Local university holds rope pull competition

November 1, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7eyewitnessnewsstaff)

MARTIN, Tenn. — A local university held a competition for homecoming week.

The traditional homecoming rope pull may not exactly tug at the heartstrings of the competitors, but it likely strains all their other body parts.

The rope pull became a part of the UT Martin Homecoming in the early 1970s.

Men and women compete in the week-long elimination event.

"I think what makes it so good is it's all about brotherhood, what brings us together. Strategy is all I can tell you, is get big," said competitor Garrett Vanderford.

UT Martin Parsons Center will reopen Monday, following a week-long closure caused by the Saturday storms.
UTM to perform 'Putnam County Spelling Bee'

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," a Broadway musical comedy, will be performed at 8 p.m. Thursday and Nov. 8-9 and at 3 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Admission is $15 for adults and $10 for students.

The UT Martin departments of music and visual and theatre arts are working together to host the production, which tells the story of several Putnam Valley Middle School students who don't fit in but who eventually find purpose when they compete in the regional spelling bee.

Tickets can be purchased or reserved from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts main office in room 201 of the Fine Arts Building the week of the performance.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call 731-881-7400 or 731-881-7090.
Dynamic duo of Butler, Newsome headline UTM Hall inductees

The record-setting women's basketball backcourt duo of Heather Butler and Jasmine Newsome headline the 2019 UT Martin athletics Hall of Fame class.

In addition to Butler and Newsome, who played for the Skyhawks from 2010-14, inductees will include Tymikia Gunn-Glenn (track and field, 1999-2002), Jay Johnson (football/baseball, 1970-73), DeWayne “Pooh” Powell (men's basketball, 1992-96) and Taurean Stephens (football, 2003-06).

The six will officially be enshrined at the 36th annual Letter Winner's Breakfast on Saturday. This year’s event will take place in the Russell Duncan Ballroom at the Bowling University Center at 7:30 a.m.

**HEATHER BUTLER**

Butler helped the Skyhawk women's basketball program reach unprecedented heights, pouring in 2,865 career points, which ranks as the most in Ohio Valley Conference history and was 16th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list.

A four-time All-OVC first team selection and 2014 OVC Player of the Year, she guided UT Martin to 87 victories and four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. She scored in double-figures in all 129 games of her career (the second-longest streak in NCAA history) and tied an NCAA record with 392 three-pointers during her career.

The Medina native became the first-ever OVC player to earn a spot on a WNBA roster when she played for the San Antonio Stars in 2014.

**JASMINE NEWSOME**

At the forefront of the Skyhawks’ 2010-14 success in women's basketball was Newsome, who was a four-time All-OVC first team selection, two-time OVC Player of the Year and three-time OVC Defensive Player of the Year.

Starting in all 131 games of her career, Newsome became the school’s first Associated Press All-American in 2013, helping lead UTM to its first four NCAA Tournament appearances.

The Millington native ranked only behind Butler in all-time scoring (2,566 points) at the OVC level while setting the Skyhawk school record with 681 career assists.

**TYMIKIA GUNN-GLENN**

During her Skyhawk tenure, Gunn-Glenn shattered seven track and field school record which still stand to this day.

The Memphis native competed in mostly sprints, hurdles and jump events and made an immediate impact, setting five program records in her first two seasons.

She holds the school record in the indoor 60-meter run (7.98), indoor 60-meter hurdles (9.20), indoor triple jump (37.10), outdoor 600-meter hurdles (14.380) and outdoor triple jump (38.9) and was member of the record-setting 4x400 indoor (3:54.56) and outdoor (3:45.99) relays.

**JAY JOHNSON**

An Exeter, Calif., native, Johnson nabbed All-Gulf South Conference accolades in both football (1972) and baseball (1973) during his UT Martin playing career.

A defensive end on the gridiron, he earned National Player of the Week honors in 1971.

On the diamond, he was a catcher who collected a .385 batting average with 15 doubles, nine home runs, 42 RBIs and 46 runs scored. He hit a team-high .420 with seven homers and 26 RBIs in only 25 games as a junior in 1972, helping UTM to a 21-9 record and its second consecutive trip to the national postseason tournament.

**POOH POWELL**

Powell was named to the All-OVC men’s basketball squad in each of his four seasons, leaving as the league’s all-time leader in three-point field goals made (302).

He currently tops UT Martin’s all-time record book in three-pointers and steals (263), while he also ranks in the top-five in program history in points (1,626, fourth) and assists (330, fifth).

Powell started in all 107 of his career games and helped lead the Skyhawks to their first-ever winning season in OVC play during his senior season (9-7 in 1995-96).

**TAUREAN STEPHENS**

Stephens was a two-time All-OVC recipient at wide receiver.

He ranks second in UT Martin history in career receptions (201), career receiving yards (2,148) and career 100-yard receiving games (seven). His 201 catches rank ninth in OVC history as he is one of only two players in school history to nab at least 50 catches in three consecutive seasons (2003-05).

He was a key part of the 2005 team that posted the program’s first winning season since 1993 and also the 2006 squad that won the school’s first OVC football championship.
Managing employees seminar Tuesday

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a presentation titled “Quit Hiring Employees and Start Selecting a Mate” from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the center.

Registration is available online at tsbdc.org/utm or by calling (731) 587-7333.

Dr. Sean Walker, UT Martin associate professor of management, will speak during the event.

Walker obtained both his MBA and his doctoral degree at Southern Illinois University.

He currently serves in the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems in the College of Business and Global Affairs. His research interests and teaching areas assess the impact of psychological phenomena on human resources and organizational behavior.

The two-hour presentation will focus on finding the right employee and recognizing the cultural shift in the employment relationship.

The presentation will cover key topics including the dynamic shift from hiring an employee to selecting a “mate” for any organization, advice for how to increase the likelihood of success, and potential pitfalls and moving forward.

For more information, visit tsbdc.org/utm.

Continuing legal education seminar for attorneys to be held at UT Martin

A Continuing Education Seminar titled “Upping your Advocacy Game: Increase your Evidence and Ethics IQ” will be held from 1-4:15 p.m. Nov. 13 in room 111 of the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center.

The seminar is designed for practicing attorneys, and participants can attend on campus for $125 or online for $150. The registration deadline is Wednesday.

Penny White will present the three-hour seminar. White is an E.E. Overton Distinguished Professor of Law and director of The Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at the University of Tennessee College of Law. Her course will cover key topics including ethical and evidentiary rules governing violations of motions in limine; authentication and admissibility of electronic evidence; framing impeachment based on rule requirements and restrictions; ethical restrictions on impeachment; avoiding the most common evidence errors; and assuring ethical closing arguments.

The Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education has approved the seminar for 2.33 dual credits as well as 0.67 general credits. The University of Tennessee at Martin and the Obion County Bar Association are co-sponsors for the event.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/cle. For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director, UT Martin Outreach, at (731) 881-7104.
Martin, Tenn.—State Rep. Andy Holt (R-District 76, left) participated in a discussion panel Nov. 1 considering the question “How has Trump changed the Republican Party?” as part of the University of Tennessee at Martin's ENGAGE Civic Initiative. Holt joined Dr. Joey Mehlhorn (right), adviser for the UT Martin College Republicans, and Hayden Baucom (center), student president, to discuss various aspects of the current president's approach to the United States' political system. The UT Martin ENGAGE program hosts an “ENGAGE the Times” discussion at noon each Friday during the academic semester in room 125 of the Skyhawk Dining Hall. The Nov. 8 panel will focus on the question “How has Trump changed the Democratic Party?” All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Arthur Hunt, ENGAGE program co-coordinator, at ahunt@utm.edu (mailto:ahunt@utm.edu).
By BRANDY COCHRAN
Special to The Press

Lights! Camera! Action! Crystal Hayslett stands center of the stage she helped develop, wearing the outfit she chose, while holding the script to the show she aided in producing. She holds her breath as the lights turn on as she takes off on her first professional acting experience.

