentor. Thweatt earned her bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a concentration in animal science. She completed her undergraduate thesis with the assistance of Dr. Angie MacKewn (right), professor of psychology. For more information on the University Scholars Program, contact Dr. John Glass, director of UT Martin Honors Programs, at jglass@utm.edu.
Memorial Day events announced in region

The Field of Flags waving on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin serves as a reminder that Memorial Day is near. Weakley Countians can take advantage of several opportunities, in addition to taking in the American Legion Post #55’s tribute to service members.

Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States of America. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming a federal holiday in 1971.

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at 9 a.m. Friday in the north plaza between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin main campus. The ceremony will include the installation of a military battle cross outside the library. An open house for the UT Martin Veteran’s Lounge, which has relocated to room 131 in Gooch Hall, will follow the ceremony.

U.S. Army Col. Jack Usery will serve as this year’s ceremony speaker. Usery graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently the senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville. A photo of the Martin native went viral online in 2017 after a bystander saw him stand at attention to salute a passing funeral procession in the pouring rain.

Members of the Union City JFW John-Walker Post will present the colors, and Hannah Kent, a UT Martin music education major from Humboldt, will sing the national anthem at the start of the program. Usery will speak following an official welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. Chloe Lollar, a UT Martin alumna from Martin, will play “Taps” at the conclusion of the program.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will

SEE MEMORIAL

PAGE 10

MEMORIAL

FROM PAGE 1

be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

The Weakley County Veterans Affairs Office will host a Memorial Day observance at the Weakley County War Memorial on the Courthouse Square in Dresden on Monday at 11 a.m.

The day will include a roll call of names on the Weakley County Memorial, special music by Keith Dunning, Howard Spires playing “Taps,” a 21-gun salute by the West Tennessee Honor Guard, and words from ministers Will Norrid and Devon Cunningham.

Discovery Park of America in Union City will be open Monday and thanks to the generosity of Vincent Outfitters of Martin and Baptist Hospital of Union City, the museum and cultural heritage park is offering complimentary admission to all veterans and their dependents. A special memorial service is planned for Monday at 1 p.m. in the ATA Traveling Exhibit Hall. David Johnson will provide opening remarks. The VFW will present the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Johnny Dyer will provide remarks following the invocation. All Obion County veterans who have passed away since last Memorial Day will be recognized by name and a special bell-ringing ceremony.

Following “Taps,” the VFW will retire the colors. This special Memorial Day ceremony is open to the public; free admission for veterans and their dependents; and other visitors can attend with park admission.

Discovery Park is located at 830 Everett Blvd. in Union City.
Huntingdon Guardsman Finishes College Tennessee Strong

Huntingdon resident, Harry Evbuomwan, accepts his diploma from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver during commencement exercises May 4.

Harry Evbuomwan, originally from Nigeria, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 4 with a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies and a focus on sport business. Evbuomwan was currently living in Huntingdon and is part of the Tennessee Army National Guard 186th Engineer Company based in McKenzie.

Evbuomwan came to UT Martin to finish what he started with the help of the new Tennessee STRONG financial aid program.

“I felt comfortable going back to school and that UT Martin would be the best choice for me,” he said. “(Johnny) Dyer helped me a lot with how to get all the things I needed with the... (Tennessee) STRONG Act.” Dyer is the UT Martin veteran services coordinator and works closely with all student-veterans at the university’s main campus and West Tennessee centers.

The Tennessee STRONG Act, proposed by former Gov. Bill Haslam and made official by the state legislature in May 2016, provides tuition reimbursement to service members who meet certain qualifications and are already using federal tuition assistance to obtain their degrees. The last-dollar scholarship is used to fill any gaps remaining after other financial aid options have been applied. “It’s helped me a lot to go to school and know that I would have enough to go to school and finish my degree on time,” said Evbuomwan.

Evbuomwan works in corrections at the Carroll County Jail in Huntingdon. However, he wants to use his degree to help young people stay away from that environment.

“I’m hoping to try to work with maybe high school kids to become a coach... (Sports) build character. It helps them to see that it doesn’t matter how you look at it, it doesn’t matter where you’re from, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything that you choose to (do),” he said.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Dyer County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dyersburg – Starla Denise Brown; Jared Andrew Buck; Madison Leigh Cartwright; Reed Christopher Daniels; Kayla Michelle Dennis; William Cody Escue; Megan Marie Greene; Bradley Keith Harris; Levi Allen Hinson; Ryan Louis Incrocci; Kristen M. Kile; Trudy Kindle; Alexandra Halie McKelvy; Zachary Walker McNeill; Kelsey

- Newbern – Melissa Lynne Akins; Jacob Rice Mallard; Dylan Lee Parker; Drake Scott Parker; Allyson Mackenzie Parker; Tiffany Jelene Rice; Allison Claire Thrasher

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dyersburg – Courtney B. Bevins; Jessica Tickle

Jordan Murray; James Naifeh; Shelby Lauren Oatsvall; Christopher Ronald Walker.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 19 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System. For more information, visit utm.edu.
Kavarius Hester is rightfully proud of the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree that he received May 4 during commencement exercises at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

His accomplishment was also a point of pride for students, faculty and staff at the UT Martin Somerville Center, as well as a contingent of supporters from Fayette County who were present to see Hester walk across the commencement stage. The new college graduate holds the distinction of being the first student to enroll in UT Martin classes when they were first offered in Somerville and then complete all of his college credits at the center to earn his degree. His success will help others who can follow in his footsteps and earn a University of Tennessee degree without leaving Fayette County.

Hester graduated from Fayette-Ware High School in 2014 and enrolled in UT Martin classes at the Fayette County Career Center. "I chose UTM because I think it's a good school," he said of this college choice. "I have some relatives that went there, and I went to UT Martin at Somerville because I wanted to stay close to home."

Although he remained in Somerville to attend college, his path to a degree was not easy. He worked part-time at Walmart and then attended classes, completed homework and studied during his off hours. "I say the challenge (of working and going to school) is having enough time to get schoolwork done after work on a daily basis," Hester said. Even with a challenging work schedule, he averaged 12 to 15 credit hours per semester and never enrolled in a class at the main campus. He credits his family, UT Martin faculty members and center director Kara Tapp for supporting his educational journey.

Hester not only earned a college degree, but he also followed his interest in criminal justice that will allow him to pursue his law enforcement career goals. "It (law enforcement) was something that I always wanted to do because I love watching shows like Law and Order, SVU and CSI, and it was something that always grabbed my interest," he said, adding, "The main thing is I like to help people."

Discussions to create college opportunities in Fayette County for students like Hester began in 2004. The University of Tennessee and UT Martin became involved in higher-education discussions in 2012, and a new building to serve as the center's home was originally proposed. However, while the project was deemed cost-prohibitive, the goal to create a higher-education center remained, and university classes were offered for the first time in 2014 in downtown Somerville.

Methodist Fayette Hospital then closed in March 2015, and Somerville officials approached Methodist Healthcare about donating the facility to the town. The building was transferred in July 2015, and Methodist Healthcare also gave the city $250,000 to assist with the facility's renovation. The State Building Commission approved a lease on July 25, 2016, between the University of Tennessee and the town of Somerville to house the UT Martin Somerville Center in the former hospital building.

A ground-breaking event was held Dec. 7 to officially begin the renovation project that was completed in time for 2017 fall classes.
Tapp, who became full-time center director in 2016, was among those who attended commencement with Hester, and she said his success is important to her personally and to the community. "Being from Somerville, and being a part of the community, and being able to offer access to higher education within our community, it is huge," she said. "To be able to give this opportunity to Kavarius is something that I will always remember until the day I die because we gave him something that can never be taken away from him, which is an education."

She added that Hester wasn't alone in his journey to a college degree. "He was successful because he had a support team," Tapp said. "The whole community was standing beside him, rooting him on, made sure he was doing everything he possibly could to get there and achieve the goal of a degree right here in our hometown."

Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neill also accompanied the Fayette County group to commencement. He has watched the center evolve from the beginning, and Hester's graduation is an important milestone. "To go from the facilities that we started out with on the square in two rooms to what we have now, ... it just shows what you can do when everybody pulls together with a common goal in the end, and you know what you're trying to accomplish," he said.

Hester's graduation provided an occasion to celebrate, and more graduations are sure to follow as Neill sees a bright future for the Somerville Center. "Well, I think it (the center) can be very big. I think we have an additional 30,000 square feet there that I hope at some point we will need to use for the UTM center," he said. "That was the whole purpose of it - to bring programs in there to help people earn a living and to improve their lives."

So, when you see Kavarius Hester working in law enforcement, know that he is pursuing his passion, all because he earned a University of Tennessee degree and never had to leave Fayette County to reach his goal.

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**Transfer, orientation continue at UTM**

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host two more Transfer and Adult Orientation sessions this year for incoming students in these categories.

Students can still register to attend either the June 18 or July 19 session to learn more about life at UT Martin. There is no registration fee to attend.

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

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

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to participate. No tuition or fee payments will be due until the start of the fall semester.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Retention summit draws multi-state crowd

Almost 250 people representing 28 colleges and universities from six states attended the inaugural Skyhawk Regional Retention Summit held at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently.

Attendees and facilitators brought perspectives from two- and four-year, public and private, faith-based and state institutions to the discussion on student success and perseverance to graduation across the southeastern United States.

"Obviously, we want to deepen our understanding of the issues that hinder our students in persisting to graduation. That’s an incredibly simple statement with an incredibly complicated set of answers," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, when discussing the purpose of the summit.

He said he also hopes the institutions in attendance will build networks and create partnerships with others based on the ideas presented during the various discussions.

The main day of summit activities began with a welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, who discussed the importance of developing relationships with each student and finding out what barriers may exist in their lives to keep them from completing their degrees. He then stressed the difference one faculty or staff member can make in the life of a struggling student by simply taking steps to help them overcome those barriers.

