The University of Tennessee at Martin's Vanguard Theatre will present eight performances of "The Crucible" from Nov. 1-11. The ensemble will perform six evening performances at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and Nov. 8-10 in UT Martin's Vanguard Little Theatre. There will also be two matinee showings at 3 p.m., Nov. 4 and 11.

This production of "The Crucible" is an adaptation of Arthur Miller's Tony Award-winning play revolving around the Salem witch trials. It combines characteristics of Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale" and George Orwell's "1984" to present a 17th-century cautionary tale about civil liberties.

Admission is $15 for adults and $10 for students. Tickets are available now. You may purchase or reserve tickets through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts main office from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or purchase them at the Vanguard Box Office, which opens one hour before show time and only accepts cash. You must pick up reserved tickets at least 10 minutes before show time.

The Vanguard Theatre is UT Martin's resident theatre production company. Cast members include both students and area residents.

The Vanguard Little Theatre is Room 167 of the Fine Arts Building, which is located at 16 Mt. Pelia Road. For more information or to reserve tickets, contact the department at 731-881-7400.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will hold three concerts, a music education lecture and a "Woodwind Day" during the week of Nov. 11-17. Events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

A flute studio recital will be held at 3 p.m., Nov. 11, in the Blankenship Recital Hall of UT Martin's Fine Arts Building. The UT Martin piano ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

The department will continue its "Meek Music" series with a live music and lunch concert at 12:15 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Paul Meek Library. There will be performances by both the LCD Woodwind Trio and the Faculty Brass Quintet. Guests are invited to bring their lunch and eat while enjoying the show.

The UT Martin chapter of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education will continue its "MusicEd-Love" lecture series with a presentation at 7 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Band Rehearsal Hall, located in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building. The department will host the fourth-annual "Woodwind Day" for both high school and college musicians from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 17, also in the Band Rehearsal Hall.

Charles Lewis, lecturer of music, and Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander and Dr. Douglas Owens, both associate professors of music, will provide feedback to high school woodwind students during a high school masterclass. A high school woodwind solo competition will offer the winner a scholarship of up to $4,000 to attend UT Martin as a music major. The event will also feature a college research competition, a college chamber recital, like-instrument choirs, presentations and instrument repairs.

Visit utm.edu/music to register. For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Need inspiration? Encouragement? Call HK

HK Derryberry has a cure for anyone having a bad day: be positive, believe in your abilities and never give up, no matter the circumstances. Few people would know better the importance of following this advice. Derryberry is blind and lives with cerebral palsy after a car accident in 1990 resulted in his mother's death, his premature birth and other challenging health conditions. He also has hyperthymesia, known as highly superior autobiographical memory, and can recall every event that has happened to him.

He is the subject of the book “The Awakening of HK Derryberry,” which earned “Audio Book of the Year” in 2017 for non-fiction, faith-based stories,” a first for HarperCollins Publishing. The book is available in bookstores, on Amazon.com and through other online retailers.

An audience of current and prospective teachers joined community members to hear Derryberry and his friend and mentor, Jim Bradford, speak Oct. 23 in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Watkins Auditorium. The university’s Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar sponsored the presentation hosted by the UT Martin College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences. Newell and Bettie Graham own and operate the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Union City.

A brief video about Derryberry’s life opened the program, followed by Bradford leading Derryberry on stage. The two were seated facing the audience and began an evening of stories and reflections about Derryberry’s life journey. Derryberry described Bradford and himself as advocates for special education, quoted Bible verses and displayed a keen sense of humor while maintaining a consistent theme of never giving up in the face of adversity and doubt.

Telling the audience how he has “always been considered the underdog,” Derryberry described earning a regular high school diploma from the Tennessee School for the Blind in Donelson while completing algebra and other challenging courses to earn his degree. He said he has overcome many challenges by focusing on the abilities he has and relying on a strong faith.

“What I am sharing with you folks today is [that] with God in your life anything is possible,” he said. “If you work hard, determine what your capabilities are, [and] maintain a positive attitude, you can accomplish most anything in life within your capabilities. The only disability any of us have in life is a negative attitude.

“I encourage all of you to always be positive. If you are ever down, depressed, [you think] things can’t get any worse, just pick up your phone, call toll-free to old HK Derryberry in Nashville. I’ll give you a no-charge, 100 percent money-back guaranteed, UT Martin pep talk,” he said, which drew laughter from the appreciative audience.

Derryberry was raised by his working grandmother and struggled with not having friends who would play with him, so he listened to the radio to fill time. He met Bradford, whose own children were grown, when Derryberry was age 9, and Bradford made it possible for his young friend to do things he had never done before and meet people he never would have met otherwise. The two have visited Alan Jackson’s tour bus (the country music star endorsed the Derryberry book), and they’ve met bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs backstage at the Grand Ole Opry. Derryberry is a big football fan, and when Kevin Mawae played for the Tennessee Titans, the star player allowed Derryberry and Bradford to sit in the skybox with his family and watch games until Mawae retired and moved back to Louisiana.

“He’s the most positive little character you will ever meet in your life because he said, ‘Mr. Bradford, I am blind. I’ve got cerebral palsy. I can’t do a darned thing about it. So why worry about it? I have to focus on what I can do,’ and so what he can do is just amazing,” Bradford said. The two recently celebrated 19 years together, and Bradford said the relationship has changed his own life in many positive ways. They now do things together more often since Bradford retired. Thursdays are designated as “boys’ nights out,” and they are together most weekends, which allows them to involve Bradford’s wife, Brenda, in their activities.

Bradford told the audience that Derryberry is one of 11 individuals in the world diagnosed with hyperthymesia. “He can recall every minute of every day of his life since he was 3 1/2 years old,” Bradford said. He also has an ability often associated with autism to pinpoint the day of the week someone was born, simply by being told the month, date and year of someone’s birthday. Derryberry showcased this ability when Bradford asked two random audience members to volunteer their birthdates, and Derryberry quickly and accurately told them the correct day of the week on which they were born.

Speaking engagements, such as the one at UT Martin, began for Derryberry and Bradford about seven years ago at Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville. A second speaking engagement soon followed at another church and gave Bradford the idea to be more personally engaged in the program and add humor to the presentation. The pair now travel up to 20,000 miles annually and, so far in 2018, are booked for more than 40 dates in nine states. The speaking fee for each event goes into a trust fund designated for Derryberry’s future care. HK and Bradford can be booked for an event at hkderryberrv.com.
"We don't know what the next thing is that God has planned for us," said Bradford, now 75. He offered some advice to current and future teachers in the audience: "Don't ever give up on any student. One teacher believed in HK Derryberry, and he fought for him to get him into a regular-graded class curriculum. ... It's never too late to believe."

Dr. Clinton Smith, UT Martin associate professor of special education, closed the evening by making Derryberry and Bradford honorary UT Martin Skyhawks. It was fitting recognition for two inspirational men who made a grateful audience soar.

STIRRING THE AUDIENCE — Motivational speakers HK Derryberry (left) and Jim Bradford spoke Oct. 23 at UT Martin as part of the university's Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar.

STUDENTS CREATE NEW SIGNAGE — University of Tennessee at Martin students Ethan Ellison (center, left) and Chrysele Alexander (center, right), both of Martin, and Mouied Alhala (far right), an international student from Saudi Arabia, created new signage for the UT Martin Recycling Center this semester to help community members navigate the center's new self-sort system. All three students are senior graphic design majors. "Hands-on projects allow me to be better prepared for the job world. ... It's very rewarding to know that something I made will be useful to others," said Alexander. "My education at UT Martin has greatly prepared me for my future career. My professors always provide valuable advice when needed and helped me prepare for life after graduation."

The students also said hands-on projects like this one improve their client communication skills and professional confidence. Also pictured is Lane Last (far left), professor of art.
Empty Bowls event sets goal of 1,500 pieces to mark 15 years

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

David McBeth's days leading up to the 15th Annual Empty Bowls event on Nov. 17 appear to be spinning as fast as his potter's wheel. On Tuesday he was cleaning the ceramics studio in the Fine Arts Building at UTM to welcome Mayor Randy Brundige as he proclaimed the Saturday before Thanksgiving as Martin Empty Bowl Day. He was also making plans to distribute event posters around town and across campus, working out how to get the new t-shirts to students who were volunteering, ensuring that information was getting out about new sponsorship options and ... oh yeah ... making 1,500 bowls.

Ok, he's not making every bowl, but he did define the goal of 1,500 to recognize the 15th year of the endeavor that, if all goes as planned, will near a total of $100,000 raised to assist Martin's We Care Ministries food bank. And he is personally making the silent auction bowls that will be larger and include more decorative elements than the bowls that he and students can craft out of the 1.5 pounds of clay that he has allotted for each bowl in this year's commemorative effort.

As a professor in the visual and theatre arts program, McBeth was familiar with the Empty Bowls concept when he was looking for ways to become more involved in his children's youth activities at Trinity Presbyterian. He said he told his wife Donna, also on staff at UTM, about an idea that he had been considering - bring the youth group to the school, throw 50 bowls and serve soup for a $10 donation. To which, he says, Donna replied, "Why only 50 and why only Trinity?"

"Ok," he countered, "All of Martin and 500 bowls!"

While he estimates that to date around 7,500 bowls have been made and distributed, he is determined to increase the output to 1,500 and with a suggested $15 donation to help deliver at least $22,500 to We Care.

To reach the ambitious goal, he planned a Bowl-a-thon in September and invited alumni and current students to spend the day at the wheels. That effort added 175 to the mix. Students are contributing. Passionate believers in the cause are either throwing pots or helping with the glazing (no experience necessary). And Donna is taking on coordinating the numerous batches of soups, chowders, chilis and broths needed to complete the experience.

New this year is the opportunity to sponsor the effort via a Bowl Pledge. The levels are: Pewter partner at $150 as a 10-bowl sponsor; copper cup at $300 as a 20-bowl sponsor; bronze bowl at $450 as a 30-bowl sponsor; silver spoon at $600 as a 40-bowl sponsor; and golden goblet at $750 as a 50-bowl sponsor. All sponsors will receive the allotted bowls and recognition at the event.

After an introduction to the process of throwing and glazing bowls and a tour of the facilities, Mayor Brundige acknowledged the impact of McBeth's continuing gift to the city. "So many people need help and these bowls provide..."
EMPTY BOWLS DAY DECLARED — David McBeth has been throwing bowls to fight hunger for 15 years and this week accepted a proclamation from Martin Mayor Randy Brundige noting Nov. 17 as Martin Empty Bowls Day. Also present to receive the proclamation was Doug Cook, chair of the UTM Visual and Theatre Arts Department.

EMPTY BOWLS, From Page 1

that help,” he noted. “It’s a great civic thing he does for the community and I’m grateful.”

For more information on how to become an event sponsor contact David McBeth at dmcbethme@gmail.com or Victoria Falcon at victoria.loretta.falcon@gmail.com.

To sign up to provide soup (delivered and with a means to heat) or supply crackers, drinks, etc. contact Donna McBeth at donnamce@utm.edu.

The project can also be found at https://www.facebook.com/martinemptybowls/ and on Instagram @martinemptybowls.

The finished products were then used as individual serving pieces for a fund-raising meal of soup and bread.

The Imagine/RENDER Group, a 501(c)3 organization, was created to promote the project as a means of fundraising for hunger programs and raising awareness of hunger issues.

The Empty Bowls project, now an international effort, was launched in 1990-91 in Michigan by Lisa Blackburn and art teacher John Hartom when they sought to raise charitable funds.

Hartom’s students made ceramic bowls in their high school art classes.
BOWLING FOR DOLLARS — David McBeth has set an ambitious goal of crafting 1,500 bowls for the 15th Annual Empty Bowls event that benefits We Care Ministries' food bank on Nov. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at UTM's Student Life Center, 199 Moody St. On a challenge, the university professor once threw 72 bowls in an hour. He completed 14 during the Press interview. With the help of students and alumni throwing bowls and groups coming in to glaze, he hopes to meet the goal.

Photo by Karen Campbell
Room dedicated to late Dr. Ted Mosch

The University of Tennessee at Martin will dedicate room 203 of the Business Administration Building to the late Dr. Ted Mosch, UT Martin professor emeritus of political science, during a dedication at 4 p.m., Nov. 8, with a reception to follow. The public is invited to attend.

Mosch, who died July 3, 2018, held careers in both the military and higher education. He began his tenure at UT Martin in 1970 before taking an educational leave of absence to attend the National War College in Washington, D.C., from 1981-82. He then held a faculty position at the United States Army Intelligence Agency at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., before returning to UT Martin in 1988. He then served as a political science professor and pre-law adviser until his retirement in 2002.

Mosch received multiple awards in his lifetime, including the UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award and Distinguished Professorship; the UT Martin Excellence in Advising Award, Outstanding Advisor Award and Student Government Association Outstanding Teaching Award; and the UT College of Law Honor for 31 years of pre-law advising. He also received many military honors and earned the rank of colonel.

His retirement brought many former students back to campus to congratulate and thank him for his contributions to UT Martin and their lives. The Ted Mosch Scholarship Fund was established in his honor, which he later endowed to help with the cost of tuition for international students. After his death, UT Martin alumnus Dale Allen, a Nashville attorney, established the Ted Mosch Political Science Scholarship Endowment.

For more information about the scholarships or the dedication, contact Jeanna Swafford, assistant vice chancellor for UT Martin Development and Planned Giving, at 731-881-7629.

PROFESSOR TO BE HONORED – This late 1990s photo shows Dr. Ted Mosch (center) in the Paul Meek Library’s replica of Gov. Ned Ray McWherter’s office with students Kyle Williams (left) and Suzanne Perry.

UTM fall preview days

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Fall Preview Days for high school students and their families on Nov. 10. This event provide students an opportunity to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment.

UTM to showcase student artwork

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled “Introspective” from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery. An exhibition opening will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit will include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of “identity” and will portray what “identity” means to each student.

The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

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

UT Martin Department of Music will hold three concerts, a music education lecture and “Woodwind Day” during the week of Nov. 11-17. Events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

A flute studio recital will be held at 3 p.m., Nov. 12, in the Blankenship Recital Hall of UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building. The UT Martin piano ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

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The UT Martin chapter of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education will continue its “MusicEdLove” lecture series with a presentation at 7 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Band Rehearsal Hall, located in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building. Dr. Angela Ammerman, UT Martin coordinator of music education, will speak during the event.

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https://www.thunderboltradio.com/

Empty Bowls fundraiser November 17 at UTM

Prepared on November 2, 2018 by Steve James in Local News

UT Martin’s 13th-annual Empty Bowls fundraiser to fight hunger will be November 17th in the Student Life Center.

Empty Bowls started locally in 2003 to support relief efforts by We Care Ministries.

Event Director and UT Martin associate professor of art David McBeth, along with student and alumni volunteers, will hand-craft 1,500 ceramic bowls to celebrate the event.

Attendees receive a standard-sized bowl to take home after donating $15 to the cause. Larger bowls will also be available for suggested donation amounts. Guests can eat soup lunch provided by community members and organizations.

This year’s event also includes a silent auction of specialty bowls featuring unique designs and colors.

Attendees can make donations by cash, check, or charge with all donations going to We Care Ministries.
UTM to have vocal events

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will hold vocal performances this week.

UTM vocal students will perform during a studio voice recital at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall.

The department will also host the fifth annual UT Martin Treble Honor Choir performance at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Duncan Ballroom of UT Martin's Boling University Center.

The ensemble will consist of hundreds of selected students from fourth-eighth grades. Featured music will include pieces by singer Bruno Mars and from "The Greatest Showman," a 2017 film about the life of P.T. Barnum.

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

Paris artist is juror for art exhibition

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts is co-sponsoring the "Bellwethers" exhibit at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center in Humboldt.

The center is located at 1200 Main St. in Humboldt. Diane Miles, an artist from Paris, will serve as juror for the exhibition.

She is known for her oil paintings featured in exhibitions at Ladies First International, Cape Girardeau Missouri Arts, Clarksville Custom House Museum, Pop Revolution International and Indiana Mid-States, among others. Miles' works have also been featured in art publications and have received multiple awards. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting and contemporary art history from the University of Memphis and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Union University in Jackson.

The "Bellwethers" exhibition is a juried showcase of collegiate student art. Featured works come from students in visual arts programs in Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia. Exhibited pieces vary from paintings, drawings and sculptures to glass, ceramics, photography, printmaking, digital art, fiber art, mixed media and jewelry.

The exhibit will be on display from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through Nov. 21 with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 6.

For more information, contact the UTM Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
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The department will continue its “Meek Music” series with a live music and lunch concert at 12:15 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Paul Meek Library. There will be performances by both the LCD Woodwind Trio and the Faculty Brass Quintet. Guests are invited to bring their lunch and eat while enjoying the show.

https://www.thunderboltradio.com

Combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant set for Nov. 11

The annual Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held Sunday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 56th year, while it’s the 20th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles will be chosen in the same night.

Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2019 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

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. There is no runner-up for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

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 now at the Boling University Center Welcome Desk outside Watkins Auditorium. A limited number of tickets can also be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m. the night of the competition. 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@wlti.org or 731-881-7581.
Dr. Andy Lewter, current dean of students at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia, will become the new vice chancellor for student affairs at UT Martin on January 1, 2019.

Lewter's appointment follows a national search and recommendation by a search committee to UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

Lewter succeeds Dr. Margaret Toston who retired June 30.

Lewter, a native of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, received a bachelor's degree in political science from UTM in 1994. He also holds a master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He previously served in several student affairs positions from 1996-2013 at Maryville, Tennessee.

Lewter has significant experience in key student-affairs areas, including programming, student counseling and health, Greek life, campus recreation, career services and student leadership positions. He will lead the UTM Division of Student Affairs, which serves students at the main campus centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Lewter will be joined in Martin by his wife, Megan, who is also a 1994 UTM graduate, and their two sons: Andrew, 18, and Mitchell, 7.
The University of Tennessee Martin has chosen a new Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Andy Lewter was hired following the departure of Margaret Toston who retired at the end of June.

Lewter is currently serving as Dean of Students at Georgia College and State University. His term at UT Martin will start January 1.

Lewter is originally from Chapel Hill, Tennessee and received his bachelor's degree from UTM in 1994.

The university said in a release Lewter has experience in key student-affairs areas, including programming, student counseling and health, Greek life, campus recreation, career services and assessment.

The UT Martin Division of Student Affairs serves students at the main campus and five educational outreach centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.
SPECIAL EVENT FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE — Special needs students are treated to their own prom each year on the UTM campus. Pictured are Cherquala Cole and Jason Shell at last year’s prom.

Special needs prom slated Nov. 17

The third-annual Special Needs Prom, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Non-Traditional Student Association, will begin at 2 p.m. Nov. 17 in the UT Martin Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

Special needs students and their families from the Weakley County and surrounding areas are invited to attend.

This unique event has been held each November since 2016 and allows students with sensory, mobility or other special needs to enjoy a high school prom in an accommodating environment.

Styles on Broadway in Martin will again provide free hair and makeup services for attendees from noon-2 p.m. prior to the event.

A benefit concert featuring singer/songwriter Jordan Rystrom was held Oct. 27 to raise money in support of the event.

For more information, contact Julie Durham, Non-Traditional Student Association president, at 615-997-5930 or juladurh@ututm.edu.