The vibrant female from Martin, has come all the way from soybeans to “Sistas,” the premiere BET series she has been given the honor to not only act in, but actually produce.

The show whose pilot aired Oct. 23 focuses on the black women’s experience when choosing career and independence rather than traditional southern roles, and the struggle of love and relationships that come along with making such a choice — think “Sex and the City” set in Atlanta. Hayslett can relate to the show’s premise, since her work ethic has always stuck out of the crowd as being focused, driven and full of initiative.

One would assume that Hayslett must have been in theater and design since diapers to receive such an opportunity as the one she has been handed, but that is not her story at all. A Westview graduate and cheerleader for UT Martin, Hayslett was your average West Tennessee girl with a motivated spirit that was nurtured by her parents, Jerry and Anita, her teachers, and coaches. Her former cheerleading coach, Fran Spears, whom Hayslett says was a huge influence in her life who coached and mediated her in middle school and then with the UTM squad after Spears took a job with the university was just as strong of a pillar as her parents, teaching Hayslett discipline and perseverance at an early age.

Hayslett shared with The Press that her parents always distilled in her to get a degree, but to also always chase her dreams, and that is the cornerstone of Hayslett’s personality.

While attending her junior year at UTM as a Communications major, Hayslett sought out and was chosen for an internship with Sen. Lamar Alexander that turned into a full-time position for her while she was still finishing up her final year of education.

“The staff and administration at UTM were so good to me and let me stay with my job in D.C. while taking my senior classes online,” Hayslett said. After gaining her degree, she stayed with Alexander’s office for the next few years until one serendipitous night in Nashville.

Hayslett grew up in

SEE SISTAS

PAGE 10
church with her family singing soulful gospel music.

This passion and talent she had for singing was always considered a side hobby in Hayslett’s busy life; never did she imagine that working in politics would end up being her breakout opportunity for entertainment, but it just so happened that Senator Alexander also has a love for singing and playing piano, and the two found themselves singing “Amazing Grace” at a staff retreat at the senator’s Nashville home.

Hayslett looks back on that memory as her “moment of clarity” in her career, and she and Alexander both knew in that instance she had more to offer the world that being behind a desk she may never achieve.

She would soon begin a new chapter in her life that revolved around performance. And just like that, Hayslett finished her job at the Capitol, contacted her uncle in Atlanta to ask if she could move in with him for a while, and called her mom to let her know she is truly “chasing her dreams.”

Once in Atlanta, Hayslett dove deep into the local art scene, soaking up any experience and lessons she could receive from the city and its hardest-working artists. Constant diligence and networking soon landed her an entry-level position with Tyler Perry Studios as a production assistant.

From there, she was promoted to dressing the background characters for film, then the main actors, and eventually developed a rapport with Tyler Perry himself.

As if that couldn’t be a dream come true enough for anyone coming from a small town, in 2015, Hayslett was contacted by the president of Tyler Perry Studios and asked to take on the role of official costume designer.

This, at first, scared Hayslett because it involved taking on more responsibilities, but as Hayslett shared with The Press, “I have always been the risk taker in my family.” She took on the position with all of her integrity, not wanting to let Perry or herself down.

Perry obviously noticed Hayslett’s efforts, because on her vacation with some friends in Europe, she received a text message from Perry asking her to revamp his personal wardrobe, since then she’s been styling Perry.

From there, she was given the opportunity to consult and act and not just dressing characters for set, which is how the series “Sistas” came to be. Now, the show is on its third episode on BET, and doors for Hayslett just keep on opening.

Next on her list is to further pursue acting and producing.

That being said, Hayslett can’t help but keep climbing up her professional ladder, and with her Super Woman-like motivation, no one would be surprised to hear that in the next few years she has made her own show, been nominated for a Grammy, or has taken a position with a new Broadway show.

For Hayslett, life isn’t about settling; it’s about experiencing.

Catch the new BET series “Sistas” every Wednesday evening at 9 p.m. and look for the Martin native’s name in the credits.
A Continuing Education Seminar titled "Upping your Advocacy Game: Increase your Evidence and Ethics IQ" will be held from 1:45 p.m. Nov. 13 in room 111 of the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center. The seminar is designed for practicing attorneys, and participants can attend on campus for $125 or online for $150. The registration deadline is Wednesday.

Penny White will present the three-hour seminar. White is an E.E. Overton Distinguished Professor of Law and director of The Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at the University of Tennessee College of Law. Her course will cover key topics including ethical and evidentiary rules governing violations of motions in limine; authentication and admissibility of electronic evidence; framing impeachment based on rule requirements and restrictions; ethical restrictions on impeachment; avoiding the most common evidence errors; and assuring ethical closing arguments.

The Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education has approved the seminar for 2.33 dual credits as well as 0.67 general credits. The University of Tennessee at Martin and the Obion County Bar Association are co-sponsors for the event.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/cle. For more information, contact Debbie Mount director, UT Martin Outreach, at 731-881-7104.
UT Promise scholarship now available for current students

The scholarship guarantees free tuition to qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT's campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn — The UT Promise scholarship is now available for University of Tennessee undergraduate students currently attending a UT campus, the university said in a release Tuesday.

UT Promise is a scholarship program that offers free tuition and mandatory fees for qualifying Tennessee undergraduate students with a family household income of under $50,000 after other financial aid is received (such as Pell Grants, HOPE Scholarship or other institutional scholarships) at UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin and UT Health Science Center.

University of Tennessee Interim President Randy Boyd said in the release that the "scholarship helps alleviate some of the financial burden many college students face."

The release said that to maintain UT Promise eligibility, students must "be a full-time, continuously enrolled student, maintain eligibility for Tennessee HOPE scholarship, complete the FAFSA annually, perform eight volunteer service hours each semester and complete mentoring requirements each semester."

According to the release, the UT Promise scholarship guarantees free tuition to qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT's campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis.

RELATED: UT kicks off UT Promise endowment campaign

Current UT students wishing to apply for UT Promise must complete the following steps:

- Complete the UT Promise application by Feb. 1, 2020
- File the 2020-21 FAFSA application by Feb. 1, 2020
- Complete and submit eight hours of community service by July 1, 2020

UT Promise is an extension of scholarship offerings and does not replace existing scholarships.

More information about UT Promise is available at tennessee.edu/ut-promise.
Hayslett goes from soybeans to ‘Sistas’

By BRANDY COCHRAN

Special to The Messenger

Lights! Camera! Action! Crystal Hayslett stands center of the stage she helped develop, wearing the outfit she chose, while holding the script to the show she aided in producing. She holds her breath as the lights turn on and she takes off on her first professional acting experience.

The vibrant female from Martin has come all the way from soybeans to “Sistas,” the premiere BET series she has been given the honor to not only act in, but actually produce.

The show whose pilot aired Oct. 23 focuses on the black women’s experience when choosing career and independence rather than traditional southern roles, and the struggle of love and relationships that come along with making such a choice — think “Sex and the City” set in Atlanta.

Ms. Hayslett can relate to the show’s premise, since her work ethic has always stuck out of the crowd as being focused, driven and full of initiative.

One would assume that Ms. Hayslett must have been in theater and design since diapers to receive such an opportunity as the one she has been handed, but that is not her story at all. A Westview graduate and cheerleader for the University of Tennessee at Martin, Ms. Hayslett was an average West Tennessee girl with a motivated spirit that was nurtured by her parents, Jerry and Anita; her teachers; and coaches.

