Martin, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin is opting not to outsource its facilities management services. The decision comes following a campus visit by Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc. as a facilities management service provider recently contracted by the state of Tennessee.

In 2015, the University of Tennessee System was invited to participate in a process to identify possible opportunities to reduce costs for the operation of all state facilities including higher education. UT President Joe DiPietro asked the leadership of each campus to work with JLL to enable them to make proposals for facilities operations and determine what is in the best interests of the campus. Each campus will present their decision to the board of trustees at the UT Board of Trustees meeting Nov. 3 in Knoxville.

The master contract allows authorized entities such as University of Tennessee institutions to utilize the JLL contract, which primarily provides for custodial, grounds and repair and maintenance facilities management services using a cost-plus fees service model.

Following the site tour, JLL submitted a proposal for providing services to UT Martin with cost-reduction opportunities of $93,366 annually. Most projected savings were within the university’s housing auxiliary operations. Upon further examination of the proposal, it was determined that the estimated cost reduction in the JLL proposal would be less than $14,000 annually. The adjustment is due to the duplication of $80,000 in both the housing grounds and maintenance budgets when providing data to JLL.

The university is electing not to utilize JLL’s services because the adjusted proposed savings to UT Martin with the JLL contract are not significant. UT Martin will further increase savings and efficiencies in the physical plant and housing maintenance operations through incorporation of opportunities JLL outlined as observations and insights from its site tour.

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UTM not outsourcing its facilities management

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UTM TO HOST STUDENT RECITALS NOV. 9-14

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will present a variety of performances by students in the upcoming weeks. All events are free and open to the public.

Students will perform in the Student Chamber Recitals at 7:30, Nov. 9 and 11, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall. Brass, woodwind, percussion and piano students will be featured, performing in various ensembles. Repertoire spans the eras of musical history.

A Fall Choral Concert will take place at 3 p.m., Nov. 12, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The Vocal Studio Recital will immediately follow and feature students, each performing one song. Delana Easley, of Union City, and UT Martin lecturer of music, Rita Winter, of Union City, Gian Garma, of Martin, John-Alex Warner, of Union City, Grant Larcom, of Union City, and Abigale Plunk, of Martin, will accompany the performers on the piano.
UTM ag students chosen

Two University of Tennessee at Martin students were accepted to the Farm Credit Mid-America College Leaders Scholarship Program, which provides professional development opportunities to students pursuing agricultural careers.

Meanwhile, eight other UT Martin students — including one from Union City — were awarded scholarships through its Customer Agricultural Scholarship program.

William Monte Singer of Hermitage and Kevin Alan Robertson of Mount Juliet are participating in the two-year program that awards 20 students with $5,000 scholarships and learning sessions in professional growth and financial education. They were chosen based on academic performance, leadership qualities and community involvement.

Molly Carpenter of Union City is one of the Customer Agricultural Scholarship recipients.

The other Customer Agricultural Scholarship recipients are Hannah Elizabeth Nave of Woodbury, Martin Grissom of Rock Island, John Thomas Woolfolk of Jackson, Sarah Elizabeth Dodd of Trenton, Mary Lane Minatra of Rockyvale, Olivia Grace Childress of Bogota and Emma Rushton of Waverly.

"Scholarships are a direct example of our investment in the future of agriculture," said Bill Johnson, president and CEO of Farm Credit Mid-America.

"We're proud to support students with career aspirations in agriculture. These students, their skills and their passion for the industry inspire optimism for the future of rural communities and agriculture," he said.

Farm Credit Mid-America is a financial services cooperative, serving the credit needs of farmers and rural residents across Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee for a century.

The UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources offers bachelor of science degrees in agriculture, geosciences and natural resources management and a Master of Science degree in agriculture and natural resources.

For additional information, visit www.utm.edu/departments/agnr.

Engineering program earns reaccreditation

The University of Tennessee at Martin's bachelor of science degree program in engineering has been reaccredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

"This reaccreditation is a testament to our excellent program in engineering and the dedication of our engineering faculty to our students. We appreciate the outstanding institutional support we have received during this process," said Dr. Jennifer Greenwood, interim dean of the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

"We are very pleased that the UT Martin bachelor of science program in engineering has been reaccredited. Accreditation is very important to an engineering program, and a degree from an ABET-accredited engineering program is a requirement for state licensure," said Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and interim chair of the UT Martin Department of Engineering.

"Meeting the ABET requirements assures current and future students that the program is recognized by external evaluators as having all the ingredients necessary to provide a quality engineering education," he added.

The UT Martin engineering program offers concentrations in civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical and manufacturing engineering.

ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance.

Developed by technical professionals from ABET's member societies, ABET criteria focus on what students experience and learn.
The Rev. Harold Conner Sr. — the University of Tennessee at Martin’s first black administrator — recently died and was laid to rest in Martin.

He was 97.

Conner, known by many as “Dean Conner,” first came to UT Martin in 1969 as assistant dean of students and was later named assistant vice chancellor for student affairs. He continued as a university administrator until his retirement in 1981.

Conner was instrumental in starting many campus organizations and programs that still play significant roles at the university, including the Black Student Association, the Freshman Studies Program, the Highest Praise Gospel Choir and the Peer Enabler Program that mentors entering students.

“Dean Conner was a trailblazer and a role model for generations of students from all backgrounds,” UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said in a statement. “His UT Martin legacy endures in many lasting forms, but his students and those who worked with him will always know him as an educator, mentor, friend and man of great faith.”

Conner played a major role in the integration of public schools in Weakley County and at the university.

Conner was a high school principal in Weakley County and later worked many years with Conner after he was hired by the university. Watkins credits Conner’s human-relations skills for his ability to work with people from all backgrounds.

“I think a good part of it (his success) was the leadership style,” Watkins said. “It was a quiet, dignified and effective way of interacting with people.”

Beyond his leadership qualities, Watkins remembered Conner as a master storyteller. “Mr. Conner had a good sense of humor, and he used stories to make his points effectively,” Watkins said. “He could tell a simple story, and the point would be so clear, you just couldn’t miss it.”

“Mr. Conner was one of the finest gentlemen I’ve ever had the privilege of working with,” Watkins said of his longtime friend and colleague.

Phil Dane, retired UT Martin athletics director and the university’s coordinator of student leadership development who now lives in Memphis, remembered Conner as both his junior high school principal and a fellow UT Martin employee. Dane paid tribute to Conner in a Facebook post.

“He was one of the wisest men I ever knew and a great man of faith,” Dane wrote. “He led our school when racial integration began and always made the point that we were integrated, not desegregated. And he was right. He treated us all the same.”
Organization ranks UT Martin as top online college

MARTIN - The University of Tennessee at Martin is ranked first among the 19 Best Online Colleges in Tennessee for 2017 by College Choice.

"Receiving recognition as the number-one online program in the state is a tribute to our faculty and administration," said Dr. Adam Wilson, director of UT Martin Online. "I am always deeply appreciative of the efforts our faculty make to engage with students in our virtual classrooms, and this ranking is further validation of their hard work."

Other recent rankings received by UT Martin's online program include 36th nationally and top-ranked in Tennessee by U.S. News & World Report’s "2017 Best Online MBA Programs" category; 16th by master-of-finance.org for Most Affordable Online MBA; and 17th nationally for the master's in education with a major in counseling degree program by affordablecolleges.com. The online master's degree in education was recognized for affordability.

"Our faculty and administration strive to be very deliberate when developing courses and degree programs for online students," said Wilson. "These efforts to propel student success have not gone unnoticed as evident by this national recognition."

The ranking was based on institutional excellence and student success. Institutional excellence includes student test scores, graduation rate and student-to-faculty ratio.

The student success composite score includes tuition costs, average student indebtedness after graduation, projected early career salary for graduates and the amount of financial aid available.

Sources for the data come from colleges' websites, PayScale, and nationally recognized U.S. News & World Report and The National Center for Education Statistics.

In its description of UT Martin, College Choice noted UT Martin offers a variety of online-only programs, as well as online classes available for all students.

The ranking also mentioned UT Martin's transition of its distance-learning platform from Blackboard to Canvas in Spring 2017, which enables students to access interactive course materials including PowerPoints, images, lectures, movie clips, audio, graphs and charts.
New arts program launched

By JENSON GREENBURG
Press Reporter

Middle school students in Weakley County now have the opportunity to learn the arts from world-class faculty in Martin's newest after school program.

The After School Arts Program (ASAP) is a joint effort between Weakley County Schools and the University of Tennessee at Martin. The program offers students opportunities to take classes in choir, jazz band and visual arts.

"With the way schools are structured, money is tight," said Dr. John Oelrich, director of bands at UTM and one of the leaders of ASAP. "It's difficult for the system to fund a fully-staffed fine arts system. Another solution had to be created."

Each group for ASAP will meet once a week at Martin Middle School. Directors are working with middle school coaches, activity advisors and school administration to ensure children in other after-school activities are able to participate.

"I believe all students have artistic abilities," Dr. Oelrich said. "It's our job as teachers to make sure children can explore things in school...they may have a hidden talent or passion. I had kids that didn't know they were good at music until they tried it."

ASAP is focusing on middle schools to start because they currently have the least amount of artistic opportu-

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ASAP, From Page 1

nities for students, Dr. Oelrich said. When the idea was proposed, Weakley County Director of Schools Randy Frazier, and Martin Middle School Principal Nathaniel Holmes were "extremely supportive."

In addition to Dr. Oelrich, other faculty from the music and visual/fine arts departments will be teaching. UTM students will also come in to teach.

"It's good for [our] students as well because they'll get real-world experience," Dr. Oelrich explained.

ASAP is completely volunteer-based. Teachers involved in the program are volunteering their time for the students, Dr. Oelrich said. All proceeds from the program go back to fund future ASAP endeavors. Several donations were also made to help start the program.

Once ASAP students have settled into the program, the groups will begin performing for the community. Musical groups will perform around Martin or at UTM and art students will have their works displayed in UTM's art gallery, in Martin Middle School and around Martin. "The arts are one of the parts of being human," Dr. Oelrich said. "It allows us to connect with each other... It lets us express ourselves in ways that are challenging with words."

Involvement in the arts is a part of what he describes as the "buffet of opportunities" students should have available to them.

"Kids this age should be exposed to everything," he said. "By increasing the size of the buffet you increase the quality of life."

Classes for ASAP begin Nov. 7. Choir will meet Tuesdays 3:45-5 p.m. and jazz band and combo will meet Thursdays 3:45-5 p.m. at Martin Middle School. Visual arts will meet Saturdays 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the UTM Fine Arts Building.

Fees for the program are $25 for visual arts, $25 for music or $40 for both. Scholarships are available for those with financial concerns.

For more information or to register for the program, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/asap.
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KNOXVILLE (AP) — The University of Tennessee campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin are opting out of Gov. Bill Haslam's signature effort to privatize facilities management services.

The Haslam administration awarded Chicago-based company real estate giant Jones Lang LaSalle a statewide contract to pitch its services to individual higher education institutions, but left it up to each campus to decide whether to participate.

UT-Knoxville Chancellor Beverly Davenport said in a release Tuesday that the decision is due to the university's extensive financial analyses, the complexity of the work done on the research-intensive campus and its commitment to East Tennessee's economy and its workforce.

Davenport wrote that the university ranks among the lowest in the Southeastern Conference in administrative and maintenance costs per square foot, and five-year projections indicate $3.3 million more in savings.

The Chattanooga Times Free Press reports that the Health Science Center in Memphis is the only UT campus to opt in, but that it only intends to have the company take over mechanical services that it already outsources through a consortium with the University of Memphis and Southwest Tennessee Community College.

UT-Chattanooga Chancellor Steve Angle said the company "made a sincere presentation and their ongoing conversations with us were specific and thorough. Our decision is to not participate based on the higher cost of services."

"Our data indicates our campus operates effectively and efficiently," he said.

Haslam has aggressively pushed government building-management privatization, but the proposal has fallen flat among many lawmakers.

"Our goal from the beginning has been to equip our higher education institutions with a tool they can use to better manage increasing budgetary needs, both now and into the future," Haslam said in a statement.

"We continue to support this concept and look forward to seeing how these universities work to keep tuition and other fees low for our students and families," he said.

The governor's annual budget hearings with state agencies are scheduled for next week, with higher education officials to present their spending plans on Tuesday.

Finance Commissioner Larry Martin appeared to suggest that the University of Tennessee decisions may not be final, saying the administration plans to review the analyses on which the universities leaders drew their conclusions.

"Our initial review has raised several questions that we look forward to discussing with the appropriate people," he said.
RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL partnered with the University of TN at Martin Thursday, October 26th, to provide help to the class of 2018 with filling out the FAFSA. UTM assistant director of financial aid, Amy Mistric and Deanna Smith, along with RHS graduation coach, Steve Smith, and counselors, Stacey Horn and Kim Kelley worked with 33 students and their families as they applied for financial aid. If students were unable to attend, they can still receive help through the counseling office at Ripley High School.

Parents/guardians will need to call to set an appointment to bring in their email address, social security number, and 2016 taxes to complete the FSA ID and FAFSA. All students going to a TCAT, 2-year school, or 4-year school must fill out the FAFSA to receive any type of financial aid including TN Promise, Hope Lottery Scholarship, grants, or loans. To stay eligible for TN Promise, the FAFSA must be completed before January 16th.

UTM piano ensemble to perform holiday program

The UT Martin Piano Ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present an evening of holiday music at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The program’s featured work is Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite” with the overture and six dances arranged for two pianos. The final movement of the suite, “Dance of the Flowers,” is for five pianos.

Additional pieces include two very different settings of Leroy Anderson’s popular “Sleigh Ride,” Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasia on Greensleeves,” and Ottorino Respighi’s “Noel! Noel!” The grand finale features a very special holiday guest who will be revealed at the concert.

Performers are university piano students John-Alex Warner, of Union City, Gian Garma, of Martin, Grant Larcum, of Union City, Emily Campbell, of Trenton, Meleah Gateley, of Humboldt, Abigail Plunk, of Martin, Helen Kendall, of Troy, and Anna Johnson, of Dresden. UT Martin faculty members performing the “Dance of the Flowers” are Delana Easley, lecturer of music, Dr. Jessie Thomas, associate professor of music, Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music, Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, and Harriss.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Carrie Arant, a 1997 graduate of Wayne County High School, was honored on October 11th when she received a UT Martin Outstanding Employee Award for fall 2017. Arant, of Sharon, Tennessee, is the business manager for the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources. She became an employee of the University of Tennessee at Martin in April 2009, and has held her current position since March 2014. Arant processes invoices, travel and payroll; coordinates faculty and staff searches; and maintains and balances all department, gift and grant accounts. She is known for her work ethic, organizational skills and positive attitude. Arant was presented her award by UTM Chancellor Keith Carver.
UT Martin among “America’s 100 best college buys”

kmorris 11/6/2017

For the 12th consecutive year, the University of Tennessee at Martin is listed among “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” a listing compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc., of Rome, Ga. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and Union University in Jackson join UT Martin as the only Tennessee universities listed.

“Offering students a high-quality education at an affordable cost is critical in today’s higher education marketplace,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “We will work to maintain UT Martin as a value leader for those seeking a four-year college experience.”

To be considered for the designation “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” an institution must be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor’s degrees. The institution must also offer full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services.

Additionally, the institution must have had an entering freshman class in fall 2016 with a high school grade point average and/or SAT/ACT score equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen. Also, the out-of-state cost of attendance in 2017-18 for three quarters or two semesters must either be below the national average cost of attendance or not exceed the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc., conducted its 27th Annual National College Survey between April 1 and July 31. The survey form was submitted to the offices of admissions directors of 1,469 accredited U.S. colleges and universities offering four-year undergraduate degree programs and providing facilities for both room and board. Of the institutions surveyed, 1,088 schools responded.
“Each year UT Martin secures its place among those institutions offering the very finest educational opportunities based solely upon objective, measurable criteria by which all the colleges and universities in America can be compared,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president. “Students at UT Martin enjoy and benefit from the opportunity of attending one of a very select group of institutions providing high-quality educations at low cost.”

The recognition follows two listings announced in recent months. In August, The Princeton Review named the university among the “2018 Best Regional Colleges.” The list is part of the company’s website feature “2018 Best Colleges: Region by Region” posted at PrincetonReview.com. UT Martin has been included in this listing for 15 consecutive years.

UT Martin also continued among the top southern master’s level universities in the 2018 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings, released in September. The university tied for 46th place among both public and private universities and ranked 17th for southern public universities.

kmorris

Miss UT Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant this Weekend

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 55th year, and this is the 19th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500, and the second runner-up will receive $200. The first and second runner-up for Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival do not receive scholarship money.

Eleven contestants, including six UT Martin students, will compete for the 2018 titles. Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will then compete for the title of Miss America in Atlantic City, N.J.