"That’s why we’re all here today. It’s our responsibility. We’re in this for the people business, but we’re really in this to help our students persist and succeed and graduate and contribute back," he said.

Summit keynote speaker Dr. John Gardner, chief executive officer of The Gardner Institute, spoke on the lessons institutions in the United States have learned about student success and retention in the past 50 years, focusing on the need to increase equity and opportunity for students of all backgrounds.

Mike Krause, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, spoke during the lunch hour and discussed changes needed in higher education in Tennessee. He highlighted several state institutions that have made changes to their orientation, registration and first-year experience processes with promising results and proposed ideas for new initiatives in other areas.

Cavalier says the summit was a success overall, and plans are already under way to host a second event next May.

Reading center to be open

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will remain open through the month of June to help students in second through 12th grades retain skills and comprehension during summer vacation.

Students will be individually tested and assigned to a course of study based on skill level and existing knowledge gaps.

The registration fee is $100 for two meetings per week and $200 for four meetings per week, depending on the student’s individual needs. An additional $25 workbook may be assigned as necessary.

All Reading Center instructors are experienced professionals.

To register online, visit utm.edu/readingclinic.

For more information or for assistance, contact UT Martin outreach at (731) 881-7104.
University of TN at Martin ranked safest in Tennessee

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the safest college campus in the state of Tennessee, according to the 2019 ranking by yourlocalsecurity.com.

This website uses the U.S. Department of Education's campus safety and security analysis, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation's uniform crime report, to rank colleges in each state and nationwide.

The ranking includes 435 public, private and non-profit colleges offering both two and four-year degrees with at least 5,000 students enrolled.

The study primarily considers four main factors: hate crimes per enrolled students, violence against women per enrolled females, property crimes per population and violent crimes per population.

According to the ranking site, these factors were calculated based on every 1,000 students, females or residents in each location, as appropriate.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation recently released the Crime on Campus Report for 2018 and shows low crime numbers for UT Martin. University data shows that 61 group A, or more serious, offenses were reported on the UT Martin campus in 2018, and 34 of these were resolved by the department. The highest number of offenses occurred in the categories for larceny/theft and drug/narcotic violations. Group B, or less serious, offenses totaled 26 reported incidents in 2018, with the highest number of reports falling into the liquor law violations category. Clearance rates for these are not included in the TBI report.

This news comes soon after the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program granted the UT Martin Department of Public Safety full accreditation status during the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police meeting April 3 in Franklin.

ENGINEER INDUCTED — Elliot Tomlinson (center) of Union City was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. Participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field. Tomlinson completed his degree during the fall 2018 semester. He is pictured with Dr. Shadow Robinson (left), dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Bob LeMaster, chair of the Department of Engineering.
SCHOLAR'LY SENG — Holly Seng of Union City graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin recently with the distinction of University Scholar. She was congratulated by Dr. John Glass, director of UT Martin Honors Programs. The University Scholar honor indicates a student was selected to participate in an exclusive honors curriculum and has completed and defended a two-year research thesis alongside a faculty mentor. Ms. Seng earned her bachelor's degree in communications with a concentration in public relations. She completed her undergraduate thesis with the assistance of Andrew Brown, lecturer of communications.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR — Rebecca Robb of Troy recently graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with the distinction of University Scholar. This honor indicates a student was selected to participate in an exclusive honors curriculum and has completed and defended a two-year research thesis alongside a faculty mentor. Ms. Robb earned her bachelor's degree in psychology. She completed her undergraduate thesis with the assistance of Dr. Joseph Ostenson (right), associate professor of psychology, who recently congratulated her on the achievement.
Local residents receive degrees

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

MARTIN, Tenn. - Two Marshall County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Bailey Leann Brown and Bethany June Cole, both of Lewisburg.

UT Martin is a public four-year university offering 19 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary campuses in the University of Tennessee System.

Wilson County student receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

MARTIN - A Wilson County student was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the upcoming academic year, according to James Mantooth, executive director of the office of enrollment services and student engagement.

Asia Evans, of Lebanon, daughter of Janice Burks and Josh Evans, will be a freshman. She received an advance scholarship.

For more information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance, contact the University of Tennessee at Martin office of financial aid and scholarships at 205 Administration Building in Martin or at 731-881-7040.

Two Wilson County students initiated into Phi Kappa Phi honor society

Two Wilson County students were recently initiated into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.
Kid College returns to UT Martin

Parents of children entering kindergarten through fifth grade can register their children for Kid College held June 10-14 on the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus.

Registration is $30 per class, per child, with a maximum of five classes per child. The first class block begins at 9 a.m., and final pick-up is at 3 p.m. Individual schedules will vary based on class selection.

Some courses have individual supply fees, which must be paid directly to the course instructor on the first day of class. The initial registration fee includes a Kid College T-shirt, and all students are encouraged to wear their T-shirts on Wednesday for picture day. Children who will attend Kid College all day must bring a lunch from home.

Class choices for children entering kindergarten through second grade include disc golf, science lab, kids in the kitchen, bowling, mission to mars, basketball and painting, among others.

Options for children entering third through fifth grades include adventures in engineering, animal careers, karate, yoga, violin, mission to mars, science lab, painting and soccer, among others. A full list of available courses can be found on the Kid College website at utm.edu/kidcollege.

Parents will be sent an email June 5 containing each child's class schedule, supply fees and other important information. Kid College activities will also be held June 3-7 at the UT Martin Somerville Center, June 24-27 at the Parsons Center and June 24-28 at the McNairy County Center/Selmer.

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 UT Martin outreach at (731) 881-7104.
Grad stands up for women of color

“There are approximately three million nurses in the United States, but only 9.9 percent are African American,” said Ajia Graham, who graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree during the university’s spring commencement exercises May 4.

Graham of Memphis plans to focus her skills in the area of obstetrics and be a voice for those women who may not be able to advocate for themselves.

“African American women have a higher incidence of postpartum depression and maternal mortality 24 hours after giving birth (than Caucasian women). For every 13 white women who die of childbirth-related issues, 44 black women (die),” said Graham. “That hit me close to the heart because I want to go into OB, and I want to be an advocate. There are so many stereotypes about how black women have a higher pain threshold or how we just complain. I know a lot of black women who are afraid and intimidated to go to the doctor because they feel like they’re going to be experimented on or they’re going to die.”

Graham knows her experience with the UT Martin nursing program has prepared her to be that voice of support. While the program is challenging, it is designed to produce the best possible health-care professionals, and Graham says the program is successful for a reason.

“(Our faculty members) are always making sure we have all our stuff together and challenging us to think and picking our brains to make sure that we know that we know. They push us,” she said. “Do not study for a grade. Study like you’re going to save someone’s life, because you will be the deciding factor one day (between) life and death for one person. It’s scary to think like that, but if you’re only studying to pass, and you’re not studying to know it like you’re potentially going to save someone, then you’re not going to be good nurse.”

Graham also says the UT Martin nursing faculty create a vital support system for students involved in the program.

“I went through a lot my last two years of nursing school, and I thought I wasn’t going to make it (to graduation),” she said.

“They sat down with me and really helped me and told me that I’m going to make it. … I feel like we do have teachers here that really do love you and care for you, and they’re going to work really hard with you so that you can be successful.”

Graham sees herself as a leader among nursing students of color, and she wants to encourage those coming behind her to continue the fight.

“I originated from one of the poorest parts of Memphis, and now I am (graduating) from the second most renowned nursing school in Tennessee. It hasn’t been easy at all, but it feels so good when other black students tell me that I am leading as an example and giving them hope,” she said.

“I don’t want to be an exception to the rule. … I’m no different from any other person of color. We are all capable and more than qualified. … I want to see more people of color be great, because 9.9 percent out of three million nurses in American is not enough. It’s not enough. We need more people who look like us to advocate for us, because no one else will if we don’t.”
CHAD LEWIS, of Gates, received a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the University of Tennessee at Martin during commencement exercises May 4th. More than 700 UT Martin students were eligible to receive degrees this semester, and 550 participated in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Kenyatta Lovett, executive director for Complete Tennessee, served as commencement speaker.

UTM Memorial Day Ceremony

May 24 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at 9 a.m., Friday, May 24, in the north plaza between the Boling University center and the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin main campus. The ceremony will include the installation of a military battle cross outside the library.

An open house for the UT Martin Veteran’s Lounge, which has relocated to room 131 in Gooch Hall, will follow the ceremony.
UT Martin Hosts Memorial Day Ceremony

MARTIN, Tenn. – Col. Jack Usrey, United States Army, served as speaker May 24 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony on the main campus. Usrey graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville.

After members of Union City’s Jones-Walker VFW Post 4862 posted the colors outside the Boling University Center and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed audience members, Usrey reminded those in attendance to think not only of the importance of Memorial Day throughout history but also of the individual stories of heroes who have given their lives for our country.

“During my 12-month deployment in Afghanistan in 2011, we lost 144 heroes. Part of my responsibility was casualty operations during that year, and I have a three-by-five (inch) index card that I keep on the table in my office today of every one of those 144 heroes,” he said. “I think about them almost daily, and the others we have lost in other operations I have been on. I will never forget them, and I will never forget their stories because the stories are what is important.”
Usrey told the crowd of men and women who served alongside him on various battlefields throughout his career and of the sacrifices they made to protect not only their country but their fellow service members. Many of these comrades-in-arms were young and had hardly begun their own lives before giving them in service for another.

Usrey then painted the picture of a scene not often witnessed by civilians - a battlefield memorial service.

“We conduct a memorial service for every hero we send home, no matter what. No one leaves our theater of combat without being recognized,” he said. “A large formation stands as a Humvee moves slowly toward the back of an airplane that has its gate down. ... Everything we do is intentional and precise because of the mission that we have at that moment. When the Humvee stops, pallbearers from that unit where the hero fought slowly pull the flag-draped coffin off the back of the Humvee, and they turn toward the plane. Staged in front of the coffin are the fallen hero’s leadership. We bring them in by helicopter. Nothing is more important than a proper farewell.