Ms. Hayslett said her former cheerleading coach, Fran Spears, was a huge influence in her life. She coached and mentored her in middle school and then with the UTM squad after Ms. Spears took a job with the university, and was just as strong of a pillar as her parents, teaching Ms. Hayslett discipline and perseverance at an early age.

Ms. Hayslett shared with the Weakley County Press that her parents always distilled in her to get a degree, but to also always chase her dreams, and that is the cornerstone of her personality.

While attending her junior year at UTM as a communications major, Ms. Hayslett sought out and was chosen for an internship with Sen. Lamar Alexander that turned into a full-time position for her while she was still finishing up her final year of education.

“The staff and administration at UTM were so good to me and let me stay with my job in D.C. while taking my senior classes online,” Ms. Hayslett said. After gaining her degree, she stayed with Alexander’s office for the next few years until one serendipitous night in Nashville.

Ms. Hayslett grew up in church with her family singing soulful gospel music.

This passion and talent she had for singing was always considered a side hobby in Ms. Hayslett’s busy life; never did she imagine that working in politics would end up being her breakout opportunity for entertainment, but it just so happened that Alexander also has a love for singing and playing piano, and the two found themselves singing “Amazing Grace” at a staff retreat at the senator’s Nashville home.

Ms. Hayslett looks back on that memory as her “moment of clarity” in her career, and she and Alexander both knew in that instance she had more to offer the world that being behind a desk she may never achieve.

She would soon begin a new chapter in her life that revolved around performance. And just like that, Ms. Hayslett finished her job at the Capitol, contacted her uncle in Atlanta to ask if she could move in with him for a while, and called her mom to let her know she was truly “chasing her dreams.”

Once in Atlanta, Ms. Hayslett dove deep into the local art scene, soaking up any experience and lessons she could receive from the city and its hardest-working artists. Constant diligence and networking soon landed her an entry-level position with Tyler Perry Studios as a production assistant.

From there, she was promoted to dressing the background characters for film, then the main actors, and eventually developed a rapport with Tyler Perry himself.

As if that couldn’t be a dream come true enough for anyone coming from a small town, in 2015, Ms. Hayslett was contacted by the president of Tyler Perry Studios and asked to take on the role of official costume designer.

This, at first, scared Ms. Hayslett because it involved taking on more responsibilities, but as she shared with The Press, “I have always been the risk taker in my family.” She took on the position with all of her integrity, not wanting to let Perry or herself down.

Perry obviously noticed Ms. Hayslett’s efforts, because on her vacation with some friends in Europe, she received a text message from Perry asking her to revamp his personal wardrobe. Since then, she’s been styling Perry.

From there, she was given the opportunity to consultant produce and act and not just dressing characters for set, which is how the series “Sistas” came to be. Now, the show is on its third episode on BET, and doors for Ms. Hayslett just keep on opening.

Next on her list is to further pursue acting and producing.

That being said, Ms. Hayslett can’t help but keep climbing up her professional ladder, and with her Super Woman-like motivation, no one would be surprised to hear that in the next few years she has made her own show, been nominated for a Grammy or has taken a position with a new Broadway show.

For Ms. Hayslett, life isn’t about settling; it’s about experiencing.

Catch the new BET series “Sistas” every Wednesday evening at 9 and look for the Martin native’s name in the credits.

Editor’s note: Brandy Cochran is an entertainment writer for The Weakley County Press. She may be contacted by email at peace.love.brandy@gmail.com.
RED CARPET READY — Martin native Crystal Hayslett posed during the premiere of BET's latest series, "Sistas," a show she helped produce. She also is an actress on the show, which airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m.

CHANCELLOR HONORED — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver was congratulated by UT-Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman after receiving the UT Knoxville Alumni Professional Achievement Award during a ceremony recently. Dr. Joe Johnson, former UT System president, received the UT Knoxville Lifetime Achievement Award during the same ceremony. Johnson has served the UT System in various roles for 55 years, and was system president 1991-99. The Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building at UT Martin is named in his honor.
The Tennessee State Board of Education recently released a report highlighting the University of Tennessee at Martin Educator Preparation Program as being one of the most-improved programs on the statewide report card in the past year.

"Programs such as that at the University of Tennessee at Martin showcase their commitment to excellence with each graduating class of educators they send into the classroom," said Dr. Sara Morrison, executive director of the Tennessee State Board of Education.

"UTM's work in preparing future educators not only drives continuous improvement within their program but also sets a model for programs across the state. We are proud of their progress and support them in their continued efforts to graduate educators (who are) ready to take on the critically important, challenging work of educating Tennessee students."

Donna Neblett, UT Martin program director, says the improvements began five years ago when UT Martin received a Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The $3.3 million grant helped to fund a survey to identify the greatest needs for classroom teachers within the 32 partner school districts. The outcomes were the creation of a new teacher induction program, a series of STEM-based professional development workshops and COMP-certification for all UT Martin education graduates.

COMP, which stands for Classroom Organization Management Program, was specifically identified by area school districts and educators as a high-need area for additional training during the needs assessment. As a result, Mrs. Neblett says many of the faculty members in the UT Martin Educator Preparation Program attended a week-long course on the topic.

Vanderbilt University and returned as certified trainers prepared to assist education students and graduates in this area. Now, all UT Martin education graduates are COMP-certified before graduation.

The teacher induction program is a key component to UT Martin's increased statewide scores, which are based largely on new teachers' evaluation scores and student standardized test scores during the teacher's first three years in the workforce.

"The induction program was created to offer support for our graduates during the first and second years they teach," Mrs. Neblett said. "Some of this support is going to be virtual support. We've bought new software so that we can visit classrooms virtually in real time and provide immediate feedback."

"The assistance I received from this program was probably one of the only things that kept me going as a first-year teacher," said Kristen McAdams, a biology teacher at Gibson County High School. "My principal told me that UTM was going to be sending someone to observe me a couple of days a week for a while, and she would provide me with assistance in any way that she could. I was very overwhelmed and stressed at that time. ... I had no idea how much she would influence me and guide me toward becoming a great teacher. I am still on my way to that, of course, but the tools and strategies she provided me with were invaluable."

"I was able to obtain classroom management skills, teaching resources and the best advice one could hope for. The amount of support that this program provided me with could never be appreciated enough," she continued. "I have never been so grateful for something I never knew that I needed."

Mrs. Neblett hopes the program will not only boost the confidence and teaching strategies of new teachers but also serve as an incentive for school districts to hire those teachers who already have a two-year support system in place.

"As a principal, I can't be in the classroom all the time. So, you get these teachers who have just left the classroom or who are still in the classroom teaching, and they can come and help these students learn and become great teachers," said Jim Hughes, principal at Gibson County High School. "You can learn it, you can read about it, but until you sit there with a mentor who is good, who has been in the profession, who has taught in a classroom and you tell them the ups and downs — that's a positive right there. That's a huge positive for us."

The program has been operational on a small-scale basis for the past year and will be restarted in coming months since the hiring of a new program manager, Cheryl Stewart.

Mrs. Neblett says the UT Martin educator preparation program has also changed its entrance requirements in order to produce graduates who are more likely to be successful in their future classrooms.

"The state requires a 21 on the ACT, and we raised (our requirement) to 22. At one time, students could enter the program by passing two of three parts on the Praxis CORE test. Students must now pass the entire test, and the appeal process requires a narrower approach as well. ... In 2019, we became the EPP with the greatest gains in one year than any other EPP in the state," she said.
University of Tennessee opens free tuition applications

Applications are now open for a new scholarship at the University of Tennessee that guarantees certain students free tuition.

Thursday, November 7th 2019, 5:31 AM EST

NASHVILLE, TN (AP) - Applications are now open for a new scholarship at the University of Tennessee that guarantees certain students free tuition.