The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.
Haslam: No Retaliation Against Campuses That Won't Outsource

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam says his administration won't retaliate against several University of Tennessee campuses that opted against his effort to privatize facilities management services at higher education institutions.

Nov. 7, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

//www.usnews.com/

AP

By JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee (news/best-states/tennessee) Gov. Bill Haslam says his administration won't retaliate against several University of Tennessee campuses that opted against his effort to privatize facilities management services at higher education institutions.

During budget hearings Tuesday, Haslam said he's disappointed with how the process played out, but his administration won't give less money to higher education because of choices that were left up to each campus.

Last week, the university's campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin opted against outsourcing facilities management to real estate giant Jones Lang LaSalle, the Haslam administration's choice for the statewide contract.

The Knoxville and Martin campuses were projected to save money with the outsourcing.

University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro said he will hold chancellors of those campuses accountable for finding equivalent savings without outsourcing.

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Piano recital scheduled

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Final fall preview day slated Saturday

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on Nov. 11 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's fall Preview Day.

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

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by a student panel discussion at 10. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45, and campus tours will start at 11:30. Students will also receive complimentary tickets to the UT Martin football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

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

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.
UTM statement on 'mass violence' letter

From Staff Reports
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Reminiscent of Orson Welles' 1938 broadcast of 'War of the Worlds' — a realistic radio dramatization of Martians invading Earth that caused nationwide panic — a professor's letter depicting campus violence meant for classroom study at UT Martin made its way to police.

No charges have been filed, as the Weakley County District Attorney’s Office has declined to press charges.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver released the following statement Monday morning:

Statement from Carver

"As many of you are aware, a situation arose this week from an open letter issued by Dr. Charles Bradshaw, UT Martin associate professor of English, under the pen name 'Wesley Sniper' that contained descriptions of mass violence on our campus. The letter was originally crafted as an example of satirical writing for one of Dr. Bradshaw's classes; however, the letter soon be-

See LETTER, Page 7A

Letter

Continued from Page 3A

came distributed to a much broader audience. Many individuals who saw the letter outside of the class became concerned for the safety of the campus and reported the matter to the police.

"After an initial investigation, the UT Martin Department of Public Safety quickly determined that the campus was not in imminent danger. Dr. Bradshaw was placed on paid administrative leave while the matter was fully investigated. The campus reported the situation to the Weakley County District Attorney, who declined to press charges because Dr. Bradshaw engaged in speech protected by the First Amendment.

"It is now clear that Dr. Bradshaw intended the letter to be used only as an in-class example of satire. Despite his intent, Dr. Bradshaw recognizes the legitimate safety concerns raised by readers of the letter and offers the following apology.”

Open letter from Dr. Charles Bradshaw

"I would like to apologize for the problems created by a letter many have seen and responded to that I wrote satirizing S.R. 1704, 'A Resolution to Allow Students to Concealed Carry on Campus.'

"The letter was written as an example of satire to be used in a class examining different types of written argument and to prove its usefulness to current events. I informed the class that an anonymous faculty member had written it, but it was in no way presented as embodying any political views or actual views that I or any real person held. Nor did I suggest or imply that students should hold a particular view of the 'Conceal-and-Carry' situation.

"I anticipated that laughter, not fear, would be its effect in my class and among my colleagues, and I shared several copies, anonymously, with selected members of my department.

"When I found out that campus police were inquiring about the letter, I immediately contacted them to let them know I was the author.

"I am sorry, given current events, for any fear or anger this has caused for students or any others who support the university. I have the utmost respect for the people I work with on campus and for state government officials and would never wish to scare or harm them. The university has been an extremely peaceful place for me over the years, and I took that security for granted in constructing this letter. I meant neither vio-
ence nor harm to any individual or entity mentioned or implied.

"Most of all, I owe UTM's Student Government Association an explanation. I hold UTM students in the highest regard, and reverence their agency in student governance and their freedom to make their own decisions. As a professor, I go to great lengths to empower my students to be independent and responsible thinkers, so it hurts and embarrasses me personally and professionally to think that I have curtailed these values in any way or belittled any student. I applaud the initiative taken by the students who fostered this resolution and sought to responsibly debate in a transparent manner with their colleagues. I am truly sorry if this letter made light of the legislative process or disrespected their bravery in bringing forward such an important consideration. This is the very heart and soul of higher education, and I honor their efforts.

"I also want to apologize to the other entities and officials of the university that have been involved in this misunderstanding. They have been thorough and quick to respond to every concern, always with the campus's safety at the forefront of their minds."

Respectfully,
Charles Bradshaw

Carver continues

Dr. Carver continued, "Coming so soon after the terrible events in our nation where so many people were lost to violence and UT Martin lost one of our own heroic alumni, the subject of mass violence was not the best example to use even for satire. While I acknowledge Dr. Bradshaw's right to engage in satire, I appreciate his apology and sensitivity to the concerns of our university community."

UTM hosting music recitals

The UT Martin Department of Music will present a variety of performances by students in the upcoming weeks. All events are free and open to the public. Students will perform in the Student Chamber Recitals at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Saturday, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall. Brass, woodwind, percussion and piano students will be featured, performing in various ensembles. Repertoire spans the eras of musical history. A Fall Choral Concert will take place at 3 p.m., Nov. 12, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The Vocal Studio Recital will immediately follow and feature students, each performing one song. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Martin, Tenn. - The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Nov. 11, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. 2017 Winner Brenna Wilkins of Union City will crown the 2018 winner at the pageant.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 55th year, and this is the 19th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.
The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500, and the second runner-up will receive $200. The first and second runner-up for Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival do not receive scholarship money.

Eleven contestants, including six UT Martin students, will compete for the 2018 titles. Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will then compete for the title of Miss America in Atlantic City, N.J.

Tickets are available in the Office of Student Life, 245 Boling University Center. A limited number of tickets can also be purchased at the door before the competition beginning at 5 p.m. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org (mailto:kcobb@wljt.org) or 731-881-7561.

Photo: Brenna Wilkins, of Union City, is crowned 2017 Miss UT Martin by 2016 titleholder Natalie King, of Paducah, at the conclusion of the 2017 combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant.
Martin, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold a combination Veterans Day Ceremony and Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Pinning from 3-4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 10, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The event is open to the public and is sponsored by the university, the UT Martin Skyhawk Veteran's Association and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55.

In addition to honoring veterans at the event, Nov. 10 marks the 242nd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a reception honoring the U.S. Marines will follow in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby. Retired Lt. Gen. John “Glad” Castellaw, U.S. Marine Corps and UT Martin alumnus, will attend the event.

Timothy McClain, Skyhawk Veteran's Association president, will emcee the event; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome veterans and guests; and Dr. Rich Helgeson, UT Martin interim provost and Vietnam War veteran, will be the featured speaker. Participating in the pinning ceremony will be Molly Morel and Tammy Hall, representing American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55, and Matt Van Epps, assistant commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Services.
Any living veteran who served at any time on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, regardless of location, from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, is eligible to receive one Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin during the pinning ceremony. “This is our chance to honor these Vietnam veterans and show them the honor and recognition they deserve,” said Tammy Hall, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55 member and a UT Martin administrative assistant. “Many weren’t given the option to serve, and we need them to know that we support and appreciate them.”

RSVPs are not necessary, and surviving spouses or family members who attend can provide information at the event to order their special pins and certificates. Additional information is available by contacting Tammy Hall by email at thall19@utm.edu (mailto:thall19@utm.edu), or call her at 731-881-7380.

The university will continue to honor active military and veterans Saturday, Nov. 11, at Graham Stadium as UT Martin welcomes Jacksonville State University for the annual Veterans Day football game. All active military and veterans will be admitted free to the game, and the ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will provide free lunch for active military and veterans before the game in the north end zone tailgating area under the Tennessee Army National Guard spider tent. A special military induction ceremony and Skyhawk Marching Band patriotic music presentation will be offered at halftime. Several military vehicles will be available at the game for fans to view.

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Pageants set at UTM on Saturday

MARTIN — The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 55th year, and this is the 19th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runners-up will receive $200. The first and second runner-up for Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival do not receive scholarship money.

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The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org or (731) 881-7561.
Holiday program planned by ensemble

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present an evening of holiday music at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The program’s featured work is Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite” with the overture and six dances arranged for two pianos. The final movement of the suite, “Dance of the Flowers,” is for five pianos.

Additional pieces include two very different settings of Leroy Anderson’s popular “Sleigh Ride,” Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasia on Greensleeves,” and Ottorino Respighi’s “Noel! Noel! Noel!” The grand finale features a very special holiday guest who will be revealed at the concert.

Performers are university piano students John-Alex Warner of Union City, Gian Garma of Martin, Grant Larcom of Union City, Emily Campbell of Trenton, Meleah Gateley of Humboldt, Abigale Plunk of Martin, Helen Kendall of Troy and Anna Johnson of Dresden.

UT Martin faculty members performing the “Dance of the Flowers” are Delana Easley, lecturer of music; Dr. Jessie Thomas, associate professor of music; Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music; Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music; and Dr. Harriss.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the musical event, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.

Final Fall Preview Day planned for Saturday

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

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

Families can also speak with current students and tour UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum.

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

Students will also receive complimentary tickets to the UT Martin football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

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

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

UTM ranked among best online

The University of Tennessee at Martin is ranked first among the 19 Best Online Colleges in Tennessee for 2017 by College Choice.

The full ranking is available online at collegechoice.net/rankings/best-online-colleges-in-tennessee.

“Receiving recognition as the number-one online program in the state is a tribute to our faculty and administration,” said Dr. Adam Wilson, director of UT Martin Online. “I am always deeply appreciative of the efforts our faculty make to engage with students in our virtual classrooms, and this ranking is further validation of their hard work.”

Other recent rankings received by UT Martin’s online program include 36th nationally and top-ranked in Tennessee by U.S. News & World Report’s 2017 Best Online MBA Programs’ category, 16th by master-of-finance.org for Most Affordable Online MBA; and 17th nationally for the master’s in education with a major in counseling degree program by affordablecolleges.com.

The online master’s degree in education was recognized for affordability.

“Our faculty and administration strive to be very deliberate when developing courses and degree programs for online students. These efforts to propel student success have not gone unnoticed as evident by this national recognition,” Wilson said.

According to College Choice, the ranking is based on institutional excellence and student success. Institutional excellence includes student test scores, graduation rate and student-to-faculty ratio. The composite score includes tuition costs, average student indebtedness after graduation, projected early career salary for graduates and the amount of financial aid available. Sources for the data come from colleges’ websites, PayScale, and nationally recognized U.S. News & World Report and The National Center for Education Statistics.
REBELS RANKED — The Obion County Central High School Marching Band received seventh place overall during the recent West Tennessee Marching Championships at the University of Tennessee at Martin, which has hosted the contest, formerly known as the Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational, for the past 16 years. OCCHS band members Sara Jane Kendall (center) and Cole Guess accepted the award from Dr. Bill Waterman, UT Martin director of athletic bands. Obion County Central High School was also awarded second place among triple-A color guard and third place among triple-A bands.

GRAND CHAMPIONS — The Union City High School Marching Band was named Grand Champion during the West Tennessee Marching Championships at the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. UT Martin has hosted the contest, formerly known as the Skyhawk Marching Band Invitational, for the past 16 years. UCHS band members Benjamin Beard (third from left) and Wade Clendenin (fourth from left) accepted the award from (from left) Drs. Shane Jones, UT Martin co-director of percussion studies; Bill Waterman, director of athletic bands; Julie Hill, chair of the Department of Music; Lynn Alexander, dean of the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts; and John Oelrich, director of bands. UCHS was also awarded Outstanding Musical and Visual Performance Awards; first place among four-A bands and color guard; and second place among four-A percussion.
ATTEND PREVIEW — Jordan Eaves (left) and Tyler Mosley (center), students at Obion County Central High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Fall Preview Day recently. They were joined by Tyler’s mother, Brandy Finch. The event was held to inform prospective students about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. A final Fall Preview Day will be held Saturday. (See related story below.)
Lt. Col. Usrey to appear in parade, at UTM game

By SARAH KNAPP
Special to the Press

In July of 2017, the nation was captivated by a photograph of a soldier standing at attention in the pouring rain as a funeral procession passed by during a red light in Vine Grove, Ky. The photograph, taken and shared by Vine Grove resident Erin Hester, made national news and was shared on various social media over 130,000 times and almost 200,000 people reacted to the photo.

The soldier was later identified as Army Col. Jack Usrey, a 1991 UTM Criminal Justice graduate from Martin.

Usrey explained that the weather had made the day miserable already, but the moment he saw the police escort, hearse and car lights, he knew what he had to do.

"I had a split-second thought that it's sad that an already bad day is worse because of the weather. At that point my raising took over and I wanted to show the family my respect and hopefully make them feel better, if only for a second," Usrey said. "I got out, saluted the procession to the last car, got back in my Jeep and headed back home. It was really just a simple gesture of honor to the fallen and their family."

The simple gesture of honor, however, touched the lives of thousands as the photo circulated on social media. Hester commented that it was frustrating to see that other cars were not stopping for the procession, but she was amazed when Usrey went "above and beyond" to show his respects to the family. He found the opportunity to do something he considered small to help someone and took it.

Usrey first enlisted in the United States Army in 1988 and has served 29 years in the military.

Usrey originally joined the Army because his father instilled in him a sense of patriotism and the desire to serve at a young age. He explained that military service is practically a family tradition, considering his father served in the Navy, his brother is a retired lieutenant colonel and his great uncle was shot down and became a POW during WWII.

Usrey's military occupational specialty (MOS) is armor/human resources, and he has eight deployments under his belt including Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Honduras and Cambodia. Usrey claims he always wanted to jump out of airplanes, so he worked to become a part of the 82nd Airborne Division where he has now jumped out of airplanes and helicopters.

SEE USREY, PAGE 11

USREY
FROM PAGE 1

all around the world. He served five years in the 82nd Airborne Division and three years in a special operations unit.

Looking back over his many years of military service, Usrey can see all the ways experiences have changed him from when he first enlisted.

"I have seen so many things over the years, mostly good and some bad: I've observed the best and worst of mankind," he said. "I am humbled by the soldiers I have served with and their selfless actions to help and save not only their buddies but civilians on the battlefield.... Nothing I've done makes me worthy of anything but I am blessed to have been part of an Army and nation that has sons and daughters willing to give their lives for something greater than themselves."

Usrey has had the honor of presenting Purple Hearts to young men and women who were injured in the line of duty, has participated in over 200 hero flights (a soldier's final journey home) and throughout his time in service, has had the opportunity to influence and lead hundreds of soldiers.

Those soldiers he's had the honor of serving alongside are the reason he still continues to serve.

Few things are as powerful as a young soldier, on his own accord, staying up all night standing by the outer perimeter fence watching over a young girl who came there to sleep on the ground because her
parents were dead and she knew the Americans would keep her safe while she slept. Or the soldier who jumped from a two-story building because it’s the quickest way to get to his wounded buddy laying in the street, still being fired upon,” Usrey said.

The defining moment of Usrey’s career came during his 2011-2012 deployment to Afghanistan and it changed him in ways most will never know, including himself.

“We had 144 soldiers from our unit pay the ultimate sacrifice that year and 1,790 were wounded. I spent over 200 nights at the hospital in Bagram, [Afghanistan], presenting Purple Hearts to young men and women. Most had physical wounds that would heal and they would lead normal lives, whatever normal means. More than I care to remember lost one to three limbs,” Usrey said. “They were all so young, mostly in their twenties. They had entire lives ahead of them and they would wake up every morning for the next 50 plus years and have to live with their injuries. All had unseen wounds that may never heal.”

“Because all heroes came through Bagram before leaving the country, I participated in over 200 hero flights, helping give final honors to flag draped coffins as we loaded them for their final journey home. Sometimes it was one hero. The most we had at one time was 38. That was the night we lost 30 special operators and 8 Afghan partners when their Chinook was shot down as they rushed toward the chaos to save their brothers on the ground who needed their help. It is impossible for words to describe an airplane hangar filled with 30 American-flag draped coffins.”

Not very much has changed for Usrey since the photograph went viral but he has had the opportunity to share his story and the story of soldiers he has served with because of it. People he met through his deployments from different countries such as Australia and Thailand have sent him notes recognizing him and his Jeep. Laughing, Usrey claimed he is still waiting for Chrysler to contact him and give him the keys to a new Jeep Rubicon.

Usrey met his wife Cindy at UTM, and the couple married right before their graduation. They did not know what their future in the Army held but were excited to partake in the new adventure together. Even after having moved 16 times, they look forward to each new adventure together.

Usrey was also a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity while at UTM.

Usrey will be in attendance during the Veteran’s Day Parade and Recognition UTM football game. He will have the honor of conducting the reenlistment ceremony on the field at half time during the game.