“There’s an honor guard holding the American colors, and on that staff there are 190 battle streamers, one for all of the major conflicts recognized by our military. ... It is hard to handle, even on a good day,” Usrey continued. “(The pallbearers) start marching toward the plane, and as they approach it, the chaplain steps onto the plane and the honor guard with the colors take a 90 degree turn to the right ... so that as the hero comes by we can lower the colors and give our last pledge of respect to the man or woman we are sending home.

“During one particular ceremony, we were hit by a wind storm on the airfield. The soldier that was carrying the colors was struggling as he was walking in front of the hero’s coffin. ... As they turned right to set up, he was doing all he could do to hold those colors in the right position. ... Without a single command, two soldiers broke away from our formation and ran toward their brother and stood behind him, and they leaned in so that the colors were where they needed to be when our hero came by,” Usrey said. This picture of determination to show honor and respect for a fallen hero is one Usrey says will never leave his mind and will always remind him of the importance of each and every hero’s story.
“Stories are what keep us who we are. We have to always remember, and we have to keep telling their stories, and we can never forget their names,” he concluded.

Following the annual ceremony was the installation of a battlefield cross outside the university’s Paul Meek Library. The cross, donated to the university by members of the 83rd Infantry Division, Dixie Chapter, will remain to honor the nation’s fallen heroes for years to come.

In his remarks, Carver explained that the memorial’s components – a trooper’s rifle, helmet and combat boots – indicate the importance of remembering each fallen service member. The helmet stands for the fallen hero, the inverted rifle symbolizes a pause in battle to allow time for prayer for the fallen, and the boots symbolize the service member’s final march in one last battle.

The university also opened a new Veteran’s Lounge to the public after relocating the lounge to room 131 of Gooch Hall from its previous home in the Boling University Center. This new space will allow a place for student-veterans and active service members to congregate and support each other through the transition to college life. The bust of Marine Capt. Brent Morel, a Martin native and 1999 UT Martin graduate who gave his life in Iraq in 2004, has also been relocated to this new lounge area after spending many years standing guard in the Paul Meek Library.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Delaney Grinder (left), of Union City, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin on May 21 to participate in one of the first Summer Orientation and Registration sessions of the year. She is a graduate of Union City High School and is pictured with her mother, Joanie Grinder. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community. Future SOAR sessions for accepted students are scheduled for June 7 and 21 and July 12 and 22. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen. For more information, visit utm.edu/soar (http://utm.edu/soar) or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7612.
Col. Jack Usrey reminds Memorial Day crowd at UT Martin to remember each fallen hero’s story.

May 24, 2019 by Jillianne Moncrief

Col. Jack Usrey, United States Army, served as a speaker at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony on May 24.

Usrey graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville.

Usrey spent his time reminding the crowd to think about the importance of Memorial Day throughout history, but also the stories of everyone who has given their lives for our country.

"During my 12-month deployment in Afghanistan in 2011, we lost 144 heroes. Part of my responsibility was casualty operations during that year, and I have a three-by-five (inch) index card that I keep on the table in my office today of every one of those 144 heroes," he said. "I think about them almost daily, and the others we have lost in other operations I have been on. I will never forget them, and I will never forget their stories because the stories are what is important."

Usrey told stories of men and women who served beside him throughout his career and of the sacrifices they made to protect not only their country but their friends in the service. Many of the people he spoke of were young when they started to serve; they had hardly begun their own lives before dying for another.

Usrey then painted the picture of a scene not often witnessed by civilians – a battlefield memorial service.

"We conduct a memorial service for every hero we send home, no matter what. No one leaves our theater of combat without being recognized," he said. "A large formation stands as a Humvee moves slowly toward the back of an airplane that has its gate down. ... Everything we do is intentional and precise because of the mission that we have at that moment. When the Humvee stops, pallbearers from that unit where the hero fought slowly pull the flag-draped coffin off the back of the Humvee, and they turn toward the plane. Staged in front of the coffin are the fallen hero's leadership. We bring them in by helicopter. Nothing is more important than a proper farewell."
"There's an honor guard holding the American colors, and on that staff there are 190 battle streamers, one for all of the major conflicts recognized by our military. ... It is hard to handle, even on a good day," Usrey continued. "(The pallbearers) start marching toward the plane, and as they approach it, the chaplain steps onto the plane and the honor guard with the colors take a 90 degree turn to the right ... so that as the hero comes by we can lower the colors and give our last pledge of respect to the man or woman we are sending home.

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"Stories are what keep us who we are. We have to always remember, and we have to keep telling their stories, and we can never forget their names," he concluded.

A battlefield cross was placed outside the university's Paul Meek Library after the ceremony. The cross was donated to the university by members of the 83rd Infantry Division, Dixie Chapter and will stay and honor the nation's fallen heroes for many years.

Closing the ceremony, Chancellor Keith Carver explained the components of the battlefield cross memorial and the importance of remembering each fallen service member. The helmet stands for the fallen hero, the inverted rifle symbolizes a pause in battle to allow time for prayer for the fallen, and the boots symbolize the service member's final march in one last battle.

The university also moved the Veteran's Lounge from the Boling University Center to room 131 of Gooch Hall. This lounge allows student-veterans and active service members a place to support each other through the transition to college and civilian life. The bust of Marine Captain Brent Morel, a Martin native and 1999 UT Martin graduate who gave his life in Iraq in 2004, has also been relocated to this new lounge area after spending many years standing guard in the Paul Meek Library.
UT Martin names local students to honor roll

May 25, 2019

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

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

- Morristown – Chantal M. Wilson, Highest Honors; Cherie R. Wilson, Highest Honors.
- Talbott – Hunter R. Hall, High Honors.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

SUBMITTED May 27, 2019

Several Robertson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were James Gregory Davis of Adams, Quentin Tyler Richards of Cedar Hill, Parker B. Judkins and Torger Ole Tau Torgersen, both of Cross Plains, Erin Tice Keenan Jr. of Greenbrier, Julia Rose Anderson of Orlinda, Christopher Austin Avallone and Keylea Elizabeth Richardson, both of Springfield and Rebekah Mansfield of White House.
Several Sumner County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement held May 4, 2019, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Matthew Clay Sawyer of Cottonwood; Angelinda Betts of Gallatin; Alexandria Michelle Fulcher, Logan Taylor Fulks, Rebecca Janine Moore, Michaela E. Short, Michaela Elayne Short and Helen Ashley Sims, all of Hendersonville; and Tanner Alan Craddock, Trey Dalton Hinton and Sarah Jo Lesemann, all of Portland.

The students receiving graduate degrees were: Matthew Tyler Shrum of Castalian Springs and Austin D. Swafford of Gallatin.
Usrey reminds Memorial Day crowd to remember each fallen hero’s story

MARTIN — Col. Jack Usrey, United States Army, served as speaker Friday during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony on the main campus.

Usrey graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville.

After members of Union City’s Jones-Walker VFW Post 4862 posted the colors outside the Boling University Center and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed audience members, Usrey reminded those in attendance to think not only of the importance of Memorial Day throughout history but also of the individual stories of heroes who have given their lives for our country.

“During my 12-month deployment in Afghanistan in 2011, we lost 144 heroes. Part of my responsibility was casualty operations during that year, and I have a three-by-five (inch) index card that I keep on the table in my office today of every one of those 144 heroes,” he said. “I think about them almost daily, and the others we have lost in other operations I have been on. I will never forget them, and I will never forget their stories because the stories are what is important.”

Usrey told the crowd of men and women who served alongside him on various battlefields throughout his career and of the sacrifices they made to protect not only their country but their fellow service members. Many of these comrades-in-arms were young and had hardly begun their own lives before giving them in service for another.

Usrey then painted the picture of a scene not often witnessed by civilians — a battlefield memorial service.

“We conduct a memorial service for every hero we send home, no matter what. No one leaves our theater of combat without being recognized,” he said. “A large formation stands as a Humvee moves slowly toward the back of an airplane that has its gate down. Everything we do is intentional and precise because of the mission that we have at that moment. When the Humvee stops, pallbearers from that unit where the hero fought slowly pull the flag-draped coffin off the back of the Humvee, and they turn toward the plane. Staged in front of the coffin are the fallen hero’s leadership. We bring them in by helicopter. Nothing is more important than a proper farewell.

“There’s an honor guard holding the American colors, and on that staff there are 190 battle streamers, one for all of the major conflicts recognized by our military. ... It is hard to handle, even on a good day,” Usrey continued. “(The pallbearers) start marching toward the plane, and as they approach it, the chaplain steps onto the plane and the honor guard with the colors take a 90-degree turn to the right so that as the hero comes by we can lower the colors and give our last pledge of respect to the man or woman we are sending home.

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“Stories are what keep us who we are. We have to always remember, and we have to keep telling their stories, and we can never forget their names,” he concluded.

Following the annual ceremony was the installation of a battlefield cross outside the university’s Paul Meek Library. The cross, donated to the university by members of the 83rd Infantry Division, Dixie Chapter, will remain to honor the nation’s fallen heroes for years to come.

In his remarks, Carver explained that the memorial’s components - a trooper’s rifle, helmet and combat boots — indicate the importance of remembering each fallen service member. The helmet stands for the fallen hero, the inverted rifle symbolizes a pause in battle to allow time for prayer for the fallen, and the boots symbolize the service member’s final march in one last battle.

The university also opened a new Veteran’s Lounge to the public after relocating the lounge to room 131 of Gooch Hall from its previous home in the Boling University Center. This new space will allow a place for student veterans and active service members to congregate and support each other through the transition to college life. The bust of Marine Capt. Brent Morel, a Martin native and 1990 UT Martin graduate who gave his life in Iraq in 2004, has also been relocated to this new lounge area after spending many years standing guard in the Paul Meek Library.