Correction

In Thursday’s edition of the Press, there were two errors in the article about Empty Bowls. David McBeth came up with the idea during a conversation with Carol Dickerson, the former pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Donna McBeth’s email is donnamcb@utm.edu.

The Press regrets the errors.
Room to be dedicated in Mosch’s memory

The University of Tennessee at Martin will dedicate Room 203 of the Business Administration Building to the late Dr. Ted Mosch, professor emeritus of political science, at 4 p.m. Thursday. A reception will follow. The public is invited.

Mosch, who died July 3, held careers in both the military and higher education. He began his tenure at UT Martin in 1970 before taking an educational leave of absence to attend the National War College in Washington, D.C., from 1981-82. He held a faculty position at the U.S. Army Intelligence Agency at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., before returning to UT Martin in 1988. He retired in 2002. He received many awards and military honors.

The Ted Mosch Scholarship Fund was established in his honor. After his death, UTM alumnus Dale Allen established the Ted Mosch Political Science Scholarship Endowment.

Second Fall Preview Day set for Saturday at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a second Fall Preview Day for high school students and their families Saturday.

This event provides students an opportunity to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment. The day will begin with check-in at 9 a.m., followed by an official welcome at 9:30. A panel of current UT Martin students will answer questions and discuss the expectations of college life at 10, and participants will visit academic departments of interest starting at 10:45. The day will end with a full campus tour at 11:30.

There is no charge to attend, and parents, siblings and other visitors are welcome. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Register online at utm.edu/preview. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or email admittance@utm.edu.
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http://www.chestercountyindependent.com

UT-Martin to host fall preview day Nov. 10

tstratton Nov 7, 2018 Updated Nov 7, 2018

tstratton

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a second Fall Preview Day for high school students and their families Nov. 10. This event provides students an opportunity to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment.

Register online at utm.edu/preview. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
Empty Bowls event to support hunger relief

The 15th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser is set for Nov. 17 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The event will be staged from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Life Center, located at 199 Moody Ave., in Martin.

Empty Bowls, an international project to fight hunger, started locally in 2003 to support relief efforts by We Care Ministries Inc.

David McBeth, event director and UT Martin associate professor of art, and student and alumni volunteers will hand-craft 1,500 ceramic bowls to celebrate the event's 15th year.

Attendees will receive a standard-sized bowl to take home after donating $15 to the cause. Larger bowls will also be available for suggested donation amounts. Guests can then enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup lunch provided by community members and organizations.

This year's event will also include a silent auction of specialty bowls featuring unique designs and colors. The auction will continue for the duration of the event, and directors will contact auction winners in the weeks following.

Attendees can make donations by cash, check or charge. All donations go to We Care Ministries Inc.

For more information about the Empty Bowls effort, contact McBeth at (731) 881-7416.

 Beauties to take stage in Martin

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 36th year and this is the 20th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles will be chosen the same night. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2019 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as a resident or full-time student in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money. 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. There is no runner-up for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

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 now at the Boling University Center Welcome Desk outside Watkins Auditorium. A limited number of tickets can also be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m. the night of the competition. 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@wjt.org or (731) 881-7561.
Speaker inspires others at UTM

HK Derryberry has a cure for anyone having a bad day: be positive, believe in your abilities and never give up, no matter the circumstances.

Few people would know better the importance of following this advice.

Derryberry is blind and lives with cerebral palsy after a car accident in 1990 resulted in his mother’s death, his premature birth and other challenging health conditions. He also has hyperthymesia, known as highly superior autobiographical memory, and can recall every event that has happened to him.


An audience of current and prospective teachers joined community members to hear Derryberry and his friend and mentor, Jim Bradford, speak recently in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Watkins Auditorium.

The university’s Bettie Graham Special Education Seminar sponsored the presentation hosted by the UT Martin College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences. Newell and Bettie Graham own and operate Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Union City.

A brief video about Derryberry’s life opened the program, followed by Bradford leading Derryberry on stage. The two were seated facing the audience and began an evening of stories and reflections about Derryberry’s life journey.

Derryberry described Bradford and himself as advocates for special education, quoted Bible verses and displayed a keen sense of humor while maintaining a consistent theme of never giving up in the face of adversity and doubt.

Telling the audience how he has “always been considered the underdog,” Derryberry described earning a regular high school diploma from the Tennessee School for the Blind in Donelson while completing algebra and other challenging courses to earn his degree. He said he has overcome many challenges by focusing on the abilities he has and relying on a strong faith.

“What I am sharing with you folks today is (that) with God in your life anything is possible,” he said. “If you work hard, determine what your capabilities are, (and) maintain a positive attitude, you can accomplish most anything in life within your capabilities. The only disability any of us have in life is a negative attitude.

“I encourage all of you to always be positive. If you are ever down, depressed, (you think) things can’t get any worse, just pick up your phone, call toll-free to old HK Derryberry in Nashville. I’ll give you a no-charge, 100 percent money-back guaranteed, UT Martin pep talk,” he said, which drew laughter from the appreciative audience.

Derryberry was raised by his working grandmother and struggled with not having friends who would play with him, so he listened to the radio to fill time. He met Bradford, whose own children were grown, when Derryberry was age 9, and Bradford made it possible for his young friend to do things he had never done before and meet people he never would have met otherwise.

The two have visited Alan Jackson’s tour bus (the country music star endorsed the Derryberry book), and they’ve met bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs backstage at the Grand Ole Opry.

Derryberry is a big football fan, and when Kevin Mawae played for the Tennessee Titans, the star player allowed Derryberry and Bradford to sit in the skybox with his family and watch games until Mawae retired and moved back to Louisiana.

“He’s the most positive little character you will ever meet in your life because he said, 'Mr. Bradford, I am blind. I’ve got cerebral palsy. I can’t do a damned thing about it. So why worry about it? I have to focus on what I can do,' and so what he can do is just amazing,” Bradford said.

The two friends recently celebrated 19 years together, and Bradford said the relationship has changed his own life in many positive ways. They now do things together more often since Bradford retired. Thursdays are designated as “boys’ nights out,” and they are together most weekends, which allows them to involve Bradford’s wife, Brenda, in their activities.
Bradford told the audience Derryberry is one of 11 individuals in the world diagnosed with hyperthymia.

"He can recall every minute of every day of his life since he was 3 1/2 years old," Bradford said. He also has an ability often associated with autism to pinpoint the day of the week when someone was born, simply by being told the month, date and year of someone's birth day. Derryberry showcased this ability when Bradford asked two random audience members to volunteer their birthdates, and Derryberry quickly and accurately told them the correct day of the week on which they were born.

Speaking engagements, such as the one at UTM Martin, began for Derryberry and Bradford about seven years ago at Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville. A second speaking engagement soon followed at another church and gave Bradford the idea to be more personally engaged in the program and add humor to the presentation. The pair now travel up to 20,000 miles annually and, so far in 2018, are booked for more than 40 dates in nine states. The speaking fee for each event goes into a trust fund designated for Derryberry's future care.

HK and Bradford can be booked for an event at hkdererry.com.

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**UTM to honor active military and veterans**

The University of Tennessee at Martin will honor active military personnel and veterans during a Veterans Day Exposition Friday in the Boling University Center, as well as during the final home football game of the season Saturday.

The Skyhawk football game against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles will kick off at 2 p.m. at Hardy M. Graham Stadium and include recognition and free admission for all active military service members and veterans with identification.

The Veterans Day Exposition will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The exposition is open to the public and sponsored by the University's Skyhawk Veteran's Association.

In addition to honoring military veterans, Nov. 10 marks the 243rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a birthday cake-cutting ceremony honoring the U.S. Marines will follow the exposition program in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby.

The exposition will open Friday with the presentation of colors by the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion and the playing of the national anthem. Johnny Dyer of Union City, veteran services coordinator and a military veteran, will introduce guests and the playing of U.S. military songs. Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, will follow with a presentation about World War I.

Dr. Carls is a member of the Tennessee Great War Commission and was instrumental in securing a grant to restore the World War I Memorial Fountain in Jackson. The restored fountain will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 17 on the northeast lawn of the Madison County Courthouse.

Dr. Carls will be followed by remarks from state Rep. Bill Sanderson (R-Kenton) and Chris Gunlefinger, UTM Martin assistant director for student life and a Marine Corps veteran. Sanderson will then play "Taps" to close the event. The Marine Corps birthday cake-cutting ceremony will follow.

The university will also honor active military personnel and veterans Saturday at Graham Stadium as part of gameday activities for the final home football game. All active military service members and veterans will be admitted free to the game when they present identification at the stadium ticket booth.

In addition, the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will present the colors, reigning Miss Tennessee Christine Williamson will sing the national anthem and Rolling Thunder will present the game ball prior to kickoff. Before these activities, a pre-game tailgate concert featuring Nashville recording artist Eric Chesser will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the stadium tailgating area.

Information about the Veterans Day Exposition is available by calling (731) 881-1689; and ticket information for Saturday's UTM Martin-Tennessee Tech football game is available by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at (731) 881-7207.

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**Special needs prom scheduled for Nov. 17**

The third annual Special Needs Prom, hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin's Non-Traditional Student Association, will begin at 2 p.m. Nov. 17 in the UT Martin Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

Special needs students and their families from the Weakley County and surrounding areas are invited to attend.

This unique event has been held each November since 2016 and allows students with sensory, mobility or other special needs to enjoy a high school prom in an accommodating environment. Styles on Broadway in Martin will again provide free hair and makeup services for attendees from noon to 2 p.m. prior to the event.

A benefit concert featuring singer/songwriter Jourdan Rystrom was held Oct. 27 to raise money in support of the event.

For more information, contact Julie Durham, Non-Traditional Student Association president, at (615) 997-5930 or juladurh@ututm.edu.
OCCHS BAND PLACES — The Obion County Central High School Marching Band won fifth place overall during the 17th annual West Tennessee Marching Championships hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin recently. Dr. Bill Waterman (right), UT Martin director of athletic bands, presented the award to OCCHS senior band students Cole Guess and Kaleigh Wagner, the band’s field commanders. The band was also awarded second place among triple-A color guards and third place among triple-A percussion.

UC BAND WINS — The Union City High School marching band was named Grand Champion during the 17th annual West Tennessee Marching Championships recently hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Scott Slocum (left), district manager for Yamaha Corp. of America, and Dr. Julie Hill (right) of Union City, chair for the UT Martin Department of Music and director of percussion studies, presented representatives from Union City High School with the award. On hand to accept the honor were UCHS band students (from left, starting with second from left) Jaycee Brown, Claire Thomason and Wade Clendenin. The band was also awarded both Outstanding Finals Visual and Musical Performance awards, the Jeremy Devault Memorial Percussion Award and first place among triple-A percussion, color guards and bands.
MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin will honor active military personnel and veterans during a Veterans Day Exposition on Friday, Nov. 9, in the Boling University Center, as well as during the final UT Martin home football game of the season Saturday, Nov. 10, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The Skyhawk football game against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles will kick off at 2 p.m. and include recognition and free admission for all active military service members and veterans with identification.

The Veterans Day Exposition will be held from noon-1 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The exposition is open to the public and sponsored by the university’s Skyhawk Veteran’s Association. In addition to honoring military veterans, Nov. 10 marks the 243rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a birthday cake-cutting ceremony honoring the U.S. Marines will follow the exposition program in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby.

The exposition will open Friday with the presentation of colors by the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion and the playing of the national anthem. Johnny Dyer, veteran services coordinator and a military veteran, will introduce guests and the playing of U.S. military songs. Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, will follow with a presentation about World War I. Carls is a member of the Tennessee Great War Commission and was instrumental in securing a grant to restore the World War I Memorial Fountain in Jackson. The restored fountain will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 17, on the northeast lawn of the Madison County Courthouse.

Carls will be followed by remarks from Tennessee State Rep. Bill Sanderson (R-Kenton) and Chris Gunlefinger, UT Martin assistant director for student life and a Marine Corps veteran. Sanderson will then play taps to close the event. The Marine Corps birthday cake-cutting ceremony will follow.

The university will also honor active military personnel and veterans Saturday, Nov. 10, at Graham Stadium as part of gameday activities for the final home football game. All active military service members and veterans will be admitted free to the game when they present identification at the stadium ticket booth. In addition, the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will present the colors, reigning Miss Tennessee Christine Williamson will sing the national anthem, and Rolling Thunder will present the game ball prior to kickoff. Before these activities, a pre-game tailgate concert featuring Nashville recording artist Eric Chesser will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the stadium tailgating area.

Information about the Veterans Day Exposition is available by calling 731-881-1689, and ticket information for Saturday’s UT Martin-Tennessee Tech football game is available by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at 731-881-7207.

Photo – UT Martin Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion cadets present the colors during last year’s Veterans Day Ceremony at UT Martin.
UT Martin To Honor Active Military Personnel and Veterans Nov. 9-10

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin will honor active military personnel and veterans during a Veterans Day Exposition on Friday, Nov. 9, in the Boling University Center, as well as during the final UT Martin home football game of the season Saturday, Nov. 10, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The Skyhawk football game against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles will kick off at 2 p.m. and include recognition and free admission for all active military service members and veterans with identification.

The Veterans Day Exposition will be held from noon-1 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The exposition is open to the public and sponsored by the university's Skyhawk Veteran's Association. In addition to honoring military veterans, Nov. 10 marks the 243rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a birthday cake-cutting ceremony honoring the U.S. Marines will follow the exposition program in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby.

The exposition will open Friday with the presentation of colors by the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion and the playing of the national anthem. Johnny Dyer, veteran services coordinator and a military veteran, will introduce guests and the playing of U.S. military songs. Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History, will follow with a presentation about World War I. Carls is a member of the Tennessee Great War Commission and was instrumental in securing a grant to restore the World War I Memorial Fountain in Jackson. The restored fountain will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 17, on the northeast lawn of the Madison County Courthouse.

Carls will be followed by remarks from Tennessee State Rep. Bill Sanderson (R-Kenton) and Chris Gunlefinger, UT Martin assistant director for student life and a Marine Corps veteran. Sanderson will then play taps to close the event. The Marine Corps birthday cake-cutting ceremony will follow.
UTM Fall Preview Day Is Saturday

NOVEMBER 8, 2018 AT 8:57 AM | POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a second Fall Preview Day for high school students and their families Nov. 10. This event provide students an opportunity to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment.

The day will begin with check-in at 9 a.m. followed by an official welcome at 9:30. A panel of current UT Martin students will answer questions and discuss the expectations of college life at 10, and participants will visit academic departments of interest starting at 10:45. The day ends with a full campus tour at 11:30.

Fall Preview Day is the ideal place to have questions answered about academic programs, financial aid and scholarships, student activities and residence life. There is no charge to attend, and parents, siblings and other visitors are welcome. Pre-registration is encouraged to ensure each student is able to visit areas of personal interest.

Register online at utm.edu/preview. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, NOVEMBER 8, 2018

Canada Study Tour Scheduled

The UT Martin Ripley Center is planning to offer a travel study course to Canada in the Spring of 2019. The Romance of Transportation: a Travel Study Tour of Canada is scheduled to include Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa with instructors Nicholas Kistenmacher and Dr. Simpfronia Taylor.

For more information contact Dr. Simpfronia Taylor at 731-221-8778.
UTM to honor veterans and active military

The University of Tennessee at Martin will honor active military personnel and veterans during a Veterans Day Exposition on Friday in the Boling University Center, as well as during the final UT Martin home football game of the season Saturday at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. The Skyhawk football game against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles will kick off at 2 p.m. and include recognition and free admission for all active military service members and veterans with identification.

The Veterans Day Exposition will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The exposition is open to the public and sponsored by the university’s Skyhawk Veterans’ Association. In addition to honoring military veterans, Nov. 10 marks the 243rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and a birthday cake-cutting ceremony honoring the U.S. Marines will follow the exposition program in the Welcome Center located near the Watkins Auditorium lobby.

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Carls will be followed by remarks from Tennessee State Rep. Bill Sanderson (R-Kenton) and Chris Gunleffinger, UT Martin assistant director for student life and a Marine Corps veteran. Sanderson will then play taps to close the event. The Marine Corps birthday cake-cutting ceremony will follow.

The university will also honor active military personnel and veterans Saturday, Nov. 10, at Graham Stadium as part of gameday activities for the final home football game. All active military service members and veterans will be admitted free to the game when they present identification at the stadium ticket booth. In addition, the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will present the colors, reigning Miss Tennessee Christine Williamson will sing the national anthem, and Rolling Thunder will present the game ball prior to kickoff. Before these activities, a pre-game tailgate concert featuring Nashville recording artist Eric Chesser will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the stadium tailgating area.

Information about the Veterans Day Exposition is available by calling 731-881-1689, and ticket information for Saturday’s UT Martin-Tennessee Tech football game is available by calling the Skyhawk Ticket Office at 731-881-7207.
Andy Lewter named new vice chancellor at UT Martin

Dr. Andy Lewter, current dean of students at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia, will become the new vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Tennessee at Martin, effective Jan. 1, 2019. Lewter’s appointment follows a national search and recommendation by a search committee to UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. Lewter succeeds Dr. Margaret Toston, who retired June 30.

“Dr. Lewter has the experience and vision needed to lead our Division of Student Affairs,” said Carver. “He emerged as the top person from an excellent candidate pool, and his professional background and familiarity with the university position him for success in this important role. I’m grateful to the search committee for their hard work identifying student-centered candidates capable of moving this division to the next level.”

Lewter is a native of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and received a bachelor’s degree in political science from UT Martin in 1994. He also holds a master’s degree in education from the University of South Carolina in Columbia and a doctor of education from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He previously served in several student affairs positions from 1996-2013 at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee.

“Returning to campus in this role has been a dream of mine since graduation (from UT Martin),” Lewter said. “I am excited about this opportunity to serve the students of UT Martin and look forward to working with the student affairs staff to ensure student safety, promote student success and provide students with an amazing college experience.”

Lewter has significant experience in key student-affairs areas, including programming, student counseling and health, Greek life, campus recreation, career services and assessment. As a UT Martin student, he was active in both Greek life and student-leadership positions. He will lead the UT Martin Division of Student Affairs, which serves students at the main campus and five educational outreach centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Lewter will be joined in Martin by his wife, Megan, who is also a 1994 UT Martin graduate, and their two sons: Andrew, 18, and Mitchell, 7.

The search committee was chaired by Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Other search committee members were: John Abel, interim vice chancellor, UT Martin Division of Student Affairs; Debi Adcock, administrative specialist, UT Martin Division of Student Affairs; Kameron Echols, success counselor, UT Martin Student Success Center; Marvin Flatt, community representative, fraternity adviser and Weakley County director of career education; Jenifer Hart, clinical coordinator, UT Martin Office of Student Health and Counseling Services; Devin Majors, UT Martin Student Government Association president; Ryan Martin, assistant director, UT Martin Office of Housing; Kurt McGuffin, director, UT Martin Office of Intercollegiate Athletics; Renard Miles, interim director, UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development; Jemima Potter, international student and UT Martin student athlete; and Jason Stout, associate professor of art, UT Martin Division of Visual and Theatre Arts.

NEW VICE CHANCELLOR – Dr. Andy Lewter is pictured during an open forum conducted earlier this fall as part of his on-campus interview. Lewter will become the new UT Martin vice chancellor for student affairs, effective Jan. 1, 2019.
UTM fall preview days

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Fall Preview Days for high school students and their families on Nov. 10. This event provides students an opportunity to speak with academic advisors, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment.