“It’s an honor to have the opportunity to represent all the men and women in uniform serving our nation. I’m from Martin so it’s a special blessing to participate in this special event,” said Usrey. “The town of Martin, special teachers along the way like Mrs. Carolyn White, UTM and its ROTC department made me the soldier I am today and I’m thankful I can help in a small way.”

“It’s all about the men and women we lead and serve with. That’s what make our nation and our military great.”

Sarah Knapp is a sophomore communications major at the University of Tennessee at Martin and co-news editor at The Pacer. This story is reprinted by permission of The Pacer.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold a combination Veterans Day Ceremony and Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Pinning from 3 to 4 p.m., Friday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The event is open to the public and is sponsored by the university, the UT Martin Skyhawk Veterans’ Association and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55.

In addition to honoring veterans at the event, Nov. 10 marks the 242nd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a reception honoring the U.S. Marines will follow in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby. Retired Lt. Gen. John “Glad” Castellaw, U.S. Marine Corps and UT Martin alumnus, will attend the event.

Timothy McClain, Skyhawk Veteran’s Association president, will emcee the event; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will welcome veterans and guests; and Dr. Rich Helgeson, UT Martin interim provost and Vietnam War veteran, will be the featured speaker. Participating in the pinning ceremony will be Molly Morel and Tammy Hall, representing American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55, and Matt Van Epps, assistant commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Services. Any living veteran who served at any time on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, regardless of location, from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, is eligible to receive one Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin during the pinning ceremony. “This is our chance to honor these Vietnam veterans and show them the honor and recognition they deserve,” said Tammy Hall, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55 member and a UT Martin administrative assistant. “Many weren’t given the option to serve, and we need them to know that we support and appreciate them.”

RSVPs are not necessary, and surviving spouses or family members who attend can provide information at the event to order their special pins and certificates. Additional information is available by contacting Tammy Hall by email at thall19@utm.edu, or call her at 731-881-7380.

The university will continue to honor active military and veterans Saturday, Nov. 11, at Graham Stadium as UT Martin welcomes Jacksonville State University for the annual Veterans Day football game. All active military and veterans will be admitted free to the game, and the ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will provide free lunch for active military and veterans before the game in the north end zone tailgating area under the Tennessee Army National Guard spider tent. A special military induction ceremony and Skyhawk Marching Band patriotic music presentation will be offered at halftime. Several military vehicles will be available at the game for fans to view.
HONORING VETERANS — UT Martin ROTC Skyhawk Battalion cadets present the colors during last year's Veterans Day Ceremony. This year's combined Veterans Day Ceremony and Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Pinning will be held from 3 to 4 p.m., Friday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. In addition to honoring veterans at the event, Nov. 10 marks the 242nd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a reception honoring the U.S. Marines will follow in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby.
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The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harris, professor of music, will present an evening of holiday music at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The program’s featured work is Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite” with the overture and six dances arranged for two pianos. The final movement of the suite, “Dance of the Flowers,” is for five pianos. Additional pieces include two very different settings of Leroy Anderson’s popular “Sleigh Ride,” Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasia on Greensleeves,” and Ottorino Respighi’s “Noel! Noell!” The grand finale features a very special holiday guest who will be revealed at the concert.

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The event is free and open to the public.

The South Fulton Senior Class recently attended a college fair hosted by The University of Tennessee at Martin.

Many of the students went in with several questions and misconceptions about what colleges have to offer.

There were many schools and branches of the military present at the event which meant the students had a wide variety of options to choose from. Some of the schools that were present were: The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Memphis, and Austin Peay State University.

Also, UT Martin had a big presence with the event being held on their grounds.

As the students were touring the show room, they approached several of the booths hoping to seek more information about their potential home for higher education. Each different school brought information to hand out to the students to help influence their decisions. College advisors implemented a system that required students to print out a barcode with their web information so it’s easier for colleges to reach them.

Several other high schools in the area were in attendance at the event and enjoyed the fair as well.

Pictured are, left to right, Hunter Burton, Myah Jennings, Hannah Carlisle, Seth Hicks, and Nicky Morris reviewing information about a college. (Photo submitted)
UTM to host Veterans Day program

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold a combination Veterans Day Ceremony and Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Pinning on Friday, November 9, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

The event is open to the public and is sponsored by the university, the UT Martin Skyhawk Veteran’s Association and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55.

In addition to honoring veterans at the event, Friday marks the 242nd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a reception honoring the U.S. Marines will follow in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby. Retired Lt. Gen. John "Glad" Castellaw, U.S. Marine Corps and UT Martin alumnus, will attend.

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A special military induction ceremony and Skyhawk Marching Band patriotic music presentation will be offered at halftime. Several military vehicles will be available at the game for fans to view.
Students Receive UTM Scholarships

According to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, several Lauderdale County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Marygrace Tiffany Burnett, of Ripley, daughter of Gerald and Sheila Burnett, a senior, received the Ripley Power and Light Scholarship, the Ripley Gas Water Wastewater Scholarship, the Bank of Ripley Scholarship, and the Jim and Frances Fitzhugh Scholarship.

Gwendolyn Denise Davis, of Ripley, daughter of Kevin and Monica Campbell, a senior, received the Ripley Gas Water Wastewater Scholarship.

Zachary Harris, of Halls, a junior, received the Bank of Halls Scholarship.

Jessie R. McCall, of Halls, daughter of David Paschall and Brandy Pewitt, a freshman, received the Ripley Gas Water Wastewater Scholarship.

Robert Cornelius Lacy, of Henning, son of Marvin Jones and the late Gloria Jones, a senior, received the Jim and Frances Fitzhugh Scholarship.

Rachel Elizabeth Jeanne Medford, of Ripley, daughter of William and Anita Medford, a senior, received the Ripley Power and Light Scholarship, the Ripley Gas Water Wastewater Scholarship, the Bank of Ripley Scholarship, and the Jim and Frances Fitzhugh Scholarship.

Breianne M. Mires, of Ripley, daughter of Andy Chisholm and Stephanie Kassem, a junior, received the Ripley Gas Water Wastewater Scholarship.

Timothy Edward Springfield, of Ripley, a freshman, received the Marvin Window and Doors Scholarship.

Russell Alan Smith, of Dyersburg, son of the late Teddie L. Smith and the late Shirley N. Smith, a junior, received the Bank of Ripley 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.
High school students and their families are invited to find out what it is like to be a Skyhawk on Nov. 11 during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s final Fall Preview Day.

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

The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will start at 9:30 a.m., followed by a student panel discussion at 10 a.m. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45 a.m., and campus tours will start at 11:30 a.m. Students will also receive complimentary tickets to the UT Martin football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

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

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

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“It's a great opportunity for them to show their dedication, their support, particularly to the Vietnam veterans who really didn't get what they deserved,” Lt. Gen. Castellaw said.

Friday also marked the 242nd birthday for the United States Marine Corps. U.S. Marines were honored with a reception after the pinning ceremony.

“Since I'm a Marine, we're gonna do a little howling at the moon tonight,” Lt. Gen. Castellaw said.

The university will continue to honor active military and veterans Saturday at Graham Stadium for the annual Veterans Day football game.

**UTM Preview Day on Saturday**
High school students and their families are invited to find out what it's like to be a Skyhawk on Nov. 11 during the UT Martin's final Fall Preview Day. Attendees will learn about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families can also speak with current students and tour UT Martin's campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum. The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by a student panel discussion at 10. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45, and campus tours will start at 11:30. Students will also receive complimentary tickets to the UT Martin football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Visit utm.edu/preview to register. There is no fee to attend. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.

**Tennessee Academy of Science to meet at UTM**

The Tennessee Academy of Science will hold its 127th annual meeting Nov. 17 at UT Martin. The daylong meeting will open with registration at 7:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center and continue in designated meeting rooms throughout the facility. The event will conclude that afternoon with technical sessions and business meetings. A meeting highlight will be poster presentations that begin at 8:30 on the university center's second floor. Dr. Wes Trotten, chair of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, will offer a general welcome at 10:30 in Watkins Auditorium, followed by the plenary program moderated by Dr. J. Allyn Smith, an Austin Peay State University faculty member.

**UTM hosting music recitals**

The UT Martin Department of Music will present a variety of performances by students in the upcoming weeks. All events are free and open to the public. Students will perform in the Student Chamber Recital at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall. Brass, woodwind, percussion and piano students will be featured, performing in various ensembles. Repertoire spans the eras of musical history. A Fall Choral Concert will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The Vocal Studio Recital will immediately follow and feature students, each performing one song. Delana Easley, of Union City and UT Martin lecturer of music, Rita Winter, of Union City, Gian Garma, of Martin, John-Alex Warner, of Union City, Grant Larcom, of Union City, and Abigale Plunk, of Martin, will accompany the performers on the piano. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
University of Tennessee at Martin honors veterans with special ceremony

November 10, 2017 by Jackson Jones

MARTIN, Tenn. — Dozens of veterans lined up Friday inside the Phillip Watkins Auditorium on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin to be honored for their years of service.

All active military and veterans will be admitted free to the game.

The ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will provide free lunch for active military and veterans before the game in the north end zone tailgating area under the Tennessee Army National Guard spider tent.

A special military induction ceremony and Skyhawk Marching Band patriotic music presentation will be performed at halftime. Several military vehicles will be available at the game for fans to view.

"I came in at 1972 when I graduated from UT Martin with a commission in the Marine Corps and a degree in agriculture and a brand new wife, who I said, ‘honey’ we’re back on the farm in three years.’ We stayed in for 36 and I left in 2008," said retired veteran Lt. Gen. John Castellaw.

The ceremony was put on by the UT Martin Skyhawk Veteran’s Association and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55.

Timothy McClain, Skyhawk Veteran’s Association president, emceed the event. Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, welcomed veterans and guests, and Dr. Rich Helgeson, UT Martin interim provost and Vietnam War veteran, was the featured speaker.

Participating in the pinning ceremony was Molly Morel and Tammy Hall, representing American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55, and Matt Van Epps, assistant commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services.

Any living veteran who served at any time on active duty from 1955 to 1975 was eligible to receive a Vietnam veteran lapel pin.
UTM Preview Day

High school students and their families are invited to find out what it’s like to be a Skyhawk today during the UT Martin’s final Fall Preview Day. Attendees will learn about financial aid and scholarships, student organizations and housing options, as well as speak to faculty members and ask questions about potential areas of study. Families can also speak with current students and tour UT Martin’s campus, which is a Level I Certified Arboretum. The day will begin with registration and an administrative fair from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center. An official welcome will start at 9:30, followed by a student panel discussion at 10. Departmental visits will begin at 10:45, and campus tours will start at 11:30. Students will also receive complimentary tickets to the UT Martin football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Visit utm.edu/preview to register. There is no fee to attend. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or by email at admitme@utm.edu.

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UTM piano ensemble to perform holiday program

The UT Martin Piano Ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present an evening of holiday music at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The program’s featured work is Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite” with the overture and six dances arranged for two pianos. The final movement of the suite, “Dance of the Flowers,” is for five pianos.

Additional pieces include two very different settings of Leroy Anderson’s popular “Sleigh Ride,” Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasia on Greensleeves,” and Ottorino Respighi’s “Noel! Noël!” The grand finale features a very special holiday guest who will be revealed at the concert.

Performers are university piano students John-Alex Warner, of Union City, Gian Garma, of Martin, Grant Larcom, of Union City, Emily Campbell, of Trenton, Meleah Gateley, of Humboldt, Abigale Plunk, of Martin, Helen Kendall, of Troy, and Anna Johnson, of Dresden. UT Martin faculty members performing the “Dance of the Flowers” are Delana Easley, lecturer of music, Dr. Jessie Thomas, associate professor of music, Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music, Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, and Harriss.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
UTM’s Reed Center to host final free speaker

UT Martin’s Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host its sixth and final seminar in the “Small Business Basics – Ask the Expert” series for local business owners from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday. Seminar costs are covered by the Tennessee Small Business Development Center. Dr. Joey Mehlhorn will give a presentation titled “Finding and Profiling Customers.” This session will focus on using traditional sales calls, client referrals and product pitches to attract new customers and close a deal. Mehlhorn, Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence at UT Martin, joined the UT Martin faculty in 2003. He teaches a variety of subjects, including strategic and risk management for the graduate program in agriculture and natural resources. Mehlhorn holds a doctoral degree in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University. This final session in the series will be held at the REED Center at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin. Visit tsbdc.org/utm to register for any session. For more information, contact the center at 731-587-7333.

Empty Bowls fundraiser for hunger relief

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts is hosting the 14th annual Empty Bowls Soup Lunch fundraiser on Nov. 18.

The fundraiser runs from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. It will be held in the Fine Arts Building’s Little Theatre. Proceeds from the event benefit the hunger relief efforts of We Care Inc. in Martin.

For a $10 donation, visitors can enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup lunch and take home a handcrafted, standard-sized bowls. Larger bowls will have suggested donation values.

A $5 donation is requested for those who only wish to eat, but UT Martin students can eat for free.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, donates his time and the cost of materials to make bowls for the annual fundraiser.

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

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Martin, Tenn. — Morgan Martin, a 20-year-old junior health and human performance student from Union City, claimed the 2018 Miss University of Tennessee at Martin title at the combined Miss UT Martin-Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant on Saturday, Nov. 11, on the university's main campus.

For the second year, the Miss UT Martin winner is from Union City, which is also the home of Brenna Wilkins, the 2017 Miss UT Martin titleholder. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crown went to Katie Hodges, 17, of Henderson, a senior at Chester County High School.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 55th year, while the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant crowned its 19th titleholder. Only current full-time UT Martin students can compete for the Miss UT Martin crown. Those competing for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title must be West Tennessee residents or enrolled as students in West Tennessee but are not required to be UT Martin students. Both winners now advance to the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, held in June at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

Martin, a South Fulton High school graduate studying exercise science, is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Her platform is Wheeling Sportsmen, which raises funds to help make hunting and shooting sports accessible to people with disabilities. “Luckily we go to a school that is really big in agriculture, so I feel like I can really reach out to some of the different agriculture groups (to promote her platform), ...” Martin said, who performed a flute solo for the talent portion of the competition. She added, “Right now, I’m just going to try and enjoy the moment, but I’m really looking forward to just being on campus and getting to represent UTM and the student body as best as I can.”

Hodges began competing in pageants at age seven and, in addition to preparing for the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June, plans to attend either Harding University in Arkansas or Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson next fall. Her platform, Type One to Type None: Ending Juvenile Diabetes, should benefit from her new pageant title.
The Miss UT Martin court was Rachael Friedrich, second runner-up and People's Choice award winner, and Amanda Mayo, first runner-up. Emily Holder was the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival second runner-up, and Kara Smith earned first runner-up and was also selected Miss Congeniality.

Photo: Morgan Martin (left), of Union City, and Katie Hodges, of Henderson, claimed the Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival titles.
UTM Dance Ensemble performances this week

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will present their fall showcase and workshop, “We’re in this Together,” at 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building. The showcase includes student choreography as well as work created by Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance, and guest choreographer Michael Foley, professor of dance at the University of South Florida. Area dance students will join the ensemble to present a variety of performances. Foley has been performing, teaching and choreographing internationally for over 25 years. His choreography has been commissioned by major international dance companies from the U.S., Mexico, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Panama and by the Cirque du Soleil organization. Foley earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in dance from the University of Washington. UT Martin Dance Ensemble members will perform his work titled “Before the Flood.” Admission is $15 for persons over 10 years of age and $5 for students. Children under 10 are admitted free of charge. Tickets are available for purchase at the door. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

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THE SCIENCE OF SMELL — Dr. Ann Gathers (center, white lab coat), associate professor of biology, and university student Aleya Brent, a psychology and biological sciences major, taught third- through fifth-graders at Martin Elementary School about the science of smell. The presentation took place during a recent Kiwanis K-Kids club meeting. Dr. Jim Clark, Anna Clark and Sara Sieber, Kiwanis members and retired UT Martin faculty and staff, assisted with the presentation. Presenters used visual demonstrations of diffusion to teach children the fundamentals of smell. Children tested their sense of smell in a game requiring them to identify common household odors and played a “Who Nose?” trivia game. Kiwanians Anita Bell and Sara Sieber are co-sponsors of K-Kids. Kiwanis sponsors student leadership groups at the elementary school (K-Kids), the middle school (Builders Club), and the high school (Key Club) in Martin.
THE GREAT WAR — Dr. Richard Garlitz (center), Department of History and Philosophy at UT Martin, gave a presentation entitled “The Great War in the 20th Century” at the Nov. 8 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, where 19 members and one guest attended. Dr. Garlitz discussed four ways World War I shaped the 20th century: through the industrialization of weaponry that led to one of the deadliest conflicts in human history; through the advancements in medicine and medical procedures; with the war dramatically changing the world order; and how the war marked the emergence of the United States as a major world power. Pictured with Dr. Garlitz are Sara Sieber (left), who introduced the speaker and is serving as Kiwanis program chair for November, and Vickie Hazlewood, Kiwanis president. Kiwanis members invite a variety of speakers for the weekly programs and affirm that the knowing more about the complexities of the world can better help them remain informed and able to move forward the Kiwanis mission of “improving the world, one child and one community at a time.”