For more information, contact the UTM Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7612.
PAYING RESPECTS — Col. Jack Usrey (left) took a moment during his Memorial Day address Friday on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin to thank Martin residents (seated, from left) Raphael and Joe Walker, who are veterans of the Korean War and World War II, respectively.

Guests urged to remember heroes' stories

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The bust of Marine Capt. Brent Morel, a Martin native and 1999 UT Martin graduate who gave his life in Iraq in 2004, has also been relocated to this new lounge area after spending many years standing guard in the Paul Meek Library.

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Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will officially retire from university service May 31 after 54 years in the classroom. Airee is UT Martin's longest-serving faculty member.

He joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch, and has seen many changes during more than five decades of service. He served on the UT Martin Faculty Senate the first year it was formed and was re-elected twice in later years. He also helped the UT Martin bachelor's degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society.

Airee chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members of the American Chemical Society) in 1971. This chapter is the most decorated chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings, more than any chapter in the nation, and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.

"Professor S.K. Airee, the faculty adviser of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Student Affiliates chapter, deserves special commendation. Few faculty members are willing to make the great commitment of time and energy that a successful chapter requires of its adviser. It takes more than exceptional effort to be recognized as an outstanding chapter; it takes the nurturing attention of dedicated staff. Professor Airee's efforts certainly represent the best in undergraduate education and mentoring around the country," wrote ACS President Brian Rushton in a letter to then-UT Martin Chancellor Margaret Perry in 1995.

"Remarks like these humbled and inspired me, but the most cherished reward was the light of pride in the students' eyes after they successfully executed a difficult project year in and year out," said Airee. "Dr. Abigail Shelton has now very ably taken over as (chapter) adviser."

Under Airee's leadership, the chapter has coordinated more than 35 high school science bowls, 30 area collegiate chemistry meetings, 30 Boy Scouts of America chemistry merit badge clinics, 20 local chemistry Olympiads, and 30 weeks of National Chemistry Week activities.

Airee has been affiliated with the American Chemical Society in one way or another for the past 61 years. In addition to his classroom work, he worked closely with the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS and served as chair in 1992 and councillor from 1999-2010. He also spent eight years as co-editor and producer of the Kentucky-Illinois-Missouri-Arkansas-Tennessee Chemistry News and Views Exchange, a publication sponsored by five chemistry departments and two local ACS sections. This publication was distributed to approximately 1,000 high school chemistry teachers and ACS members in the five-state region.

He is the recipient of numerous university, industry and community service awards, including the UT Distinguished Service Professorship Award in 2016, the Dr. Joe Johnson Lifetime Service Award from the University of Tennessee System in 2015, the UT Martin Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award in 2006 and Kiwanian of the Year in 1968.

"Scientists have the uncanny ability to be critical about everything and focus mainly on what needs improvement/optimization. S.K. has an eye for what is good. He recognizes the positive aspects of any accomplishment and readily shows pride for good work, whether his own or that of others. S.K. sees the best in people and believes the best about people," said Dr. Genessa Smith, UT Martin associate professor of chemistry and one of Airee's longtime colleagues. "He has been a champion of chemistry for a very long time, and I have no doubt retirement will not change that."

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

For more information on Dr. S.K. Airee’s UT Martin legacy or the Department of Chemistry and Physics, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Henry Countians named to UTM spring honor roll

Sixty-six Henry Countians or those with local ties have been honored at the University of Tennessee at Martin by being named to the spring honor roll.

This honor is for outstanding academic achievements by undergraduate students taking at least 12 hours of credit. Those honored are as follows:

- **High honors (3.5-3.79 GPA)** — DaeShuana M. Aldridge, Lauren E. Anderson, Makenzi B. Brewer, Alyssa Brown, Adam Chisolm, Samantha A. Key, Lon H. Sowell, James Z. Stone, Jonathon A. Sulcer, John E. Taylor, Vincent L. Vine and Summer B. Wilson, all of Paris; Katelyn N. Caldwell, Chelsea L. Dougherty and Hailey D. Frizzell, all of Buchanan; Jasmine L. Al-Ahmad of Henry; Baylee D. Pafford of Puryear; Kara D. Hoskins and Morgan A. Martin, both of Springville; and Erica N. Little of Gleason.

UT Martin names local students to spring semester Chancellor’s honor roll

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

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

- Medina – Trevor L. Boals, High Honors; Reilly C. Browning, High Honors; Chandler H. Carey, Highest Honors; Zachary M. Case, High Honors; Chloe G. Cates, Highest Honors; Kristen B. Dabbs, High Honors; Bentley A. Davis, Highest Honors; Ariel A. Dunavan, Highest Honors; Anna C. Lax Gatti, Highest Honors; Shaelyn M. Horner, High Honors; Keyanna F. Kramer, Honors; Magdalena I. Martinez, Honors; Amy A. Polk, High Honors; Gage M. Schneeberger, Highest Honors; Rachel K. Smith, High Honors; Kyle M. Trompower, Honors.
- Milan – Brooke M. Allen, High Honors; Megan Black, High Honors; Sydney C. Blackburn, Highest Honors; Lucas B. Bledsoe, High Honors; Madison C. Crocker, Highest Honors; Madison B. Dowdy, High Honors; Jennifer M. Easterday, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Frandsen, Highest Honors; Karen M. Gantt, Highest Honors; James E. Hatfield, High Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, Highest Honors; Catherine D. Ing, Highest Honors; Olivia J. Patrick, High Honors; Jonathan C. Prescott, Honors; Daniel J. Schaefer, Highest Honors; Jessica R. Schaefer, Highest Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Courtney G. Smith, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Staley, Highest Honors; Jaxon D. Stringer, High Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, Highest Honors; Samuel M. Walgren, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Highest Honors; James L. Wren, Honors.

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

UT Martin

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

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Honorees from Shelbyville:

- Chelsey M. Blackwell, Highest Honors;
- Robert T. Martin, Highest Honors.

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School News

Evans gets scholarship to attend UT Martin

MARTIN – A Wilson County student was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the upcoming academic year, according to James Mantooth, executive director of the office of enrollment services and student engagement.

Asia Evans, of Lebanon, daughter of Janice Burks and Josh Evans, will be a freshman. She received an advance scholarship.

For more information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance, contact the University of Tennessee at Martin office of financial aid and scholarships at 205 Administration Building in Martin or at 731-881-7040.
Chemistry professor retiring after 54 years at UT Martin

Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will officially retire from university service May 31 after 54 years in the classroom. Airee is UT Martin's longest-serving faculty member.

He joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch, and has seen many changes during more than five decades of service. He served on the UT Martin Faculty Senate the first year it was formed and was re-elected twice in later years. He also helped the UT Martin bachelor's degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society.

Airee chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members of the American Chemical Society) in 1971. This chapter is the most decorated chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings, more than any chapter in the nation, and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.

Under Airee's leadership, the chapter has coordinated more than 35 high school science bowls, 30 area collegiate chemistry meetings, 30 Boy Scouts of America chemistry merit badge clinics, 20 local chemistry Olympiads, and 30 weeks of National Chemistry Week activities.

The Airee family has initiated three endowment funds - the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service, the S.K. and Shashi Airee Scholarship, and the Monsanto SAACS Fund - to help UT Martin students fund their education.

Airee is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, and he and his wife, Shashi, have three children, all of whom are UT Martin and UT Health Science Center alumni.
UTM Spring Chancellor’s Honor Roll announced

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

Fulton residents making the UTM Spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll include Caroline A. Jones, Highest Honors; Gerald P. Yates, High Honors.

Drew W. Love, of Hickman, made the UTM Spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll with Highest Honors.

South Fulton residents making the UTM Spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll include Casey P. Allen, Highest Honors: Kevin W. Bartholomew, High Honors; Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla, Highest Honors; Mallory P. Brown, Highest Honors; Hunter C. Burton, Highest Honors; Hannah G. Carlisle, High Honors; Trajin A. Cheirs, Honors; Riley K. Davis, Highest Honors; James B. Hutchens, Highest Honors; Hayden W. Kelly, High Honors; Ryanne B. Kessel, Highest Honors; Ariabella E. Kinney, High Honors; Chandler B. Malray, Honors; Destinee B. Mayo, Highest Honors; Caitlyn A. McClain, Highest Honors; Slade C. Murray, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, Highest Honors; Justin B. Sowell, Honors; Benjamin R. St. Ongie, Honors; Kelly A. White, Honors.

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

Summer piano camp planned at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a summer piano camp from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. June 17-21 in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

Students who have completed the seventh through 12th grades are invited to participate.

Registration is $275 per student and includes lunches and all lesson materials.

Activities include private piano lessons and ensemble coaching from Dr. Elaine Harriss, UT Martin professor of music, as well as musical theory classes and sight-reading sessions. Special topics include an introduction to the organ and harpsichord, as well as a chamber music performance by the University Trio.

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

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

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

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

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Karl Ullrich of Union City was inducted into the Order of Engineers during a ceremony recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The induction ceremony is a way for graduating engineering students to show pride in their new profession and unity with other engineers. The participating students recite a pledge to uphold honor, workmanship and ethics in the engineering field.

Ullrich completed his degree during the fall 2018 semester.
UTM graduate offers advice

Editor's note: The following article was written by Holly Seng of Union City, who graduated earlier this month from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She interned in UTM's Office of University Relations and, as one of her final assignments, wrote this firsthand account of her experience.

She recently began work with the Obion County Chamber of Commerce.

MARTIN — I am Holly Seng of Union City, and for the past four years I have studied at the University of Tennessee at Martin majoring in communications with a sequence in public relations and a minor in marketing.