UTM to showcase student artwork

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled "Introspective" from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery. An exhibition opening will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit will include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of "identity" and will portray what "identity" means to each student.

The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

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

UTM to honor veterans and active military

UTM will honor veterans and active military personnel during a Veterans Day Exposition on Friday, Nov. 9, as well as during the final home football game on Nov. 10. The UTM football game against Tennessee Tech will kick off at 2 p.m. and include recognition and free admission for all active military service members and veterans with identification.

The Veterans Day Exposition will be held from noon-1 p.m. Friday in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The exposition is open to the public and sponsored by the Skyhawk Veterans' Association. In addition to honoring military veterans, Nov. 10 marks the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, and a birthday cake-cutting ceremony honoring U.S. Marines will follow the exposition program in the welcome center located near the auditorium lobby.

UTM will honor military personnel on Saturday at Graham Stadium as part of gameday activities. All active military service members and veterans will be admitted free when they present identification at the stadium ticket booth. In addition, the Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion will present the colors, reigning Miss Tennessee Christine Williamson will sing the national anthem, and Rolling Thunder will present the game ball prior to kickoff. Additionally, a pre-game tailgate concert featuring Nashville recording artist Eric Chesser will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the stadium tailgating area.

For information about the Veterans Day Exposition, call 731-881-1689. For football game ticket information, call the Skyhawk Ticket Office at 731-881-7207.
Miss UTM / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageant to be held Sunday

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageant will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11, in UTM’s Duncan Ballroom. Both titles will be chosen in the same night.

The Miss UTM pageant is celebrating its 56th year, and this is the 20th year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. 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.

Students enrolled full-time at UTM through the spring 2019 semester are eligible for either crown. Women participating as residents or full-time students in West Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

The pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear, and on-stage questions. Each contestant is scored individually from 1-10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon. The contestant crowned Miss UTM will receive $1,500 in scholarship money. The first runner-up for Miss UTM will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UTM student or $500 if not. There is no runner-up for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Tickets are available now at UTM’s Boling University Center Welcome Desk outside Watkins Auditorium. A limited number of tickets can also be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m. the night of the competition. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

Admission is $15 for the general public or $10 for UTM students with a university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID. For more information, contact pageant director Katrina Cobb at kcobb@wjt.org or 731-881-7561.

END OF REIGN — From left, the reigns of Miss UTM Morgan Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Katie Hodges, who claimed their titles in the 2017 combined pageant, will come to an end when new winners are crowned on Nov. 11.
UTM to showcase student artwork

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The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

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

UTM Music department hosting events

UT Martin Department of Music will hold three concerts, a music education lecture and "Woodwind Day" during the week of Nov. 11-17. Events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

A flute studio recital will be held at 3 p.m., Nov. 11, in the Blankenship Recital Hall of UT Martin's Fine Arts Building. The UT Martin piano ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

The department will continue its "Meek Music" series with a live music and lunch concert at 12:15 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Paul Meek Library. There will be performances by both the LCD Woodwind Trio and the Faculty Brass Quintet. Guests are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy the show.

The UT Martin chapter of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education will continue its "MusicEdLove" lecture series with a presentation at 7 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Band Rehearsal Hall, located in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building. Dr. Angela Ammerman, UT Martin coordinator of music education, will speak during the event.

The department will host the fourth-annual "Woodwind Day" for both high school and college musicians from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 17, also in the Band Rehearsal Hall. Charles Lewis, lecturer of music, and Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander and Dr. Douglas Owens, both associate professors of music, will provide feedback to high school woodwind students during a high school masterclass. A high school woodwind solo competition will offer the winner a scholarship of up to $4,000 to attend UT Martin as a music major. The event will also feature a college research competition, a college chamber recital, like-instrument choirs, presentations and instrument repairs.

UTM Dance Ensemble to host ‘Bach to Basics’

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will host its fall showcase “Bach to Basics” at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The dance studio is located in room 3033. A suggested program donation of $3 will be requested at the door.

The dance ensemble has performed this showcase for students from five middle and high schools in Middle Tennessee this semester.

Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance, and five of her ensemble students have presented master classes and performances at both Mount Pleasant middle and high schools, Creswell Middle Prep School for the Arts in Nashville, and both Overton High School and Hickory Ridge Middle School in Memphis.

UT Martin student dancers Michaela Bland of Spring Hill, Keinesia Mason of Memphis, Alyssa Salazar of Adams, Jeorgia Lamb of Nashville and Alaina Harvey of Owens Cross Roads, Ala., will be featured in the showcase.

Kimberly Schwartz, a spring 2018 graduate, will also join the ensemble as a guest performer.

For more information on the UT Martin Dance Ensemble fall tour, contact McCormick at 731-881-7335 or smccormick@utm.edu.
UTM fall preview days

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Fall Preview Days for high school students and their families on Nov. 10. This event provide students an opportunity to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment.

UTM to showcase student artwork

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled "Introspective" from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery. An exhibition opening will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of "identity" and will portray what "identity" means to each student.

The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

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

UTM Music department hosting events

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A flute studio recital will be held at 3 p.m., Nov. 11, in the Blankenship Recital Hall of UT Martin's Fine Arts Building. The UT Martin piano ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

The department will continue its "Meek Music" series with a live music and lunch concert at 12:15 p.m., Nov. 14, at the Paul Meek Library. There will be performances by both the LCD Woodwind Trio and the Faculty Brass Quintet. Guests are invited to bring their lunch and eat while enjoying the show.

The UT Martin chapter of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education will continue its "MusicEdLove" lecture series with a presentation at 7 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Band Rehearsal Hall, located in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building. Dr. Angela Ammerman, UT Martin coordinator of music education, will speak during the event.

The department will host the fourth-annual "Woodwind Day" for both high school and college musicians from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 17, also in the Band Rehearsal Hall. Charles Lewis, lecturer of music, and Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander and Dr. Douglas Owens, both associate professors of music, will provide feedback to high school woodwind students during a high school masterclass. A high school woodwind solo competition will offer the winner a scholarship of up to $4,000 to attend UT Martin as a music major. The event will also feature a college research competition, a college chamber recital, like-instrument choirs, presentations and instrument repairs.
UTM Student Radio Station Wins National Awards
NOVEMBER 11, 2018 AT 5:34 AM • POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn. - WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the student-run campus radio station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, won first-place in two categories and third-place in one category during the Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. annual conference held Oct. 25-27 in Seattle, Washington.

Station staff members won first-place for both best news reporting audio and best sportscast audio. Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, submitted his news report "Homicide Suspect at Large" for the news reporting category; and Natalie King, Jordan Taylor and John Thornton collectively submitted their program "The Bench" for the sportscast category. King is a 2017 UT Martin graduate from Paducah, Kentucky, Taylor is a sophomore from Medon, and Thornton is a junior from Atoka.

King, Taylor and Thornton also worked with Ashley Shores, a 2018 graduate from Lebanon, to submit their "UTM versus Ole Miss" football broadcast, which won third place in the best sports play-by-play category.

Competition entries are submitted each spring and judged in the fall of the following year. Students can submit work in up to six categories, and UT Martin students placed in half the available competitions.

WUTM has won more than 240 awards from state, regional, national and international competitions since 2005. The station currently holds the title of "Best College Radio Station in the South" through the Southeast Journalism Conference and is an eight-time platinum-rated station by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communications and WUTM faculty adviser, at 731-881-7555 or rrobins@utm.edu.
WESTSTAR HONORED — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program was recently honored with the 2018 Outstanding Leadership Program Award from the Tennessee Association for Community Leadership. Among those taking part in the presentation in Knoxville were (from left) WestStar coordinator Virginia Grimes, executive director Dr. Charley Deal and administrative assistant Jordan Jones.

Leadership touted
WestStar receives statewide award

The Tennessee Association for Community Leadership honored the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program with the 2018 Outstanding Leadership Program Award during its annual conference held recently in Knoxville. This is the first year WestStar has received this honor.

The WestStar Leadership Program, established in 1989, is the oldest and largest regional leadership program in the state and currently boasts more than 800 alumni. The 2019 class, chosen in December, will be the 30th in program history. Each year, approximately 30 new WestStar class members participate in sessions across West Tennessee to discuss the challenges and successes of the region and develop new ideas to improve the economic prosperity of the area. The WestStar Leadership Program also hosts the Working Women’s Conference each February and the first and only regional African-American Leadership Conference each April. The FutureStar and RisingStar regional programs for youth also provide leadership development for students in grades seven, eight, 11 and 12, respectively.

“Through my involvement as a participant, alumna and board member, I have seen the value of this program and the benefit it has to rural West Tennessee,” wrote Jake Bynum, mayor of Weakley County, when recommending the program for this award. “WestStar not only teaches invaluable leadership skills and information about our communities, but it also provides a network of connections that I have been able to use time and time again.” Bynum is a 2013 WestStar graduate.

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or the Tennessee Association for Community Leadership, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298.
Contestants claim Miss UT Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival titles

Amanda Mayo, a 20-year-old junior from Lilburn, Georgia, won the 2019 Miss University of Tennessee at Martin title during the combined Miss UT Martin-Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held Sunday night in the university’s Russell Duncan Ballroom.

The pageant is cosponsored by the university and the city of Martin.

The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crown went to 21-year-old Tera Townsend, an audio engineering student at SAE Institute Nashville.

Both titleholders now advance to the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant next June at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. Townsend previously held the 2018 Miss Jackson title and competed in June at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, so the Soybean Festival title qualifies Townsend to compete a second time for the Miss Tennessee crown.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 56th year, while the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant crowned its 20th titleholder. The pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin receives $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival receives $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if she is not.

Mayo is a double major in biology and geoscience as well as a member of the Skyhawk rifle team, and her platform is "Return to Learn: A Concussion Awareness Initiative." She has competed for almost four years in Miss Tennessee preliminaries before earning this opportunity to compete for the state crown. Mayo plays the violin, but talent was not the most challenging part of the competition.

"For me, the toughest part of the competition is swimsuit because I am plus-size, but I use that to influence other girls to let them know you can literally do anything if you just set your mind to it," she said. Mayo’s UT Martin ties run deep: Her grandfather is university Athletics Hall of Fame member Lee Mayo, a kicker for the UT Martin football team that won the 1967 Tangerine Bowl championship.

Townsend’s platform is “Sing a Note – Through Music Building a Better You,” and she said that her experience during the 2018 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant will help her next year on the Miss Tennessee stage. Townsend sings and plays the guitar, but as with Mayo, talent isn’t the toughest part of the competition. "Well, it’s always been interview for me because I grew up with a speaking disability," she said. "It took me a while to kind of overcome that."

The Miss UT Martin court includes Rachael Friedrich, of Jackson, second runner-up, and Kailey Duffy, of Camden, first runner-up. Miranda Colegrove, of Lake Jackson, Texas, was the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival second runner-up, and Kara Smith, of Cordova, earned first runner-up and was also selected Miss Congeniality by the contestants. Sable Estes, of Trenton, won the People’s Choice Award.
McKENZIE Ag Teacher Participates in WestTeach

Lindsey Parham, the agriculture teacher at McKenzie High School, is one of 13 educators. Speaking at the McKenzie Board of Education, Parham thanked board members for allowing her to participate in the program and to miss five days of instruction to do so.

As part of Weststar, the program is in its inaugural year and is designed to expose teachers to a variety of topics, including industrial production, poverty, gang violence, sextortion, STEM education, and team building. She said she would love to see a STEM program at MHS.

Tracy Connell of Huntingdon High School is the lone other participant from Carroll County.

The program included: West Tennessee Agriculture, August 27, Martin; Entrepreneurship in West Tennessee, August 28, Union City; Welfare & Social Consequences, September 24, Jackson; Creating Partnerships for Economic Development, October 30, Dyersburg; Industry Tours, November 27, Covington/Brownsville, and Graduation Banquet; January 29, 2019, U7 Martin.

Lindsey Parham speaks to the Board of Education of the McKenzie Special School District.

Benefits of WestTeach program outlined for Union City School Board

An innovative new teacher development program, called WestTeach, is being used to help address education issues as they relate to skills necessary to succeed in the region’s workforce.

Union City High School Spanish teacher Beth McManus is one of the 12 teachers involved in the program and Monday night she briefed the Union City School Board on how the program works.

“WestTeach focuses on economic development in the classroom,” she told the school board.

She was one of 32 teachers nominated for the project, with 12 of the nominees chosen to participate in the program. WestTeach was launched by the 2017 WestStar Leadership Class as a way to address how to identify and solve challenges dealing with training high school students for tomorrow’s workforce.

Mrs. McManus explained WestTeach participants are focused on vocational training for high school students.

She said area industries have shifted away from the traditional workforce skills typically associated with factory labor to more technology-focused workforce.

Next month the WestTeach group will travel to Brownsville to tour industries in that city, according to Mrs. McManus.

In reaction to her brief report, Director of Schools Wes Kennedy described WestTeach as a “great program.”

In another action at Monday’s 15-minute meeting, the school board:

- Was given an update by Kennedy on recent academic, athletic, and band program achievements, while also reminding the school board of the kickoff of the UCHS basketball season Thursday night and the continuation of the UCHS football playoff season on Friday night, both against Trenton-Peabody High School.
- Was informed Thanksgiving break is scheduled for next week (Nov. 21-23).
- Was given a brief update by Kennedy on the recent gas leak at Union City Elementary School.
- Praised the patience of parents, teachers and students during the ordeal and also thanked the work of the Union City Police Department, CAM Electric (See Page 5, Col. 3).

WestTeach...

(Continued from Page 1) and Revell Construction.

- Learned about the recent Red Ribbon Week at Union City Middle School. Kennedy said the drug and alcohol prevention program was “a great success.”

Red Ribbon Week involved videos shown to students, a photo contest administered through the Obion County Prevention Coalition and special dress-up days focused on drug and alcohol abuse awareness.

- Approved a five-item consent agenda that included routine approval of a 2018 compliance report budget amendments and bills.

Prior to the start of Monday night’s meeting, board member Curtis McLendon led a prayer and, once the meeting was called to order, McLendon, a military veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Empty Bowls helps fill We Care’s needs

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

On Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., visitors to the University of Tennessee’s Student Life Center will have the opportunity to address hunger in Weakley County ... and walk away with an example of the art of caring.

“The real story is David and his servant’s heart,” wrote Betty Baker, director of We Care Ministries, in an email alerting the Press to the 15th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser, spearheaded by David McBeth, professor of art at UTM. The event benefits the food bank located in Martin that serves the entire county.

“David is a great guy and has made such a difference for this ministry over these many years. He is a large part of the reason that our food bank has the equipment that we needed to grow into a food bank that this community should be proud to have available for the county,” she noted.

A tour of the We Care facilities on North Lindell includes a stop at the wall of freezers and fridges that the nearly $75,000 the Empty Bowls annual soup and pottery experience has made possible and that Baker says ignited a “domino effect” providing space to accept donations like those from Hunters for the Hungry and allowing that hunger-based effort to grow as a result.

“Growth” appears to be a theme with this year’s effort. McBeth and his small team of wife Donna and former students set a goal of 1,500 bowls, added a silent auction of David McBeth originals, and created an option for sponsors to donate and receive complimentary bowls. With these

See EMPTY BOWLS,
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EMPTY BOWLS,
From Page 1

additions, the event is on track to raise approximately $25,000 and put them over $100,000 raised in a decade and a half of focusing on hunger.

Victoria Falcon, who chose to double-major as a result of McBeth’s inspiration in the ceramic studio, will be traveling from her graduate studies at Tulane University to help oversee the plans that she, other former students Miranda Rutan and Shara Brown, and the McBeths have been planning since realizing this year’s Empty Bowls would be the 15th.

The Pittsburgh native says events like this one that supports the community is one of the reasons she fell in love with Martin, a place she describes as having the “perfect little downtown.”

The 2016 UTM graduate calls McBeth “one of the most caring professors” she’s had points to his encouragement to learn from mistakes as significant for her personal growth.

“I didn’t think I would be able to throw,” Falcon said of her first Empty Bowls experience, referring to the process of crafting pottery. She threw 50 bowls. “They weren’t perfect,” she said, and added that she has now seen thousands of bowls produced for the experience.

As for continuing to help make an event happen when she is hundreds of miles away and becoming invested in a new city and opportunities, Falcon is clear. “We will always make time for this because you make time for what’s important.”

The impressive number of bowls desired means Beth White of Medina is investing a great deal of time as well. Originally from Huntingdon and a graduate of UTM with a master’s in home economics, her return to the campus after more than a decade away unearthed an opportunity to return to the pottery wheel. In turn, she has gotten caught up in the Empty Bowls enthusiasm.

Throwing pots “is not like riding a bicycle,” she said of the art that has her making the trek from Medina twice a week to study with McBeth. “Your body unlearns, and I had to start over. He’s patient and laid back and you can make a mess and figure it out and he’s there. I can’t brag on my experience enough.”

She’s been participating in the event since 2016. Her first contribution was 20 bowls, then 88 of the 100 she did last year were good enough for the donors to take home. This year she quit counting at 100 and that was a few weeks ago.

White says that many participants in the annual experience are often unaware of the breadth of the process that results in the functional but beautiful pieces of art. Clay is made with 50-pound sacks of dry material, run through a mill to compress it, then wedged. Next comes throwing it, drying it, then flipping it over and letting the bottom dry. After trimming, comes the bisque fire, glazing, another drying, and finally loading for a second or glaze firing.

She explains that “it takes all day to fire that kiln.” Someone has to be there every 30 minutes to check that the fire hasn’t gone out and watch the flame. Loading “doesn’t go fast because you want as many in as possible. It’s like a puzzle.”

Managing that process has consumed the McBeths’ calendars for the past several weeks and White, among many others, praises the couple’s commitment to not only serving the community but promoting the arts.

“It’s not just a bowl, it’s a work of art,” she says of the many pieces that will be displayed and utilized on Saturday. “Stuff tastes better out of handmade pottery,” she adds, likening the experience to the comfort of “sleeping under a quilt that grandma’s made.”

David Belote, executive director of the Tennessee Soybean Festival, focuses on the artistic contribution as well when he describes the efforts of his friend and “community servant” McBeth. “The results are gifts galore for all involved... beautifully crafted pottery, the gift of food for those in need, and the gift of community coming together to share a meal.”

For 45 years, the community has supported We Care Ministries as they have in turn supported individuals facing emergency and longer-term need. Launched in 1973 when the First United Methodist Church of Martin received a donation for $3,600 that ultimately provided transportation and emergency assistance, the ministry became a nonprofit in 1987 and formally ecumenical in 1990. Today, We Care’s outreach expands beyond the familiar thrift store and food bank to include budget counseling, and assistance with rent, utilities, eye and dental care, school supplies as well as toys and gifts at Christmas.

In 2017, the total number of families assisted reached 4,185. The food bank alone served 222,572 pounds of food to more than 3,000 families.

“We Care Ministries is not government-funded,” notes facility director Baker, underscoring the value of fundraisers like the annual Empty Bowls event. “One hundred percent of all financial donations are used to directly assist those who come to our doors for assistance.”