A university news release says the UT Promise scholarship is offered to qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT’s campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin, and Memphis. It requires that students complete eight volunteer service hours a semester and participate in a mentoring program.

To be eligible, current, full-time UT students must have a family household income under $50,000 annually and qualify for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

Scholarship students will be paired with a mentor in fall 2020. To apply for the scholarship, current students must complete the scholarship application and the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid by Feb. 1. They also must complete eight hours of community service by July 1.
Martin, Tenn.—Officials, alumni, students and friends of the University of Tennessee at Martin gathered Nov. 2 to dedicate the new National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Garden at Unity Circle in honor of the Divine Nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin.

"Not only is this an important day for the Divine Nine, but you all need to know that this is an important date in history for UT Martin. This not only signifies a place, a recognition spot, a gathering spot, a programming spot for our Divine Nine, it's also moving us along in our university mission and vision," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. "Being Greek is not only a good time as an undergraduate, but these organizations also support through their philanthropic efforts and become engaged with our campus and region. ... With the construction and dedication of the Greek Garden, we celebrate the Divine Nine here today. We also celebrate what this means in terms of inclusion and welcoming and diversity in our campus climate," he continued.

Kevin Laird, president of UT Martin's National Pan-Hellenic Council, also spoke prior to the unveiling of nine plaques commemorating the chartering of each of the UT Martin Divine Nine chapters.
"There are many institutions that speak on their commitment to diversity and inclusion, and so often they let their students down and (create) disappointment in the lack thereof. This NPHC Greek Garden at Unity Circle represents to us a commitment to commemorate the countless contributions of the men and women who stood against adversity and who used their intimate connections with other like-minded individuals to shape the black student experience here at UT Martin," he said.

Chapter alumni joined with current students to honor their charter members and recognize the academic, social, financial and professional influence of the chapters since their incorporation dates.

“Black Greek-letter organizations have been a pivotal part of the African-American culture since the early part of the 20th Century,” said Anthony Prewitt, assistant director for multicultural affairs and adviser to the NPHC organizations. “These organization have been essential resources for support, service and educational advancement, and the strengthening of social bonds among black students, entrepreneurs and professionals, especially when the organizations expanded into majority-white institutions of higher learning.”

The NPHC Greek Garden at Unity Circle is located between Clement Hall and the Andy Holt Humanities Building on the UT Martin main campus.

For more information, contact Prewitt at 731-881-1864 or aprewitt@utm.edu.
The best view comes after hardest climb

A partnership between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Dante Alighieri Society in Siena, Italy, has made it possible for UTM students to take part in an ongoing study abroad program. Six students through Dr. Jeff Longacre’s “Creative Non-Fiction; Travel Writing” class are a part of this unique program and plan to tell about their experiences living, traveling and studying in Italy for a series in The Press. The fourth segment comes from UTM student Brooke Evans, who paints a picture of the scenery.

By BROOKE EVANS
Special to The Press

I had been in Siena, Italy, for a little more than six weeks and I had yet to go out and explore the landscapes of Tuscany outside of the city. A few friends and I had mentioned that, while we were here, that we would like to go out and find some hiking trails to explore, but we had put it off. It just so happened that, around this time, our professor, Dr. Longacre, mentioned in our Travel Writing class that he had learned about some trails along the Via Francigena and he invited anyone who would want to go to meet him early Saturday morning. My friends and I instantly looked at each other in class and smiled, we didn’t even hesitate to say that we wanted to come. He mentioned that it would be around six to eight miles (approximately, because everything is marked in kilometers here) and that it would only take a few hours.

The Via Francigena has been around for centuries. It was originally a route that religious pilgrims used. It runs from Canterbury, England; through France, Switzerland, and Northern Italy; all the way to St. Peter’s in Rome and on to Apulia, which is where the pilgrims started their journeys to the Holy Land. This route is not just a one-way track; there are dozens of different trails one could take. The possible routes changed over the centuries as trade and the rite of pilgrimage increased and decreased. Today, these different routes are hiked, biked, and traveled by horse.

Saturday morning rolled around and we were told to meet Dr. Longacre at 7 a.m. so we could make it to the train station before our train left at 8:10 a.m. The one-way train to Monteroni d’Arbia consisted of seats facing each other in pod-like formations. We were told before our train ride by Dr. Ostenson that the trains were “junkers.” One could tell that the train was fairly old due to its faded seats and interior. Our train ride didn’t take long, only about 15-20 minutes, until we arrived in Monteroni d’Arbia. The chill of the wind caressed my face as I stepped off the train. I could feel the frigid October weather seep under my clothes, spreading across my skin. I shivered and put my hands in the front pockets of my bright orange hoodie, trying to warm my cold hands. The sun was just rising, it had yet to warm up to the 75-degree temperature that was promised for the day.

We started walking through the quiet, still-sleeping town.

We walked for about 20 minutes to the outskirts of this little town and found the entrance to the Via Francigena that would lead us north, back to the City of Siena. The hiking trail that I had envisioned was not what I was seeing. When I think of hiking, I picture trees and a green forest spreading out before me, but what was in front of me here was a gravel path with no trees, but only a path that lead off into the hills. I wasn’t disappointed though, but instead, I was rather excited to see the beauty that I knew would come with this hike. There was a steep slope to climb at first, but I had too much energy in me at the moment to care.

The hills on either side of me rolled with soil from the earth, and under the clear blue skies you could see miles of these rocky escarpments and gorges stretching out. Most of the landscape consisted of tilled farmland, the paths fresh with mud from the recent rain from a few days before. Every so often we would have to stop and shake our feet to get the clumped-up mud out from the bottom of our shoes. Sometimes, too, we would simply stop to take photos of the landscape that surrounded us. It was beautiful, nonetheless, but in a different way than the forest. Instead of seeing trees encompassing the landscape, you have a clear view of towns that lay below. In the distance you could just make out the city of Siena, a blanket of fog partially covering it. It was tiny from where I stood; you wouldn’t think that the city contained more than 53,000 people. Siena was our destination and we were all determined to make it back to our adopted home. We even passed a few hikers that were enjoying the trail along with us. Later, we even passed a few hunters with their dogs out for pheasants.

After a few hours of walking along the terrain, I was starting to feel the soreness slowly creep its way into my calves. We had finally made it to the halfway point where we had the option to find something to eat in the town of Isola d’Arbia. As we veered off the Via Francigena towards a path leading to the town, we came to a spot in the trail where we had to cross a creek. I knew this would be awful.
and socks, plus only being halfway back to Siena, I knew it wouldn't end well for our feet. We made our way into the quaint little town, in search of a place to eat and to rest our aching limbs. We stopped at a small café that was along the way and decided to buy some sandwiches that were there. After we made our purchases, we decided to find a seat outside because we all still had muddy feet. It had become a pleasant, sunny Autumn day.

After lunch, we made our way back toward the Via Francigena, continuing our journey to Siena. The path back towards our destination went through the town of Isola d'Arbia, and we even had to walk along the busy highway for a few minutes. We passed many car dealerships, shops, and restaurants — something you wouldn't be expecting to do on a hike. It took us about 20 minutes to find the trail that connected back to the Via Francigena leading to Siena. At this point the hike was getting really difficult, we were 10 miles in and still not to Siena yet.

About another hour had passed and every so often, when we made it up an embankment, we would see the Siena skyline. Siena was getting bigger and bigger the closer we got, but it was still always in the distance. More hours passed and we continued to trek up more hills. However, one hill in particular felt the most significant — the last one. When we reached the top of this final hill, and rounded the corner of a city street, we finally saw the Porta Romana, which is one of the outer city gates in the old wall surrounding the city in the southwest corner of Siena (Porta Romana means "Roman Gate," because it is the gate through which the pilgrims — and others — would pass through to continue south on their pilgrimage to Rome). I looked down at my watch and it had tracked the distance of 16 miles total. It was almost 3 in the afternoon, so we had hiked for about eight hours. My legs felt like Jell-O as we made our way to the 'finish line:' the city walls of Siena, our home for this fall semester. Sore and tired, I was still glad I did the hike. As the great American naturalist, John Muir, once said, "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."