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT — Several students from Weakley County attended the WestStar Leadership program’s seventh annual FutureStar Summit on Oct. 26 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit brings together seventh- and eighth-graders from around West Tennessee to help the students understand the personal value of an education and to encourage them to possibly attend college. The children attend free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from the individual child’s county of residence. Pictured are (back row, from left) Devon Henry, DeAngelo Lambert, Jillian Brigance and Melody Elliot. (front row) Zabacic Pinkins, Kristiane Blaylock, Hayli King, Mary Anna Chester, Pinkins, King, Chester and Brigance attend Martin Middle School; Blaylock and Lambert attend Dresden Middle School; and Henry and Elliot attend Sharon School. Contact Jordan Jones in the WestStar Leadership Program office at 731-881-3298 to learn about next year’s FutureStar Summit and to express interest in participating.
Empty Bowls fundraiser slated Saturday

By RACHEL MELTON
Special to the Press

Fourteen years ago, David McBeth, associate professor of art at the University of Tennessee at Martin, embarked on a journey to create 250 handmade bowls as a part of the Empty Bowls project, an initiative created in 1990 by the Imagine/RENDER group, a nonprofit organization focused on creating community change through the arts. While the project itself is an international cooperative, each Empty Bowls event is a grassroots effort to aid in hunger relief in specific local communities.

Now, well over a decade and 6,000 bowls later, McBeth, along with his students, create 250 bowls every November for a community event that continues to grow. This year's Empty Bowls event will be held on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building Little Theatre.

The idea behind the project is simple but heartfelt. The artists work to create handcrafted ceramic bowls, which are sold during the Empty Bowls event at the UT Martin Fine Arts Building. This year, McBeth has worked with a team of around eight students, who help with everything from making the bowls to glazing the pieces and loading the kiln. Community members collaborate on the project by contributing a variety of homemade soups, which are served in the bowls themselves, available to the public for a donation of $10 each.

"I tell people it's the best and biggest church potluck ever," stated McBeth. "We will have between 20 and 30 crockpots of soup."

All of the profits from the event are donated to the local WeCare Food Bank to aid in hunger relief in Weakley County. In the history of the event, over $60,000 has been raised for We Care, which exists as a cooperative effort between seven denominations in Weakley County. The organization provides family support in the form of assistance with rent and utilities, instructional programs including nutritional education and financial guidance, disaster and immediate relief, and is home to a food pantry supported by community events throughout the year.

"Hunger is a community problem" McBeth says. "I do this because I can't write a $5,000 check to WeCare, but I can make 500 bowls. I think it's wonderful that students get involved, and after Empty Bowls is finished here, I'll be inviting students to go with me on the last Wednesday of the month to WeCare and be a part of the team that serves meals to people because that's another part of the story. It's one thing to sit in the studio and make pots, and it's another thing to get out in the community and be a part of it. The problem is not going to fix itself without community."

SUPER BOWLS — A lineup of bowls awaits a glaze firing for the Empty Bowls event set for Saturday.

Photos by Rachel Melton

Bowls from the project may be obtained throughout the year by contacting McBeth via email at dmcbeth@utm.edu.

Through the history of the event, the bowls have made their way into homes throughout the county and far beyond, both for personal use and in the form of gifts to others. They represent a sense of compassion and caring for the community, while also serving as a reminder of the many empty bowls in the world, and the presence of hunger within communities. This November, give back to the local community with a handmade piece of art made with purpose by potters and other artists. Give an Empty Bowl.
INSPIRING PROJECT — David McBeth, associate professor of art at the University of Tennessee at Martin, throws in the ceramics studio.

HANDS ON — Teddy Vincent, a UT Martin student, is shown throwing a bowl on the wheel.
Morgan Martin, a 20-year-old junior health and human performance student from Union City, claimed the 2018 Miss University of Tennessee at Martin title at the combined Miss UT Martin-Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant on Saturday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They included (from left) Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival runner-up Emily Holder and first runner-up and Miss Congeniality Kara Smith; Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Katie Hodges; Miss UT Martin Morgan Martin; and Miss UT Martin first runner-up Amanda Mayo and second runner-up and People's Choice winner Rachael Friedrich.

Miss Martin, a South Fulton High school graduate studying exercise science, is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Her platform is Wheeling Sportsmen, which raises funds to help make hunting and shooting sports accessible to people with disabilities.

"Luckily we go to a school that is really big in agriculture, so I feel like I can really reach out to some of the different agriculture groups (to promote her platform)," Miss Martin said, who performed a flute solo for the talent portion of the competition. She added, "Right now, I'm just going to try and enjoy the moment, but I'm really looking forward to just being on campus and getting to represent UT Martin and the student body as best as I can."

Miss Hodges began competing in pageants at age 7 and, in addition to preparing for the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in June, plans to attend either Harding University in Arkansas or Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson next fall. Her platform, Type One to Type None: Ending Juvenile Diabetes, should benefit from her new pageant title.

"Well, it (the title) is definitely going to get me out there, especially at the (Tennessee) Soybean Festival," Miss Hodges said, who performed a vocal selection for her talent. "I'll get to talk to so many kids, and give out bracelets that talk about diabetes on them, and I get to reach out to so many more people because of this title, and I'm so excited."

The pageant experience is also something she will never forget. "All of the girls were so amazing and so sweet and would have done amazing with this title, and I was not expecting it at all, and I'm just so excited and so blessed."

The Miss UT Martin court included Rachael Friedrich, second runner-up, and People's Choice award winner, and Amanda Mayo, first runner-up. Emily Holder was the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival runner-up; and Kara Smith earned first runner-up and was also selected Miss Congeniality.

Katrina Cobb, director of broadcast operations for Public Television Station WLJT, is pageant director and was pleased with this year's event. "It was a great pageant," Ms. Cobb said after the event. "We had 11 contestants, we had a good crowd here, and we had two beautiful winners."

Her work continues as she will guide both contestants through Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant preparations and will also accompany Miss Martin and Miss Hodges to Jackson during pageant week in June.

The title of Miss Tennessee is a full-time, yearlong position as Gov. Bill Haslam's official spokesman for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee's Children's Miracle Network hospitals. The winner of the Miss Tennessee title will advance to the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., for a chance to serve as Miss America 2019.

For more information about the Miss UT Martin or Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageants, contact Cobb at kcobb@wljt.org, or call (731) 881-7561.
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PAGEANT COURTS — The Miss UT Martin-Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant courts are pictured following the combined pageant Nov. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The winning beauties were (from left) Emily Holder, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival second runner-up; Kara Smith, first runner-up and also named Miss Congeniality; and Katie Hodges, 2018 Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival; Morgan Martin, 2018 Miss UT Martin; Amanda Mayo, first runner-up; and Rachael Friedrich, second runner-up and People's Choice winner.

"Empty Bowls" Fundraiser Is Saturday

POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

NOVEMBER 15, 2017 AT 6:45 PM
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David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, donates his time and the cost of materials to make bowls for the annual fundraiser. UT Martin students also help with meal preparations, serving and cleanup. Several of McBeth's students assist in making the bowls while students from across campus help glaze the bowls in the studio. The UT Martin Wesley Foundation is also a strong supporter and active participant in the Empty Bowls project.

For a $10 donation, visitors can enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup lunch and take home one of McBeth's handcrafted, standard-sized bowls. Larger bowls will have suggested donation values. A $5 donation is requested for those who only wish to eat, but UT Martin students can eat for free.

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Miss UT Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival

Union City, Henderson Contestants Claim Titles

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Morgan Martin (left), of Union City, and Katie Hodges, of Henderson, claimed the Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival titles, respectively, during the combined pageant Nov. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Students Attend Leadership Summit At UTM

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TN Academy of Science to meet Friday at UTM

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Dr. Sandy Mehhorn, associate professor in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, is the academy’s president-elect.

She said the academic community benefits by bringing scientists together from around Tennessee and that the meeting “promotes collaboration and innovation within our state.”

“Tennessee has an amazing group of teachers and researchers in science and it’s just nice to showcase their work,” she said.

According to the organization’s official website, the Tennessee Academy of Science was founded in 1912 and has provided direction for Tennesseans on many science issues. The academy organizes symposia, manages ongoing programs in many fields and communicates with the national scientific culture. The TSA is affiliated with two national societies and seven Tennessee societies.

Anyone interested may learn more about the TSA and register for the meeting by going online to www.tennacadofsci.org.

UTM dance ensemble to present fall event

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will present their fall showcase and workshop, “We’re in This Together,” at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building.

The showcase includes student choreography as well as work created by Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance, and guest choreographer Michael Foley, professor of dance at the University of South Florida. Area dance students will join the ensemble to present a variety of performances.

Foley has been performing, teaching and choreographing internationally for over 25 years. His choreography has been commissioned by major international dance companies from the U.S., Mexico, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Panama and by the Cirque du Soleil organization. Foley earned his master of fine arts degree in dance from the University of Washington. UT Martin Dance Ensemble members will perform his work titled “Before the Flood.”

The ensemble performance consists of 14 dances and includes ballet, modern, post-modern and jazz. The ensemble features original choreography by UT Martin students Jayla Brown of Memphis, Callie Cornell of Nashville, Keinesia Mason of Memphis, Maalyyah Austin of Memphis, Kimberly Schwartz of Martin, Michaela Bland of Spring Hill and Kimani Subber of Memphis.

Ms. Schwarz and Ms. Cornell, both senior dance education candidates, will be performing in their final ensemble before they begin student teaching.

Admission is $15 for anyone over 10 years of age and $5 for students. Children younger than 10 are admitted free of charge. Tickets are available for purchase at the door.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.
UT-Martin Column Dedication on Saturday

A dedication ceremony for a campus enhancement at the University of Tennessee-Martin will take place on Saturday.

The dedication and ribbon cutting for the UT-Martin Gateway Columns will be held at 151 Pat Head Summitt Drive.

Charley Deal, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Alumni Affairs, said the landmark columns connect the university and City of Martin, and are part of an ongoing project.

Deal said the columns are being funded by individuals and businesses, to enhance both the campus and community.

The dedication ceremony will take place at 1:00 and the public is invited to attend.

UTM Piano Ensemble to perform Nov. 16

The University of Tennessee at Martin Piano Ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present an evening of holiday music at 7:30 p.m., November 16, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

The program’s featured work is Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite” with the overture and six dances arranged for two pianos. The final movement of the suite, “Dance of the Flowers,” is for five pianos. Additional pieces include two very different settings of Leroy Anderson’s popular “Sleigh Ride,” Ralph Vaughn Williams’ “Fantasia on Greensleeves,” and Ottorino Respighi’s “Noel! Noel!” The grand finale features a very special holiday guest who will be revealed at the concert.

Performers are university piano students John-Alex Warner, of Union City; Gian Garma, of Martin; Grant Larcom, of Union City; Emily Campbell, of Trenton; Meleah Gateley, of Humboldt; Abigale Plunk, of Martin; Helen Kendall, of Troy; and Anna Johnson, of Dresden.

UT Martin faculty members performing the “Dance of the Flowers” are Delana Easley, lecturer of music; Dr. Jessica Thoman, associate professor of music; Dr. Amy Young, professor of music; Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music; and Harriss.

The event is free and open to the public.

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

WASHINGTON MONTHLY'S 2017 college guide and rankings publication lists the University of Tennessee at Martin among the "best bang for the buck" schools in the southern United States. UT Martin comes in at number eight on this annual list, up significantly from 17th in 2016. It is the top-ranked Tennessee school in this category. Rankings are based on a series of criteria designed to help students of all income brackets obtain a marketable degree for a reasonable price. Washington Monthly rankings are released each September and focus on data gathered in the previous 12-month period.

WASHINGTON MONTHLY'S 2017 college guide and rankings publication lists the University of Tennessee at Martin among the "best bang for the buck" schools in the southern United States. UT Martin comes in at number eight on this annual list, up significantly from 17th in 2016. It is the top-ranked Tennessee school in this category. Rankings are based on a series of criteria designed to help students of all income brackets obtain a marketable degree for a reasonable price. Washington Monthly rankings are released each September and focus on data gathered in the previous 12-month period.

WASHINGTON MONTHLY'S 2017 college guide and rankings publication lists the University of Tennessee at Martin among the "best bang for the buck" schools in the southern United States. UT Martin comes in at number eight on this annual list, up significantly from 17th in 2016. It is the top-ranked Tennessee school in this category.
YOUNG ARTISTS - Isaac Avery Jones (left), a 2016 graduate of Milan High School and sophomore graphics design student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was chosen to display his piece "Medusa Lives in New York" at the Bellwethers 2017 exhibition. Aubrey Kurt (right), a senior art therapy major at Union University, received honorable mention for her piece "Fluted Teapot" in the 3D category of the Bellwethers 2017 art exhibition at WTRAC.

UT Martin Somerville Center Thanks Somerville Police Dept.
Last week, The UT Martin Somerville Center prepared gift bags for the Somerville Police Department Officers. Over the past several months the local officers routinely go above and beyond the call of duty as they regularly monitor all activities at the center ensuring a safe and friendly environment for the staff and students. Pictured left to right: Chief Webb, Danielle Ables, Sgt. McCarley, Officer Salton, Molly McCarley, Officer Ford and Kara Tapp.
LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT UT MARTIN – Several students from Obion County attended the WestStar Leadership Program's seventh annual FutureStar Summit, Oct. 26, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit brings together seventh and eighth graders from around West Tennessee to help the students understand the personal value of an education and to encourage them to possibly attend college. The children attend free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from the individual child's county of residence. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Bodie McWherter, Juan Torres Meroles, Hannah Langley, Andres Olivares, Nicole Clark, Emilia Maldonado, Curtis Swafford; back row, JB Harrison, Zulema Mora, Jesse Warren, Layla Kendall, Trinity Wetzel and Spencer Quillen. McWherter and Langley attend Hillcrest Elementary; Meroles and Mora attend Ridgemont Elementary; Olivares, Maldonado and Swafford attend Union City Middle School; Clark and Quillen attend South Fulton Middle School; Harrison and Wetzel attend Lake Road Elementary; and Warren and Kendall attend Black Oak Junior High. Contact Jordan Jones in the WestStar Leadership Program office at 731-881-3298 to learn about next year's FutureStar Summit and to express interest in participating. (Photo submitted)
UT-Chattanooga gets $1M to support veterans program

CHATTANOOGA (AP) — The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has received a donation of more than $1 million to support an entrepreneurship program for veterans at the school.

According to The Chattanooga Times-Free Press, the university announced the donation on behalf of Mike and Amy Walden of Walden Security.

The gift will support the Veterans Entrepreneurship Program, which offers free training, mentoring and management help to small businesses of disabled and distinguished-service veterans. Veterans receive a week of entrepreneurship courses each summer. Afterward, they get 10 months of support from entrepreneurs and online peer networking.

Empty Bowls fundraiser set for Saturday in Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host the 14th annual Empty Bowls Soup Lunch fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the Fine Arts Building's Little Theatre.

Proceeds from the event benefit the hunger relief efforts of We Care Inc. in Martin.

David McBeth, UT Martin professor of art, donates his time and the cost of materials to make bowls for the annual fundraiser. UT Martin students also help with meal preparations, serving and cleanup.

Several of McBeth's students assist in making the bowls while students from across campus help glaze the bowls in the studio. The UT Martin Wesley Foundation is also a strong supporter and active participant in the Empty Bowls project.

For a $10 donation, visitors can enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup lunch and take home one of McBeth's handcrafted, standard-sized bowls. Larger bowls will have suggested donation values.

A $5 donation is requested for those who only wish to eat, but UT Martin students can eat for free, a spokesman said.

STUDENT SUMMIT — Several students from Obion County attended the WestStar Leadership Program's seventh annual FutureStar Summit recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit brings together seventh- and eighth-graders from around West Tennessee to help the students understand the personal value of an education and to encourage them to possibly attend college. The children attend free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from the individual child's county of residence. Attendees included (from left, front row) Bodie McWherter, Juan Torres Meroles, Hannah Langley, Andres Olivares, Nicole Clark, Emilia Maldonado, Curtis Swafford, (back row) JB Harrison, Zulema Mora, Jesse Warren, Layla Kendall, Trinity Wetzel and Spencer Quillen. McWherter and Langley attend Hillcrest Elementary; Meroles and Mora attend Ridgemont Elementary; Olivares, Maldonado and Swafford attend Union City Middle School; Clark and Quillen attend South Fulton Middle School; Harrison and Wetzel attend Lake Road Elementary; and Warren and Kendall attend Black Oak Elementary.
UTM to unveil first gateway

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a dedication ceremony for the UT Martin Gateway Columns at 1 p.m. Saturday at 151 Pat Head Summit Drive. Parking will be available in the west lot of the Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center. The public is invited.