Empty Bowls can be found on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/martinemptybowls/ and on Instagram @martinemptybowls.
Mayo and Townsend crowned pageant winners

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Katrina Cobb, assistant station manager for Public Television Station WLJT, is pageant director and was pleased with this year’s event. “It’s been an amazing night,” Cobb said after the event. “We had 13 young ladies compete. That’s the most any preliminary in the state of Tennessee has had so far this year. We’re excited to have two fabulous young ladies that have just been crowned ... and I think it’s going to be a great year.” Cobb’s work will continue as she guides both contestants through Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant preparations and also accompanies Mayo and Townsend to Jackson next June during pageant week.

The title of Miss Tennessee is a full-time, yearlong position as the governor’s official spokesperson for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee’s Children’s Miracle Network hospitals.

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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The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

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

https://www.kfvs12.com

Businesses closed, events canceled due to winter weather

By Jasmine Adams | November 14, 2018 at 8:26 AM CST - Updated November 15 at 1:46 PM

(KFVS) - Businesses are closing and some events are being canceled due to inclement weather coming in Wednesday night through Thursday.

Tennessee

Dyers County

- Dyersburg State Community College locations will operate on a delayed schedule Thursday, Nov. 15, beginning at 10 a.m.
- UT Martin centers at Jackson, Parsons and Somerville will be closed Thursday, Nov. 15 because of inclement weather. The UT Martin main campus is OPEN and operating on a regular schedule Thursday, Nov. 15. ALL classes and administrative offices are OPEN.

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UT Martin president honored at farewell reception

UT System President Joe DiPietro (center) is pictured with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver (left) and Crawford Callimore, a former UT Board of Trustees member, during a farewell reception in DiPietro’s honor held Nov. 14 on the UT Martin campus. (Source: UT Martin)

By James Long | November 14, 2018 at 4:35 PM CST - Updated November 14 at 4:35 PM

MARTIN, TN (KFVS) - President Joe DiPietro made a final official visit November 14 to the University of Tennessee at Martin, where they attended a campus reception in his and his wife’s honor.

DiPietro served as the UT System’s 25th president since January 2011. He will retire from the position effective February 14, 2019. His last active day in office will be Nov. 21.

“Our greatest asset is our people, and our most beautiful asset is the quad. And so as our people – all 8,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni – are walking that quad, they will walk past your plaque,” said Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver. “You will always have a home here, and you will always be remembered fondly. God bless you, and we love you.”

“It didn’t take me long to fall in love with this place; it happened right away,” said DiPietro. “I want to thank you because you’ve always been in my corner. I’ve never had stronger support across the (UT) System than from here from the very beginning. If you think about my election to this office, which was about as narrow as you could get, the (UT) Martin trustees were right behind me.”
"I feel blessed by the fact that I came through with an 11-10 vote, and somehow, by the grace of God, I got the job," he added. "It’s been a privilege to serve you, and it’s been a real privilege to have you work so hard that we’ve broken four or five or six system-wide records. If you look at enrollment, if you look at fundraising, if you look at retention rate, don’t think you didn’t pitch in to make that all happen," he continued.

There was a dedication of a campus light pole in honor of the DiPietros and their service to the university. It will be located near Brehm Hall, which houses the animal science program, and affixed with a plaque that reads: “Lighting the path for future generations. Presented in honor of their leadership, friendship and volunteer spirit in advancing UT Martin and the success of its students. Joe and Deb DiPietro, Nov. 14, 2018.”

The Board of Trustees has appointed Randy Boyd, a University of Tennessee, Knoxville alumnus and businessman, to serve as the System’s interim president beginning Nov. 22. He will serve up to 24 months or until a new president is appointed following an external search.

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AT HOMECOMING — The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its 15th annual Quad City prior to the university’s homecoming game recently. Quad City 2018 included a record number of tents and booths, as well as a zipline and petting zoo. Among those on hand representing the UT Martin chapter of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority were current students and alumni, including (from left, front row) Destiny Flood, holding Baylor Grace Flood, of Union City (’14), Shae Tyler of Memphis, Macy Slaughter of Dyersburg, (back row) Mary Margaret Chester of Martin (’02), Taylor Alderson of Greenfield (’17), Phyllis Pritchett of Martin (’75), Erin Lannom of Dyer, Abbie Lunsford of Adamsville, Whitney Barner of Martin (’13) and Dr. Nell Gallet of Martin (’76).

HOMECOMING HAPPINESS — Students (from left) Bethany Walsh of Obion, Chelsea Willis of Greenfield and Violet Durden of Memphis recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 15th annual Quad City prior to the university’s homecoming game. They represented the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts’ League of Striving Artists. Quad City 2018 included a record number of tents and booths, plus a zipline and petting zoo.
New vice chancellor chosen for student affairs at UTM

Dr. Andy Lewter, current dean of students at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Ga., will become the new vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Tennessee at Martin, effective Jan. 1, 2019.

Lewter's appointment follows a national search and recommendation by a search committee to UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

Lewter succeeds Dr. Margaret Toston, who retired June 30.

"Dr. Lewter has the experience and vision needed to lead our Division of Student Affairs," Carver said. "He emerged as the top person from an excellent candidate pool, and his professional background and familiarity with the university position him for success in this important role. I'm grateful to the search committee for their hard work identifying student-centered candidates capable of moving this division to the next level."

Lewter is a native of Chapel Hill and received a bachelor's degree in political science from UT Martin in 1994. He also holds a master's degree in education from the University of South Carolina in Columbia and a doctor of education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

He previously served in several student affairs positions from 1996-2013 at Maryville College in Maryville.

"Returning to campus in this role has been a dream of mine since graduation (from UT Martin)," Lewter said. "I am excited about this opportunity to serve the students of UT Martin and look forward to working with the student affairs staff to ensure student safety, promote student success and provide students with an amazing college experience."

Lewter has significant experience in key student affairs areas, including programming, student counseling and health, Greek life, campus recreation, career services and assessment. As a UT Martin student, he was active in both Greek life and student leadership positions.

He will lead the UT Martin Division of Student Affairs, which serves students at the main campus and five educational outreach centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Lewter will be joined in Martin by his wife, Megan, who is also a 1994 UT Martin graduate, and their two sons: Andrew, 18, and Mitchell, 7.

The search committee was chaired by Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

UT Martin to showcase artwork

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled "In Retrospect" now through Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery.

An exhibition opening was held Tuesday evening. The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit will include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of "identity" and will portray what "identity" means to each student.

The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

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

'Bach to Basics' set for Thursday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will host its fall showcase, "Bach to Basics," at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The dance studio is located in room 3033.

A suggested program donation of $3 will be requested at the door.

The dance ensemble has performed this showcase for students from five middle and high schools in Middle Tennessee this semester.

Sarah McCormick, associate professor of dance, and five of her ensemble students have presented master classes and performances at both Mt. Pleasant middle and high schools, Creswell Middle Prep School for the Arts in Nashville and Overton High School and Hickory Ridge Middle School in Memphis.

UT Martin student dancers Michala Bland of Spring Hill, Keenisia Mason of Memphis, Alyssa Salazar of Adam's, Jorgia Lamb of Nashville and Alaina Harvey of Owens Cross Roads, Ala., will be featured in the showcase. Kimberly Schwartz, a spring 2018 graduate, will also join the ensemble as a guest performer.

For more information on the UT Martin Dance Ensemble fall tour, contact Ms. McCormick at (731) 881-7335 or smccormick@utm.edu.
UTM to showcase student artwork

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled “Introspective” from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit will include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of “identity” and will portray what “identity” means to each student.

The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

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

UTM Presents 2018 Homecoming Awards

The University of Tennessee at Martin presented homecoming awards to (l-r) Alex Bynum, of Dresden; Tonya Parson, of Memphis; and William Latimer III, of Union City, during the annual Chancellor's Brunch and Alumni Awards Program prior to the homecoming football game Oct. 27. Bynum received the 2018 Outstanding Young Alumni Award and Parson received the 2018 Outstanding Alumni Award for achievements in their respective professions. Latimer was honored with the 2018 Chancellor's Award for University Service after providing the match funds required for the Tennessee legislature to finance the construction of the university's new Latimer Engineering and Science Building, which is named in his honor. The award-winners are pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver (far right).
Several Weakley County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s eighth-annual FutureStar Summit on Oct. 4 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit works to show seventh and eighth-grade students from West Tennessee the personal value of an education and encourage them to attend college in the future. The students attend the conference free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from each child’s county of residence. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Virginia Grimes, program coordinator for the WestStar Leadership Program; Ryan Brear; Annette Henry; Kaliyah McHaney; Anna Hobock; Precious Barner; Wylie Ogg; (back row) Chase Black; Franklin Pruitt; Christopher Harris; Chloe Ethridge; and Daniel Ballew. Brear and Pruitt attend Greenfield Elementary School; Henry and Harris attend Gleason School; and McHaney and Hobock attend Martin Middle School. Barner and Ethridge attend Sharor School, and Ogg, Black and Ballew attend Dresden Middle School. For more information about the FutureStar Summit or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Jordar Jones, administrative assistant at 731-881-3298.
Miss UTM, Miss Soybean Festival Queens Crowned

Amanda Mayo (left), of Lilburn, Georgia, and Tera Townsend, of Nashville, 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. Mayo is a junior at UT Martin studying biology and geology. Townsend is an audio engineering student at SAE Institute Nashville.

Locals Students In Piano Duo

MARTIN, Tenn., Oct. 30, 2018 – LOCAL STUDENTS COMPETE IN PIANO DUO – University of Tennessee at Martin students Gian Garma (left), a senior from Martin, and Grant Larcom, a sophomore from Union City, recently competed as a duo in the Tennessee Music Teachers Association state collegiate piano ensemble competitions and the Tennessee preliminaries of the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist piano competitions. Garma and Larcom were named the state runners-up in the TMTA competition after performing Chopin’s “Rondo in C Major,” Frederic Rzewski’s “Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues” and Samuel Barber’s “Pas de deux.” Larcom also entered the MTNA solo competition performing William Bolcom’s “The Serpent’s Kiss” and Franz Liszt’s “Consolation No. 3.” Both students are working toward Bachelor of Arts degrees in music.

UTM To Showcase Student Artwork November 13-December 1

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled “Introspective” from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery. An exhibition opening will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit will include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of “identity” and will portray what “identity” means to each student.

The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
DiPietro’s Honored at UTM Reception

Posted on November 15, 2018 by Charles Choate in Local News

University of Tennessee President Dr. Joe DiPietro, and his wife, Deb, made a final visit Wednesday to the campus of UT-Martin.

A reception was held in their honor, with Dr. DiPietro serving since January of 2011, as the UT System’s 25th president.

DiPietro will retire from the position effective February 14th, with his last active day in office to be November 21st.

During the reception, Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and university provost, Dr. Phil Cavalier, presented DiPietro with the title of distinguished professor of animal science in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources.

Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver announced the dedication of a campus light pole in honor of the DiPietro’s and their service to the university.

The dedicated light pole will be located near Brehm Hall, which houses the animal science program.

https://www.wpsdlocal6.com

UT Martin student killed in crash

November 15, 2018 by WPSD Staff

A wreck on a road in Carroll County, Tennessee, claimed the life of a University of Tennessee Martin student Thursday morning, the university’s newspaper reports.

The Pacer, UTM’s campus paper, reports 24-year-old Megan Cox’s car crashed on Highway 70 after sliding on the icy road. The car’s rear end slid into oncoming traffic and was hit by another vehicle on the passenger side.

Cox was set to graduate this year, the paper reports.
The UT Martin main campus is open and operating on a regular schedule today, Thursday, Nov. 15. All classes and administrative offices are open.

UT Martin centers at Jackson, Parsons, Ripley and Somerville remain closed Thursday, Nov. 15, because of inclement weather.

PHOTO: UT System President Joe DiPietro (center) is pictured with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver (left) and Crawford Gallimore, a former UT Board of Trustees member, during a farewell reception in DiPietro’s honor held Nov. 14 on the UT Martin campus.

MARTIN, Tenn. – University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and his wife, Deb, made a final official visit Nov. 14 to the University of Tennessee at Martin, where they attended a campus reception in their honor. Dr. Joe DiPietro has served as the UT System’s 25th president since January 2011 and will retire from the position effective Feb. 14, 2019. His last active day in office will be Nov. 21.
During the reception, Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and Dr. Phil Cavalier, university provost, presented DiPietro with the title of distinguished professor of animal science in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. This is the first such title to be presented by UT Martin and acknowledges DiPietro's career as a veterinarian before he accepted the position as UT System president.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, then announced the dedication of a campus light pole in honor of the DiPietros and their service to the university. The dedicated light pole will be located near Brehm Hall, which houses the animal science program, and affixed with a plaque that reads, "Lighting the path for future generations. Presented in honor of their leadership, friendship and volunteer spirit in advancing UT Martin and the success of its students. Joe and Deb DiPietro, Nov. 14, 2018."

“Our greatest asset is our people, and our most beautiful asset is the quad. And so as our people – all 8,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni – are walking that quad, they will walk past your plaque,” said Carver. “You will always have a home here, and you will always be remembered fondly. God bless you, and we love you.”

“It didn’t take me long to fall in love with this place; it happened right away,” said DiPietro. “I want to thank you because you’ve always been in my corner. I’ve never had stronger support across the (UT) System than from here from the very beginning. If you think about my election to this office, which was about as narrow as you could get, the (UT) Martin trustees were right behind me.

“I feel blessed by the fact that I came through with an 11-10 vote, and somehow, by the grace of God, I got the job. It’s been a privilege to serve you, and it’s been a real privilege to have you work so hard that we’ve broken four or five or six system-wide records. If you look at enrollment, if you look at fundraising, if you look at retention rate, don’t think you didn’t pitch in to make that all happen,” he continued.

“Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for who you are and what you’re about and for what you did to advance the University of Tennessee on my watch. It’s been a privilege to work with you and a great opportunity, a capstone career position that I’ve had the privilege to fill.”

The UT Board of Trustees has appointed Randy Boyd, a University of Tennessee, Knoxville alumnus and businessman, to serve as the UT System's interim president beginning Nov. 22. Boyd will serve up to 24 months or until a new president is appointed following an external search.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
A UT Martin student from Benton County was killed in a two-vehicle crash Thursday morning in Carroll County.

WBBJ reports 24-year-old Megan Cox of Camden was killed in the crash on Highway 70 near Bruceton.

According to the UT Martin student newspaper, The Pacer, Miss Cox was a senior Psychology major.

A THP report states the rear of Cox’s vehicle turned into oncoming traffic and was struck by a second vehicle in the passenger side.

The driver of the second vehicle was injured in the crash.

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CHANCELLOR VISITS KOREA – Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, visited Seoul, South Korea, in mid-October accompanied by Amy Fenning, director of the Office of International Programs and International Admissions. They spent time with officials from Hansung University on Oct. 16 to solidify the existing relationship between the two institutions. Hansung University has sent short-term international program students to UT Martin for several years now, and UT Martin actively exchanges students with Hansung University each year. Pictured are (from left) Seungcheon Kim, dean of international affairs; Fenning; Carver; Sang-hann Lee, president of Hansung University; Choul-woo Park, manager of international affairs; and Il Hwan David Kim, deputy manager of international programs.
CHANCELLOR SOLIDIFIES NEW INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP — UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and Amy Fenning, director of the Office of International Programs and International Admissions, visited Myongji University in Seoul, South Korea, on Oct. 19 where Carver and university president Byong-Jin You signed a memorandum of understanding. This new partnership will allow the exchange of students between UT Martin and Myongji University in future academic years. Pictured are (from left) Yongdal Kim, director of international affairs; Fenning; Carver; Byong-Jin You, president of Myongji University; Dohjong Kim, university vice president; and Song-II Joo, dean of international affairs.

DIPIETRO HONORED — Board Chair John Compton (left) presents Deb and Joe DiPietro with a framed portrait and framed resolution naming DiPietro president emeritus of the University of Tennessee.
The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees recently honored UT President Joe DiPietro for nearly eight years of leadership and bestowed upon him the status of president emeritus upon his retirement.

"You led us through an amazing transformation," Board Chair John Compton said to DiPietro.

DiPietro will retire from UT on Nov. 21 after serving as president since January 2011.

"What this University does to make Tennessee better cannot be measured in graduation rates, funding increases or statistics," DiPietro said. "It improves the lives, the opportunities and hope for future generations each and every day. This is what really matters and is what UT does better than anyone else in this state."

In reflecting on his time leading the University, DiPietro said he learned the importance of having the qualities of a dove, a dragon and a diplomat.

"You have to be trusting, tough, an absolute truth-teller and thick skinned," he said. "You also need to possess the skills and talents of a counselor, a cheerleader, a mediator and a five-star general all rolled into one."

Of all that he accomplished during his tenure as president, DiPietro said he was most proud of establishing a sustainable budget for a system that erased a projected gap of $377 million by 2025. DiPietro established the Budget Advisory Group in 2014 to develop a two-year plan for self-imposed fiscal restraints to increase revenue, cut costs and establish budget parameters worked to keep tuition increases low and to help. And it worked.

He accomplished the sustainable budget and eliminating the projected budget gap while leading a record four years of low tuition increases, including a zero percent tuition increase this year for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and undergraduates at UT Health Science Center.

"It’s always good to leave an institution better than you found it, and, indeed, that is the case," he said. "More than a handful of our accomplishments are system records."

Some of the accomplishments under DiPietro’s leadership are:

In 2017, research achieved a record-high, system-wide $481 million in sponsored-program expenditures.

The UT Foundation experienced a record fundraising year of more than $397 million given during 2017-2018 fiscal year. The record year of giving included the naming of two colleges of the UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Chattanooga, which join two other colleges named at UT Knoxville since 2014.

The UT Institute of Agriculture and Institute for Public Service had more than 5 million contacts with Tennesseans statewide.

More than 240 projects totaling more than 11.5 million square feet were constructed or renovated across the system. Those projects reflect investments by the state of more than $727 million and more than $1.25 billion by the University.

Since a 25 percent budget cut in 2012 following the Great Recession, funding has rebounded. Compared to 2013, UT’s funding has grown by almost $164 million, a 38 percent increase in fiscal year 2019.

Student enrollment has increased 2.6 percent from Fall 2011 to 2018 with 50,810.

Six-year graduation rate rose from 55.5 percent in 2011 to 59.6 percent in 2017.

DiPietro called the University of Tennessee a special place.

"I will continue to be proud of the University and watch you achieve even bolder successes, bigger partnerships and accomplishments in the future," DiPietro said. "I’d expect nothing less of you. You will educate, discover and connect even more and more and more, and be of even greater benefit to the state’s citizens and beyond."

During Friday morning’s meeting of the Education, Research and Service Committee, provosts and chancellors of each campus answered questions related to different tenure policies and procedures. UT Knoxville and UT Institute of Agriculture’s policies and procedures governing early application for tenure before the sixth year of the probationary period and enhanced tenure-track review were postponed until the procedures can be reviewed by their faculty senate. Other campuses’ policies and procedures were approved as presented. Also, after discussion, the committee approved campus procedures for post-tenure track review. The full board then approved all the post-tenure review procedures and policies.

Trustees also ratified Compton’s appointment of a Special Committee on UT’s Athletic Programs. Former Trustee Charlie Anderson and current Trustees Kara Lawson and Lang Wiseman will serve on the committee. In 2016, an athletic committee was established by the Tennessee General Assembly. The 2018 UT FOCUS Act eliminated the athletics committee.

"I concluded some of the work of the former committee was still needed, especially with an entirely new board," Compton said. "I think this, personally, is an important committee."