---

**ITALY**

**FROM PAGE A2**

---

**VANGUARD THEATRE PRESENTS** — "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" Broadway musical comedy will be performed at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 8 beginning tonight (Thursday) through Saturday, and 3 p.m. Sunday in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine Arts Building. Admission is $15 for adults and $10 for students. The UT Martin departments of music and visual and theatre arts are partnering to host the production, which tells the story of several Putnam Valley Middle School students who don't fit in but who eventually find purpose when they compete in the regional spelling bee. Tickets can be purchased or reserved from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts main office in room 201 of the Fine Arts Building this week. Pictured are members of the UT Martin Vanguard Theatre company during their spring 2019 performance of "Marjorie Prime." For more information or to reserve tickets, call 731-881-7400 or 731-881-7090.
UTM educator prep program most improved

The Tennessee State Board of Education recently released a report highlighting the University of Tennessee at Martin Educator Preparation Program as being one of the most-improved programs on the statewide report card in the past year.

Programs such as this at the UTM showcase their commitment to excellence with each graduating class of educators they send into the classroom," said Dr. Sara Morrison, executive director of the Tennessee State Board of Education.

"UTM’s work in preparing future educators not only drives continuous improvement within their program but also sets a model for programs across the state. We are proud of their progress and support them in their continued efforts to graduate educators (who are) ready to take on the critically important, challenging work of educating Tennessee students," she added.

Donna Neblett, UTM program director, says the improvements began five years ago when UTM received a Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The $3.3 million grant helped to fund a survey to identify the greatest needs for classroom teachers within the 32 partner school districts. The outcomes were the creation of a new teacher induction program, a series of STEM-based professional development workshops and COMP-certification for all UT Martin education graduates.

COMP, which stands for Classroom Organization Management Program, was specifically identified by area school districts and educators as a high-need area for additional training during the needs assessment. As a result, Neblett says many of the faculty members in the UT Martin Educator Preparation Program attended a weeklong course on the topic at Vanderbilt University and returned as certified trainers prepared to assist education students and graduates in this area.

Now, all UT Martin education graduates are COMP-certified before graduation.

The teacher induction program is a key component to UTM’s increased statewide scores, which are based largely on new teachers’ evaluation scores and student standardized test scores during the teacher’s first three years.

“The induction program was created to offer support for our graduates during the first and second years they teach," said Neblett. “Some of this support is going to be virtual support. We’ve bought new software so that we can visit classrooms virtually in real time and provide immediate feedback," added Neblett.

“The assistance I received from this program was probably one of the only things that kept me going as a first-year teacher," said Kristen McAdams, a biology teacher at Gibson County High School. “My principal told me that UTM was going to be sending someone to observe me a couple of days a week for a while, and she would provide me with assistance in any way that she could. I was very overwhelmed and stressed at that time. ... I had no idea how much she would influence me and guide me toward becoming a great teacher. I am still on my way to that, of course, but the tools and strategies she provided me with were invaluable.

“I was able to obtain classroom management skills, teaching resources and the best advice one could hope for. The amount of support that this program provided me with could never be appreciated enough," she continued. “I have never been so grateful for something I never knew that I needed,” McAdams added.

Neblett hopes the program will not only boost the confidence and teaching strategies of new teachers but also serve as an incentive for school districts to hire those teachers who already have a two-year support system in place.

“As a principal, I can’t be in the classroom all the time. So, you get these teachers who have just left the classroom or who are still in the classroom teaching, and they can come and help these students learn and become great teachers,” said Jim Hughes, principal at Gibson County High School. “You can learn it, you can read about it, but until you sit there with a mentor who is good, who has been in the profession, who has taught in a classroom, and you tell them the ups and downs – that’s a positive right there. That’s a huge positive for us.”

The program has been operational on a small-scale basis for the past year and will be restarted in coming months since the hiring of a new program manager, Cheryl Stewart.

Neblett says the UT Martin educator preparation program has also changed its entrance requirements in order to produce graduates who are more likely to be successful in their future classrooms.

“The state requires a 21 on the ACT, and we raised (our requirement) to 22. At one time, students could enter the program by passing two of three part on the Praxis CORE test. Students must now pass the entire test, and the appeal process requires a narrower approach as well. ... In 2019, we became the EPP with the greatest gains in one year than any other EPP in the state,” she said.

For more information, contact Neblett at 731-881-7686 or dneblett1@utm.edu.
UTM PARTICIPATES IN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP NETWORK — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver signed a climate resilience commitment Oct. 22 to add UT Martin to the Climate Leadership Network of American colleges and universities committed to working toward carbon reduction and climate resilience. The Climate Leadership Network, organized by Second Nature, began in 2006 with 12 institutions and has since grown to include institutions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. By joining this network, UT Martin pledges to improve environmental sustainability and ensure that the campus is prepared for the impacts of climate change. Pictured at the signing are (seated) Carver and (standing, from left) student Emily Hudgins and Vivica Miller, interns with the UT Martin Center for Sustainability; and Dr. Eric Pelren, center coordinator.

Application process open for free tuition at UT

NASHVILLE (AP) — Applications are now open for a new scholarship at the University of Tennessee that guarantees certain students free tuition.

A university news release says the UT Promise scholarship is offered to qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT's campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis. It requires that students complete eight volunteer service hours a semester and participate in a mentoring program.

To be eligible, current, full-time UT students must have a family household income under $50,000 annually and qualify for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

Scholarship students will be paired with a mentor in fall 2020. To apply for the scholarship, current students must complete the scholarship application and the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid by Feb. 1, 2020. They also must complete eight hours of community service by July 1, 2020.
UT Promise Scholarship

University of Tennessee undergraduate students currently attending a UT campus are now able to apply for the UT Promise scholarship.

UT Promise is a new undergraduate scholarship program guaranteeing free tuition and mandatory fees offered to qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT's campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin, and Memphis. UT Promise is a student-success oriented scholarship program that requires students to complete eight volunteer service hours each semester and participate in the UT Promise mentoring program to ensure a successful student experience.

"I am thrilled that we are able to offer this scholarship to our current undergraduate students who attend our UT campuses across the state," Interim President Randy Boyd said. "We are committed to helping our students achieve their dream of obtaining an undergraduate degree, and the UT Promise scholarship helps alleviate some of the financial burden many college students face."

To be eligible to receive UT Promise, current UT students must have a family household income under $50,000 a year and qualify for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship. To view all eligibility requirements for current UT students, visit the UT Promise website.

Students who receive the UT Promise scholarship will be paired with a UT Promise mentor in fall 2020.

Current UT students wishing to apply for UT Promise must complete steps including completing the UT Promise Application and filing the 2020-2021 FAFSA by February 1st, 2020, and submitting eight hours of community service by July 1st, 2020. Students may begin working on their service hours February 2nd.

UT Promise has received 2,560 applications to date from first-time freshmen.

To maintain UT Promise eligibility, students must be a full-time, continuously enrolled student, maintain eligibility for Tennessee HOPE scholarship, complete the FAFSA annually, perform eight volunteer service hours each semester and complete mentoring requirements each semester.