The Gateway Columns, sponsored by Savant Learning Systems, will create a pedestrian entrance connecting Pat Head Summit Drive and Skyhawk Parkway. These columns are significant because they connect the city of Martin and the university.

“The Gateway Columns project will help to transform the appearance of the main campus and also offers both a real and a symbolic connection to the city of Martin,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. “It’s through the generosity of donors such as Savant Learning Systems that the university can take this kind of positive step.”

Carver will welcome everyone to the dedication ceremony followed by introductions and remarks. Dr. Nassar Nassar, Savant Learning Systems president, will unveil the columns. The ceremony will conclude with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The UT Martin Gateway Columns project is part of the UT Martin Campus Master Plan update completed in 2016, which includes seven designated campus entryways.

This project represents the second completed entryway and will be the first entryway to be dedicated. For more information on the UT Martin Gateway Columns or information on becoming a sponsor, contact Dr. Charley Deal at 731-881-7611.

Holiday art bazaar set for December

The League of Striving Artists, the student art organization at The University of Tennessee at Martin, will host their fourth annual Holiday Art Bazaar from Dec. 7 to Dec. 9. This event will be held in the Fine Arts Building Gallery and is sponsored by the organization and the UT Martin Visual and Theatre Arts Department.

This year’s bazaar will feature pottery and various types of handmade ceramic items, hand-knitted and crocheted items, paintings, handmade candles, drawings, hand-blown glass ornaments, woodburned home décor, and much more.

Many of the items make excellent gifts for family and friends. All of the works featured in the LSA bazaar are created by students, faculty and alumni of the University.

Proceeds from the event will go to benefit the organization to aid in funding its service events, projects, workshops and art-related activities throughout the year.

The bazaar will be open to the public on Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m., Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cash, check and charge will be accepted. Support the Arts (STARTS) contributors will join students and faculty for an early “insider” opening of the event on Dec. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information on the STARTS program and how to become a STARTS contributor, visit www.utm.edu/starts or call the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

For questions or more information about the Bazaar or The League of Striving Artists, contact Jason Stout, associate professor of art at 731-881-3402 or by email at jstout@utm.edu, or Karen Johnson at the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400 or by email at kjohnson@utm.edu.
UT MARTIN FACULTY HONORED — University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members were honored Oct. 19 during the annual Promotion, Tenure and Faculty Awards Recognition Dinner held in Hardy M. Graham Stadium’s Champions Club. The following faculty members were recognized; all live in Martin unless indicated otherwise, and teaching areas are noted in parentheses: (back row, from left): Dr. Matthew Braddock (philosophy), promoted to associate professor; Jason Stout (art), named a Ray and Wilma Smith Endowment recipient; Dr. Charles Hammond (German), promoted to professor; and Dr. Matthew Pritchett (biology), promoted to professor; (middle row): Dr. Margaret Lewis (history), promoted to associate professor; Dr. Kevin Pitz (biology), promoted to professor; Dr. Joseph Frye (music), promoted to associate professor with tenure; Dr. Jack Grubaugh (biology), received the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award; Dr. Brian Donavant (criminal justice), promoted to professor; Dr. Michael Kempf (biology), promoted to professor; Dr. Anton Garcia-Fernandez (Spanish), awarded tenure; Dr. Joaquin Goyret (biology), promoted to associate professor; Dr. Renee LaFleur (history), promoted to associate professor with tenure; Dr. Joseph Ostenson (psychology), promoted to associate professor with tenure; Dr. Thomas Blanchard (biology), named a Ray and Wilma Smith Endowment recipient; and Dr. Scott Parrott (agricultural economics), promoted to professor; (front row) Dr. Christie Chen (management), promoted to associate professor; Dr. Lajuan Davis (information systems), awarded tenure; Dr. Ashley Kilburn of Bradford (marketing), received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award and named a Ray and Wilma Smith Endowment recipient; Dr. Rachna Tewari (agricultural economics), promoted to associate professor; Dr. Emalee Butrey (animal science), named a Ray and Wilma Smith Endowment recipient; Dr. Paula Gale (soil science), received the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Dr. Karen DiBella (reading), promoted to associate professor; Alicia Maya-Donaldson (social work), received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award; Alissa Parrish of Paris, named a Ray and Wilma Smith Endowment recipient; and Sarah Haig (art), promoted to associate professor with tenure.
UTM to host academy of science

The Tennessee Academy of Science will hold its 127th annual meeting Nov. 17 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The daylong meeting will open with registration at 7:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center and continue in designated meeting rooms throughout the facility. The event will conclude that afternoon with technical sessions and business meetings.

A meeting highlight will be poster presentations that begin at 8:30 on the university center’s second floor. Dr. Wes Totten, chair of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, is the academy’s president-elect. She says the academic community benefits by bringing scientists together from around Tennessee and that the meeting “promotes collaboration and innovation within our state.” Mehlhorn added, “Tennessee has an amazing group of teachers and researchers in science, and it’s just nice to showcase their work.”

According to the organization’s official website, the Tennessee Academy of Science was founded in 1912 and has provided direction for Tennesseans on many science issues. The academy organizes symposia, manages ongoing programs in many fields and communicates with the national scientific culture. The TSA is affiliated with two national societies and seven Tennessee societies.

Learn more about the TSA and register for the meeting at tennacadofsci.org.

DR. SANDY MEHLHORN
HOLIDAY ART BAZAAR — Dee Pritchett (left) of Martin shares a laugh with another shopper while visiting the Holiday Art Bazaar last year. The event offers craft wares from students and faculty at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Tennessee Academy of Science to meet at UTM

The Tennessee Academy of Science will hold its 127th annual meeting Friday at UT Martin. The daylong meeting will open with registration at 7:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center and continue in designated meeting rooms throughout the facility. The event will conclude that afternoon with technical sessions and business meetings. A meeting highlight will be poster presentations that begin at 8:30 on the university center’s second floor. Dr. Wes Totten, chair of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, will offer a general welcome at 10:30 in Watkins Auditorium, followed by the plenary program moderated by Dr. J. Allyn Smith, an Austin Peay State University faculty member.
UTM piano ensemble to perform holiday program

The UT Martin Piano Ensemble, directed by Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, will present an evening of holiday music at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall.

The program's featured work is Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" with the overture and six dances arranged for two pianos. The final movement of the suite, "Dance of the Flowers," is for five pianos.

Additional pieces include two very different settings of Leroy Anderson's popular "Sleigh Ride," Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Fantasia on Greensleeves," and Ottorino Respighi's "Noel! Noel!" The grand finale features a very special holiday guest who will be revealed at the concert.

Performers are university piano students John-Alex Warner, of Union City, Gian Garma, of Martin, Grant Larcom, of Union City, Emily Campbell, of Trenton, Meleah Gateley, of Humboldt, Abigail Plunk, of Martin, Helen Kendall, of Troy, and Anna Johnson, of Dresden.

UT Martin faculty members performing the "Dance of the Flowers" are De'lania Easley, lecturer of music, Dr. Jessie Thoman, associate professor of music, Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music, Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music, and Harriss.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

Leadership Summit

MURIEL BUCHANAN, left, and Adriana Dennis, right, both of Halls Junior High, attended the WestStar Leadership Program's seventh annual FutureStar Summit October 26th at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit brings together seventh and eighth graders from around West Tennessee to help the students understand the personal value of an education and to encourage them to possibly attend college. The children attend free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from the individual child's county of residence. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, to learn about next year's FutureStar Summit, or to express interest in participating contact Jordan Jones at 731-881-3298.
Martin, Tenn. - A pedestrian entrance that links the city of Martin with The University of Tennessee at Martin will be dedicated on Friday.

The UT Martin Gateway Columns will be dedicated at 1 p.m., Nov. 18, at 151 Pat Head Summitt Drive. Parking will be available in the west lot of the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center. The public is invited.

The Gateway Columns, sponsored by Savant Learning Systems, will create a pedestrian entrance connecting Pat Head Summitt Drive and Skyhawk Parkway. These columns are significant because they connect the city of Martin and the university.

"The Gateway Columns project will help to transform the appearance of the main campus and also offers both a real and a symbolic connection to the city of Martin," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. "It's through the generosity of donors such as Savant Learning Systems that the university can take this kind of positive step."
Carver will welcome everyone to the dedication ceremony followed by introductions and remarks. Dr. Nassar Nassar, Savant Learning Systems president and CEO, will also offer remarks after the plaque unveiling. The program will conclude in time for the Skyhawk women’s home basketball game with Northwestern University at 2 p.m. in the Elam Center.

The UT Martin Gateway Columns project is part of the UT Martin Campus Master Plan update completed in 2016, which includes seven designated campus entryways. This project represents the second completed entryway and will be the first entryway to be dedicated.

For more information on the UT Martin Gateway Columns or information on becoming a sponsor, contact Dr. Charley Deal at 731-881-7611.

UTM Dance Ensemble performances this week

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will present their fall showcase and workshop, “We’re in this Together,” at 8 p.m., today, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located inside UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building. The showcase includes student choreography as well as work created by Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance, and guest choreographer Michael Foley, professor of dance at the University of South Florida. Area dance students will join the ensemble to present a variety of performances. Foley has been performing, teaching and choreographing internationally for over 25 years. His choreography has been commissioned by major international dance companies from the U.S., Mexico, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Panama and by the Cirque du Soleil organization. Foley earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in dance from the University of Washington. UT Martin Dance Ensemble members will perform his work titled “Before the Flood.” Admission is $15 for persons over 10 years of age and $5 for students. Children under 10 are admitted free of charge. Tickets are available for purchase at the door. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

Tennessee Academy of Science to meet at UTM

The Tennessee Academy of Science will hold its 127th annual meeting today at UT Martin. The daylong meeting will open with registration at 7:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center and continue in designated meeting rooms throughout the facility. The event will conclude that afternoon with technical sessions and business meetings. A meeting highlight will be poster presentations that begin at 8:30 on the university center’s second floor. Dr. Wes Totten, chair of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, will offer a general welcome at 10:30 in Watkins Auditorium, followed by the plenary program moderated by Dr. J. Allyn Smith, an Austin Peay State University faculty member.
Redistribution of endowment funds will add to spending power of UT Foundation

Rachel Ohm, USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee Published 7:21 p.m. ET Nov. 17, 2017

The Join the Journey campaign, which has been in progress since 2012 but launched publicly on Friday, seeks to raise $1.1 billion by 2020. Knoxville News Sentinel.

Fall colors decorate the University of Tennessee grounds as football fans mingle before the start of the game against Southern Miss on Saturday, November 4, 2017. (Photo: Saul Young/News Sentinel, Knoxville News Sentinel)

A new fee on some gifts is expected to boost the spending power of the University of Tennessee Foundation, though it could generate some push back from donors.

The 5 percent fee on realized bequests, which are gifts the university receives after a donor's death, is expected to generate about $750,000 in additional spending to be determined by the UT Foundation each year.

Members of the UT Foundation board of directors expressed some concerns about the fee Friday, but ultimately passed it as part of a new funding model designed to funnel more money toward reserves and special initiatives.

The model also includes plans for the foundation to hold on to more of the money generated by the endowment as opposed to giving campuses the autonomy to spend that money on their own institutional advancement initiatives.

Altogether, the model will redistribute millions of endowment dollars each year, with a

"I'm glad we were able to work with the board and the campus chancellors to get to this point," said Foundation President and CEO Rickey McCurry. "It's something we've been working on for a long time, and I think it will help the foundation as it grows and matures."

Reallocate of money between foundation and campuses

The foundation is expected to generate $30.7 million in revenue this year, including $7.6 million from something called an "endowment assessment," which is a fee against the market value of the endowment.

That money currently isn't spent by the foundation, but rather returned to the campuses based on the percentage of dollars they've raised toward the endowment balance.
The model approved Friday would change that. Over the next five years, it will work towards a 50/50 balance between campuses and the foundation with regards to oversight over the spending of the money.

The change will reverse decisions made several years ago to give campuses complete control over the money, McCurry said, allowing the foundation to build up reserves and allocate more money to system-wide projects.

But it will also mean individual campuses have less say over how the money is spent.

"We've talked about it for several months," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, who also sits on the foundation's board. "Obviously, with the chancellors, it was an often-spirited discussion. This does really represent a big paradigm shift for us.

"At the end of the day, though, I think we realize we do need more flexibility centrally. We're looking forward to seeing some returns on this investment and know we'll have frequent discussions with Rickey and the board about special initiatives that come up."

Currently, UT Knoxville gets about 63 percent of the funding. The UT Health Science Center gets 23 percent; UT Martin 4 percent; and the UT Institute of Agriculture about 8 percent. UT Chattanooga, which has its own endowment and foundation, sees just 3 percent from the UT Foundation.

"We understand the reasoning for this and we'll do our part to participate," said Chip Bryant, vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at UT Knoxville. "It's a model that is change, so we'll all adapt to it and do what's best for the institution."

**New fee will be charged on some gifts**

By instituting a new 5 percent fee on realized bequests, the foundation also expects to gain control over about $750,000 each year.

Realized bequests are gifts that come into the foundation as the result of estate plans. They make up about 10 percent of gifts any year.

The fee will only be charged on bequests dedicated to a specific purpose, while so-called "unrestricted" gifts will not be assessed the fee. About 90 percent of bequests are "restricted," or dedicated to a predetermined cause.

McCurry said there is overhead associated with the management of such gifts, such as legal work that needs to be done or the cost of development officers, and that the fees will go to that.

But some board members expressed concerns about pushback from donors.

"I can count on one hand the number of donors who wouldn't help us (because of this fee)," said UT President Joe DiPietro. "People don't like it, but if you can articulate why it's needed and how it will help, generally they will come around. Is it a pleasant conversation to have? Not always."

The model is part of a five-year strategic plan approved Friday that lays out goals for the foundation. The plan says it's expected to "provide flexibility within the foundation to direct resources where needed the most."

Total donations to the university in 2017 were slightly down from the year before. The university closed the fiscal year June 30 with $221 million in donations. In 2016, a total of $240 million was raised.
UTM dedicating columns today

Special to Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

UT Martin will host a dedication ceremony for the UT Martin Gateway Columns at 1 p.m. today at 151 Pat Head Summitt Drive. Parking will be available in the west lot of the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center. The public is invited.

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Carver will welcome everyone to the dedication ceremony followed by introductions and remarks. Dr. Nassar Nassar, Savant Learning Systems president and CEO, will also offer remarks after the plaque unveiling. The program will conclude in time for the Skyhawk women's home basketball game with Northwestern University at 2 p.m. in the Elam Center.

The UT Martin Gateway Columns project is part of the UT Martin Campus Master Plan update completed in 2016, which includes seven designated campus entryways. This project represents the second completed entryway and will be the first entryway to be dedicated.

For more information on the UT Martin Gateway Columns or information on becoming a sponsor, contact Dr. Charley Deal at 731-881-7611.

ACT prep course in Jackson

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 2, through the UT Martin Jackson Center, located at 3031 Highway 45 Bypass.

This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college acceptance.

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

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104, or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/actprep.php.
Alissa Parrish honored by UTM

Paris resident Alissa Parrish was honored at an event held in the Hardy M. Graham Stadium Champions Club at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

During UTM's annual promotion, tenure and faculty awards recognition dinner on Oct. 19, Parrish was named a Ray and Wilma Smith Faculty Development Endowment recipient.

The award is given to outstanding faculty members in each of the five UT Martin academic colleges.

The funds can be used for research or the tools needed to assist in teaching in the faculty member's discipline.

Parrish is assistant professor in the university's Department of Nursing.

Columns Dedication a Success at UTM

UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver wasted little time Saturday, in giving credit in two areas for the new campus Gateway Columns.

Dr. Carver first credited former interim Chancellor Dr. Bob Smith, who had the vision of the columns, and Savant Learning Systems CEO Dr. Nassar Nassar, whose financial support made the construction possible.

Dr. Carver then gave thanks to the relationship between the university, city and county, which he said are symbolically joined together by the columns.

During the dedication ceremony, Dr. Carver said the new campus addition represents what "town and gown" truly means, with campus, community, city, businesses and industry working together for a better place to live.

A photo of the dedicated campus columns on Pat Head Summitt Drive has been placed on our website.
Having Fun At UTM Special Needs Prom

Photo: Colby Ross (center), of Gleason, celebrates during Saturday's special needs prom at UT Martin with Rebekah Heidelberg, of Martin, and Richard "Junior" Mewes, of Puryear. This marked the second year for the event.

Martin, Tenn. — Prom season is usually associated with spring, but November proms can be special, too. Just ask those who attended a special needs prom, 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Duncan Ballroom located inside the Boling University Center. Plenty of food, balloons, a stage for photos, music and dancing greeted prom attendees from Weakley, Obion, Lake and Henry counties. This was the event's second year and is sponsored by the university’s Non-Traditional Students Association, multiple campus organizations and area businesses.