The special committee will work to assure that the University’s athletic programs at UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin operate effectively and in compliance with UT policies and NCAA rules.

The board also approved extending the lease with the University Health System of the UT Medical Center from 2045 until 2099. The board previously approved a lease in 1999 for 50 years. UT Chief Financial Officer David Miller said the previous lease terms required UT revisit the payments from the hospital to UT after 20 years. The board approved a method for continuing lease payments for the next 30 years of the lease. The lease extension also allows the Health System board to make long-range plans regarding the hospital campus.
Attending Summit

LOCAL STUDENTS, Jordan Glass, Ja'Keevin Jarrett, Gabriyelle Brown and Keston Jones, pictured with Virginia Grimes, left, program coordinator for the WestStar Leadership Program, attended the WestStar Leadership Program's eighth-annual FutureStar Summit October 4th at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit works to show seventh and eighth-grade students from West Tennessee the personal value of an education and encourage them to attend college in the future. The students attend the conference free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from each child's county of residence. Glass and Jarrett attend Ripley Middle School; and Brown and Jones attend Hall's Junior High School. For more information about the FutureStar Summit or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Jordan Jones, administrative assistant, at 731-881-3298.

UTM to showcase student artwork
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled "Introspective" from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

UTM music events
The UT Martin chapter of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education will continue its "MusicEdLove" lecture series with a presentation at 7 p.m., Nov. 15, in the Band-_Rehearsal Hall, located in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building.

The department will host the fourth-annual "Woodwind Day" for both high school and college musicians from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 17, also in the Band Rehearsal Hall.
Inman students are FutureStars

Zamariyon Kendall (left) and Brice Donaldson, both students at Inman Middle School, attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s eighth annual FutureStar Summit Oct. 4 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit works to show seventh- and eighth-grade students from West Tennessee the value of an education and encourages them to attend college in the future.

UTM HOMECOMING – Representing the UTM Dept. of Communications, (front row, from left) Freshman Eden Miller, of Camden, Sabrina Exum, (back row, from left) Callie Dunlap, Michael Shane, Jeanie Nanney, and Dept. Chair Dr. Robert Nanney enjoy pre-game festivities prior to the UTM homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 27. The 15th annual “Quad City” included a record number of tents and booths as well as a zipline and a petting zoo.
**Ensemble to perform at UTM**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will bring the internationally touring musical group Seksion Maloya to the campus Nov. 19 as the second performers in the Allison Nelson Guest Artist Series.

Seksion Maloya will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for non-UTM students and free for UTM students with a valid student ID. Guests may purchase tickets online at utm.edu/music/events or at the door before the performance. Seating is limited, so interested guests and students should reserve tickets prior to the concert.

Seksion Maloya, based in Paris, France, performs maloya, a form of music that originated on a French island off the eastern coast of Madagascar called Reunion. The performance will combine percussive instruments such as the roulet, kayann and bobre with Reunionese creole singing. The UTM Department of History and Philosophy and the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages are co-sponsoring this event.

Seksion Maloya will also give a guest lecture on maloya music at 2 p.m. that afternoon. The lecture is free to the public and located in the Blankenship Recital Hall, as well.

The Nelson performance series will continue Jan. 14, 2019, with a performance and guest lecture by Khemia, a contemporary chamber ensemble that showcases the works of living composers in multimedia performances. For more information, contact the UTM Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

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**WestStar receives Leadership Award**

The Tennessee Association for Community Leadership honored UTM’s WestStar Leadership Program with the 2018 Outstanding Leadership Program Award during its annual conference held Oct. 17-19 in Knoxville. This is the first time WestStar has received this award.

The WestStar Leadership Program, established in 1989, is the oldest and largest regional leadership program in the state and currently boasts more than 800 alumni. Mayor Brett Lashlee and a number of other community leaders from Benton County have completed the program. The 2019 class, to be chosen in December, will be the 30th in program history. Each year, approximately 30 new WestStar class members participate in sessions across West Tennessee to discuss the challenges and successes of the region and develop new ideas to improve the economic prosperity of the area. This fall, the WestTeach program was initiated to provide leadership skills and networking opportunities to area teachers.

The WestStar Leadership Program also hosts a Working Women’s Conference each February and a regional African-American Leadership Conference each April. The FuturerWestStar and RisingStar regional programs for youth also provide leadership development for students in grades 7-12.

“Through my involvement as a participant, alumnus and board member, I have seen the value of this program and the benefit it has to rural West Tennessee,” wrote Jake Bynum, a 2013 WestStar graduate and current mayor of Weakley County, when recommending the program for this award. “WestStar not only teaches invaluable leadership skills and information about our communities, but it also provides a network of connections that I have been able to use time and time again.”

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or the Tennessee Association for Community Leadership, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
The UTM Department of Music introduced the Allison Nelson Guest Artist Series this semester to honor the career and legacy of Dr. Allison Nelson, professor emeritus of music and worldwide performer as a soloist and member of the Nelson and Neal piano duo. The series will showcase high-profile artists specializing in musical styles from around the world.

"It is important for young people in particular to see and experience the vast diversity of music," said Karleen Sternisha, a sponsor of the new series. "I was exposed to the fine arts as a child, and I feel that it has given me the confidence to embrace things that are new and different. I see music as the universal language that can build the bridge that leads to understanding and embracing other cultures."

A native of Adelaide, Australia, Nelson was recognized as a child prodigy at the age of seven. She began performing in public and on Australian radio at age 10. She later moved to the U.S. and studied piano at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she met her first husband Harry Neal.

Originally from Paris, Neal was the son of William Fisher Neal, a lawyer and politician in Henry County. The couple performed more than 1,500 concerts from 1950-68 during a world tour that included the U.S., Canada, Switzerland, India, Hong Kong, and Fiji, among others. When Neal died in 1968, and Nelson began a second career as a professor at UTM the following year.

While at UTM, Nelson helped establish the Bachelor of Music in piano performance and founded the UTM piano ensemble. She also started the University Trio alongside flutist Robert Fleming and clarinetist Gilbert Carp. Direction of these groups fell to piano professor Dr. Elaine Harriss, who performed with Nelson for many years, upon Nelson’s retirement in 1989. Nelson now lives in Jackson, and is married to Dr. David Loebbaka, UTM professor emeritus of physics.

The next performance in the series will feature Sektion Maloya, a Paris-based ensemble performing in the Maloya style from Reunion, an African island off the eastern coast of Madagascar. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19, in the UTM Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall.

Tickets are $10 for general admission, $5 for students with ID from other schools, and free for UTM students. Tickets are available online at utm.edu/MusicEvents and at the door. Contact the Department of Music at 731-881-7402 for additional information.
UTM Senior Killed On Icy Road

NOVEMBER 16, 2018 AT 9:03 AM ▲ POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Bruceton, Tenn.—A senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin died in a car wreck caused by an icy roadway.

Megan Cox, a 24-year-old senior Psychology major at UTM and a commuter from Camden, was killed in the wreck Thursday morning.

Ms. Cox was reportedly driving on Hwy. 70 near Bruceton when her car began to slide on the ice, causing the rear end of the vehicle to turn into oncoming traffic. Her car was then hit on the passenger side by another car. The driver of that vehicle was injured.

According to The Pacer student newspaper at UT Martin, Ms. Cox was set to graduate this year.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018 ▲ THE JACKSON SUN

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled "Intro- spective" from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery. An exhibition opening will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit will include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of "identity" and will portray what "identity" means to each student.

HCHS Student Jacob Pooler Attends UTM Fall Preview

NOVEMBER 16, 2018 AT 7:09 PM ▲ POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

MARTIN, Tenn.— Jacob Pooler, at right, a student at Henry County High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Fall Preview Day on Nov. 10. This event offers prospective students the chance to learn about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. It also includes a walking tour of campus and opportunities for interactions with UT Martin students and faculty. Pooler is pictured with his father, Jason Pooler. For more information about UT Martin or to schedule a campus tour, visit utm.edu/advantage (http://utm.edu/advantage).
Crowns on Veterans Day

Meet Miss UT Martin, Miss Soybean Festival

Bud Grimes
UT Martin

MARTIN — Amanda Mayo, a 20-year-old junior from Lilburn, Georgia, won the 2019 Miss University of Tennessee at Martin title during the combined Miss UT Martin-Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant held Sunday, Nov. 2, in the university’s Russell Duncan Ballroom. The pageant is cosponsored by the university and the city of Martin.

The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crown went to Tera Townsend, 21, an audio engineering student at SAE Institute Nashville. Both titleholders now advance to the statewide Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant next June at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

Townsend previously held the 2018 Miss Jackson title and competed in June at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, so the Soybean Festival title qualifies Townsend to compete a second time for the Miss Tennessee crown.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 56th year, while the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant crowned its 20th titleholder.

See CROWNS, Page 5A

Crowsns

Continued from Page 1A

The pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions. The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin receives $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival receives $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if she is not.

Mayo is a double major in biology and geoscience as well as a member of the Skyhawk rifle team, and her platform is “Return to Learn: A Concussion Awareness Initiative.” She has competed for almost four years in Miss Tennessee preliminaries before earning this opportunity to compete for the state crown. Mayo plays the violin, but she says talent was not the most challenging part of the competition.

“For me, the toughest part of the competition is swimsuit because I am plus-size, but I use that to influence other girls to let them know you can literally do anything if you just set your mind to it,” she said. Mayo’s UT Martin ties run deep. Her grandfather is university Athletics Hall of Fame member Lee Mayo, a kicker for the UT Martin football team that won the 1967 Tangerine Bowl championship.

Townsend’s platform is “Sing a Note – Through Music Building a Better You,” and she said that her experience during the 2018 Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant will help her next year on the Miss Tennessee stage. Townsend sings and plays the guitar, but as with Mayo, talent isn’t the toughest part of the competition. “Well, it’s always been interview for me because I grew up with a speaking disability,” she said. “It took me a while to kind of overcome that.”

The Miss UT Martin court includes Rachael Friedrich, of Jackson, second runner-up, and Kailey Duffy, of Camden, first runner-up. Miranda Colegrove, of Lake Jackson, Texas, was the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival second runner-up, and Kara Smith, of Cordova, earned first runner-up and was also selected Miss Congeniality by the contestants. Sable Estes, of Trenton, won the People’s Choice Award.

Katrina Cobb, assistant station manager for Public Television Station WLJT, is pageant director and was pleased with this year’s event. “It’s been an amazing night,” Cobb said after the event. “We had 13 young ladies compete. That’s the most any preliminary in the state of Tennessee has had so far this year. We’re excited to have two fabulous young ladies that have just been crowned ... and I think it’s going to be a great year.” Cobb’s work will continue as she guides both contestants through Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant preparations and also accompanies Mayo and Townsend to Jackson next June during pageant week.

The title of Miss Tennessee is a full-time, yearlong position as the governor’s official spokesperson for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee’s Children’s Miracle Network hospitals.

For more information about the Miss UT Martin or Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival scholarship pageants, contact Cobb at kcoebb@wljt.org, or call 731-881-7561.
Woman killed in Highway 70 crash after first snow

Cassandra Stephenson
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

One woman was killed in a two-vehicle crash Thursday morning on Highway 70 in Carroll County. Megan Cox, a 24-year-old Camden woman, was traveling westbound on Highway 70 near Bruceton at around 8:30 a.m. when her car started slipping, ultimately rotating and crossing over into oncoming traffic, according to a Tennessee Highway Patrol report.

A vehicle traveling eastbound struck Cox’s car. Cox, who was wearing her safety belt, died in the collision.

The driver of the other vehicle, a 59-year-old man, was injured. The man was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the incident.

Reach Cassandra Stephenson at ckstephens@jacksun.com or at (731) 694-7261.

ATTEND SUMMIT — Several Weakley County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program's eighth-annual FutureStar Summit on Oct. 4 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit works to show seventh- and eighth-grade students from West Tennessee the personal value of an education and encourage them to attend college in the future. The students attend the conference free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from each child's county of residence. Participating were (front row, from left) Virginia Grimes, program coordinator for the WestStar Leadership Program; Ryan Brear, Annette Henry, Kaliyah McHaney, Anna Hobock, Precious Barner, Wylie Ogg, (back) Chase Black, Franklin Pruitt, Christopher Harris, Chloie Ethridge and Daniel Ballew.

For more information about the FutureStar Summit or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Jordan Jones, administrative assistant at (731) 881-3298.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will showcase student works in a contemporary art exhibit titled "Intropective" from Nov. 13-Dec. 1 in the Fine Arts Building Art Gallery. An exhibition opening will be held from 5-6:30 p.m., Nov. 13, also in the gallery.

The gallery is open to the public every day from 1-5 p.m. and before major theatre and dance performances.

The exhibit will include both individual and collaborative works by students enrolled in a history of contemporary art course taught by Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art. These works focus on the theme of "identity" and will portray what "identity" means to each student.

The exhibition will feature traditional and non-traditional art media such as digital works, installation pieces and interactive exhibits.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Telethon of Stars raises more than $100K

November 19, 2018 by WPSD Staff

PADUCAH — Thank you to everyone who gave to this year's Paducah Lions/WPSD Telethon of Stars! You raised more than $100,000.

The 62nd Telethon of Stars raised $112,545.80. The proceeds will help children and adults with special needs in the Local 6 area.

Many of you gave by attending the celebration concert with headliners Wynonna Judd and the Big Noise, on-air during our first phone-a-thon, when we aired the celebration concert on Saturday and the Gospel Celebration Concert on Sunday, and other chances to call in — as well as other contributions from the community.

Easter Seals West Kentucky, TLC Southern Illinois, and University of Tennessee Martin Infant Stimulation benefit from your donations. For more information about the people your donations help, click here.

For more about the Telethon of Stars, click here.

UTM holiday closings

The University of Tennessee at Martin will not hold classes Nov. 21-23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Administrative offices will be closed Nov. 22-23. This applies to the main campus as well as to the five educational outreach centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville. Classes will resume and administrative offices will open on a normal operating schedule Nov. 26. For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

UTM holding ACT prep courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an ACT success tactics training session from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 1, on the main campus. The registration fee is $45 per student. The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. It will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper. Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course. In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid. UT Martin will hold additional sessions from 8 a.m.-noon, Feb. 2, March 2 and April 8, 2019. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
EMPTY BOWLS RAISES OVER $12K

More than 30 pots of soup made by volunteers filled the Empty Bowls at Saturday's fundraiser for We Care Ministries food bank. Plans are to collect recipes from the donors and create a commemorative cookbook for the 15th annual event. In recognition of the fundraiser's anniversary, UTM's David McBeth set and exceeded the goal of students and alumni helping throw 1,500 bowls. Saturday a continuous stream of donors through the Student Life Center ensured that those efforts were rewarded as reports indicate the soup and pottery experience netted more than $12,000. Shown here are some of the volunteers who made the day possible: (standing from left) Beth White, Clare Wall, David McBeth; (seated) Victoria Falcon and Miranda Rutan.
We all have that someone on the list that is hard to buy for. Instead of feeling the stress, choose a unique item that will also make a contribution back to the community.

For a gift that shows a sense of caring and compassion and also gives back, give the gift of an Empty Bowl. This gift will be a treasured piece of art for the recipient and food for someone in need.

Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and was created by The Imagine Render Group. The basic premise is simple: Potters and other craftspeople, educators and others work with the community to create handcrafted bowls.

The Martin and University of Tennessee at Martin communities have been involved in the Empty Bowls Project for the last 15 years, with 100 percent of the money from the sale of the bowls going to the WeCare Food Bank.

WeCare Ministries, a benevolent organization who helps those in need with rent/utility assistance and food, has a walk-in freezer and cooler as a result of this project as well as funds over the years that have assisted to fund their food bank.

We Care’s outreach expands beyond the familiar thrift store and food bank to include budget counseling, and assistance with rent, utilities, eye and dental care, school supplies as well as toys and gifts at Christmas.

In 2017, the total number of families assisted reached 4,185. The food bank alone served 222,572 pounds of food to more than 3,000 families.

“We Care Ministries is not government-funded,” notes facility director Baker, underscoring the value of fundraisers like the annual Empty Bowls event. “One hundred percent of all financial donations are used to directly assist those who come to our doors for assistance.”

To purchase a bowl throughout the year for any special occasion, call or visit WeCare on North Lindell in Martin.

Empty Bowls can be found on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/martinemptybowls/ and on Instagram @martinemptybowls.

For a gift that is handcrafted with love by local potters and other craftspeople, a gift that shows a sense of caring and compassion for others, give an Empty Bowl.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF STRIVING ARTISTS — The League of Striving Artists is the student art organization at The University of Tennessee at Martin. LSA actively works on campus and in the community to promote the development of art enthusiasts and artists through academics, community, service learning, and leadership. The League of Striving Artists also works to foster an appreciation for art within the community through art related community service projects.
UTM senior Megan Cox killed in weather-related accident

A senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin died Thursday when her car slid out of control on icy roads.

According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Megan Cox, 24, of Camden was westbound on Highway 70 near Bruce- ton when her sports utility vehicle, a Suzuki Grand Vitara, began to skid and the rear end slid into the opposing traffic lane.

William Foster Jr., 59, of Hollow Rock, who was driving a Ford F250 pickup truck, struck the passenger side of Cox’s car.

Cox was killed and Foster was injured in the collision.

Megan Cox

According to UTM’s student newspaper, The Pacer, Cox was majoring in psychology and commuted each day to Martin.

“The university community is deeply saddened by Megan’s death. We join her family and friends in grieving this terrible loss,” Chancellor Keith Carver said in a statement to the university.

Visitation and funeral services for Cox were held Sunday.

The UTM Student Government association was scheduled to hold a candlelight vigil in Cox’s memory Monday night.

The university’s official policy on inclement weather explains how and when students, faculty and staff will be notified about weather closings, but provides no information about how such decisions are reached.

UTM closed for holidays

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Classes will resume and administrative offices will open on a normal operating schedule Nov. 26.

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

Santa’s Village celebrates 34 years

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 34th annual Santa’s Village celebration, Dec. 6 & 7th 6-9 p.m., eighth 11 a.m.-9 p.m., ninth 1-5 p.m., 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. There will be live entertainment and come visit our Art’s & Craft booths for your Christmas shopping needs.

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 annual event is free, but patrons are encouraged to bring a donation of nonperishable food and/or toys, worth at least $5.00, to benefit local residents.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin.

For more information contact Martin Parks and Recreation at 587-6784, on Facebook or at www.cityofmartin.net.
SGC STUDENTS ATTEND RISINGSTAR SUMMIT — Two Gibson County students were selected to attend the WestStar Leadership Program's 2018 RisingStar Youth Leadership Summit, held November 9 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is one of two WestStar youth programs designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee.

Pictured with Dr. Charley Deal (far left), WestStar executive director, are Claire Piercey (front) and Sara Fawcett, both students at South Gibson County High School.

RISINGSTAR SUMMIT — Two Gibson County students were selected to attend the WestStar Leadership Program's 2018 RisingStar Youth Leadership Summit, held November 9 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is one of two WestStar youth programs designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Dr. Charley Deal (far left), WestStar executive director, spent time with Claire Piercey (front) and Sara Fawcett, both students at South Gibson County High School.

Local Students Attend RisingStar Summit

MARTIN (November 16) — Four Carroll County students were selected to attend the WestStar Leadership Program's 2018 RisingStar Youth Leadership Summit, held November 9 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is one of two WestStar youth programs designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee.