For more information contact Melissa Tindell at 865-974-0741, mtindell@tennessee.edu, or P267 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park, Knoxville, TN 37996 or Jane Hudson at 865-974-4211, jhudson@tennessee.edu, or P230 Andy Holt Tower, 1331 Circle Park, Knoxville, TN 37996.
Fall Preview Day Event Scheduled

UT Martin is scheduled to host a second Fall Preview Day event for high school seniors on November 16th. This event is intended to allow prospective students to speak with current students and faculty members in their academic areas of interest as well as tour the main campus and gather information on financial aid, housing, student life and other topics.

Latitude 49 to perform at UTM

Latitude 49, a mixed-chamber ensemble, will perform at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 18, in the Fine Arts Building's Blankenship Recital Hall. The ensemble is the third performance in the new Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series.

Tickets are available both online at utm.edu/music/events and at the door before the performance. General admission tickets are $10 each, and students in kindergarten and above are $5 per person. UTM students with valid student ID, and children not yet enrolled in kindergarten, are admitted free of charge.

Latitude 49 takes its name from the border between the U.S. and Canada and includes members from both countries. The ensemble focuses on commissioning and supporting living composers to engage a diverse audience with their blend of classical and rock music. The group currently holds ensemble-in-residence positions are Princeton University and Baylor University.

Previous appearances in the UTM Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series include Break of Reality, an internationally known cello rock band, and the Lalo and Friends Salsa Band. The concert series is named for UTM alum Ed Sargent ('82), of Bolivar.

Sargent is a Grammy-nominated producer who currently serves as tour manager for Rock and Roll Hall of Fame icon Joan
UT has free tuition plan

NASHVILLE — Applications are now open for a new scholarship at the University of Tennessee that guarantees certain students free tuition.

A university news release says the UT Promise scholarship is offered to qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT’s campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis. It requires students complete eight volunteer service hours a semester and participate in a mentoring program.

To be eligible, current, full-time UT students must have a family household income under $50,000 annually and qualify for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.

Scholarship students will be paired with a mentor in fall 2020. To apply for the scholarship, students must complete the scholarship application and the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid by Feb. 1 and complete eight hours community service by July 1.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin honored Bill and Rosann Nunnelly with the official naming of the Nunnelly Family Welcome Center on Nov. 2 as part of homecoming festivities. The center is located on the first floor of the Boling University Center near Watkins Auditorium and is where all university campus tours begin.

The Nunnellys bequeathed $22 million to the university earlier this year to fund scholarships for students from underserved rural counties, including Hickman County, where Bill Nunnelly was raised. Four of those scholarships have already been funded for the fall 2020 semester, and more than 90 Nunnelly Scholars will be able to attend UT Martin each year when the bequest is realized. Bill is a 1970 graduate of UT Martin and later established multiple businesses.

"(The Nunnellys) know that one of the most important things that you can do in life is to give back and invest in others. ... So today we are here to honor them for this incredible gift," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, during the homecoming dedication ceremony. Carver also announced the dedication of the two gateway columns along University Street, located outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building, as the Nunnelly Gateway Columns. This pathway is one of the most-traveled paths in and out of the university quadrangle, and the columns will now bear plaques in honor of the couple's generosity.

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

Photo: From left, Bill and Rosann Nunnelly are pictured with Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, on Nov. 2 after the unveiling of a plaque officially naming the Nunnelly Family Welcome Center.
WestStar leadership program celebrates 30 years

WestStar Leadership Program alumni, friends and supporters gathered Saturday at Discovery Park of America in Union City to celebrate the program’s 30th anniversary.

The evening included food throughout the event, a short program, music and a silent auction. WestStar is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and has graduated 857 class members since the program began.

WestStar, the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program, began offering leadership development and education for selected West Tennessee participants in 1989. Class members typically come from diverse professions and varied volunteer leadership experiences. Banking, chamber of commerce and economic-development professionals, government personnel, healthcare professionals, educators, business leaders and owners, and elected officials are regularly represented in classes.

In its 30-year history, WestStar graduates have assumed leadership roles in their communities, counties and the state. Graduates often seek elected office, are driving forces in many local and regional initiatives, and volunteer for major community roles. Others maintain the networks and collaborations formed by class members during the program to assure that WestStar continues to prepare participants for future leadership roles.

A 30-day video countdown series to the anniversary can be viewed on the WestStar Leadership Program’s Instagram, Twitter and Facebook pages, along with a video celebrating WestStar’s 30-year milestone.

Additional information about WestStar is available on the web at utm.edu/departments/weststar/ or by calling (731) 881-7298.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s ENGAGE Program hosted a Nov. 8 discussion on the topic "How has Trump changed the Democratic Party?" as a follow-up to its Nov. 1 discussion on the Republican Party.

Participating on the panel were (from left to right in the photo above) Deane Arganbright, chair of the Weakley County Democratic Party; Richard Underwood, president of the UT Martin College Democrats; Luke Winters, vice president of the college democrats; and Dr. Chara Van Horn, advisor for the college democrats and associate professor of communications.

The UT Martin ENGAGE Program hosts an "ENGAGE the Times" discussion panel each Friday at noon in room 125 of the Skyhawk Dining Hall. All are invited to attend. The Nov. 15 topic will be "Aristopopulism: A Political Proposal for America."

Ten weeks out of each semester, UT Martin students, staff and faculty engage in meaningful conversations related to current events, according the university’s website. Participants gather with their food trays or sack lunches to discuss important local, regional, national and international issues. News articles and op-ed pieces from The New York Times and other media outlets provide a springboard to ENGAGE.

For more information, contact Dr. Arthur Hunt, ENGAGE program co-coordinator, at ahunt@utm.edu (mailto:ahunt@utm.edu).
OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES — Beth Edwards (center, left) and Pat Taylor (center, right), both of Martin, received Fall 2019 Outstanding Employee Awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during a breakfast reception Oct. 31. They are pictured with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver (far left) and UT System Interim President Randy Boyd (far right).

Edwards, Taylor receive awards

Beth Edwards and Pat Taylor, both of Martin, received Fall 2019 Outstanding Employee Awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during a breakfast reception Oct. 31.

Edwards is the coordinator of UT Martin’s interdisciplinary studies program and works with the students in that major to make sure they are meeting graduation requirements. She reviews graduation applications from the main campus and all five UT Martin centers and provides service to both current and prospective students as they build a degree program suited to their future careers. The program currently serves 353 students, with 112 of those added within the last year.

“Her patience and warmheartedness in working with students convey that we are still the campus that cares.” Edwards completed both her BIS and MBA degrees at UT Martin and personally understands the balance non-traditional students must find between school, work and family life.

Taylor is the administrative assistant for the UT Martin Department of Nursing, and she maintains all records and applications for students in the nursing program in addition to her administrative duties. The program requires an extensive application process — including testing records, drug screening, background checks, immunization records and other documentation — and Taylor manages these files for each student.

“Others across the UT System refer coworkers to our BIS program due to Beth’s outstanding work and representation of the program. Her patience and warmheartedness in working with students convey that we are still the campus that cares.”

“...we expect from our nursing students.”

UT Martin Outstanding Employee Awards are given to one exempt and one non-exempt employee each semester. Recipients are nominated by their coworkers and chosen by a selection committee.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Weststar Leadership Program celebrates 30 years

WestStar Leadership Program alumni, friends and supporters gathered Saturday at Discovery Park of America in Union City to celebrate the program's 30th anniversary. The event opened with a reception followed by celebration activities at 6 p.m. The evening included food throughout the event, a short program, music and a silent auction. WestStar is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and has graduated 857 class members since the program began.

WestStar, the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program, began offering leadership development and education for selected West Tennessee participants in 1989. Class members typically come from diverse professions and varied volunteer leadership experiences. Banking, chamber of commerce and economic-development professionals, government personnel, health-care professionals, educators, business leaders and owners, and elected officials are regularly represented in classes.