The prom even included a visit from Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, and his wife, Hollianne, who wasted little time joining the celebration on the dance floor. The Carvers had attended several Saturday events, but attending the prom proved to be the most special of all. "Wow, it (the prom) was the best event of the day," texted Chancellor Carver later after leaving the event.
UT Martin student Julie Durham, of Dresden, is president of the non-traditional students and the main event organizer. Durham said the idea for the prom came from her organization's members, many of whom are raising children and believed the event was needed. She said last year's prom was intended for mostly high school-age children, but no age limit applied this year. "This is absolutely a chance for them (the children) ... to be who they are without any stigmas or anything like that being applied," she said Saturday.

Organizing and conducting the prom are no small tasks, and Durham and her organization don't go it alone. Approximately 30 student organizations, both Greek and non-Greek, stepped up to support this year's event. Also, area businesses contributed services to make the day special, including Debonair Limousine in Union City, which provided two hours of free limousine service. Styles on Broadway in Martin provided hair and makeup at no charge for 15 of the students and later included haircuts for the guys as part of the prom-support package.

Jonathan Riley's brother Colby Ross is a junior at Westview and has attended the prom both years. Riley lives in Gleason, graduated with a business degree from UT Martin last December and now works at Manpower employment services in Jackson. He recalled last year when Julie Durham asked university Greek organizations for assistance with the prom. Riley, then a student member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, agreed to serve as prom co-director and coordinated Greek organization support while Durham organized the non-Greek groups. "All these kids here, it (the prom) just puts a smile on their face, something that's ... hosted especially for them," he said. "You know, really the focus is them and them having a good time, and that just means the world to them and to us."

Riley returned to campus to attend this year's event and continues to see firsthand what the prom means to Colby and why the event is important. "Yes, he was very excited about it," Riley said of his brother's anticipation of this year's prom. "They even took him to Styles on Broadway, had them fix their hair up and everything today, so it was an all-day treat for them." He noted that even the Tennessee Titans donated cups for the prom and want to do more next year. "The word's getting out there, and I think it's (the prom) going to grow exponentially in years to come," Riley said.

Participation in this year's prom roughly doubled last year's combined number of student and family participants, so the event is reaching more people - just what Julie Durham, Jonathan Riley and others hoped would happen for a special group of children.

Learn more and see photos from the Nov. 18 prom by searching "special prom at UTM" on Facebook.
Santa’s Village Returns to UT-Martin December 7-10

Christmas is coming soon and that means Santa’s Village is too. The 33rd annual event is scheduled for December 7 and 8 from 6-9 p.m.; December 9 from 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. and December 10 from 1-5 p.m. at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The purpose of the event is to provide an inside winter wonderland, which will also help meet the needs of the less fortunate in the area. Admission to the event is free and donations for $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys will be greatly appreciated.

Some features of the event include visits with Santa, petting farm, amusement rides, arts & crafts, enchanted forest with thousands of lights and live entertainment. WLJU’s Clifford, the Big Red Dog, will also be on hand Saturday from 11 – 2 p.m.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors to date include: Casey’s General Store, Simmons Bank, MTD Products and Savant Learning Systems.

For more information contact Martin Parks & Recreation at 587-6784.

UTM’s online MBA program nationally ranked

The UT Martin’s online Master of Business Administration degree program was recently ranked 30th nationally and 10th in the South by OnlineMBA-Report.com. The 38-credit-hour program is offered through the university’s College of Business and Global Affairs and is designed for financial services professionals with at least two years of work experience beyond a bachelor’s degree. The program is available completely online with cohorts starting in both January and May. UTM’s online MBA can be completed in as few as 20 months. OnlineMBAReport.com also ranked the program 10th in the South in 2016 and 27th among national institutions. For more information on the MBA degree program, contact Dr. Ashley Kilburn, professor of marketing and graduate student coordinator for the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs, at 731-881-7245 or email akilburn@utm.edu.
FEEDING THE HUNGRY — University of Tennessee at Martin students volunteered their time Saturday afternoon for a two-hour event serving soup and selling Empty Bowls to community members to help raise money for the food bank of We Care Ministries. The event, now in its 14th year, helped raise more than $7,000 in two hours. It was held in the Fine Arts building on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Giving and crafting for those in need

In only two hours, community members pulled together and raised thousands of dollars to help their fellow neighbors.

The annual Empty Bowls project is locally in its 14th year. David MacBeth, a professor with the University of Tennessee at Martin, helped launch the Empty Bowls project in Weakley County 14 years ago. MacBeth is also a potter and he started turning his future pieces of art into bowls. The event is one large effort by local craftspeople, including students, who mold and shape bowls of different colors to sell to raise money for We Care Ministries and its food bank. Each year, 100 percent of the proceeds benefit We Care’s food bank during the holiday season.

An event is held each year where people make soup and serve it to community members who are shopping for empty bowls. This year’s event was held Saturday in the Fine Arts building on the campus of UTM. In a two-hour block, the event raised more than $7,000. There were approximately 625 bowls created for the day’s event and the day ended with fewer than 25 bowls not sold Saturday.

An “Empty Bowl” has been noted to be a great gift for someone on the shopping list who is difficult to shop for or who has pretty much all they need or want.

A card is given with the purchase of an empty bowl to include with the gift.

“This Empty Bowl given to you is filling the needs of someone less fortunate in our community. It is a piece of wheel-thrown pottery by artist David MacBeth and UTM students; the card reads, ‘The bowl serves as a visible reminder that people go to bed hungry each night,’” according to the card.

The annual fundraiser has helped We Care Ministries be able to purchase a walk-in freezer and cooler as well as build their food bank each year. While the Empty Bowls annual lunch event has successfully passed for the season, Empty Bowls can still be purchased at We Care Ministries, located on North Lindell Street in Martin. Follow the project on Facebook at Empty Bowls Martin Tennessee.
Landy Fuqua selected by Delta Leadership

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is continuing its partnership with Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) to offer an advanced education opportunity exclusively to members of the Delta Leadership Network. The program, designed and led by Harvard faculty, focuses on cultivating “authentic leadership” to move Delta communities forward. The Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) will send 41 representatives from across the eight states of the DRA footprint, including Landy Fuqua of Martin, Tennessee.

This year’s four day-session, from Nov. 27-30, will be led by retired Air Force Brigadier General Dana Born, co-director of the Center for Public Leadership at HKS.

“This executive training will equip regional leaders across the Delta with the latest advancements in leadership skills and will prepare them to make positive changes in their local communities,” said Peter Kinder, DRA’s alternate federal co-chairman.

“These participants are alumni of the Delta Leadership Institute’s Executive Academy and were selected due to the leadership they have exemplified in their communities and their ability to translate these experiences to actionable solutions for the region.”

The class includes six members from Alabama; seven from Arkansas; six from Illinois; two from Kentucky; four from Louisiana; four from Mississippi; six from Missouri; and six from Tennessee. The group reflects the diversity of the Delta region and includes public, private, and non-profit leaders that have graduated from the DLI’s Executive Academy. Chairman Kinder, DLI director Spencer Lucker, and select DLI staff will participate with the delegation of Delta leaders in the continuing education session.

“I am so excited and humbled to be selected to participate in this exclusive leadership training at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. The Delta Regional Authority is committed to enhancing leadership skills and abilities of its members by developing a greater understanding of the issues and challenges of our region so that we may better serve our communities. I appreciate the investment that the Delta Regional Authority has bestowed in me.” Fuqua said.

About the Delta Regional Authority and the Delta Leadership Institute

The DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities, and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development and infrastructure projects in 252 counties and parishes across eight states. DRA has provided leadership development to nearly 500 community leaders over twelve years and strengthened regional collaboration through the Delta Leadership Institute. Learn more at dra.gov/leadership.

About Harvard Kennedy School

Harvard Kennedy School aims to improve public policy and public leadership in the United States and around the world through research, teaching, and direct engagement with policymakers and public leaders. Nearly 20,000 alumni of the School’s degree programs and 44,000 people who have taken executive education courses at the School work in more than 200 countries. In addition, faculty, staff, and students of the School are currently undertaking projects to advance knowledge and strengthen public policy and leadership in dozens of countries. Around the world, the skills and energy of the Harvard Kennedy School community are dedicated to helping make people’s lives safer, more prosperous, and more fulfilling.
Don't miss Santa’s Village in Martin, Dec. 7-10

Christmas is coming soon and that means Santa’s Village is too. The 33rd annual event is scheduled for Dec. 7 and 8 from 6 to 9 p.m.; Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The purpose of the event is to provide an inside winter wonderland, which will also help meet the needs of the less fortunate in the area. Admission to the event is free and donations for $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys will be greatly appreciated.

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Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors to date include: Casey’s General Store, Simmons Bank, MTD Products and Savant Learning Systems.

For more information contact Martin Parks and Recreation at 587-6784 or visit on Facebook or the Internet.
BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS — Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education at UT Martin, engaged all attending the Nov. 15 Kiwanis meeting when he gave a presentation entitled “Why You Do What You Do: What Is Behavior Analysis?” A board-certified behavior analyst (doctoral level), Smith recently earned tenure at UT Martin and was promoted to associate professor of special education. Among many other points in his informative talk, Smith defined be term “behavior;” discussed factors shaping behavior; and highlighted how reinforcement is one practice used across many areas. He explained that there is always a reason for behavior, including the four basic functions that focus on sensory experience (wanting to feel something), escape (wanting to get out of something), attention (wanting to be noticed), and tangible results (wanting something specific). Pictured with Clinton are fellow Kiwanians Danelle Fabianich, assistant athletics director for academics and student-athlete services, and Mary Elizabeth Bell, retired teacher.

GIFT IDEA: LSA Holiday Art Bazaar at UTM

The League of Striving Artists and the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will present the fourth annual Holiday Art Bazaar Dec. 7-9 in the Fine Arts Building Gallery. The LSA Holiday Art Bazaar is a way for students, faculty and community members to come together in a local event to support the art in the area.

The Bazaar began in 2014 as a fundraising event for The League of Striving Artists. LSA is the student art organization at UT Martin, and actively works both on campus and locally to promote the development of artists through academics, community, service learning and leadership. In the past three years, LSA has partnered with the local communities of Martin, Dresden, Greenfield, Union City, South Fulton, Bradford and Sharon in a wide array of public art projects, workshops and events.

Works in the LSA bazaar are created by students, faculty and alumni of the University. This year’s bazaar will feature the work of around 30 artists. Work will include pottery and various types of handmade ceramic items, hand-knit and crocheted items, paintings, handmade candles, drawings, hand-blown glass Christmas ornaments, woodburned home decor, handmade books, and much more. Many of the items in the bazaar make excellent gifts for family and friends — just in time for the holidays! Proceeds from the event will go to benefit The League of Striving Artists to aid in funding its service events, projects, workshops and art-related activities throughout the year.

The bazaar will be open to the public in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building Gallery from 7 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 8, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 9. Support the Arts (STARTS) contributors will join students and faculty for an early “insider” opening of the event on Dec. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m.

For questions or more information about the Bazaar or The League of Striving Artists, contact Jason Stout, associate professor of art, at 731-881-3402 or by email at jsout@utm.edu, or Karen Johnson at the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400 or by email at kjohnson@utm.edu.
UT Martin Gateway Columns completed and dedicated

The University of Tennessee at Martin dedicated its first donor-supported Gateway Columns entryway Saturday near the completed columns that stand at the end of Pat Head Summit Drive next to Skyhawk Parkway.

University and local elected officials, university and city Town & Gown Association members, Skyhawk athletic teams and cheer squad members, and Captain Skyhawk were among those who honored Dr. Nassar Nassar and Savant Learning Systems Inc. for supporting the columns.

Nassar is president and CEO of the educational services company headquartered in Martin. The Gateway Columns project is part of the university’s campus master plan update completed in 2016, which includes seven designated campus entryways.

This project represents the second completed entryway and is the first entryway to be dedicated.

“When you think about the reason we’re here today, it’s really about two sets of relationships,” said Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, after he welcomed dedication attendees that included both Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum.

He first highlighted the relationship between Nassar and Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, who came in June 2015 to lead the university in an interim role.

“Bob came back to Martin and hit the campus running and really did a lot for us... and Bob was the right person at the right time,” he said. “And in similar fashion, Nassar has been that (a leader) for the Martin community and for Weakley County... He’s created lots of jobs, has absolutely transformed downtown Martin, and has developed a company and a series of products that are transforming education, not just in Tennessee, not just in this region, but all across the United States and the world.”

Carver credited Smith with the columns entryway idea and for working with Nassar and Savant to make the gift possible. He then noted the second relationship that exists between the university and the city and county, which are joined together symbolically by the columns.

“And what... this entryway does, is it removes a fence, it removes a barrier, and it provides an easy path for students to interact with businesses and with the community, and it makes the campus open and a friendly place for our community to interact with our campus, our faculty and staff.” Carver said. “And it’s seamless, and I think for me it really represents what town-gown truly means, and that’s a campus, a community, a city, businesses, industry working together to make this place a better place.”

Carver welcomed Nassar to the podium, who agreed with the significance of the columns for both the university and the community.

“I’m very proud to be a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin,” he said. “I’m definitely proud to be the CEO and president of Savant Learning Systems... I’m also very proud to be a part of the team that is ‘Town and Gown. The efforts of those folks and definitely a vision of Bob Smith to create something that brings us together, that’s exactly what we see in those columns.”

After concluding his remarks, Nassar invited his daughter, Summar Nassar, a 13-year-old UT Martin psychology major, to offer final comments before the columns plaque was unveiled.

“This university, the University of Tennessee at Martin, it’s what brought my father to Tennessee and to Martin,” she said. “And the kindness of the wonderful people in this community is what’s kept him here to establish Savant Learning Systems... Now I see those columns... as a symbol of UT Martin bringing my father and many others to learn and prosper in Martin, and the community who welcomed him and our family here and has made this into a great home for us. “Now I’m confident that UT Martin will continue to provide an outstanding education to many in my generation, as well as the generations to come, and produce productive citizens that will hopefully stay here and help contribute to our expanding, positive community,” she added.

For more information on the UT Martin Gateway Columns or Information on becoming a sponsor, contact Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations, at 731-881-7611.
The Collegiate National Association for Music Education (CNAfME) at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa next Saturday.

The family-friendly event will be held from 9 a.m. – noon and will offer traditional breakfast foods such as pancakes, bacon and eggs. A silent auction will be held throughout the morning.

Additionally, members of the UTM Music Department will be performing Christmas tunes for guests.

Proceeds from the event will go to Operation Christmas Child.

The breakfast will be held at the Wesley Foundation at 312 Lovelace Ave. Admission is $10 or $5 with the donation of a small toy or school supplies.

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. At the collegiate level, members work to prepare themselves to become outstanding music educators through meetings, workshops and activities.

For more information, call 901-371-1427.
HOLIDAY BAZAAR — The University of Tennessee at Martin's League of Striving Artists will host its fourth-annual holiday art bazaar Dec. 7-9 in the Fine Arts Building Gallery on the university's main campus. The gallery will be open from 6-8 p.m., Dec. 7; 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Dec. 8; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 9. The bazaar will feature handmade holiday cards, scarves and wraps, ceramics and glass ornaments, original paintings and more, all created by UT Martin art students, faculty and alumni.

The UT Martin League of Striving Artists includes students with backgrounds in studio art, graphic design and art education, as well as non-art majors who enjoy creating work. The organization is active to promote the development of artists through academics, community-service learning and leadership, both on campus and in the surrounding community. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Special needs prom hosts area students

Prom season is usually associated with spring, but November proms can be special, too. Just ask those who attended a special needs prom, 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Duncan Ballroom located inside the Boling University Center.

Plenty of food, balloons, a stage for photos, music and dancing greeted prom attendees from Weakley, Obion, Lake and Henry counties. This was the event's second year and is sponsored by the university's Non-Traditional Students Association, multiple campus organizations and area businesses.

The prom even included a visit from Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, and his wife, Hollianne, who wasted little time joining the celebration on the dance floor. The Carvers had attended several Saturday events, but attending the prom proved to be the most special of all. "Wow, it (the prom) was the best event of the day," texted Chancellor Carver later after leaving the event.

UT Martin student Julie Durham, of Dresden, is president of the non-traditional students and the main event organizer. Durham said the idea for the prom came from her organization's members, many of whom are raising children and believed the event was needed. She said last year's prom was intended for mostly high school-age children, but no age limit applied this year.

"This is absolutely a chance for them (the children) ... to be who they are without any stigmas or anything like that being applied," she said Saturday.

Organizing and conducting the prom are no small tasks, and Durham and her organization don't go it alone. Approximately 30 student organizations, both Greek and non-Greek, stepped up to support this year's event. Also, area businesses contributed services to make the day special, including Debonair Limousine in Union City, which provided two hours of free limousine service.

Styles on Broadway in Martin provided hair and makeup at no charge for 15 of the students and later included haircuts for the guys as part of the prom support package. Jonathan Riley's brother Colby Ross is a junior at Westview and has attended the prom both years.