Pictured with Dr. Charley Deal (far left), WestStar executive director, are (L to R) Tyler Spivey, Macey Ognibene, Molly Sturgis and Payton Connell. Ognibene and Spivey are students at McKenzie High School, and Sturgis and Connell attend Huntingdon High School.

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or RisingStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
BRUCETON (November 15) — A Benton County woman was killed in a two vehicle accident shortly before 8:30 a.m. last Thursday morning on Hwy 70 near Bruceton.

See BENTON on Page 3

LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT UT MARTIN — Several Gibson County students recently attended the WestStar Leadership Program's eighth-annual FutureStar Summit on at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit works to show seventh and eighth grade students from West Tennessee the personal value of an education and encourage them to attend college in the future. The students attend the conference free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from each child's county of residence. Pictured are (front row, from left) Virginia Grimes, program coordinator for the WestStar Leadership Program; Rickey Rainey, Shelby Black, Lane Fowlkes, Ciara Barton, Peyton Watson, Jordan Jones, administrative assistant for the WestStar Leadership Program; (back row) Derek Kee, Hayden Sikes, Alexis Boyer, Tomi Scarborough, Jasmine Alexander and Brandon Leming. Rainey and Black attend Humboldt Junior/Senior High School; Fowlkes and Boyer attend Yorkville Elementary School; and Barton and Kee attend Trenton Rosenwald Middle School. Watson and Scarborough attend Rutherford Elementary School; Sikes and Leming attend Dyer Middle School; and Alexander attends Spring Hill Elementary School. For more information about the FutureStar Summit or the WestStar Leadership Program, call 731-881-3298.
PHOTO: UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver (foreground) and staff member Stephanie Sellers (black dress, center) were among several university faculty and staff members who attended the third-annual Special Needs Prom hosted Nov. 17 by the UT Martin Non-Traditional Student Association.
MARTIN, Tenn. – High school students from special needs classrooms across the region attended the third-annual Special Needs Prom hosted Nov. 17 by the University of Tennessee at Martin's Non-Traditional Student Organization. This event began as a way to reach out to the local community and has become an afternoon area students look forward to year after year.

"We continue to host this event because of the effect it has not only on the special needs high school students but on UTM as a whole," said Julie Durham, president of NTSA. "It breaks the boundaries. We are no longer Greek or educational students or special interest groups, but we're one group."

Special Needs Prom is specially organized to provide a comfortable atmosphere for students with mobility, vision, sensory or other special needs to enjoy time with their friends and family as well as students from surrounding counties.

Missy Gammons, a nurse at West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Hospital in Martin, brought her son, Tobey, for his first prom this year. "He's an outgoing kid, but he enjoys being in smaller groups rather than at a larger school. He's active in Special Olympics, and this is a group he is familiar with. It gives him an opportunity to come out and have fun," she said. Tobey is a freshman at Obion County Central High School.

In addition to invited students, many members of the UT Martin community participated in the event as well. Almost 30 brothers from the UT Martin chapter of Kappa Alpha Order attended the dance in suits and ties to greet guests, serve food and assist however needed.

"We thought it would be a good thing to get out and help the kids," said Parker Brown, a sophomore fraternity member from Linden. "We like helping others feel better about themselves. At the end of the day, if we can put a smile on their faces, then we've done our duty as KAs," added Zack Williams, a senior fraternity member from Union City.

Many other university organizations supported the event as well, and Styles on Broadway Salon and Spa in Martin provided free hair and makeup services for guests prior to the event. This is the third year the salon has donated time and services to assist prom participants.

For more information on Special Needs Prom and plans for future events, contact Durham at 615-997-5930 or juladurh@ut.utm.edu.
‘The Hawk’ wins three awards

WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” the student-run campus radio station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, won first place in two categories and third place in one category during the Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. annual conference held Oct. 25-27 in Seattle, Wash.

Station staff members won first place for both best news reporting audio and best sportscast audio. Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, submitted his news report “Homicide Suspect at Large” for the news reporting category; and Natalie King, Jordan Taylor and John Thornton collectively submitted their program “The Bench” for the sportscast category. King is a 2017 UT Martin graduate from Paducah, Ky.; Taylor is a sophomore from Medon, and Thornton is a junior from Atoka.

King, Taylor and Thornton also worked with Ashley Shores, a 2018 graduate from Lebanon, to submit their “UTM versus Ole Miss” football broadcast, which won third place in the best sports play-by-play category.

Competition entries are submitted each spring and judged in the fall of the following year. Students can submit work in up to six categories, and UT Martin students placed in half the available competitions.

WUTM has won more than 240 awards from state, regional, national and international competitions since 2005. The station currently holds the title of “Best College Radio Station in the South” through the Southeast Journalism Conference and is an eight-time platinum-rated station by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

CLASSROOM DEDICATED — The University of Tennessee at Martin dedicated room 203 of the Business Administration Building to the late Dr. Ted Mosch, professor emeritus of political science, during a reception Nov. 8. Many of Mosch’s former colleagues and students as well as donors to the Ted Mosch Scholarship Fund were in attendance. Mosch began working at UT Martin in 1970 and served the university until 1981 when he was granted educational leave to attend the National War College in Washington D.C. He then served at the United States Army Intelligence Center and School from 1983-88 before returning to UT Martin, where he stayed until his retirement in 2002. Pictured during the naming reception are (l-r) Dr. Chris Baxter, chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science; Dale Allen (UT Martin ‘81), a Nashville attorney, former Mosch student and major scholarship donor; Dr. Ross Dickens, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs; and Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.
Serving the hungry ... and much more

We Care

The numbers at We Care Ministries are notable. In 2017, Christmas gifts came to 321 families, 555 children and youth and 128 senior adults as a result of the nonprofit's efforts; 103 families received disaster assistance; more than 300 children received school supplies; and 3,129 families benefited from the food bank's distribution of 222,572 pounds of food.

But the numbers tell only part of the story. When the doors of We Care are open on North Lindell in Martin, seven denominations of churches, ministry groups, the University of Tennessee at Martin, local businesses, civic organizations and the United Way of West Tennessee are meeting needs in Weakley County.

Current director Betty Baker began as a volunteer in 1988. Now in her 30th year with the program, she is an acknowledged "straight talking" believer in the power of what faith and a committed community can do.

Birthed as a ministry of First United Methodist Church in Martin, the growing enterprise became a nonprofit in 1987 and formally ecumenical in 1990. We Care now offers 10 programs that are in part supported by the thrift store as well as donations.

Baker's advocacy efforts on behalf of the people she serves is passionate. She says she longs to share cautionary tales of those she has counseled who found themselves caught in a debt cycle as a result of short-term, high-interest loans. She has pled on behalf of individuals who desperately want to be debt-free but are being pushed further and further behind by penalties and overdrafts.

She is clearly moved when she shares what happened to the 5-year-old she once ensured had a way to church each Sunday and a meal. That little girl always asked for takeaway so that she could "feed my daddy." Baker and her family soon discovered the father had a drug problem and the mother was no longer in the home. After years of doing her best to meet the needs of the young girl, Baker's ministry to the hungry was reshaped.

"She made me rethink what we do," Baker said of We Care's food pantry. As a result, the premade food bags are customized to be kid-friendly when needed. They also gather information so that they know if someone is living in a motel or in a tent and is therefore less likely to have items like can openers. Senior citizens are more likely to receive microwaveable or easy-to-prepare items.

As for the little girl who eventually lost both parents to drugs, she returned for a short visit years later with a child of her own. Thanking Baker and her family, the young mother declared, "My child will never live what I lived."

As long as those situations do exist, as long as Betty Baker is at the helm, and as long as Weakley Countians are made aware, food, clothes and assistance will be provided.

"This community is great in how they support us," Baker concluded. "They always rise to meet the need."
Third annual Special Needs Prom draws students from throughout region

High school students from special needs classrooms across the region attended the third-annual Special Needs Prom hosted Nov. 17 by the University of Tennessee at Martin's Non-Traditional Student Organization. This event began as a way to reach out to the local community and has become an afternoon area students look forward to year after year.

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DiPietro pays final visit to UTM

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro and his wife, Deb, made a final official visit last week to the University of Tennessee at Martin, where they attended a campus reception in their honor. Dr. Joe DiPietro has served as the UT System's 25th president since January 2011 and will retire from the position effective Feb. 14, 2019. His last active day in office will be Nov. 21.

During the reception, Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and Dr. Phil Cavaliere, university provost, presented DiPietro with the title of distinguished professor of animal science in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. This is the first such title to be presented by UT Martin and acknowledges DiPietro's career as a veterinarian before he accepted the position as UT System president.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, then announced the dedication of a campus light pole in honor of the DiPietros and their service to the university. The dedicated light pole will be located near Brehm Hall, which houses the animal science program, and affixed with a plaque that reads, "Lighting the path for future generations. Presented in honor of their leadership, friendship and volunteer spirit in advancing UT Martin and the success of its students. Joe and Deb DiPietro, Nov. 14, 2018."

“Our greatest asset is our people, and our most beautiful asset is the quad. And so as our people - all 8,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni - are walking that quad, they will walk past your plaque," said Carver. "You will always have a home here, and you will always be remembered fondly. God bless you, and we love you."

"It didn’t take me long to fall in love with this place; it happened right away," said DiPietro. "I want to thank you because you’ve always been in my corner. I've never had stronger support across the (UT) System than from here from the very beginning. If you think about my election to this office, which was about as narrow as you could get, the (UT) Martin trustees were right behind me..."

"I feel blessed by the fact that I came through with an 11-10 vote, and some-how, by the grace of God, I got the job. It’s been a privilege to serve you, and it’s been a real privilege to have you work so hard that we’ve broken four or five or six system-wide records. If you look at enrollment, if you look at fundraising, if you look at retention rate, don’t think you didn’t pitch in to make that all happen," he continued.

"Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for who you are and what you’re about and for what you did to advance the University of Tennessee on my watch. It’s been a privilege to work with you and a great opportunity, a capstone career position that I’ve had the privilege to fill.”

The UT Board of Trustees has appointed Randy Boyd, a University of Tennessee, Knoxville, alumnus and businessman, to serve as the UT System's interim president beginning Nov. 22. Boyd will serve up to 24 months or until a new president is appointed following an external search.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Lunch & Learn to be held Nov. 29

The date for the last Lunch & Learn of the year has been changed to Nov. 29.

Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education at the University of Tennessee and director of Area 7 Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics, will be the guest speaker.

Dr. Smith has taught in the UTM Department of Educational Studies since 2012 and focuses on teaching future educators how to instruct children with various kinds of special needs. He was also one of five higher education faculty members statewide to win the 2018 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award.

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

As director, Smith organizes events and activities for special needs students in his service area and raises funds to support Special

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**UT president, wife honored during visit to UT Martin**

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**UT Martin faculty member releases new Civil War book**

Dr. Timothy Smith, a lecturer in the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of History and Philosophy, released his newest book, “The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson’s Epic 1863 Civil War Raid Through Mississippi,” in October.

“The Real Horse Soldiers” is a modern, academic study of one of the most well-known Civil War efforts conducted by Union cavalry general Benjamin Grierson that discusses the horse soldiers’ raid on the Confederacy.

Published by Savas Beatie publishing company, Smith’s book is the first deeply researched study on the topic in six years.

“This was one of the most fun books I’ve ever written, not only because it is such a neglected topic, but also because it allowed me to work on the history of my native state of Mississippi,” Smith said. “I grew up in the very areas discussed in the book, so that made it doubly fun to research and write, and I’m convinced this made it a better book. An intimate knowledge of the subject and, in this case, geography and terrain are especially important to writing history.”

Smith has written, edited and co-edited 18 books, including the award-winning titles “Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg,” “Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle Occupation” and “Shiloh: Conquer or Perish.” His awards include the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters’ nonfiction book award, the Fletcher Pratt Award, the McMlemore Prize, the Richard B. Harwell Award and the Tennessee History Book Award, among others.

Smith is also the recipient of the 2009-10 UT Martin Online Teacher of the Year Award. He holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Memphis, as well as a doctorate from Mississippi State University.

Smith is currently working on a book about the May 19 and 22 Vicksburg assaults.

For more information, contact Smith at tims@utm.edu.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an ACT success tactics training session from 8 a.m. to noon Dec. 1 on the main campus.

The registration fee is $45 per student.

UT Martin will hold additional sessions from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 2, March 2 and April 8, 2019.

For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082.

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s League of Striving Artists will host the fifth annual Holiday Art Bazaar Dec. 6-8 in the Fine Arts Building’s art gallery.

This event will be open to the public from 7-8 p.m. Dec. 6; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 7; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 8.

Co-sponsored by the UT Martin League of Striving Artists and the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, the Holiday Art Bazaar displays items handcrafted by UT Martin students, faculty and alumni.

These items, which include holiday cards, paintings, scarves, ceramics, glass ornaments and more, will be available for purchase during the event. Guests may purchase items with cash, check or charge to support local artists.

“Support the Arts” contributors will have early access to an exclusive opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 6. For information on how to become a “Support the Arts” contributor, visit utm.edu/start or contact the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

The League of Striving Artists is an organization for UT Martin art students who strive to promote an appreciation for art and artist development through academics, service learning, community service projects and leadership both on campus and in the community.

The art gallery is in room 201 of the UT Martin Fine Arts Building, located at 16 Mount Pelia Road in Martin.

Six Lauderdale County students were selected to attend the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2018 RisingStar Youth Leadership Summit, held Nov. 9 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is one of two WestStar youth programs designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured are, from left, front row, Mon-El Ellis, Cassie Lewis, Joseph Meeks; back row, Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar Executive Director; Brooke Daniels, Jack Kent and Grant Ream. Daniels and Ellis attend Ripley High School, and the other students are enrolled at Hallis High School. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or RisingStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
PAL Speaks to Drug’s And Behavior Class at UTM Ripley Center.

Xavier Lawrence Andrews, pictured in back, gave a presentation to the “Drugs and Behavior” class at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on Nov. 9. Pictured are, from left, Magen Connell, Lisa Kent, UTM instructor, Allison Smith, and Terrie Bishop. Not pictured are Tomoro Hill and Robert Lacy, Coalition member. The coalition discussed the growing use of Hashish, also known as hash or “grass,” among youth. The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center on Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.
Teacher lauds UTM program

BY CASSIE WALSH
POST-INTELLIGENCER

The Paris Special School District board heard Tuesday night about how the West Teach Leadership program has helped one local teacher.

The meeting also included updates on Rhea Elementary School construction and the 2019-20 school year calendar.

PES teacher Christy Buckelew spoke to the board about the program. Buckelew was one of 12 area educators to participate in the development program for West Tennessee teachers in grades K-12 who aspire to be leaders in their schools.

Buckelew said the three main things she gained from the program were: employers want teachers to teach their students the value of being on time, collaborating and working with others and having students not be so dependent or distracted using their cellphones.

"It really opened up my eyes on resources that are available to our students right here in West Tennessee," said Buckelew. "I got the chance to connect with my peers from across the region and we got to share ideas about agriculture and technology along with building relationships with one another."

She told the board participating in the program has helped her realize that there are plenty of alternate routes for students who aren't college bound.

"We know that not all students are college bound. So many jobs out there now especially in our area require skills and there is such a need for trade jobs," said Buckelew.

Jason Coffield, PSSD facilities manager, gave the board an update on the finalization of the Rhea construction project and he said everything was done with the exception of some minor projects.

"We had some minor issues with an alarm panel, so we met with Delta Electric about our lightning protection system," said Coffield. "We walked through the whole school with them and they really explained things thoroughly about our structures and better ways we can protect our school from lightning damage. We have a couple of things we need to do to protect ourselves a little bit better."

Coffield told the board the new roof over Rhea's pre-kindergarten area has been completed and the crew did "a fantastic job, they were quick and the job was painless."

PSSD Supt. Norma Gerrell told the board the calendar committee met a couple of times and created a few potential calendar options for the 2019-20 school year.

Gerrell said they want to keep the school year at 180 days.

However, there's not a lot of room for makeup days since Memorial Day will be coming early again.

"We sent out a survey to our teachers about the potential calendar options for the 2019-20 school year and we received a lot of positive feedback," said Gerrell. "We had between 92 and 93 percent of teachers and support staff who participated in the calendar survey."

Board chairman Richard Edwards said the board will vote on the calendar for the upcoming school year at either the January or February meeting.
LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT UT MARTIN – Several Obion County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s eighth-annual FutureStar Summit on Oct. 4 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The summit works to show seventh and eighth-grade students from West Tennessee the personal value of an education and encourage them to attend college in the future. The students attend the conference free of charge through the financial support of WestStar alumni from each child’s county of residence. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Preston Flatt; Alex Fowlkes; Kenneth Abbott; Keyera Coffman; Gracelyn Jones; Jordan Jones, administrative assistant for the WestStar Leadership Program; back row, Robi Maldonado; Huaxing Huang; Isaiah Duren; Natalynn Gorney; and Hailey Jones. Flatt and Gracelyn Jones attend Black Oak Elementary School; Fowlkes and Gorney attend Lake Road Elementary School; and Abbott and Coffman attend South Fulton Middle School. Maldonado and Huang attend Ridgemont Elementary School, and Duren and Hailey Jones attend Hillcrest Elementary School. For more information about the FutureStar Summit or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Jordan Jones at 731-881-3298. (Photo submitted)
Rising Star Students

LOCAL STUDENTS, in front, from left, Mon-El Ellis, Cassie Lewis, and Joseph Meeks; and in rear, Brooke Daniels, Jack Kent, and Grant Ream, pictured with Dr. Charley Deal, left, in rear, WestStar executive director; were selected to attend the WestStar Leadership Program's 2018 RisingStar Youth Leadership Summit, held November 9th at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is one of two WestStar youth programs designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Daniels and Ellis attend Ripley High School, and the other students are enrolled at Halls High School. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or RisingStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
Guest Speaker

XAVIER LAWRENCE ANDREWS, in rear, PAL Coordinator, spoke to the Drugs and Behavior Class at UTM Ripley Center November 9th. He is pictured with Magen Connell, Lisa Kent, UTM Instructor, Allison Smith, and Terrie Bishop, plus, not pictured, Tomoro Hill and Robert Lacy, Coalition member. The coalition discussed the growing use of Hashish, also known as hash or "grass" use among youth. The class was informed that Marijuana is the most common and least powerful form of cannabis. It is made from dried plant leaves and flowers. Most of American cannabis is strictly the flower or bud of the plant and does not contain whole plants. THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the main active ingredient in marijuana that acts upon the nervous system. Marijuana usually contains a maximum of 25% to 30% THC. Hashish, also known as hash, is made by eliminating plant material and collecting the trichomes from the flower tops of female cannabis plants. These flowers, or 'heads', are the most potent parts of the plant. As a result, the THC content of hashish typically varies from 20% to 60%. Hashish can be consumed in many ways, Smoked in a water pipe, Smoked as a joint, Smoked in a pipe, and Cooked into food, inhaling the vapors hash oil. Some of the side effects of hash are Unexplainable laughter and excitement, an enlarged appetite or sudden hunger, panic attacks and paranoia, impaired coordination speech and thought, dry mouth and throat, Short-term memory impairment. The coalition also provided information to the class about the effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The next coalition meeting will be held at the UTM Ripley Center at 6 p.m., Thursday, December 27th. The public is invited. The anti-drug coalition encourages all concerned citizens to get involved in the fight for the children. For more information, contact Xavier, at 731-612-6337 or email xandrews@utm.edu.
Megan Cox, a 24-year-old Camden woman was traveling on Highway 70 westbound, just outside of Bruceton, when the vehicle she was driving hit an icy patch on the roadway and careened out of control.