There is a saying many of us have heard throughout our lives along the lines of "never say never." Growing up on UT Martin’s campus, I spent countless hours of my childhood at the Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center and summer days in the classrooms of Gooch Hall for Kid’s College, both as a participant and later a volunteer. I had often stated as a child that I would never attend the university I have proudly called home these last four years. Looking back on both my reasoning at the time and the outcome of my undergraduate experience, my previous mindset could not have been more wrong.

My entire philosophy shifted during the summer of 2014 when I attended the Tennessee Governor’s School for Humanities hosted on the UT Martin campus. For four weeks, I learned from some of the best faculty members on campus, developed lifelong friendships and discovered that the freedom I was looking for in a college was attainable at a university so close to home, even while my mother, Dr. Victoria Seng, associate provost, worked at the university. In this moment of realization, I knew UT Martin was the university for me. I have yet to look back.

While at UT Martin, I had countless opportunities to sharpen my skills through hands-on learning experiences in my communications and marketing courses, which greatly prepared me to enter the workforce. From day one I was able to read the news and work the switchboard at the campus student-run radio station WUTM F.M. 90.3 "The Hawk," assist with planning and implementing the College of Business and Global Affairs 2018 Awards Banquet and create a strategic public relations campaign for a real-world client. Travel-studies, including trips to Australia, the British Isles and America’s
Northeast, allowed me to expand my world-view and gave me a greater appreciation for West Tennessee. University Scholars, Chi Omega and the Student Government Association are a few of the organizations I was involved with on campus, and each played a role in shaping my leadership skills.

I completed a two-year research project as part of the University Scholars program, during which I applied crisis communication theories to the 2018 Nashville mayor crisis through analysis of volume and sentiment on Twitter. Analyzing a crisis, especially using reactions on social media, put into perspective the responsibility that comes with leadership and the accountability expected from those you lead. My time as Chi Omega’s director of community service enabled me to lead through acts of service and has largely influenced my leadership style. I carried this mindset with me during my time as secretary general of the Student Government Association by taking time to listen to student concerns, serving on committees and maintaining the organization’s various records.

UT Martin gave me extensive preparation for my future career, but it also allowed me to continue the legacy of my mother and sister, Tori Seng, who both graduated before me. Continuing a legacy is more than just following a path, as I had previously envisioned. A legacy is about taking guidance from those who have come before you and creating your own unique path. Through my experience at GSH and the love I saw my mother and sister share for UT Martin, I chose to extend the legacy they started.

UT Martin’s commencement exercises May 4 completed two chapters in my family’s UT Martin legacy.

After receiving my bachelor of arts degree, I have returned to Union City to work for the Obion County Chamber of Commerce.

For my mother, it was her last time participating onstage in commencement as the dean of graduate studies following a recent promotion to associate provost. She was able to see both my sister and I walk across the stage she first crossed from the unique perspective of the stage itself.

The timing could not have been more perfect, and it leaves me with one thought: “It could never be any university but UT Martin.”

FAMILY AFFAIR — Holly Seng (center) of Union City graduated earlier this month from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor’s degree in communications. She was congratulated by her father, Dr. Lowis Seng, and her sister, Tori Seng, also a UT Martin graduate. Her mother, Dr. Victoria Seng (not pictured), is UT Martin assistant provost.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2019 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Dresden – Journey L. Adkins, High Honors; Sarah E. Alford, Honors; Tyler R. Branscum, High Honors; Aleya M. Brent, Highest Honors; Braden L. Cooper, Honors; Kaitlyn E. Courtney, Honors; Thomas W. Doster, High Honors; Alex L. Dunn, Honors; Erin A. Evans, Honors; Autumn A. Faulkner, Highest Honors; Kimberly N. Grimm, Honors; Carrie A. Hardin, High Honors; Jennifer M. McGhee, Honors; Hayden B. Nannen, Honors; Olivia D. Reagan, Highest Honors; Kinzi M. Reid, Highest Honors; Christopher R. Remnison, Honors; Malinda M. Riddick, Highest Honors; Madison E. Riggs, Honors; Brooklynn H. Snider, High Honors; Darya Stein, Highest Honors; Lauren Troutt, Honors; Johnathan D. Watson, Honors; Joshua T. Williams, High Honors; Dresser H. Winn, Honors.

Dukedom – Garrett L. Roberts, High Honors.

Gleason – Seth W. Bowers, Highest Honors; Chandler D. Brawner, Highest Honors; Colby S. Brooks, High Honors; Will C. Clark, High Honors; Jacqueline M. Ellis, Honors; Daniel L. Grisom, High Honors; Cameron B. Harrison, Honors; Michael W. Hicks, High Honors; Heidi E. James, Honors; Erica N. Little, High Honors; Harley D. Martin, High Honors; Taylor J. Melton, High Honors; Avery S. Orr, Highest Honors; Katarina E. Pompfrey, Honors; Natalia M. Pompfrey, High Honors; Wilson D. Ross, High Honors; Morgan R. Spring, Highest Honors; Carson A. Stafford, Highest Honors; Braxton S. Vickers, High Honors.

Greenfield – Damon P. Biddle, Honors; Darian L. Black, Honors; Blake A. Brauer, High Honors; Brock A. Brauer, Highest Honors; Brennen Z. Cobb, Highest Honors; Savannah B. Cobb, High Honors; Peyton B. Cooper, High Honors; Levi A. Dees, Honors; Tobias J. Dillard, Honors; Layla E. Doyle, Honors; Abby L. Eubank, Highest Honors; Allison Ferrell, High Honors; Joseph P. Frazier, High Honors; Victoria D. Galey, Honors; Bentley G. Gordon, Highest Honors; Kayla C. Harris, High Honors; William J. Harrison, High Honors; Courtney E. Hutchison, Honors; Matthew D. Pugh, Honors; Bryan P. Rogers, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn L. Sanders, Highest Honors; Matilyn J. Sellers, Highest Honors; Jamison S. Shelton, High Honors; Chelsea J. Willis, Highest Honors; Richard M. Willis, High Honors.