In its 30-year history, WestStar graduates have assumed leadership roles in their communities, counties and the state. Graduates often seek elected office, are driving forces in many local and regional initiatives, and volunteer for major community roles. Others maintain the networks and collaborations formed by class members during the program to assure that WestStar continues to prepare participants for future leadership roles.

A 30-day video countdown series to the anniversary can be viewed on the WestStar Leadership Program's Instagram, Twitter and Facebook pages, along with a video celebrating WestStar's 30-year milestone.

Additional information about WestStar is available on the web at utm.edu/departments/weststar or by calling 731-881-7298.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS — Members of the Weststar Leadership Program's 30th class are pictured at the June graduation in Jackson. Weststar alumni, friends and supporters gathered Saturday at Discovery Park of America in Union City to celebrate the program's 30th anniversary. WestStar is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and has graduated 857 class members since the program began.
UT Martin to host Fall Preview Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a second Fall Preview Day from 9-11:30 a.m., Saturday in the UTM Kathleen and Tom Elam Center for high school students who are considering UTM for their college careers. There is no charge to attend, but families should register at utm.edu/previewday.

Students will have the opportunity to hear about the UTM experience from a panel of current students and speak with representative from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs as well as various academic programs. Those attending will also be able to meet faculty members in their departments of interest and tour the main campus.

The center is located at 95 Mt. Pelia Rd in Martin. Parking is available in the lots adjacent to the building.

No vehicle tags will be needed. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

Police investigate second shooting near University of Tennessee at Martin

Cassandra Stephenson
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Martin police are investigating a shooting that injured one man Monday morning near the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Police responded to a shooting at Cambridge Apartments on Lee Street at around 2:37 a.m., according to a news release from Martin Police Chief Don Teal.

Hunter Williams, 21, told officers multiple individuals kicked in his front door, entered the apartment and shot him.

This shooting follows an incident at The Station apartments on Saturday morning in which one man was shot during an attempted robbery. The Station apartments are about one mile away from Cambridge Apartments. Both complexes are near the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Teal said it is possible that the shootings are connected, but Martin Police do not have any evidence at this time to support that theory.

Martin police continue to investigate both incidents.

Anyone with information regarding either incident is encouraged to contact the Martin Police Department at 731-587-5355 or Crime Stoppers at 731-587-2611.

Reach Cassandra Stephenson at ckstephens@jacksonsun.com or at (731) 694-7261. Follow Cassandra on Twitter at @CStephenson731.
Butler, Glenn had record-setting careers

Sports stars inducted into UTM Hall of Fame

By Steve Short

Former University of Tennessee at Martin sports stars Tymikia Gunn-Glenn of Milan and Heather Butler of Medina were inducted into the UTM Athletic Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2019 during ceremonies Saturday, Nov. 2.

Glenn and Butler had record-setting careers at UTM. Glenn in track and field (1999-2002) and Butler in basketball (2010-14). Glenn is currently CEO/director of the Milan Family YMCA.

Butler is currently an assistant coach at Smyrna High School in Middle Tennessee.

During her Skyhawk tenure, Gunn-Glenn shattered seven track and field school records which still stand to this day. The Memphis native competed in mostly sprints, hurdles and jump events and made an immediate impact — setting five program records in her first two seasons.

Butler poured in 2,865 career points — which ranks as the most in Ohio Valley Conference history and was 16th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list. A four-time All-OVC first team selection and 2014 OVC Player of the Year, she guided UT Martin to 87 victories and four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. She scored in double-figures in all 129 games of her career (the second-longest streak in NCAA history) and tied an NCAA record with 392 three-pointers during her illustrious career. The Medina native became the first-ever OVC player to earn a spot on a WNBA roster when she played for the San Antonio Stars in 2014.

Butler is a graduate of Gibson County High School, where she helped lead the Lady Pioneers basketball team to two state titles.
Local sports stars inducted into UTM Athletic Hall of Fame

By Steve Short

Former University of Tennessee at Martin sports stars Tymikia Gunn-Glenn of Milan and Heather Butler of Medina were inducted into the UTM Athletic Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2019 during ceremonies at Martin Saturday, Nov. 2.

Mrs. Glenn and Ms. Butler had record-setting careers at UTM, Glenn in track and field (1999-2002) and Butler in basketball (2010-14).

They were honored along with Jay Johnson (football/baseball, 1970-73), Jasmine Newsome (women's basketball, 2010-14), DeWayne "Pooh" Powell (men's basketball, 1992-96) and Taurean Stephens (football, 2003-06).

Mrs. Glenn is currently CEO/Director of the Milan Family YMCA. Ms. Butler is currently an assistant coach at Smyrna High School in Middle Tennessee.

Glenn's Hall of Fame profile prepared by UTM reads: "During her Skyhawk tenure, Gunn-Glenn shattered seven track and field school record which still stand to this day. The Memphis, Tenn. native competed in mostly sprints, hurdles and jump events and made an immediate impact - setting five program records in her first two seasons. She still holds the school record in the indoor 60-meter run (7.98), outdoor 60-meter hurdles (9.20), indoor triple jump (37-10.25'), outdoor 100-meter hurdles (14.80), outdoor triple jump (38-9') as well as taking part in the record-setting indoor 4x400 relay (3:54.56) and outdoor 4x400 relay (3:45.99)."

UTM's Hall of Fame profile of Butler reads: "Butler helped the Skyhawk women's basketball program reach unprecedented heights, pouring in 2,865 career points - which ranks as the most in Ohio Valley Conference history and was 16th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list. A four-time All-OVC first team selection and 2014 OVC Player of the Year, she guided UT Martin to 87 victories and four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. She scored in double-figures in all 129 games of her career (the second-longest streak in NCAA history) and tied an NCAA record with 392 three-pointers during her illustrious career. The Medina, Tenn. native became the first-ever OVC player to earn a spot on a WNBA roster when she played for the San Antonio Stars in 2014."
The National FFA Organization recently announced that Lane Partin of the Crystal community was selected as the national winner of the Grain Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency area.

Partin was one of only four people chosen to compete for this award at the national finals which were held at the 92nd National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis in October.

Partin is the son of Angie and Tim Partin. He is a recent graduate of Obion County Central High School. Partin currently attends the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he is majoring in farm and ranch management and is a brother of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

After college, he plans to return home and work for Hampton & Partin Farms.

The proficiency awards recognize outstanding student achievement in agribusiness gained through establishment of a new business, working for an existing company or otherwise gaining hands-on career experience. The Grain Production Entrepreneurship award is one of 47 proficiency program areas FFA members can participate in to develop valuable experience and leadership skills at the local, state and national levels. Descriptions of each proficiency award area are available at ffa.org/participate/awards/proficiencies/

Partin, a member of the OCCHS FFA Chapter, became eligible for the national award after being selected as one of four national finalists during the 2019 National FFA National Finalist Selection Process earlier this summer.

Partin’s project consists of 96 acres, 45 of which are being used to produce corn. Lane developed a labor exchange agreement between his father and grandfather, where he works their ground so they may use their equipment on his ground. Partin says one of the most challenging parts of his project was learning when to trust his decisions for his own crops. Partin started his project as a freshman renting 26 acres from a close family friend.

This award is supported by Valent USA Corporation.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 669,989 student members who belong to one of 8,630 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is also supported by 459,514 alumni members in 2,236 alumni chapters throughout the U.S.

About National FFA Foundation

The National FFA Foundation builds partnerships with industry, education, government, other foundations and individuals to secure financial resources that recognize FFA member achievements, develop student leaders and support the future of agricultural education. Governed by a 19-member board of trustees composed of educators, business leaders, individual donors and FFA Alumni, the foundation is a separately registered nonprofit organization. About 82 percent of every dollar received by the foundation supports FFA members and agricultural education opportunities. For more, visit FFA.org/Give.