According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol report, the accident happened around 8:24 a.m. on Thursday morning, November 15. Cox was driving a 2011 Suzuki Grand Vitara SUV when it began sliding on the ice and caused the rear end of the vehicle to cross into oncoming traffic.

Heading Eastbound, a 1989 Ford F250 pickup, driven by 59-year-old William Foster, impacted the passenger side of the SUV. Foster was injured in the accident. The extent of his injuries was unclear from the report.

Cox was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Camden High School graduate was a commuter from Camden to University Tennessee Martin and was slated to graduate later this year with a degree in psychology.
UTM, Jackson State form partnership

College students in West Tennessee were presented new options for completing their degrees recently, when Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of UTM, and Dr. Allana Hamilton, president of Jackson State Community College (JSCC), signed a dual admission partnership agreement on Sept. 10, giving students a clear transition path between the two institutions. UTM established a similar partnership with Dyersburg State Community College in 2015.

"This is another step in solidifying a great, long-standing relationship with Jackson State," said Carver. "Let me tell you what we know at UTM when we get a Jackson State student who has finished an associate degree: They are ready to take a clear path to graduation from UTM. They are mature and prepared. We really appreciate the great work that happens here at JSCC."

According to the agreement, students who enroll at JSCC with fewer than 15 semester hours, major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway program, and meet current UTM admission criteria can complete an intent-to-enroll application with UTM. Doing so will guarantee the student a position at UTM after completion of their JSCC associate degree, provided that they maintain at least a 2.0 GPA at the end of their second year.

Students who participate in the dual admission program will be considered students of both schools. They will have both JSCC and UTM academic advisors to ensure they stay on track to complete all requirements in their chosen fields.

Dual students will also have full access to the UTM library, computer labs, and student affairs offices during their time at JSCC. Those who elect to pay applicable student fees will be able to attend UTM sporting events and participate in campus activities as well.

The UTM Jackson Center is now located in the Ned R. McWherter Center on the JSCC campus and offers upper-division courses in a variety of degree fields. Dual-admission students can choose whether to continue coursework at the Jackson Center or transfer to the UTM main campus to complete their four-year degrees.

For more information about the agreement or dual admission, contact Dr. Larry Bailey at lbailey@jscc.edu or Destin Tucker at dtucker@utm.edu.

WUTM wins broadcasting awards

WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," the student-run campus radio station at UTM, won first-place in two categories and third-place in one category during the Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. annual conference held recently in Seattle, Wash.

Station staff members won first-place for both best news reporting audio and best sportscast audio. Shane Wofford, a senior from Trenton, submitted his news report "Homicide Suspect at Large" for the news reporting category; and Natalie King (Paducah, Ky.), Jordan Taylor (Medon), and John Thornton (Atoka) collectively submitted their program "The Bench" for the sportscast category.

King, Taylor, and Thornton also worked with Ashley Shores (Lebanon), to submit their 2017 "UTM versus Ole Miss" football broadcast, which won third place in the sports play-by-play category.

Competition entries are submitted each spring and judged in the fall of the following year. Students can submit work in up to six categories, and UTM students placed in half the available competitions.

WUTM has won more than 240 awards from state, regional, national, and international competitions since 2005. The station currently holds the title of "Best College Radio Station in the South" through the Southeast Journalism Conference and is an 8-time platinum-rated station by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

For more information about the UTM Communications program or WUTM radio, contact communications professor and WUTM faculty adviser Dr. Richard Robinson at 731-881-7555 or rrobins@utm.edu.
UTM Jackson Center hosting ACT prep

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host an ACT success tactics training session from 4:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 4, in Jackson State Community College’s McWherter Building. The registration fee is $45 per student.

The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. It will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper.

Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course. In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid.

The UT Martin Jackson Center will hold additional sessions from 4:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 5, April 2 and June 4, 2019.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is located on the campus of Jackson State Community College at 2046 N. Parkway in Jackson. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

UTM holding ACT prep courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an ACT success tactics training session from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 1, on the main campus. The registration fee is $45 per student. The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. It will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper.

Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course. In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid. UT Martin will hold additional sessions from 8 a.m.-noon, Feb. 2, March 2 and April 8, 2019. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

UTM holiday closings

The University of Tennessee at Martin will not hold classes Nov. 21-23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Administrative offices will be closed Nov. 22-23. This applies to the main campus as well as to the five educational outreach centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville. Classes will resume and administrative offices will open on a normal operating schedule Nov. 26.
MARTIN, Tenn. – University of Tennessee System Interim President Randy Boyd will spend Nov. 26 meeting with various constituent groups on the UT Martin campus. This will be Boyd's first working day in office.

Members of the working media are invited to a press event from 2-3 p.m., Nov. 26, in room 206 of the Boling University Center. Boyd will be available for photographs and interviews at that time.

The UT Board of Trustees appointed Boyd to serve as UT System interim president after president emeritus Dr. Joe DiPietro announced his retirement earlier this fall. Boyd, a Knoxville businessman, will serve for up to 24 months or until a new president is appointed following an external search.

For more information, contact Bud Grimes at bgrimes@utm.edu or 731-514-9358 or Erin Chesnut at echesnut@utm.edu. The Office of University Relations is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday through Sunday, Nov. 28, and will reopen for regular business hours Nov. 26.

UTM holding ACT prep courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an ACT success tactics training session from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 1, on the main campus. The registration fee is $45 per student. The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. It will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper.

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Boyd spending first day as UT Interim President at UT Martin

Posted on November 26, 2018 by Steve James in Local News

University of Tennessee Interim President Randy Boyd will spend his first day on the job today in Weakley County on the UT Martin campus.

According to a release, Boyd will be meeting with UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and various constituent groups on campus.

Boyd will meet with members of the media this afternoon at 2:00 in the Boling University Center.

The UT Board of Trustees appointed Boyd to serve as UT System interim president after president emeritus Dr. Joe DiPietro announced his retirement earlier this fall.

Boyd will serve as the UT system's Interim President for up to two years or until a new president is appointed following an external search.

Boyd starts first day as UT interim president at UT Martin, lists priorities as new president

Posted on November 26, 2018 by Steve James in Local News

University of Tennessee interim president Randy Boyd has outlined his priorities after starting his first day on the job Monday on the campus of UT Martin.

Boyd replaces the retired Dr. Joe DiPietro.

Boyd tells Thunderbolt Radio News why he started the first day of his new job in Martin.

In a release from the university, Boyd says he plans to launch a search soon for the new chancellor of the flagship Knoxville campus and that a search for a permanent university system president will begin in 2020.

Boyd hopes to improve graduation rates and student recruitment, grow online education programs, and expand the university's relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Other priorities include increasing visibility of university programs statewide; clarifying the relationship between the university system and its campuses and institutes; and enhancing the university's brand through greater transparency and accountability, with data-driven reports to make decisions.
New UT System Interim President Randy Boyd visits Martin campus

November 26, 2018 by Corallys Ortiz

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed new Interim President Randy Boyd Monday on his first day in office.

"It's incredibly rewarding to be able to give back to my alma mater," Boyd said. "You know I grew up in the shadows of Neyland stadium in south Knoxville."

Boyd visited the UT Martin campus Monday afternoon. His plan during his first year as interim president is focusing on graduation and talent success in the school system.

"Too many kids, too many students that come to our universities fail to graduate for different reasons," Boyd said. "One of the most important reasons that they don’t graduate is that they didn’t feel like they belong, that they didn’t feel engaged."
Some UT Martin students agree that engagement is important.

"If you can actually make a way to make education just more engaging for students, I think that improves your graduation rates because students want to keep coming back," freshman Jadia Thomas said.

That along with making sure students are heard and put first.

"On this campus students are always put first, and I think if he can just continue the same path that everything will work out very good here," freshman Samantha Poiner said.

Boyd is familiar with the education field.

“I was the governor of special advisory on higher education in 2013,” Boyd said. “I was the chair of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, so I had a passion and some experience around higher education.”

And with that background and having several ideas he wants to work on during his signed two years as president, students hope he’s able to get the job done.

“Have a open heart, have an open mind and just be ready to take on new ideas, but don’t forget that students do come first and that’s like the most important goal at the end of the day,” Thomas said.

“I think it’s an exciting change coming to the University of Tennessee System, and I’m excited to see what happens with it in my journey here,” Poiner said.

The UT Board of Trustees appointed Boyd to serve as UT System Interim President after President Emeritus Dr. Joe DiPietro announced his retirement earlier this fall.

Categories: Local News, News
UT System Interim President Visits UT Martin
By West Kentucky Star Staff

MARTIN - Randy Boyd, a Knoxville businessman and University of Tennessee, Knoxville, alum, assumed duties as University of Tennessee System Interim President over the Thanksgiving holiday and spent Nov. 26, his first working day in office, on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"It seemed appropriate that I spend my first day (on the job) in Northwest Tennessee," said Boyd, whose family has lived in Crockett and Obion counties for six generations. "I think it’s important to make sure that everybody understands across the state of Tennessee that when you’re elected president of the University of Tennessee System, you are president for all the campuses. ... We want to make sure we are representing all of our campuses. So I’m excited to be here, to be back in northwest Tennessee and back in Martin."

Boyd will serve a maximum of 24 months in the position or until a permanent candidate is found. He follows previous UT President Joe DiPietro, who stepped down from active service Nov. 21 and will officially retire next February.

"The fact that I’m only here for two years gives me a sense of urgency. There are a lot of things that we want to do, a lot of bold, transformative things that we want to accomplish, and we’re going to try to do them without waiting around," he said.

While meeting with local media representatives, Boyd stated that his top priorities for his time in office are leadership selection, student outcomes, community engagement, and the system’s partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

He sees UT Martin as a critical component in the UT System and its influence in the northwest Tennessee area, and he plans to focus on student graduation rates and increasing enrollment at the UT Martin main campus and its five educational outreach centers in order to promote economic development in the region.

"The number one driver behind companies wanting to relocate anywhere in the world is talent. So UT Martin being able to provide the talent to attract future businesses is going to be critical. The best way to produce the right talent is to have lots of communication with industry," he said. "One of the things that UT Martin already knows is (the importance of) having lots of interactions with the chambers of commerce and businesses in the area to make sure we’re not just producing talent, we’re producing the right talent for jobs that businesses are looking for today."

Boyd has an established history of support for higher education, beginning with the creation of the Knox Achieves program to help students in Knox County attend community colleges free of charge. This program later became Tennessee Achieves and ultimately transformed into Tennessee Promise. Boyd also worked with Gov. Bill Haslam to create the Drive to 55 campaign to enhance higher education opportunities statewide. He later served as Tennessee’s commissioner of economic and community development before running for the governor’s office earlier this year.

He feels his recent visits to all 95 Tennessee counties and established relationship with the current Tennessee legislature will be assets to his new position as leader of the UT System.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Harlem Globetrotters to Play at UT Martin Jan 25

November 27, 2018 | Erin Chestnut, UT Martin Media Release

MARTIN, Tenn. – The Harlem Globetrotters will bring their 2019 Fan Powered World Tour to the Kahlilwe and Tom Elam Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2019. Tickets are on sale now at harlemglobetrotters.com and from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., weekdays, at the UT Martin Student Recreation Center.

Chair-back seats are $35 plus fees, and bleacher seats are $25 plus fees.

The Globetrotters will also offer a pre-show Magic Pass for an additional $15, which will allow pass-holders to meet the stars of the team, learn tricks, shoot hoops and take pictures on the court prior to the game. Military discounts are available on day of tickets with a valid military ID. A military chair-back seat is $29 plus fees, and a military bleacher seat is $19 plus fees.

According to a Globetrotters press release, the game will include more than 20 opportunities for fans to interact with team members before, during and after the event.

The Flying Globes, the Globetrotters’ acrobatic trampoline dunk team, are included in the 2019 tour and will perform during tricks in the game. An interactive mobile app is new to the Globetrotters experience this year and includes an augmented reality basketball toss game and exclusive image filters for social media.

In addition to 93 years of success in the entertainment business, the Globetrotters also hold 21 standing Guinness World Records. The most recent five records were set Nov. 8 in celebration of Guinness World Records Day and include a somersault basketball shot made by Bull Bullard from 58 feet, 1 1/2 inches away from the hoop; most basketball under-the-leg tumbles in one minute (female) by Terrel George (32); most blindfolded basketball slam dunk in one minute by Zeus McClurkin (five); most behind-the-back three-pointers in one minute, also by Zeus McClurkin (three); and most under-the-leg slam dunk by a team using a trampoline in one minute by the Flying Globes (26).

For more information on the Harlem Globetrotters, visit harlemglobetrotters.com. For information on their appearance at UT Martin, contact Chris Stachewicz, UT Martin Office of Campus Recreation, at 731-881-7746 or email cstachew@utm.edu.

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Boyd visits UTM campus on his first day at work

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Press Reporter

University of Tennessee System Interim President Randy Boyd spent his first “day on the job” meeting with various constituent groups on the UT Martin campus. Having officially assumed his role last Thursday, yesterday’s campus tour, meetings and press conference served as his first “in office” and launched a series of visits to UT campuses planned over the next two weeks.

The UT Board of Trustees appointed Boyd to serve as UT System’s interim president after President Emeritus Dr. Joe DiPietro announced his retirement earlier this fall. Boyd, a Knoxville businessman, will serve for up to 24 months or until a new president is appointed following an external search. When asked during the press conference if he wanted to pursue a long-term relationship with the system, Boyd wryly replied that he had negotiated the 24 months with his wife and, to date, he had not “renegotiated that contract.”

Boyd is a UT at Knoxville alumnus and businessman. As part of his commitment to transparency, early in the day Boyd’s office distributed an outline of six top objectives he hopes to accomplish during his tenure and briefly spoke to each during the press conference:

- **Succession planning and recruitment:** On the search for the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a new president, Boyd noted, “If I do only one thing well, it will be to bring visionary leadership ... leaders focused on students’ success.”

- **Increase talent development:** Boyd says he will focus on strategies to improve graduation rates, improve recruitment of both in-state and out-of-state students and grow online education programs. “Students come to us with a dream,” he said. “We want them to leave with a dream fulfilled.” Here referenced his involvement with Drive to 55, a goal of 55 percent of Tennesseans with college degrees or certificates by 2025.

- **Improve the relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory:** Calling it one of the “best if not the best lab in the country,” Boyd said he is seeking more opportunities for new collaboration initiatives with the research facility that UT co-manages.

JOINING THE TEAM — UTM Chancellor Keith Carver and University of Tennessee System Interim President Randy Boyd will be wearing Skyhawk colors on Saturday as both compete in the St. Jude Memphis Marathon. When asked who would have the better time, Boyd said he was sure that Carver would be “finishing at least an hour and 45 minutes before I do.” Carver quickly pointed out that he would be running a half-marathon while Boyd would be running the entire 26.2 miles. Carver presented the running gear to Boyd as part of the visit to the UTM campus on Boyd’s first day of work in his new role.

**BOYD, FROM PAGE 1**

2025, and underscored the need to be “more aggressive” in increasing enrollment. The UT system produced 11,806 graduates last year.

- **Enhance the relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory:** Calling it one of the “best if not the best lab in the country,” Boyd said he is seeking more opportunities for new collaboration initiatives with the research facility that UT co-manages.

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**Advanced engagement:** By way of introduction prior to the question and answer session, Boyd underscored the UT President is “president for all campuses.” Later he returned to the comprehensive nature of the UT system when he addressed engaging directly in the community as a primary mission of the University of Tennessee.

- **Strengthen and clarify the relationship between UT System administration and its campuses and institutes:** He says he plans on “doubling down on working together as a system,” including working with stakeholders across the system to create a culture of collaborating and coordinating on initiatives, leveraging partnerships, and developing new strategies. Though no official name has been determined, Boyd floated “Team UT” as the concept behind the teamwork needed.

- **Build the brand:** Boyd spoke to “creating the most transparent University of Tennessee that we’ve ever had” and mentioned searchable databases and accessibility as components of that plan. Other aspects include analytics to give the university meaningful reports with actionable data to make informed decisions.

Questions during the press conference touched on his campaign for governor and his relationship with the legislature and Governor Bill Lee. Boyd acknowledged that in UT’s history, while there “have been moments that haven’t been as good,” he believes his administration can “bridge that gap.”

Boyd called UTM an “economic catalyst for Northwest Tennessee” and noted that the #1 driver for businesses is talent, and that producing the right talent for the jobs they are looking for is a critical component of UTM’s success. He added that UTM could not only help attract new businesses but create homegrown businesses, and pointed to the success of Savant and its focus on revitalizing downtown Martin as an entrepreneurial “story we need to replicate.”
Boyd lists priorities as interim UT president

KNOXVILLE — New University of Tennessee system interim president Randy Boyd has outlined his priorities.

In a news release Monday, the university said Boyd plans to launch a search soon for the new chancellor of the flagship Knoxville campus. A search for a permanent university system president will begin in 2020.

Boyd hopes to improve graduation rates and student recruitment, grow online education programs and expand the university's relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Other priorities include increasing visibility of university programs statewide; clarifying the relationship between the university system and its campuses and institutes; and enhancing the university's brand through greater transparency and accountability, with data-driven reports to make decisions.

Boyd started the job Monday. He replaces ex-president Joe DiPietro, who earlier this fall announced his retirement.

Interim president for UT system spends first day at Martin

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Special to The Messenger

University of Tennessee System interim president Randy Boyd spent his first "day on the job" meeting with various constituent groups on the UT Martin campus.

Having officially assumed his role Thursday, Monday's campus tour, meetings and press conference served as his first "in office" and launched a series of visits to UT campuses planned over the next two weeks.

"It seemed appropriate that I spend my first day (on the job) in northwest Tennessee," said Boyd, whose family has lived in Crockett and Obion counties for six generations.

"I think it's important to make sure that everybody understands across the state of Tennessee that when you're elected president of the University of Tennessee System, you are president for all the campuses. We want to make sure we are representing all of our campuses. So I'm excited to be here, to be back in northwest Tennessee and back in Martin."

The UT Board of Trustees appointed the UTK alumnus and businessman to serve as UT system's interim president after president emeritus Dr. Joe DiPietro announced his retirement earlier this fall. Boyd, a Knoxville businessman, will serve for up to 24 months or until a new president is appointed following an external search. When

RANDY BOYD

asked during the press conference if he wanted to pursue a long-term relationship with the system, he wryly replied that he had negotiated the 24 months with his wife and, to date, he had not "renegotiated that contract."

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- Increase talent development: Boyd says he will focus on strategies to

(See Page 5, Col. 4)
UT...
(Continued from Page 1)

improve graduation rates, improve recruitment of both in-state and out-of-state students and grow online education programs.

"Students come to us with a dream," he said. "We want them to leave with a dream fulfilled."

He referenced his involvement with Drive to 55, a goal of 55 percent of Tennesseans with college degrees or certificates by 2025, and underscored the need to be "more aggressive" in increasing enrollment. The UT system produced 11,806 graduates last year.