Martin – Christopher T. Ables, High Honors; Shara C. Adeck, Highest Honors; Parker E. Albright, High Honors; Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Kevin B. Allen, Highest Honors; Ivan Alvarado, Highest Honors; Danyel R. Arnold, High Honors; Amberly C. Baker, High Honors; Anna D. Barnes, High Honors; Buskin R. Barnes, High Honors; Bailey R. Barrett, High Honors; Alexis K. Beam, Honors; Chandler N. Beasley, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Beasley, Highest Honors; Ellen L. Bell, Highest Honors; Barrett J. Belote, Honors; Ali E. Beverley, Honors; Terry L. Bingham, Honors; Aalia S. Bivens, Highest Honors; Avery N. Blanchard, Highest Honors; Jade H. Bleckey, Highest Honors; Ashley E. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Brent W. Borden, High Honors; Gwendolyn M. Bracey, Honors; Dalton E. Bradford, Highest Honors; Sarah N. Bratton, High Honors; Guy E. Brawley, Honors; Andrea N. Brooks, Honors; Bailey L. Brown, Highest Honors; Emma R. Bruner, Highest Honors; Marion F. Burch, High Honors; Remington L. Burch, Highest Honors; Aubrey T. Byun, Honors; Amanda K. Camp, Highest Honors; Allie M. Cantrell, High Honors; Katherine N. Capua, Highest Honors; Nicholas E. Capua, Honors; John A. Carr, Highest Honors; Seth A. Carr, Highest Honors; Tierra S. Chappell, Highest Honors; Kylah M. Chatmon, High Honors; Virginia K. Chei, Highest Honors; Samantha I. Clayton, Highest Honors; Mickey L. Crump, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Curlin, Highest Honors; Peyton R. Bailey, Honors; George E. Daniel, Honors; Haley A. Davis, High Honors; Joshua F. Davis, High Honors; Maecyala V. Davis, High Honors; Matthew C. Dilday, Honors; Kyle G. Doyle, High Honors; Brittnay D. Dyer, Honors; James T. Ears, High Honors; Cheyanna N. Ebben, High Honors; Djhson Elma, Honors; Holly K. Faulkner, Highest Honors; David J. Fieser, High Honors; Emma M. Fieser, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Fieser, Highest Honors; Madison E. Ford, Highest Honors; Emma E. Foret, High Honors; Peyton N. Foose, Highest Honors; Gracie K. Fusting, Honors; Callie F. Garrison, High Honors; Brandon L. Gaul, Highest Honors; Tayyah Giannetta, Highest Honors; Dylan B. Giffen, Highest Honors; Sarah J. Gillespie, High Honors; Carleigh A. Good, Honors; Jonathan D. Gonsowski, High Honors; Jillian P. Gunter, Honors; Jasmine R. Hall, High Honors; Corinne N. Harrigan, Honors; Brandon L. Hauhe, Highest Honors; Garret L. Hay, Highest Honors; Bailey L. Hays, Honors;
Addison N. Hazlewood, Highest Honors; Joy N. Hazlewood, High Honors; Sara E. Hibbard, Highest Honors; Mary E. Higgs, Highest Honors; Trevor C. Holcomb, Honors; Abigail G. Holloway, Honors; Hanna J. Hopper, Honors; Miranda C. Howard, Honors; Terry J. Howell, Honors; Jennifer R. Huestis, Honors; Shelby S. Jacobs-Johnston, High Honors; Taylor S. Janusz, Highest Honors; Emily M. Jeffers, Highest Honors; Andrew T. Johnson, Honors; Brittney C. Johnson, High Honors; Michaela C. Johnson, High Honors; Tasharea K. Johnson, Honors; Josten B. Jones, Honors; Spencer B. Karp, High Honors; Angelica D. Keeton, Highest Honors; Emma G. Kelly, Honors; Keundra L. Kemp, High Honors; Meziah C. Kennedy, Honors; Elizabeth A. Keylon, Honors; Laken D. Kirk, Highest Honors; Jonathan D. Kirkland, High Honors; Grant W. Larcum, High Honors; Alyssa M. Lee, Highest Honors; Dorothy L. Lester, Honors; Rebecca C. Leonard, Highest Honors; Thomas S. Logan, Honors; Hannah E. Lokey, High Honors; Chloe D. Lollar, Highest Honors; Michael J. Long, Highest Honors; Elizabeth J. Longwell, Highest Honors; Katherine A. Lopez, Highest Honors; Abigail R. Lovell, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Lund, Highest Honors; Alexandra H. Lyle, High Honors; Kayla L. Maberry, High Honors; Kaylie B. Martin, Honors; Tiffany C. McDunn, Highest Honors; China-Marie A. Mcfall, High Honors; Rachel C. Metzger, Highest Honors; McKenzie L. Milburn, High Honors; Alexis V. Millsaps, High Honors; Jillianne D. Moncrief, Honors; Hannah R. Mooney, Honors; Rachel A. Moore, Highest Honors; Brady C. Mustrain, Honors; Peyton A. Nance, Honors; Summer Nasser, High Honors; Kirsti S. Nordstrom, Highest Honors; Rachel M. Owen, Honors; Levi J. Owens, Highest Honors; Amber F. Owensby, Highest Honors; Mason S. Parker, Honors; Michael B. Parker, Honors; Marissa P. Parks, High Honors; Mary E. Pate, Highest Honors; Jared T. Patel, Honors; Cy A. Pembroton, Highest Honors; Keaton N. Penick, High Honors; Ivy M. Pfennig, High Honors; Landon M. Pitcher, Honors; Abigale L. Plunk, Highest Honors; Alisa M. Quayle, Highest Honors; Stone L. Read, Highest Honors; Allison K. Reda, Honors; Hunter L. Reeves, High Honors; Haley S. Renner, Honors; Hannah P. Richardson, Honors; Stephen A. Richardson, High Honors; Aubrey L. Riggs, Highest Honors; Mindy A. Roberts, High Honors; Jacob H. Robinson, Highest Honors; Sierra M. Robinson, Honors; Brittney A. Rose, Highest Honors; Morgan D. Ross, High Honors; Lukas J. Saul, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, Highest Honors; Violet R. Scott, Highest Honors; Haley M. Segura, Highest Honors; Meagan A. Severs, High Honors; Alex A. Shepherd, Highest Honors; Samantha M. Simbeck, Honors; Michael P. Singer, Highest Honors; Catherine R. Skeen, Honors; Alex A. Smith, Highest Honors; Ashley M. Smith, High Honors; Katherine L. Smith, Honors; Brandon K. Stacks, Highest Honors; Alyssa J. Stegall, Honors; Charles B. Stevens, Honors; Parker C. Stewart, High Honors; Skylar M. Stewart, High Honors; Erin E. Stone, Honors; Carl A. Stricklin, Highest Honors; James D. Sumler, Honors; Leah J. Taylor, Honors; Nicolas A. Taylor, High Honors; Shelby J. Temple, Honors; Makayla R. Tharpe, Highest Honors; Amber D. Thompson, Honors; Chelsea A. Thweatt, Honors; Eli M. Todd, Highest Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, Honors; Evelyn F. Turner, Honors; Shae C. Tyler, Highest Honors; Hana Viktori novas, Honors; Drake C. Vincent, Highest Honors; John L. Vincent, Highest Honors; Madison E. Vincent, Honors; Carley E. Warlick, High Honors; Aliva S. Weaver, High Honors; Christopher D. Webb, Honors; Summer E. Weldon, High Honors; Melda Lizette G. White, High Honors; Jeremiah A. Whiteman, High Honors; Matthew D. Wicker, High Honors; Shelby R. Will let, Honors; Abbey T. Williams, Honors; Alexis H. Williams, Honors; Caleb D. Williamson, Highest Honors; Carly A. Williamson, High Honors; Nathan E. Williamson, Highest Honors; Zackary A. Williamson, Honors; Luke A. Winters, High Honors; Kari E. Woods, High Honors; Jared F. Wortham, Highest Honors; Maggie G. Wright, High Honors; Travis D. Wright, Honors; Tara J. Yant, Highest Honors.

Palmersville – Ashley R. Bell, Honors; Kelly R. Childress, High Honors; Noah Y. Cope land, Highest Honors; Damian D. Johnson, Honors; Shannon M. Merrell, Highest Honors; Victoria G. Todd, High Honors.

Sharon — Aubrie E. Croom, Honors; Jessica L. Davis, High Honors; William B. Erwin, High Honors; Jordan R. Fischer, Honors; Vivica R. Miller, Honors; Kinlee D. Moore, Highest Honors; McKenzie J. Noble, Honors; Rachel L. Roberts, Highest Honors; Shannara S. Sampson, Highest Honors; Tucker N. Turner, Highest Honors.

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

Bells — Dylon R. Potts, Honors.

Cordova — Ashley V. Mendez Garcia, Highest Honors.

Fulton, Kentucky — Gerald P. Yates, High Honors.

Jackson — Lillie D. Barner, Highest Honors.

McKenzie — Mitchell L. Moore, Honors; Logan Priestley, Honors.

Paris — Thomas D. Sims, Highest Honors.

South Fulton — Kevin W. Barbolomew, High Honors; Jasmine D. Rodriguez Bonilla, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, Highest Honors.

Union City — Jack S. Garrett, High Honors.
UT Martin Offers Summer Piano Camp June 17-21

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

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

Participants will present a public program of solo and ensemble performances at 4 p.m., June 21, for parents, family and friends. Scholarships and overnight housing accommodations are available for a limited number of students. Those wishing to apply for a camp scholarship or overnight housing must contact Harriss before June 1.

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

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

UTM Reading Clinic Continues Through Summer

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center will remain open through the month of June to help students in second through 12th grades retain skills and comprehension during summer vacation. Students will be individually tested and assigned to a course of study based on skill level and existing knowledge gaps.

The registration fee is $100 for two meetings per week and $200 for four meetings per week, depending on the student’s individual needs. An additional $25 workbook may be assigned as necessary. All Reading Center instructors are experienced professionals.

To register online, visit utm.edu/readingclinic. For more information or for assistance, contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104.

Jeanna Swafford Recognized by UT Foundation

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

“The Foundation is fortunate to have you as a member of the team,” wrote Kerry Witcher, president and CEO of the UT Foundation, in Swafford’s notification letter. “Your contributions to our development and alumni programs are appreciated by your colleagues and now are recognized by the board as well.”

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

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

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7612.
UT Martin hosts annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony

Col. Jack Usrey, United States Army, served as speaker May 24 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony on the main campus. Usrey graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville.

After members of Union City’s Jones-Walker VFW Post 4862 posted the colors outside the Boling University Center and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed audience members, Usrey reminded those in attendance to think not only of the importance of Memorial Day throughout history but also of the individual stories of heroes who have given their lives for our country.

“During my 12-month deployment in Afghanistan in 2011, we lost 144 heroes. Part of my responsibility was casualty operations during that year, and I have a three-by-five-inch index card that I keep on the table in my office today of every one of those 144 heroes,” he said. “I think about them almost daily, and the others we have lost in other operations I have been on. I will never forget them, and I will never forget their stories because the stories are what is important.”

Usrey told the crowd of men and women who served alongside him on various battlefields throughout his career and of the sacrifices they made to protect not only their country but their fellow service members. Many of these comrades-in-arms were young and had hardly begun their own lives before giving them in service for another. Usrey then painted the picture of a scene not often witnessed by civilians – a battlefield memorial service.

“We conduct a memorial service for every hero we send home, no matter what. No one leaves our theater of combat without being recognized,” he said. “A large formation stands as a Humvee moves slowly toward the back of an airplane that has its gate down. … Everything we do is intentional and precise because of the mission that we have at that moment. When the Humvee stops, pallbearers from that unit where the hero fought slowly pull the flag-draped coffin off the back of the Humvee, and they turn toward the plane. Staged in front of the coffin are the fallen hero’s leadership. We bring them in by helicopter. Nothing is more important than a proper farewell.

“There’s an honor guard holding the American colors, and on that staff, there are 190 battle streamers, one for all of the major conflicts recognized by our military. It is hard to handle, even on a good day,” Usrey continued. “(The pallbearers) start marching toward the plane, and as they approach it, the chaplain steps onto the plane and the honor guard with the colors take a 90 degree turn to the right … so that as the hero comes by we can lower the colors and give our last pledge of respect to the man or woman we are sending home.

“During one particular ceremony, we were hit by a wind storm on the airfield. The soldier that was carrying the colors was struggling as he was walking in front of the hero’s coffin. As they turned right to set up, he was doing all he could do to hold those colors in the right position. … Without a single command, two soldiers broke away from our formation and ran toward their brother and stood behind him, and they leaned in so that the colors were where they needed to be when our hero came by,” Usrey said. This picture of determination to show honor and respect for a fallen hero is one Usrey says will never leave his mind and will always remind him of the importance of each and every hero’s story.

“Stories are what keep us who we are. We have to always remember, and we have to keep telling their stories, and we can never forget their names,” he concluded.

Following the annual ceremony was the installation
Col. Jack Usrey (left) took a moment during his Memorial Day address to thank Martin residents (seated, from left) Raphael and Joe Walker, who are veterans of the Korean War and World War II, respectively.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is the safest college campus in the state of Tennessee, according to the 2019 ranking by yourlocalsecurity.com. This website uses the U.S. Department of Education’s campus safety and security analysis as well as the FBI’s uniform crime report to rank colleges in each state and nationwide.