Riley lives in Gleason, graduated with a business degree from UT Martin last December and now works at Manpower employment services in Jackson.

He recalled last year when Julie Durham asked university Greek organization for assistance with the prom.

Riley, then a student member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, agreed to serve as prom co-director and coordinated Greek organization support while Durham organized the non-Greek groups.

"All these kids here, it (the prom) just puts a smile on their face, something that's ... hosted especially for them," he said. "You know, really the focus is them and them having a good time, and that just means the world to them and to us."

Riley returned to campus to attend this year's event and continues to see firsthand what the prom means to Colby and why the event is important. "Yes, he was very excited about it," Riley said of his brother's anticipation of this year's prom.

"They even took him to Styles on Broadway, had them fix their hair up and everything today, so it was an all-day treat for them." He noted that even the Tennessee Titans donated cups for the prom and want to do more next year. "The world's getting out there, and I think it's (the prom) going to grow exponentially in years to come," Riley said.

Participation in this year's prom roughly doubled last year's combined number of student and family participants, so the event is reaching more people - just what Julie Durham, Jonathan Riley and others hoped would happen for a special group of children.

Learn more and see photos from the Nov. 18 prom by searching "special prom at UTM" on Facebook.

MAGIC IN THE AIR - Tiffany and Matthew Gill take advantage of the magical atmosphere created for guests to the second annual special needs prom hosted by the UT Martin campus Saturday evening.

SEE PROM PAGE 16
BE FABULOUS - The team at Syles on Broadway in downtown Martin donated their time and skills Saturday fixing hair and makeup for the participants of the second annual special needs prom held on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

A PRECIOUS BOND - Special needs prom organizer Julie Durham shows the love for prom guest Rhett during Saturday evening's event.
GROUP HUG - Derek Westview CDC teacher Debbie Carden and Autumn share a group hug on the dance floor during the special needs prom held Saturday on the campus of UT Martin.

FEELING THE LOVE - Cannon Cherry and Shannon Roberts pose for the camera during the special needs prom held Saturday evening on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.
MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE - UT Martin senior Cherquala Cole and Jason Shell partner for a dance that puts a smile on their faces during the special needs prom held Saturday on the campus of UT Martin.
CUTTIN’ A RUG - Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and his wife Hollianne, join the line dancing at the second annual special needs prom held Saturday evening. Dr. Carver said it was one of the best events of the day.
One-day ACT prep course to be offered at UT Martin

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

High School students looking to improve their scores can register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m. to noon Dec. 9 on the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years. This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college acceptance.

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

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/actprep.php.

Music department to host performances next week

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Music will continue its fall concert season with performances by the University and Community Orchestra, the UT Martin Contemporary Music Group and the UT Martin Concert Band and Wind Ensemble in the coming weeks.

The UT Martin University and Community Orchestra will host their fall concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Fulton Theater, located inside UT Martin's Fine Arts Building.

The orchestra performs one concert per semester and includes student musicians, faculty, staff and local community members. The group also assists in the annual All-West Orchestra Audition Prep Day and in reaching out to public school string players across West Tennessee.

For more information, contact Dr. Angela Ammerman, assistant professor of music, by email at aammerm1@utm.edu.

The UT Martin Contemporary Music Group will perform at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29 in the Blankenship Recital Hall, also located inside the Fine Arts Building. The concert features the electroacoustic music of guest composer John Supko.

Supko's work explores intersection: chance and intentions; traditional music notation and real-time score generation; sound and spoken text; installation and performance; and human and computer creativity.

The concert also incorporates works by Christopher Adler, Fjóla Evans and Stephen Downing.

For more information, contact Stephen Downing, student artistic director, by email at stedown@ut.utm.edu.

Holiday bazaar at UTM to offer handmade gifts

The University of Tennessee at Martin's League of Striving Artists will host its fourth annual holiday art bazaar Dec. 7-9 in the Fine Arts Building Gallery on the university's main campus.

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Online MBA earns national ranking

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The 38-credit-hour program is offered through the university’s College of Business and Global Affairs and is designed for financial services professionals with at least two years of work experience beyond a bachelor’s degree. The program is available completely online with cohorts starting in both January and May.

UT Martin’s online MBA can be completed in as few as 20 months.

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TEACHER VISIT — Tomi Parrish, a communications professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin, came to visit Sherri Langford's ninth-grade English class at Fulton City High School recently. She spoke to the students about the importance of writing and becoming a better writer, as well as careers in communications. The communications professor brought copies of The Pacer, the student newspaper at UT Martin, for all of the students to read.

STUDENTS ATTEND SUMMIT — Local students Carly Bramlett (second from left and continuing from left), Megan Kizer, Dawson Searcy and J.P. Jones attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s RisingStar Leadership Summit recently on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two-day summit is designed for high school students who demonstrate leadership potential. Miss Bramlett and Jones are students at Obion County Central High School, while Miss Kizer and Searcy attend Union City High School. The four local students were joined at the event by Dr. Charley Deal (far left), WestStar executive director, and Jordan Jones (far right), WestStar administrative assistant.
Special needs prom hosts area students

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The prom even included a visit from Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, and his wife, Hollianne, who wasted little time joining the celebration on the dance floor. The Carvers had attended several Saturday events, but attending the prom proved to be the most special of all.

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Learn more and see photos from Saturday afternoon’s prom by searching “special prom at UTM” on Facebook.
A SPECIAL NIGHT — Colby Ross (center) of Gleason celebrated during Saturday’s special needs prom at the University of Tennessee at Martin with Rebekah Heidelberg of Martin and Richard “Junior” Mewes of Puryear. This marked the second year for the event, which has sponsorship from organizations and businesses.
**Gateway Columns dedicated in ceremony at UT Martin**

The University of Tennessee at Martin dedicated its first donor-supported Gateway Columns entryway Saturday near the completed columns that stand at the end of Pat Head Summitt Drive next to Skyhawk Parkway.

University and local elected officials, university and city Town & Gown Association members, Skyhawk athletic teams and cheer squad members and Captain Skyhawk were among those who honored Dr. Nassar Nassar and Savant Learning Systems Inc. for supporting the columns.

Nassar is president and CEO of the educational services company headquartered in Martin.

The Gateway Columns project is part of the university’s campus master plan update completed in 2016, which includes seven designated campus entryways. This project represents the second completed entryway and is the first entryway to be dedicated.

"When you think about the reason we’re here today, it’s really about two sets of relationships," said Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, after he welcomed dedication attendees that included both Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum. He first highlighted the relationship between Nassar and Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, who came in June 2015 to lead the university in an interim role.

"Bob came back to Martin and hit the campus running and really did a lot for us ... and Bob was the right person at the right time," he said. "And in similar fashion, Nassar has been that (a leader) for the Martin community and for Weakley County. ... He’s created lots of jobs, has absolutely transformed downtown Martin, and has developed a company and a series of products that are transforming education, not just in Tennessee, not just in this region, but all across the United States and the world."

Carver credited Smith with the columns entryway idea and for working with Nassar and Savant to make the gift possible. He then noted the second relationship that exists between the university and the city and county, which are joined together symbolically by the columns.

"And what ... this entryway does, is it removes a fence, it removes a barrier and it provides an easy path for students to interact with businesses and with the community, and it makes the campus open and a friendly place for our community to interact with our campus, our faculty and staff," Carver said. "And it’s seamless, and I think for me it really represents what town-gown truly means, and that’s a campus, a community, a city, businesses, industry working together to make this place a better place."

Carver welcomed Nassar to the podium, who agreed with the significance of the columns for both the university and the community.

"I’m very proud to be a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin," he said. "I’m definitely proud to be the CEO and president of Savant Learning Systems. ... "I’m also very proud to be a part of the team that is ‘Town and Gown.’ The efforts of those folks and definitely a vision of Bob Smith to create something that brings us together, that’s exactly what we see in those columns."

After concluding his remarks, Nassar invited his daughter, Summar Nassar, a 19-year-old UT Martin psychology major, to offer final comments before the columns plaque was unveiled.

"This university, the University of Tennessee at Martin, it’s what brought my father to Tennessee and to Martin," she said. "And the kindness of the wonderful people in this community is what’s kept him here to establish Savant Learning Systems. ... Now I see those columns ... as a symbol of UTM bringing my father and many others to learn and prosper in Martin and the community who welcomed him and our family here and has made this into a great home for us."

"Now I’m confident that UTM will continue to provide an outstanding education to many in my generation, as well as the generations to come, and produce productive citizens that will hopefully stay here and help contribute to our expanding, positive community," she added.

For more information on the UT Martin Gateway Columns or information on becoming a sponsor, contact Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin associate vice chancellor for alumni relations, at (731) 881-7611.
ACT prep courses offered

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High School students looking to improve their scores can register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 9, on the UT Martin's main campus.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, has taught ACT prep classes for more than 20 years. This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college accept ance.

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

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/actprep.php.
Superior Chapter

Officers of the Financial Management Association accept a plaque in recognition for earning the “Superior Chapter” designation for the 2016-17 academic year. To earn the designation, which was achieved by just 20 chapters in the world, the members had to complete eight tasks, including having more than eight speaker meetings during the year, conducting two field trips to local businesses, sending representatives to the FMA Student Leadership Conference in New York City, having members earn FMA National Honor Society recognition, and more. Members of the chapter are (from left) Ty Smith of Selmer – FMA secretary and a junior finance major; Alison Brown of Pinson – FMA vice president and a senior management major; Dr. Ty Perry – assistant professor of finance and FMA faculty adviser; Wyatt Jones of Fairview – FMA president and a senior finance major; Hunter Knight of Henderson – FMA treasurer and a senior economics major; and Dr. Ross Dickens – professor of finance, dean of the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs and FMA student chapter committee chair.
YOUNG WRITER’S WORKSHOP - Students from Humboldt Jr./Sr. High School attended the Young Writer’s Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students participating are (front row, from left) Ryan Thomas (teacher), Brennan Forbes, Isha Taylor, Raghan Mullins and Lacie Burton; (back row) Courtney Hutchison, Alicia Champion, Elizabeth Hicks, Kianna Clark, Nigeria Walker and Emily Nilsson.

HJSHS students attend writer’s conference

Several students from Humboldt Jr./Sr. High School attended the annual Young Writer’s Conference hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. The students arrived at the Boling University Center on the UTM campus where they able to attend a variety of workshops that focused on improving the craft of writing through several mediums. Students were able to choose from such genres as fiction, poetry, journalism and travel writing where they gathered with other students from around the area to collaborate and create original work during the workshops.

“I have enjoyed this event every year we have attended and each year it seems to get better,” Ryan Thomas, teacher at HJSHS said. “The experience, I believe, is so very beneficial to the students both as a way to interact with like-minded peers from other schools and as a way to explore and improve their writing skills.”
By Crystal Burns

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver visited Peabody High School seniors last recently to encourage them in the college application process.

Carver, whose daughter was visiting schools when Carver was hired as chancellor, said he seems himself as the "chief parent" at UT Martin. He wants students to have a safe campus, great faculty, advisors that help them graduate on time, and majors that meet the workplace demands of the area.

UT Martin has a current enrollment of 6,800 students, and while many hail from West Tennessee, 56 of the state's 95 counties are accounted for, and other states are well represented, Carver said. The university also enrolls students from 21 countries.

It is the smallest public school in the state with an average class size of 23.

"Your faculty gets to know you," Carver said. "We're small enough to give you individual attention."

Destin Tucker, director of admissions, said the university also takes pride in giving students a world of experience and opportunities.

"We have students getting out and seeing the world," she said. "We have so many things to offer."

ACT prep course offered Dec. 9

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students looking to improve their scores can register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m. to noon on the University of Tennessee at Martin's main campus.

This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college acceptance.

The registration fee for this course is $45 per person. For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104 or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/actprep.php.
Santa's Village To Celebrate 33rd Season

Christmas is coming soon and that means Santa's Village is too. The 33rd annual event is scheduled for December 7 & 8 from 6-9 p.m.; December 9 from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. and December 10 from 1-5 p.m. at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The purpose of the event is to provide an inside winter wonderland, which will also help meet the needs of the less fortunate in the area.

Admission to the event is free and donations for $5 worth of nonperishable food and/or toys will be greatly appreciated.

Some features of the event are visits with Santa, petting farm animals, amusement rides, arts & crafts, enchanted forest with thousands of lights and live entertainment. WLJ&T’s Clifford, the Big Red Dog, will also be on hand Saturday from 11 – 2 pm.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors to date include: Casey’s General Store, Simmons Bank, MTD Products and Savant Learning Systems.

For more information contact Martin Parks & Recreation at 587-6784.

A youngster reaches out to a reindeer on display at last year's Santa's Village.
LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT UTM – Several students from Gibson County attended the WestStar Leadership Program's seventh annual FutureStar Summit, October 26, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit brings together seventh and eighth graders from around West Tennessee to help the students understand the personal value of an education and to encourage them to possibly attend college. The children attend free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from the individual child's county of residence. Pictured are (front row, from left) Claire Burkeen, Kie'a Boyce, Hunter Sanderson and Haley Butler; (back row) Tristan Jobe, Ashley Young, Matthew Stroud and Caleb Todd. Burkeen attends Spring Hill Elementary; Sanderson and Butler attend Rutherford Elementary; Jobe and Todd attend Yorkville Elementary; and Boyce and Stroud attend Milan Middle School. Contact Jordan Jones in the WestStar Leadership Program office at 731-881-3298 to learn about next year's FutureStar Summit and to express interest in participating.
Special needs prom at UTM a chance ‘to be who they are’

MARTIN — Prom season is usually associated with spring, but a group of students in the area around UT Martin attended one this past weekend.

UTM’s Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center was the site of the second annual special needs prom, hosted by the school’s Non-Traditional Students Association along with other campus organizations and local businesses in Martin.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and his wife, Hollianne, attended the event.

UT Martin student Julie Durham, of Dresden, is president of the non-traditional students and the main event organizer. Durham said the idea for the prom came from her organization’s members, many of whom are raising children and believed the event was needed.

She said last year’s prom was intended for mostly high school-age children, but no age limit applied this year.

“...This is absolutely a chance for them (the children) ... to be who they are without any stigmas or anything like that being applied,” Durham said.

About 30 student organizations, both Greek and non-Greek, chipped in to support this year’s event. Also, area businesses contributed services to make the day special, including Debonair Limousine in Union City, which provided two hours of free limousine service. Styles on Broadway in Martin provided hair and makeup at no charge for 15 of the students and later included haircuts for the guys as part of the prom-support package.

Jonathan Riley’s brother Colby Ross is a junior at Westview and has attended the prom both years. Riley lives in Gleason, graduated with a business degree from UT Martin last December and now works at Manpower employment services in Jackson.
He recalled last year when Julie Durham asked university Greek organizations for assistance with the prom. Riley, then a student member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, agreed to serve as prom co-director and coordinated Greek organization support while Durham organized the non-Greek groups.

"All these kids here, it (the prom) just puts a smile on their face, something that's ... hosted especially for them," he said. "You know, really the focus is them and them having a good time, and that just means the world to them and to us."

Riley returned to campus to attend this year's event and continues to see firsthand what the prom means to Colby and why the event is important.

"Yes, he was very excited about it," Riley said of his brother's anticipation of this year's prom. "They even took him to Styles on Broadway, had them fix their hair up and everything today, so it was an all-day treat for them."

The Tennessee Titans football franchise in Nashville donated cups for the prom and want to do more next year.

"The word's getting out there, and I think it's going to grow exponentially in years to come," Riley said.

Participation in this year's prom roughly doubled last year's combined number of student and family participants.

ACT prep course in Jackson

ACT scores are extremely important when it comes to applying for college and scholarships. High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 2, through the UT Martin Jackson Center, located at 3031 Highway 45 Bypass.

This one-day workshop will include tips on how students can improve their performance and boost their scores to increase their chances of top-college acceptance.

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

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7104, or visit the course website at utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/actprep.php.
Santa Claus is coming to Martin

Santa Claus is coming to Martin, and whether you’re on the Naughty or Nice list, young or old, everyone’s invited. Santa will make his annual appearance during the 33rd annual Santa’s Village celebration, Dec. 7-10, in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Walk through a winter wonderland, meet animals at Hooker Farms petting zoo, view the MTD model train and ride Pope’s amusement rides for no extra charge. There will also be live entertainment, and you may even see Clifford the Big Red Dog.

Admission to the annual event is free, but patrons are encouraged to bring a donation of nonperishable food and/or toys, worth at least $5, to benefit less fortunate residents.

- Doors will be open from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 7-8; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 9; and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 10.
- Clifford the Big Red Dog will stop by from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9.

More than 17,000 visitors participated in the 32nd annual event in 2016, and Santa’s elves hope to exceed that number this year.