- Enhance the relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory: Calling it one of the "best if not the best lab in the country," Boyd said he is seeking more opportunities for new collaboration initiatives with the research facility that UT co-manages.

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Questions during the press conference touched on his campaign for governor and his relationship with the Legislature and Gov. Bill Lee.

Boyd acknowledged that in UT's history, while there "have been moments that haven’t been as good," he believes his administration can "bridge that gap." He called the governor "an incredibly hard-working guy" and expressed confidence they could work together.

Having visited all 95 counties during his campaign, Boyd acknowledged the understanding of issues such as the opioid crisis, he said, and reinforced his belief that resources are available to address those issues.

"I've always been about education," he said, referencing his prior roles advising on Drive to 55, TN Promise (two years tuition-free attendance at a community or technical college), and TN Reconnect (adults entering or returning to college). "The primary reason for running was to complete the mission. This may be the way to accomplish that."

He called UTM an "economic catalyst for northwest Tennessee" and noted the No. 1 driver for businesses is talent, and producing the right talent for the jobs they are looking for is a critical component of UTM's success. He added UTM could not only help attract new businesses but create homegrown businesses, and pointed to the success of Savant and its focus on revitalizing downtown Martin as an entrepreneurial "story we need to replicate."

Editor’s note: Karen Campbell is a staff reporter at The Weakley County Press in Martin.
Randy Boyd starts as interim President of UT

Adam Friedman
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

MARTIN - Randy Boyd has been in charge of multiple businesses, served in the Bill Haslam administration and on Monday he began the next chapter of his career as interim president of the University of Tennessee System.

"I was the first in my family to pay my way through college and graduate from the University of Tennessee," said Boyd at a press conference at UT-Martin. "The university has meant so much to my career. Everywhere I’ve gone the University of Tennessee has been there and for me to be able to give back in some small way is an incredible reward."

In September Boyd was approved as interim president of the UT system after President Joe DiPetro announced his retirement after seven years with the system.

Most recently Boyd ran for the Republican nomination for governor. He finished second in the August primary behind Governor-Elect Bill Lee.

Boyd said he only sees the interim president job as an opportunity to serve and doesn't think he'll run for elected office again.

During his 18-month campaign for governor, Boyd was able to visit all 95 counties in Tennessee.

Boyd said that gave him an opportunity to see the problems affecting each county in the state. He's

See BOYD, Page 3A

Boyd

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hopeful that his new position will give him the resources and ability to address some of the problems he talked with voters about.

Boyd doesn't plan to be with the UT system for more than two years.

"When I first talked about taking this job with my wife we negotiated a contract where I could do this job for 24 months," Boyd said. "I haven't renegotiated the contract yet, so for right now I'm permitted to do this for 24 months."

In the past Boyd served as a special adviser on higher education to Gov. Haslam. He helped form the foundation for the Drive to 55 initiative.

Drive to 55 is a mission by Haslam to have 55 percent of Tennesseans equipped with a college degree or certificate by 2025.

"The University of Tennessee system produces more graduates than any other enterprise in the state," Boyd said. "We not only have to do a better job of graduating those who come, but we have to make sure we are bringing in more kids to our institutions. We need to be more aggressive in increasing our enrollment."

Boyd also served as the Commissioner of the Economic and Community Development Department under Haslam.

Boyd said he hopes to have a lot of interactions with local chambers of commerce and businesses in the community so the the UT system is producing the right talent for the jobs that businesses are looking for today.

"There are two types of ways to create new jobs, attract new businesses to the area and to create home-grown businesses through entrepreneurship," Boyd said.

Contact Adam Friedman at afriedman@jacksonsun.com.
UTM holding ACT prep courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host an ACT success tactics training session from 8 a.m.-noon, Dec. 1, on the main campus. The registration fee is $45 per student. The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. It will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper. Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course. In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid. UT Martin will hold additional sessions from 8 a.m.-noon, Feb. 2, March 2 and April 8, 2019. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/actprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.

UTM Jackson Center hosting ACT prep

The University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center will host an ACT success tactics training session from 4:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 4, in Jackson State Community College’s McWherter Building. The registration fee is $45 per student. The test-prep session will offer quick tips to improve student scores on each of the four test sections. It will also focus on time-saving strategies and study habits as well as provide guidance for answering questions more efficiently. Participants will need to bring a pencil and paper. Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course. In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid.

Santa’s Village Returns to Martin December 6–9

MARTIN — The city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 34th-annual Santa’s Village holiday celebration Dec. 6-9 in the university’s Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Pavilion. The pavilion will be open to the public from 8-9 p.m. on Dec. 6-7; from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 8; and from 1-5 p.m., Dec. 9.

There is no charge for admission; however, visitors are encouraged to donate $5-worth of canned food items or an unopened child’s toy to benefit needy families in the area. The 2017 Santa’s Village set a new attendance record with more than 19,000 visitors. More than 18,000 cans of food were donated, and toy donations filled 23 55-gallon bags.

Santa’s Village will include the traditional forest of lights and MTD model train as well as a petting zoo from Hooker Farms and amusement rides from Pope’s Amusement Rides. Live entertainment will perform throughout the event, and Santa will make his annual appearance to speak with local children. An arts and crafts vendor fair will also be conducted during the event.

For more information, contact the Rita Janes, city of Martin Parks and Recreation Department, at 731-587-6784.
UT Chancellor Carver to chair Knoxville chancellor search committee

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver has been appointed to chair the committee tasked with finding the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Dr. Carver was named the committee chair by UT Interim President Randy Boyd.

The search officially begins in January with hopes to announce a new chancellor in May.

The committee includes members of the UT Board of Trustees and faculty, staff, student, and alumni communities:

Misty Anderson, Faculty Senate president and professor of English, UT Knoxville
Chip Bryant, vice chancellor for advancement, UT Knoxville
Mark Dean, interim dean, College of Engineering, UT Knoxville
Bill Fox, director of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, UT Knoxville
Ovi Kabir, SGA president, UT Knoxville
Amy Miles, UT trustee; former CEO of Regal Entertainment
Donnie Smith, UT trustee; former CEO of Tyson Foods
Thomas Zaharia, laboratory director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

A website will launch in January to provide more information about the search, including the job description.

University of TN at Martin master’s programs honored

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s master of science in natural resources and master of business administration degrees have been nationally recognized for quality and affordability by a variety of online higher education websites in the past month.

SR Education Group, an education research publisher founded in 2004, ranks the UT Martin master of science in agriculture and natural resources degree program 16th among the most affordable online colleges in the nation for this particular degree.

The UT Martin program offers three concentration areas in agribusiness and risk management, natural resources systems management, and systems science in agriculture. UT Martin is the highest-ranked Tennessee university in this category.

OnlineMBAPage.com evaluated MBA programs across the nation and chose the top program in each state for inclusion in their most recent list. UT Martin represents Tennessee in this ranking, which is based on online availability, program value, internship and capstone opportunities, and accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The UT Martin master of business administration degree is ranked seventh among the best online MBA programs for 2019 by OnlineMasters.com. UT Martin is the highest-ranked Tennessee program on this list behind such institutions as Auburn University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The next Tennessee program enters the list at number 32.

The website TopManagementDegrees.com ranked the top online MBA programs in the nation for 2019 and included UT Martin as tied for 50th place. UT Martin is the only Tennessee institution to appear on this list and is included among such programs as those at Indiana State University and George Washington University.

SR Education Group has also evaluated the UT Martin Online program offerings as a whole and ranked UT Martin 11th among the best online colleges in Tennessee for 2019.
'RISING STARS' — Three Obion County students were selected to attend the WestStar Leadership Program's 2018 RisingStar Youth Leadership Summit held recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is one of two WestStar youth programs designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. On hand were (from left, front) Obion County Central High School student Jaxon Jones, Union City High School student Aubree Keeling, (back) WestStar executive director Dr. Charley Deal and UCHS student Caroline Conley.

Santa’s Village returns to UTM

The City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 34th annual Santa’s Village holiday celebration Dec. 6-9 at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Pavilion.

The pavilion will be open to the public from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 6-7; from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 8; and from 1-5 p.m. Dec. 9.

There is no admission charge; however, visitors are encouraged to donate $5 worth of canned food items or an unopened children’s toy to benefit needy families in the area.

The 2017 Santa’s Village set a new attendance record with more than 19,000 visitors. More than 18,300 cans of food were donated, and toy donations filled 23 55-gallon bags.

Santa’s Village will include the traditional forest of lights and MTD model train as well as a petting zoo from Hooker Farms and amusement rides from Pope’s Amusement Rides.

Live entertainment will perform throughout the event, and Santa will make his annual appearance to speak with local children. An arts and crafts vendor fair will also be conducted during the event.

For more information, contact the Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.
UT-Martin programs are rated highly

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Master of Science in Natural Resources and Master of Business Administration degrees have been nationally recognized for quality and affordability by a variety of online higher education websites in the past month.

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SR Education Group has also evaluated the UT Martin Online program offerings as a whole and ranked UT Martin 11th among the best online colleges in Tennessee for 2019.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Local Students Attend RisingStar Summit

Six Weakley County students were selected to attend the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2018 RisingStar Youth Leadership Summit, held Nov. 9 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. RisingStar is one of two WestStar youth programs designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Marvin Flatt, director of career technology education for Weakley County Schools; Chloe Martin; Emily Grace Bell; Barbara Virgin, director of Weakley County Chamber of Commerce leadership programs; (second row) Ethan Parham, Jessie Deal, (back row) Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director; Dryver Finch and Edward Castleman. Martin and Castleman are students at Gleason High School; Bell, Jessie Deal and Parham attend Westview High School; and Finch is a student at Dresden High School. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or RisingStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
A search committee and timeline has been announced to fill the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, chancellor position.

The search is scheduled to start in January, with the goal of naming a new chancellor by May, according to a news release from UT.

Wayne Davis has been serving as the interim chancellor since May, when Beverly Davenport was fired as chancellor. Davenport was the highest-paid chancellor in the University of Tennessee’s history, earning a $585,000 base salary. Davis currently earns a $550,000 annual salary as interim chancellor.

Melissa Tindell, director of communications for the UT System, said the salary for the next chancellor will be set based on his or her experience.

Interim UT System President Randy Boyd, whose first day in office was Monday, said one of his top priorities is to name a successor for UT Knoxville’s chancellor and the UT System president.
The search committee for the chancellor will be chaired by Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The search committee is made up of eight other members from the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Search committee members are:
- Misty Anderson, faculty senate president and English professor;
- Chip Bryant, vice chancellor for advancement at UT Knoxville;
- Mark Dean, interim dean of Tickle College of Engineering;
- Bill Fox, director of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research at UT Knoxville;
- Ovi Kabir, Student Government Association president at UT Knoxville;
- Amy Miles, Board of Trustees member;
- Donnie Smith, Board of Trustees member;
- Thomas Zacharia, laboratory director at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

There are several ongoing searches at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Two search committees were announced in October for the deans of the Tickle College of Engineering and the College of Social Work.

The search for the vice chancellor for research was suspended Oct. 3, with Robert Nobles continuing to serve as interim vice chancellor until the position is filled.

There are also several upcoming searches for positions at the system level.

Boyd will serve as interim president for 12 to 24 months, or until the position is filled. A timeline for beginning that search has not yet been announced. The vice president for human resources search was also suspended in August after two candidates visited campus over the summer.

MARTIN, Tenn. - Randy Boyd, interim president of the University of Tennessee System, has appointed University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver chairman of a search committee tasked with finding the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The UT Knoxville chancellor serves as a member of the UT System leadership team, reporting directory to the university president, and as chief academic and administrative officer of the Knoxville campus. The chancellor is responsible for providing visionary leadership and promoting continued development of the campus's academic programs, research productivity, national reputation of excellence and various strategic initiatives.

"The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is positioned very well for the future. Enrollment is up, we are producing more graduates in less time, our research enterprise had a record-breaking year, and our fundraising had a record-breaking year," said Boyd. "I am excited to find a generational leader who can build on this momentum as we look to increase our talent development for the state of Tennessee and grow our research endeavors."

The search will officially begin in January with hopes to announce a new chancellor in May. The committee includes members of the UT Board of Trustees and faculty, staff, student, and alumni communities:

- Misty Anderson, Faculty Senate president and professor of English, UT Knoxville
- Chip Bryant, vice chancellor for advancement, UT Knoxville
- Mark Dean, interim dean, College of Engineering, UT Knoxville
- Bill Fox, director of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, UT Knoxville
- Ovi Kabir, SGA president, UT Knoxville
- Amy Miles, UT trustee; former CEO of Regal Entertainment
- Donnie Smith, UT trustee; former CEO of Tyson Foods
- Thomas Zacharia, laboratory director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

A website will launch in January to provide more information about the search, including the job description.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Tennessee forms search committee as it selects chancellor

Updated: Nov 29, 2018 04:43 AM EST

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - University of Tennessee system interim president Randy Boyd has named a search committee to assist in the selection of a Knoxville campus chancellor.

The chancellor for UT Martin, Keith Carver, will chair the committee, which will launch its search in January and hopes to name a chancellor in May.

The committee also includes trustees Amy Miles and Donnie Smith, Oak Ridge National Laboratory director Thomas Zacharia and Tennessee faculty senate president and English professor Misty Anderson. It also includes Tennessee vice chancellor for advancement Chip Bryant and Tennessee college of engineering interim dean Mark Dean. It also includes Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research director Bill Fox and Tennessee Student Government Association president Ovi Kabir.

Boyd names Keith Carver to chair search committee for UT’s next chancellor

Randy Boyd, interim president of the University of Tennessee System, has appointed University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver chair of a search committee tasked with finding the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The UT Knoxville chancellor serves as a member of the UT System leadership team, reporting directly to the university president, and as chief academic and administrative officer of the Knoxville campus. The chancellor is responsible for providing visionary leadership and promoting continued development of the campus’s academic programs, research productivity, national reputation of excellence and various strategic initiatives.

“The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is positioned very well for the future. Enrollment is up, we are producing more graduates in less time, our research enterprise had a record-breaking year, and our fundraising had a record-breaking year,” said Boyd. “I am excited to find a generational leader who can build on this momentum as we look to increase our talent development for the state of Tennessee and grow our research endeavors.”

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• Misty Anderson, Faculty
• Chip Bryant, vice chancellor for advancement, UT Knoxville
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CARVER, From Page 1

utility Senate president and professor of English, UT Knoxville

• Ovi Kabir, SGA president, UT Knoxville
• Amy Miles, UT trustee; former CEO of Regal Entertainment
• Donnie Smith, UT trustee; former CEO of Tyson Foods
• Thomas Zacharia, laboratory director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

See CARVER, PAGE 2
**UTM students to perform**

The University of Tennessee at Martin steel band and piano studios will give performances Dec. 3 and 8, respectively, in the Fine Arts Buildings’ Blankenship Recital Hall. Both events are open to the public.

The University Steel Band will perform a concert at 6:30 p.m. on Monday. The performance will include a short, informal selection of traditional Caribbean music and an arrangement of pop artist Pharrell Williams’ “Happy.” The steel band is composed of both music majors and campus musicians. The ensemble performs on the steel pan, the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

The UT Martin piano ensemble’s program at 3 p.m., Dec. 8, will pay homage to composer Claude Debussy. The event will honor the centennial anniversary of the death of Debussy, a noted French impressionistic composer.

The ensemble is composed of students Gian Garma and Abigale Plunk, both of Martin; Grant Larcom and Benjamin Beard, both of Union City; Emily Campbell of Trenton; Mclean Gateley of Humboldt; Raven Thorpe of Greenfield; and Anna Johnson of Dresden.

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**UTM chancellor picked to chair search committee**

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A website will launch in January to provide more information about the search, including the job description.
Visit Santa’s Village in Martin Dec. 6-9

From Thursday, Dec. 6, through Sunday, Dec. 9, the city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 34th annual Santa’s Village holiday celebration and arts and crafts fair. The event will be held in the UTM Agricultural Pavilion, and will be open to the public from 6-9 p.m. on Dec. 6-7, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Dec. 8, and from 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 9.

Santa’s Village will include the traditional forest of lights and model train as well as a petting zoo from Hooker Farms and amusement rides from Pope’s Amusement Rides. An arts and crafts vendor fair will also be conducted during the event. Live entertainment will perform throughout the event, and Santa will make his annual appearance to speak with local children.

There is no admission charge; however, visitors are encouraged to donate $5-worth of canned food items or an unwrapped children’s toy to benefit needy families in the area.

The 2017 Santa’s Village set a new attendance record with more than 19,000 visitors. More than 18,300 cans of food were donated, and toy donations filled 23 55-gallon bags.

For more information about the event, contact the Rita Janes with the Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

UTM to hold Holiday Art Bazaar

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s League of Striving Artists will host its fifth-annual Holiday Art Bazaar, Dec. 6-8, in the Fine Arts Building’s art gallery. This event is open to the public from 7-8 p.m. on Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Dec. 7, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Dec. 8.

Co-sponsored by the UTM League of Striving Artists and the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, the Holiday Art Bazaar displays items hand-crafted by UTM students, faculty, and alumni. These items, which include holiday cards, paintings, scarves, ceramics, glass ornaments, and more, will be available for purchase during the event. Guests may purchase items with cash, check, or credit card to support local artists.

“Support the Arts” contributors will have early access to an exclusive opening reception from 5-7 p.m., Dec. 6. For information on how to become a “Support the Arts” contributor, visit utm.edu/art or contact the UTM Dept. of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

The League of Striving Artists is an organization for UTM art students who strive to promote an appreciation for art and artist development through academics, service learning, community service projects and leadership both on campus and in the community.

The art gallery is in room 201 of the UTM Fine Arts Building, located at 16 Mt. Pelia Rd. in Martin. For more information, contact Jason Stout, UTM assistant professor of art, at 731-881-3402 or email jestout@utm.edu.

UTM Jackson Center hosting ACT prep

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Joe Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, will teach the course. In five years, Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have received a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships and financial aid. UT Martin will hold additional sessions from 8 a.m.-noon, Feb. 2, March 2 and April 8, 2019. For more information or to register, visit utm.edu/acprep. For assistance, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082.
UT Martin hosts programming contest, students take third place

Shirley Nanney  Nov 30, 2018 Updated Nov 30, 2018

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Computer Science recently hosted a local site competition of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest. This is the second year UT Martin has been a host site for the event.

UT Martin was among eight other host sites in the mid-central region. Nine teams from Austin Peay State University, Murray State University, UT Martin and the University of Memphis competed in the five-hour contest with more than 100 teams competing simultaneously at other locations.

UT Martin students Matthew Austin, of Jackson; Meredith Brown, of Trezevant; and Jay Downing, of Hendersonville, took third place at the local event and entered the site's first correct submission at the seven-minute mark. Additional competitors from UT
Martin included Cole Davis, of Kenton; Lucian Freeze, of Hornbeak; Trever Hall, of Bruceton; Fate Hardin, of Brentwood; Mel Howard, of Martin; and Brett Whitson, of Union City.

UTM Steel Band plans Caribbean performance

The University of Tennessee at Martin Steel Band will perform at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Fine Arts Buildings' Blankenship recital hall. The performance will include a short, informal selection of traditional Caribbean music and an arrangement of pop artist Pharrell Williams' "Happy." The steel band is composed of both music majors and campus musicians. The ensemble performs on the steel pan, the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

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