The ranking includes 435 public, private, and non-profit colleges offering both two and four-year degrees with at least 5,000 students enrolled. The study primarily considers four main factors: hate crimes per enrolled students, violence against women per enrolled females, property crimes per population, and violent crimes per population. According to the ranking site, these factors were calculated based on the number of occurrences per every 1,000 students, females, or residents in each location, as appropriate.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation recently released the Crime on Campus Report for 2018, which also shows low crime numbers for UTM. University data shows that 61 "more serious" offenses were reported on the UTM campus in 2018, and of these 34 were resolved by the department. The highest number of offenses occurred in the categories for larceny/theft and drug/narcotic violations. Less serious offenses totaled 26 reported incidents in 2018, with the highest number of reports falling into the liquor law violations category. Clearance rates for these are not included in the TBI report.

This news comes soon after the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program granted the UTM Department of Public Safety full accreditation status during the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police meeting held April 3 in Franklin. For more information, contact UTM Dept. of Public Safety Director Scott Robbins at 731-881-7775 or sdrobbins@utm.edu.
The American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities elevated the UTM Veterinary Health Technology Program to full accreditation status during its April meeting. The program has enjoyed initial accreditation status since it was first reviewed during the spring 2014 semester.

The program welcomed its first students in 2011 as one of fewer than 25 four-year veterinary health technology programs nationwide, and the first class graduated in spring 2014. Since the program’s creation, 176 students have completed both academic and internship requirements for graduation.

Program graduates each earn a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a major in animal science and an emphasis in veterinary health technology. They must then sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam to become licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee.

The UTM program features hands-on experience with small, large, and exotic animal species in areas such as surgery, nursing, radiology, and others. Four veterinarians and three veterinary technologists teach in the program, which includes a required six-week internship with a veterinary clinic, referral or teaching hospital, zoo, or laboratory prior to graduation.

For more information about the UTM Veterinary Health Technology Program, contact Dr. Jason Roberts, veterinarian, professor, and program director, at jroberts@utm.edu.
Transfer and adult orientation at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host two more transfer and adult orientation sessions this year for incoming students in these categories. Students can still register to attend sessions on either June 18 or July 19 to learn more about life at UTM. There is no registration fee to attend.

Each day will begin with registration and breakfast from 8-8:45 a.m., with an official welcome to follow. Special interest sessions will be held from 9-10:45 a.m. Academic advising and registration will begin at 10:45 a.m. An optional tour of the UTM campus, which is a Level 1 Certified Arboretum, will start at 1 p.m. after lunch.

Attendees will have opportunities to learn about financial aid, student life, career planning and development, and the student success center, as well as housing and meal plan options. No tuition or fee payments will be due until the start of the fall semester.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu. Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. Students must have received notice of UTM acceptance to participate.

UTM holds first Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) session

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year was held May 20.

Future SOAR sessions for accepted students are scheduled for June 7 and 21 and July 12 and 22. SOAR is required for all incoming freshmen. For more information, visitutm.edu/soar or contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7612.

COVINGTON ENROLLS AT UT MARTIN – Baylee Covington (center) of Martin participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin's first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year May 20. She is a graduate of Westview High School and is pictured with her parents, Pam and Todd Covington. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community.

THE WEEKLEY COUNTY PRESS

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

CROSSNO ENROLLS AT UT MARTIN – Cristen Crossno (left) of Sharon participated in one of the University of Tennessee at Martin's first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year May 21. She is a graduate of Westview High School and is pictured with her mother, Tracey Crossno. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community.
INGRAM ENROLLS AT UT MARTIN – Dylan Ingram (center) of Martin participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year May 20. He is a graduate of Westview High School and is pictured with his parents, Craig and Jan Ingram. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community.

MCDONALD ENROLLS AT UT MARTIN – Blaine McDonald (right) of Martin participated in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year May 20. She is a graduate of Westview High School and is pictured with her mother, Lora McDonald. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community.

OVERTON ENROLLS AT UT MARTIN – Lakin Overton (left) of Dresden participated in one of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s first Summer Orientation and Registration session of the year May 21. She is a graduate of Dresden High School and is pictured with her mother, Melissa Overton. During SOAR, students are able to register for fall semester courses, meet with faculty members in their chosen fields of study, and find out more about housing, meal plans, academic success, student life and other areas of the UT Martin campus community.
UTM names Chancellor’s Honor Roll students

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

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

Dresden — Journey L. Adkins, High Honors; Sarah E. Alford, Honors; Tyler R. Branscum, High Honors; Aleya M. Brent, Highest Honors; Braden L. Cooper, Honors; Kaitlyn E. Courtney, Honors; Thomas W. Doster, High Honors; Alex L. Dunn, Honors; Erin A. Evans, Honors; Autumn A. Faulkner, Highest Honors; Kimberly N. Grimm, Honors; Carrie A. Hardin, High Honors; Jennifer M. McGhee, Honors; Hayden B. Nanney, Honors; Olivia D. Reagan, Highest Honors; Kinzi M. Reid, Highest Honors; Christopher R. Rennison, Honors; Malinda M. Riddick, Highest Honors; Madison E. Riggs, Honors; Brooklyn H. Shider, High Honors; Darya Stein, Highest Honors; Lauren Troutt, Honors; Johnathan D. Watson, Honors; Joshua T. Williams, High Honors; Dresser H. Winn, Honors.

Dukedom — Garrett L. Roberts, High Honors.

• Gleason — Seth W. Bowers, Highest Honors; Chandler D. Brawner, Highest Honors; Colby S. Brooks, High Honors; Will C. Clark, High Honors; Jacqueline M. Ellis, Honors; Daniel I. Grissom, High Honors; Cameron B. Harrison, Honors; Michael W. Hicks, High Honors; Heidi E. James, Honors; Erica N. Little, High Honors; Harley D. Martin, High Honors; Taylor J. Melton, High Honors; Avery S. Orr, Highest Honors; Katarina E. Pomphey, High Honors; Natalia M. Pomphrey, High Honors; Wilson D. Ross, High Honors; Morgan R. Spring, Highest Honors; Carson A. Stafford, Highest Honors; Braxton S. Vickers, High Honors.

• Greenfield — Damon P. Biddle, Honors; Darian L. Black, Honors; Blake A. Brauer, High Honors; Brock A. Brauer, Highest Honors; Brennen Z. Cobb, Highest Honors; Savannah B. Cobb, High Honors; Peyton B. Cooper, High Honors; Levi A. Dees, Honors; Tobias J. Dillard, Honors; Layla E. Doyle, Honors; Abby L. Eubank, Highest Honors; Allison Ferrell, Highest Honors; Joseph P. Frazier, Highest Honors; Victoria D. Galey, Highest Honors; Bentley G. Gordon, Highest Honors; Kayla C. Harris, High Honors; William J. Harrison, High Honors; Courtney E. Hutchison, High Honors; Matthew D. Pugh, Honors; Bryan P. Rogers, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn L. Sanders, Highest Honors; Matrlyn J. Sellers, Highest Honors; Jamison S. Shelton, High Honors; Chelsea J. Willis, Highest Honors; Richard M. Willis, High Honors.