For more information on Santa’s Village, contact the City of Martin’s Office of Parks and Recreation at (731) 587-6784.
Mehlhorn is UTM's featured faculty scholar for fall semester

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, center, is chair holder for the Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources. He has been recognized as the Featured Faculty Scholar for the 2017 fall semester. RAFFE LAZARIAN/UTM MEDIA RELATIONS

Contributed

MARTIN — Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, chair holder for the Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources, is the Featured Faculty Scholar for the 2017 fall semester. Mehlhorn also serves as graduate program coordinator in agriculture and natural resources, director of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences and is professor of agricultural economics. A reception was held in his honor Nov. 16 in the Paul Meek Library.

The Featured Faculty Scholar Award began in the 1996-97 academic year and recognizes faculty whose research and creative works are chosen to be among the most prestigious of those produced by individuals at UT Martin.

Dr. Rich Helgeson, the university's interim provost, has known Mehlhorn since 2003 when he (Mehlhorn) first arrived at the university. "The thing that I’ve always noticed about Joey every time I’ve seen him … is he’s like a magnet for students," Helgeson said. "He’s really good with students."

Mehlhorn expressed gratitude for the recognition and credits those around him for his success. "I am especially thankful to all of my colleagues and students who have helped me develop research ideas and turning those ideas into published works," Mehlhorn said in an email statement. "I owe all of my success to the fact that I work with great people who are always willing to help me."

Mehlhorn received his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University and his master's and doctoral degrees from Mississippi State University, all in agricultural economics. His scholarly interests include agribusiness management, experiential learning, online teaching methods and farm management.

Selections of Mehlhorn's professional work are on display in the university's Paul Meek Library and open to the public for viewing. His name will also be added to a plaque permanently displayed in the library.
UTM dean named fellow at Food Systems Leadership Institute

From Staff Reports
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

MARTIN — Dr. Todd Winters, professor of animal science and dean of the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, has been accepted as a fellow in the Food Systems Leadership Institute for fall 2017.

The FSLI is an executive leadership development program for academia, industry and government. The institute is a program of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, with the initial funding provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Winters began his current dean's position on July 1, 2013, after serving as a faculty member and administrator at Southern Illinois University. He was raised on a dairy farm in Washington state and was active in 4-H and FFA.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Washington State University, a master's degree from Purdue University and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. He served two terms on the board of directors for the Nonland-grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities and served as NARRU president in 2015-16. Winters is a 2017 graduate of UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program.

The institute enhances personal and professional development by emphasizing leadership competencies, skills for organizational change and a broad, interdisciplinary perspective of food systems. The FSLI experience prepares scholars for upper-level leadership roles in food-system programs and to assume broader leadership responsibilities within their organizations.

During the FSLI program, scholars work with expert instructors, leadership development coaches and an upper-level mentor to help increase their leadership abilities. They meet with university, political and industry leaders and others who have advanced to the highest leadership levels. Leadership theory is combined with practical experience, often in the context of food systems and higher education.

The first year of the two-year program includes intensive executive education-style residential learning sessions at three university locations. Scholars perform assessments to increase self-awareness of their leadership style, and the results are used to develop and implement a personal-development plan, prepared with the assistance of a professional coach. Interactive distance learning is used between residential sessions.

During the second year, participants apply what they have learned to develop and execute an individual leadership project.

ACT prep course in Jackson

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, through the UT Martin Jackson Center, located at 3031 Highway 45 Bypass.

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Three cadets earn gold level proficiency badges

Three cadets from the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Battalion earned the gold-level German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge during competition held in late October at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio.

Cadets William Thralls of Union City, Glenndon Adams of Clarksville and Robert Mehlhorn, of Martin, earned the gold-level badges.

The proficiency badge is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, and is a foreign award approved for wear on the United States Army uniform.

ROTC cadets and U.S. Army soldiers must meet criteria in the following categories to qualify for the badge: an evaluation report, first aid course, nuclear, biological and chemical test, basic fitness test that includes three events, marksmanship skills, foot march and a 100-meter swim.

An ROTC unit was first established at UT Martin in 1952, followed by the start of a four-year ROTC program in 1964. The military science program, of which ROTC is a part, includes cadets from Lane College and Union University in Jackson and Murray State University in Murray, Ky.

For more information on the military science program or the Skyhawk ROTC Battalion, contact the Department of Military Science and Leadership at 731-881-7682 or by email at armyrotc@utm.edu.

EARN BADGES — UT Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion cadets (from left) William Thralls of Union City, Glenndon Adams of Clarksville and Robert Mehlhorn of Martin earned gold-level German Armed Forces Proficiency Badges during competition held in late October at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio.
University of Tennessee at Martin
Service Awards

30 YEARS — (l-r) Sarae Seratt, Dr. Jerald Ogg and Judy Jones, all of Martin, were honored Nov. 7 for 30 or more years of individual service to the University of Tennessee at Martin. Seratt is with the Office of Alumni Relations and has served 40 years with the university; Ogg is with the Department of Communications and has served 30 years; and Jones is with the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages and has served 45 years.

25 YEARS — The following local residents were honored Nov. 7 for 25 years of service to the University of Tennessee at Martin: (front row, l-r) Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; Harold Cochran, Department of Communications; Dr. David McDonough, Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Charley Deal, Office of Alumni Relations; (back row) Derry Rogers, building services; Edie Gibson, Office of the Chancellor; Donna Butler, Information Technology Services; David McBeth, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts; Mary Ann Rea, Paul Meek Library; and Dr. Robert Nannen, Department of Communications. Not pictured are Roger Elmore, telecommunications; and Jeanna Curtis-Swafford, Office of University Development. All honorees are from Martin except Cochran, who is from Troy; Nannen, who is from Dresden; and Curtis-Swafford, who is from South Fulton.

Santa’s Village to open Dec. 7 on campus

Santa will make his annual appearance in Martin during the 33rd annual Santa’s Village event Dec. 7-10 in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The doors will be open from 6-9 p.m., Dec. 7-8; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 9; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 10. Admission to the annual event is free, but patrons are encouraged to bring a donation of non-perishable food and/or toys worth at least $5 to benefit the less fortunate residents of the local area.

More than 17,000 visitors participated in the 32nd annual event in 2016, and event sponsors hope to exceed that number this year. Village visitors will be able to walk through a winter wonderland, meet animals at the Hooker Farms petting zoo, view the MTD model train and ride Pope’s amusement rides for no extra charge.

The event will also feature live entertainment, and Clifford the Big Red Dog will stop by from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec. 9, presented by WLJT-TV. Co-sponsors for the event include the city of Martin, UT Martin, Casey’s General Store, Simmons Bank, MTD Products and Savant Learning Systems.

For more information on Santa’s Village, contact the city of Martin’s Office of Parks and Recreation at 731-587-6784.
WALDEN RETIRES — Deborah Walden (center) retired from the University of Tennessee at Martin earlier this year and was honored Nov. 7 for her service during a ceremony honoring university service. She is pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver (left) and Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT System president. Retirees recognized but not pictured were Tarica Coble, of Milan, Department of Educational Studies; Charlene Lovett, Department of Public Safety; Evangel Trice, building services; and Lisha Tuck, Office of University Advancement. All honorees are Martin residents unless otherwise noted.

20 YEARS — The following local residents were honored Nov. 7 for 20 years of service to the University of Tennessee at Martin: (front row, l-r) Dr. Eric Pelren, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; Debbie Hunter, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Staci Fuqua, Department of Educational Studies; Dr. Linda Husmann, Department of Biological Sciences; (back row) Dr. Darrell Ray, Department of Biological Sciences; John Luthi, Office of Intercollegiate Athletics - rodeo; Rodney Freed, Department of Communications; and Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. Not pictured are Barbara Charlton and Shannon Null, both with Information Technology Services; and Dr. Jozsef Devenyi, Department of Chemistry and Physics. All honorees are from Martin except Charlton, who is from Milan, and Null, who is from Mayfield, Kentucky.
Melhorn named Featured Faculty Scholar for fall semester

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Mehlhorn expressed gratitude for the recognition and credits those around him for his success. "I am especially thankful to all of my colleagues and students who have helped me develop research ideas and turning those ideas into published works," Mehlhorn said in an email statement. "I owe all of my success to the fact that I work with great people who are always willing to help me."

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BANKERS LUNCHEON — The Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking at the University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed guest panelists Lee Moss (left), chairman of the Tennessee Bankers Association; Dr. Keith Carver (center), UT Martin chancellor; and Colbin Barrett (second from right), president of the Tennessee Bankers Association, to campus Nov. 8, for a Bankers Luncheon and Discussion. Also in attendance were Dr. Nick Dunagan (second from left), university chancellor emeritus, and John Clark (right), interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.
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The FSLI is dedicated to advancing and strengthening food systems by preparing a set of new leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to invent and reinvent the food systems of the future. North Carolina State University is the host site with The Ohio State University and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, being residential sites responsible for program implementation. Additional information is available at fsli.org.
The University of Tennessee-Martin has honored a late student with the naming of a classroom.

Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver was on hand with the family of Philip "Trey" Lindsey to dedicate the classroom in Brehm Hall in his memory.

Trey was a 2010 graduate of South Side High School, who studied wildlife biology at UT-Martin and earned his degree in 2016.

During that year, he accepted a two-month summer internship as a research technician for the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in the Pheasant Research Project.

While being treated at a hospital in Nebraska for swelling in his leg, a blood clot sent Lindsey into cardiac arrest, and he could not be revived.

Lindsey served as vice-president of the UT-Martin Wildlife Society, and following his passing, the Philip "Trey" Lindsey Scholarship Endowment was also established for juniors and seniors studying wildlife biology.
UTM Classroom Dedicated To Student Who Passed Away

November 29, 2017 at 8:28 AM • Posted by Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin has dedicated a classroom in memory of a student who passed away. Family and friends gathered for a ceremony to officially name the Phillip Trey Lindsey Classroom in the university’s Brehm Hall brought together many of the people who meant the most to a special young man.

Trey was the son of John and Lisa Lindsey of Jackson and a 2010 graduate of South Side High School. After studying wildlife biology at UT Martin and earning his degree in May 2016, Lindsey accepted a two-month summer internship position as a research technician for the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit – Southwest Nebraska Pheasant Research Project. While being treated at a local hospital for swelling in his leg, a blood clot sent Trey into cardiac arrest. Medical personnel were unable to revive him.

Trey served as vice president of the UT Martin Wildlife Society and was dedicated to the expansion and promotion of the organization. The Phillip “Trey” Lindsey Scholarship Endowment was established following his death in July 2016 and will be used to support the academic pursuits of eligible juniors and seniors studying wildlife biology at the university. South Side High School graduates will be given preference during the scholarship selection process. Now, the Phillip Trey Lindsey Classroom will add to his legacy.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, opened the dedication event and reminded those attending that colleges and universities are really about people. “We’re here today because of relationships,” he said. “We’re here today because of people, and we’re here today to really talk about what Trey meant to UT Martin and what we think UT Martin meant to Trey.”

Trey’s brother, Will, a 2017 UT Martin graduate, spoke for the family before the plaque’s unveiling. He described Trey as “a good friend, a great brother, and he’d help anybody he could.”

“We hope that having this room dedicated in Trey’s name will carry on his legacy of who he was as a person, a student, a friend of many,” Will said. “And to our family, it means that he will not be forgotten, and it (the classroom) will honor the life that he lived.”

Photo — Attending the dedication were from left, Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor; Andrea Lindsey, wife of Will Lindsey; Will Lindsey; sister, Taylor Lindsey; Quanah Allen, Trey’s girlfriend; and parents, Lisa and John Lindsey. (UTM photo).
Fuqua Selected To Participate In Harvard Kennedy School For Executive Training

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is continuing its partnership with Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) to offer an advanced education opportunity exclusively to members of the Delta Leadership Network. The program, designed and led by Harvard faculty, focuses on cultivating "authentic leadership" to move Delta communities forward. The Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) will send 41 representatives from across the eight states of the DRA footprint, including Landy Fuqua of Martin, Tennessee, who serves as director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Centers (TSBDC) network at the UT Martin REED Center.

This year's four day-session, from Nov. 27-30, will be led by retired Air Force Brigadier General Dana Born, co-director of the Center for Public Leadership at HKS.

"This executive training will equip regional leaders across the Delta with the latest advancements in leadership skills and will prepare them to make positive changes in their local communities," said Peter Kinder, DRA's alternate federal co-chairman. "These participants are alumni of the Delta Leadership Institute's Executive Academy and were selected due to the leadership they have exemplified in their communities and their ability to translate these experiences to actionable solutions for the region."

"I am so excited and humbled to be selected to participate in this exclusive leadership training at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government," Fuqua said. "The Delta Regional Authority is committed to enhancing leadership skills and abilities of its members by developing a greater understanding of the issues and challenges of our region so that we may better serve our communities. I appreciate the investment that the Delta Regional Authority has bestowed in me."

Graduates of the Executive Academy become members of the Delta Leadership Network—taking their knowledge and understanding of issues at home to better serve their communities and develop new ways of thinking that foster regional collaborations and partnerships.
Donations to Santa’s Village now total over $1 million in 32 years

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected through its 32 years. Those donations, totaling $1,242,042, have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 33rd anniversary, Dec. 7-10, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 340,303 people have attended Santa’s Village.

The fantasyland provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

“Santa’s Village is a wonderful, family-oriented holiday event and we encourage people to come out and visit. We give special thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who contribute time and money,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. “WLJT’s Clifford, the big red dog, will be on hand Saturday from 11-2 pm. Also, we want to remind visitors to bring their own camera to get that special picture of their little one visiting with Santa.”

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

MILLION-DOLLAR EVENT — Thousands of visitors and donations to Santa’s Village over 32 years have contributed over $1 million to the needy residents throughout the Martin and Weakley County community.
Ceremony held at UT Martin to honor Lindsey

Homecoming is a perfect occasion to renew friendships and recall the good times, as well as provide an appropriate setting at which to honor and remember special people. UT Martin’s 2017 homecoming provided this kind of backdrop for the family and friends of Phillip “Trey” Lindsey to dedicate a special place in his memory. A ceremony held Oct. 7 to officially name the Phillip Trey Lindsey Classroom in the university’s Brehm Hall brought together many of the people who meant the most to a special young man.

Trey was the son of John and Lisa Lindsey of Jackson and a 2010 graduate of South Side High School. After studying wildlife biology at UT Martin and earning his degree in May 2016, Lindsey accepted a two-month summer internship position as a research technician for the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit – Southwest Nebraska Pheasant Research Project. While he was being treated at a local hospital for swelling in his leg, a blood clot sent Trey into cardiac arrest. Medical personnel were unable to revive him.

Trey served as vice president of the UT Martin Wildlife Society and was dedicated to the expansion and promotion of the organization. The Phillip “Trey” Lindsey Scholarship Endowment was established following his death in July 2016 and will be used to support the academic pursuits of eligible juniors and seniors studying wildlife biology at the university. South Side High School graduates will be given preference during the scholarship selection process. Now, the Phillip Trey Lindsey Classroom will add to his legacy.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, opened the dedication event and reminded those attending that colleges and universities are really about people. “We’re here today because of relationships,” he said. “We’re here today because of people, and we’re here today to really talk about what Trey meant to UT Martin and what we think UT Martin meant to Trey.”

Among faculty members who knew Trey best was Dr. Eric Pelren, professor of wildlife biology. He recalled when Trey first visited his office and, unlike other students who tend to be shy and introverted, Trey arrived with a smile on his face.

“They say we’ve got a lifetime to do all the good we can in the world,” Pelren said. “And I don’t know much, but I know this – in Trey’s couple of dozen years, he did more good in the world than most people do the better part of a century that they’re given. And I know Trey’s legacy is going to live on.”

Trey’s brother, Will, a 2017 UT Martin graduate, spoke for the family before the plaque’s unveiling. He described Trey as “a good friend, a great brother, and he’d help anybody he could.”

“We hope that having this room dedicated in Trey’s name will carry on his legacy of who he was as a person, a student, a friend of many,” Will said. “And to our family, it means that he will not be forgotten, and it [the classroom] will honor the life that he lived.”

IN MEMORY — Attending the dedication of the Phillip Trey Lindsey Classroom on Oct. 7 at UT Martin were (from left) Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor; Andrea Lindsey, wife of Will Lindsey; Will Lindsey; sister, Taylor Lindsey; Quanah Allen, Trey’s girlfriend; and parents Lisa and John Lindsey.
STUDENTS, from Lauderdale County, including, in front, from left, Alyssa Spencer and Nyiesha Gingery, Ripley High School; and in rear, Hayden Kimble, Grant Crihfield and Tanner Ream, Halls High School, attended the WestStar Leadership Program's RisingStar Leadership Summit, November 17th, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two-day summit is designed for high school students who demonstrate leadership potential. The students are pictured with Dr. Charley Deal, left, in rear, WestStar executive director. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or its youth events, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or email vgrimes@utm.edu.