• Martin — Christopher T. Ables, High Honors; Shara C. Adcock, High Honors; Parker E. Albright, High Honors; Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Kevin B. Allen, Highest Honors; Ivan Alvarado, Highest Honors; Danyel R. Arnold, High Honors; Amberly C. Baker, High Honors; Anna D. Barnes, High Honors; Buskin R. Barnes, High Honors; Bradley R. Barrett, High Honors; Alexis K. Beam, Honors; Chandler N. Beasley, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Beasley, Highest Honors; Ellen L. Bell, Highest Honors; Barrett J. Beleto, Honors; Ali E. Beverly, Honors; Terry L. Bingham, Honors; Aalia S. Bivens, Highest Honors; Avery N. Blanchard, Highest Honors; Jade R. Bleskey, Highest Honors; Ashley E. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Brent W. Borden, Highest Honors; Gwendalynn M. Bracey, Highest Honors; Dalton E. Bradford, Highest Honors; Sarah N. Bratton, High Honors; Guy E. Brawley, Honors; Andrea N. Brooks, Honors; Bailey L. Brown, Highest Honors; Emma R. Bruner, Highest Honors; Marion F. Burch, Highest Honors; Remington L. Burch, Highest Honors; Aubrey T. Bynum, Honors; Amanda K. Camp, Highest Honors; Allie M. Cantrell, Highest Honors; Katherine N. Capua, Highest Honors; Nicholas E. Capua, Highest Honors;
John A. Carr, Highest Honors; Seth A. Carr, Highest Honors; Tierra S. Chappell, Highest Honors; Kylah M. Chatman, Highest Honors; Virginia C. Cheng, Highest Honors; Samantha T. Clayton, Highest Honors; Mickey L. Crump, Highest Honors; Morgan M. Cirlin, Highest Honors; Peyton R. Dailey, Highest Honors; David J. Eberle, Highest Honors; Emma M. Feiesser, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Feiesser, Highest Honors; Madison E. Ford, Highest Honors; Emma E. Foret, Highest Honors; Peyton J. Gospel, Highest Honors; Gracie K. Frost, Highest Honors; Callie F. Garrison, Highest Honors; Brandy L. Gaul, Highest Honors; Teyah A. Giannetta, Highest Honors; Dylan B. Giffen, Highest Honors; Sarah J. Gillespie, Highest Honors; Carleigh A. Good, Highest Honors; Jonathan D. Gonsowski, Highest Honors; Hunter Green, Highest Honors; Jillian P. Gunter, Highest Honors; Jasmine R. Hall, Highest Honors; Corinne N. Harrigan, Highest Honors; Brandon L. Hauhe, Highest Honors; Garrett L. Hay, Highest Honors; Bailey L. Hays, Highest Honors; Addison M. Hazzard, Highest Honors; Joy N. Hazwood, Highest Honors; Sara E. Hibbard, Highest Honors; Mary E. Higgs, Highest Honors; Trevor C. Holcomb, Highest Honors; Abigail G. Holladay, Highest Honors; Hanna J. Hooper, Highest Honors; Miranda C. Howard, Highest Honors; Terry J. Howell, Highest Honors; Jennifer R. Hueist, Highest Honors; Shelby S. Jacobs-Johnston, Highest Honors; Taylor S. Jarnitzki, Highest Honors; Michaela C. Johnson, Highest Honors; Tastarea K. Johnson, Highest Honors; Josten B. Jones, Highest Honors; Spencer B. Karpats, Highest Honors; Angelica D. Keeton, Highest Honors; Emma G. Kelly, Highest Honors; Kendra L. Kemp, Highest Honors; Mezhia C. Kennedy, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Keylon, Highest Honors; Laken D. Kirk, Highest Honors; Jonathan D. Kirkland, Highest Honors; Grant W. Lakom, Highest Honors; Alyssa M. Lee, Highest Honors; Dorothy L. Lester, Highest Honors; Rebecca C. Leonard, Highest Honors; Thomas S. Logan, Highest Honors; Hannah E. Lokey, Highest Honors; Chloe D. Lollar, Highest Honors; Michael J. Long, Highest Honors; Elizabeth J. Longwell, Highest Honors; Katherine A. Lopez, Highest Honors; Abigail R. Lovell, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Lund, Highest Honors; Alexandra H. Lyle, Highest Honors; Kayla T. Maiberry, Highest Honors; Kailie B. Martin, Highest Honors; Tiffany C. McDunn, Highest Honors; China-Marie A. McFall, Highest Honors; Rachel C. Metzger, Highest Honors; McKenzie L. Milburn, Highest Honors; Alex V. Millsaps, Highest Honors; Jillianne D. Moncrief, Highest Honors; Hannah R. Mooney, Highest Honors; Rachel A. Moore, Highest Honors; Brady C. Mustain, Highest Honors; Peyton A. Nance, Highest Honors; Summer Nasser, Highest Honors; Kirsti S. Nordstrom, Highest Honors; Rachel M. Owen, Highest Honors; Levi J. Owens, Highest Honors; Amber F. Owensby, Highest Honors; Mason S. Parker, Highest Honors; Michael B. Parker, Highest Honors; Marissa P. Parks, Highest Honors; Mary E. Pate, Highest Honors; Jared T. Patel, Highest Honors; Cy A. Pemberton, Highest Honors; Keaton N. Penick, Highest Honors; Irvie M. Pfening, Highest Honors; Landon M. Pitcher, Highest Honors; Abigale L. Plunk, Highest Honors; Alisa M. Quayle, Highest Honors; Stone L. Read, Highest Honors; Allison K. Reda, Highest Honors; Hunter L. Reeves, Highest Honors; Haley S. Renner, Highest Honors; Hannah P. Richardson, Highest Honors; Stephen A. Richardson, Highest Honors; Audry C. Riggs, Highest Honors; Landon M. Riggs, Highest Honors; Mindy A. Roberts, Highest Honors; Jacob H. Robinson, Highest Honors; Sierra M. Robinson, Highest Honors; Britney A. Rose, Highest Honors; Morgan D. Ross, Highest Honors; Lukas J. Saul, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn R. Scott, Highest Honors; Violet R. Scott, Highest Honors; Hailey M. Segura, Highest Honors; Meagan A. Sewers, Highest Honors; Alex A. Shepherd, Highest Honors; Samantha M. Simbeck, Highest Honors; Michael P. Singer, Highest Honors; Catherine R. Skeen, Highest Honors; Alex L. Smith, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Smith, Highest Honors; Katherine L. Smith, Highest Honors; Brandon K. Stacks, Highest Honors; Alyssa J. Stegall, Highest Honors; Charles B. Stevens, Highest Honors; Parker C. Stewart, Highest Honors; Skylar M. Stewart, Highest Honors; Emanuel E. Stone, Highest Honors; Carli A. Stricklin, Highest Honors; James D. Sumler, Highest Honors; Leah J. Taylor, Highest Honors; Nicolas A. Taylor, Highest Honors; Helley J. Temple, Highest Honors; Makayla R. Thrpe, Highest Honors; Amber D. Thompson, Highest Honors; Chelsea A. Thweatt, Highest Honors; Eli M. Todd, Highest Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, Highest Honors; Evelyn R. Turner, Highest Honors; Shane C. Tyler, Highest Honors; Hana Viktorinova, Highest Honors; Drake C. Vincent, Highest Honors; John L. Vincent, Highest Honors; Madison E. Vincent, Highest Honors; Alex V. Villetti, Highest Honors; Alyssa S. Weaver, Highest Honors; Christopher D. Webb, Highest Honors; Summer E. Weldon, Highest Honors; Melda I. Lizette, White, Highest Honors; Brandy M. Atwood, Highest Honors; Amanda D. Whiteman, Highest Honors; Matthew D. Wicker, Highest Honors; Shelby R. Willett, Highest Honors; Abbey T. Williams, Highest Honors; Michael H. Williams, Highest Honors; Caleb D. William, Highest Honors; Alex V. Williams, Highest Honors; Nathan E. Williamson, Highest Honors; Zackary A. Williamson, Highest Honors; Luke A. Winters, Highest Honors; Kari E. Woods, Highest Honors; Jared F. Wortham, Highest Honors; Maggie G. Wright, Highest Honors; Travis D. Wright, Highest Honors; Lora J. Yant, Highest Honors.

* Paige — Ashley R. Bell, Highest Honors; Kelly R. Childress, Highest Honors; Noah Y. Copeland, Highest Honors; Damian D. Johnson, Highest Honors; Shannon M. Merrell, Highest Honors; Victoria G. Todd, Highest Honors.


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

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

Visit utm.edu/transferorientation to register. Students must have received notice of university acceptance to participate. No tuition or fee payments will be due until the start of the fall semester.

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

UTM HONOR ROLL

Undergraduate students, from Lauderdale County, attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, who have been named to the spring Chancellor’s honor roll include, Lakenia S. Jones, High Honors; and Chad A. Lewis, Highest Honors, of Gates; Callie E. Belton, High Honors; Brianna B. Burse, Honors; Ellary J. Gillon, Highest Honors; Zachary Harris, Highest Honors; Quishonda A. Moses, High Honors; Alan B. Smith, Honors; James T. Wright, Highest Honors, of Halls; Erin N. Young, Highest Honors, of Henning; and Jason D. Adams, Highest Honors; Grayson C. Buchignani, Highest Honors; Symoane T. Demoss, Highest Honors; Steven R. Dodson, Highest Honors; Emily M. Ferrell, High Honors; Emily K. Fisher, High Honors; Erica L. Hicks, High Honors; Mahima J. Mahida, Highest Honors; Bethany N. McCaslin, High Honors; Roger V. Mills, Highest Honors; Anjalee S. Patel, High Honors; Sarah M. Perry, Honors; Tammy M. Umbra, Highest Honors; and Allison P. Webb, Highest Honors, all of Ripley.

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s honor roll, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will officially retire from university service today after 54 years in the classroom.

Airee is UT Martin's longest-serving faculty member.

He joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch, and has seen many changes during more than five decades of service.

He served on the UT Martin Faculty Senate the first year it was formed and was re-elected twice in later years. He also helped the UT Martin bachelor’s degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society.

Airee chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members of the American Chemical Society) in 1971. This chapter is the most decorated chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings, more than any chapter in the nation, and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.

"Professor S.K. Airee, the faculty adviser of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Student Affiliates chapter, deserves special commendation. Few faculty members are willing to make the great commitment of time and energy that a successful chapter requires of its adviser. It takes more than exceptional effort to be recognized as an outstanding chapter; it takes the nurturing attention of dedicated staff."
Professor Airee’s efforts certainly represent the best in undergraduate education and mentoring around the country,” wrote ACS President Brian Rushton in a letter to then-UT Martin Chancellor Margaret Perry in 1995.

“Remarks like these humbled and inspired me, but the most cherished reward was the light of pride in the students’ eyes after they successfully executed a difficult project year in and year out,” Airee said. “Dr. Abigail Shelton has now very ably taken over as (chapter) adviser.”

Under Airee’s leadership, the chapter has coordinated more than 35 high school science bowls, 30 area collegiate chemistry meetings, 30 Boy Scouts of America chemistry merit badge clinics, 20 local chemistry Olympiads and 30 weeks of

REFLECTING FONDLY — Longtime chemistry professor Dr. S.K. Airee served as macebearer during University of Tennessee at Martin commencement exercises in the spring of 2016. He officially retires today after 54 years in the classroom.

The Airee family has initiated three endowment funds — the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service, the S.K. and Shashi Airee Scholarship, and the Monsanto SAACS Fund — to help fund UT Martin students’ educations.

Airee is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, and he and his wife, Shashi, have three children, all of whom are UT Martin and UT Health Science Center alumni.

National Chemistry Week activities.

Airee has been affiliated with the American Chemical Society in one way or another for the past 61 years. In addition to his classroom work, he worked closely with the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS and served as chair in 1992 and councilor from 1999-2010. He also spent eight years as co-editor and producer of the Kentucky-Illinois-Missouri-Arkansas-Tennessee Chemistry News and Views Exchange, a publication sponsored by five chemistry departments and two local ACS sections. This publication was distributed to about 1,000 high school chemistry teachers and ACS members in the five-state region.

He is the recipient of numerous university, industry and community service awards, including the UT Distinguished Service Professorship Award in 2016, the Dr. Joe Johnson Lifetime Service Award from the University of Tennessee System in 2015, the UT Martin Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award in 2006 and Kiwanian of the Year in 1968.

“Scientists have the uncanny ability to be critical about everything and focus mainly on what needs improvement/optimization. S.K. has an eye for what is good. He recognizes the positive aspects of any accomplishment and readily shows pride for good work, whether his own or that of others. S.K. sees the best in people and believes the best about people,” said Dr. Genessa Smith, UT Martin associate professor of chemistry and one of Airee’s longtime colleagues. “He has been a champion of chemistry for a very long time, and I have no doubt retirement will not change that.”