NATIONAL WINNER — Lane Partin of the Crystal community, son of Angie and Tim Partin, was recently honored as the national winner of the Grain Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency area at the 92nd National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis. The Obion County Central High School graduate and University of Tennessee at Martin Farm and ranch management student was chosen as one of four national finalists during the 2019 National FFA National Finalist Selection Process earlier this summer.
Braxton Hobson Receives 'Call Me Mister' Scholarship

McKENZIE (November 7) — Braxton Hobson, a senior at McKenzie High School, contracted with UT-Martin and the 'Call Me Mister' servant leadership program. Hobson is the first from McKenzie to participate in the new UT-Martin program.

It is available to Asians, Hispanics, and African-American students who earn a minimum on their ACT and agree to teach in Tennessee public school for each year of assistance provided by the 'Call Me Mister' program.

Braxton, whose mother is a teacher, said he is eager to help others. The 2020 MHS graduate earned 26 on his ACT, is the president of the Beta Club, and was voted as a superlative as Best Personality. He plans to earn a degree in education for K-12. He is the son of Craig and Renee Hobson. He also plays piano at his church.

UT-M Co-directors Sam Tharpe and Austin Ferrell were in attendance at Braxton's signing last Thursday at McKenzie High School. Braxton's family and several MHS seniors attended the signing, held on the stage at McKenzie High School Theater.

The program is limited to 20 students at UT-Martin. The first class of five cohorts were signed in 2018. UTM MISTERS complete their program of study in teacher education by becoming certified to teach and assuming a teaching position in an under-served Tennessee public school.

Tharpe, a retired educator who served as principal of Henry School and Grove in Paris, along with previously serving as mayor of Paris, said there is a major need for leadership in the schools by minorities in the northwest Tennessee area. UT-M is the lone school in Tennessee offering the program.

Tuition financial assistance is 25 percent for the first year, and 35, 50 and 70 percent respectively in years two through four. The scholarship pays 100 percent of the housing expense. The recipient must teach one year in an elementary or middle school for each year of funds received through the program.

Braxton will attend training at Clemson University, the founding school, over the summer.
Abby Bruff of UC named UTM Homecoming Queen

MARTIN, Tenn., Nov. 13, 2019 - UT MARTIN HOMECOMING COURT - Hayden Love (fifth from right), of Alamogordo, and Abby Bruff (sixth from right), of Union City, were named homecoming king and queen, respectively, during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s homecoming football game Nov. 2. Love is a sophomore agriculture major representing the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, and Bruff is a junior health and human performance major representing the Chi Omega sorority. Pictured following the crowning of the king and queen are members of the homecoming court and their escorts: (l-r) Mike Slaughter, Macy Slaughter’s father; Macy Slaughter, a senior from Dyer County; Collin Stricklin, a senior from Martin; Olivia Reagan, Stricklin’s friend; Jordan Stoner, Hannah Lightfoot’s boyfriend; Lightfoot, a senior from Hampshire; Margaretta Knowels, James Fogg’s aunt; Fogg, a senior from Nashville; Bruff and Love; Shelby Guffey, a senior from Pleasant View; Griffin Birdsong, a senior from Pulaski; Aundrea Adams, a senior from Corinth, Mississippi; and Andre Adams, Aundrea Adams’ father.

UT-Martin Chancellor Helping State and Region

Dr. Carver was announced this month as a member of the Jackson State Community College search advisory committee to fill the role of college president. The committee’s first meeting and public forum is scheduled for Friday, to gather public opinion on the characteristics, qualities and skills needed in the next president.

Dr. Carver was also approved to serve as chair of the Ohio Valley Conference Board of Presidents in September, and will serve as chair for the 2019-20 academic year.

And along with his work on these committees, and at UT-Martin, Dr. Carver will serve on the advisory council for the Tennessee Coalition for Better Health.

This is an organization of 18 individuals focused on improving policy at the public and institutional level to improve health outcomes in Tennessee.
UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver Serving Region, State in Several Organizations

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver continues to serve not only the university but also the region and state through committee membership and leadership in a variety of organizations.

This month, Carver was announced as a member of the Jackson State Community College search advisory committee to fill the role of college president, according to a news release from the university. The committee’s first meeting and public forum is scheduled for Nov. 15 to gather public opinion on the characteristics, qualities and skills needed in JSCC’s next president. The college’s fifth president, Dr. Allana Hamilton, was appointed vice chancellor for academic affairs of the College System of Tennessee by the Tennessee Board of Regents in September and assumed her new role at the system office in October.

UT Martin serves students on the Jackson State Community College campus through the UT Martin Jackson Center, which allows area students to finish their associate degrees at JSCC and transition seamlessly into a UT Martin bachelor’s degree program in the same location.

Carver was also approved to serve as chair of the Ohio Valley Conference Board of Presidents in September after a change in the board’s rotational schedule. He will serve as chair for the 2019-20 academic year followed by Dr. Glenda Glover, president of Tennessee State University, in 2020-21.

Carver is currently serving on the advisory council for the Tennessee Coalition for Better Health, an organization focused on improving policy at the public and institutional level to improve health outcomes in Tennessee. The advisory council is made up of 18 people who serve as a think-tank for the organization and help provide feedback and expert opinion on statewide programming and policy. The council’s first meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9 in Nashville.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615
The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees met last week in Knoxville, and UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver was on the agenda.

Dr. Carver presented details on the university's strategic enrollment plan during a separate meeting of the board's finance and administration committee.

During his time, Dr. Carver addressed the need to recruit students from surrounding states. Interim UT-President Randy Boyd also commented on UT-Martin's ability to draw students from larger areas.

To help increase student numbers, Dr. Carver also spoke about a plan of new investments on campus, which would include a Retention Specialist, out of state recruiter, Director of Financial Aid and mental health assistance.

President Boyd said it was the UT system's plan to support the plan in Martin.

---

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin has announced the following performances:

**Rebecca Mindock**
**Guest Oboe Recital**
On Thursday, Dr. Rebecca Mindock, associate professor of double reeds at the University of South Alabama, will be performing a guest oboe recital along with her pianist Scott Schwab. Their recital will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall, located in the Fine Arts Building.

Admission to the recital is free and open to the public.

**Fall Choral Concert**
On Sunday at 3 p.m., the University Singers will perform its Fall Choral Concert in Blankenship Recital Hall.

The concert is free and open to the public.

**Clarinet Studio Recital**
This semester's Clarinet Studio Recital will take place Sunday at 5 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall.

---

It will feature works from the Classical era to the present, including pieces by Stravinsky, Schumann, Weber, Cunningham, Wranhal, Pierre, Mouquet and Bolcom.

This semester's soloists are senior Jack Mergen; junior Taylor Grimes; sophomores Claire Forst, Brianna Hampton, and Gage Shelton; and freshmen Trinity Baker, Emily Coleman, Jacob Cronavage and Kimmie Davis.

This event is free and open to the public.

**Annias Haney**
**Senior Saxophone Recital**
On Sunday, Annias Haney will be presenting his senior saxophone recital at 7:30 p.m. in Blankenship Recital Hall.

Admission to is free and open to the public.
UT system launches 'data dashboard'

As part of its strategic plan, the University of Tennessee System has announced the creation of a "data dashboard" that will build on its commitment to providing greater and easier access to information for UT's faculty, staff, students and the communities it serves.

The data dashboard provides frequently requested academic-related information about the university, including enrollment, composite ACT scores, weighted grade point averages, degrees awarded and graduation and retention statistics.

"Providing a dashboard that tracks our student data was the next logical step in our transparency initiative," said UT Interim President Randy Boyd. "We hope that the new data dashboard site, combined with the already-established transparency site, will send a clear message to our publics that we hear you and are committed to providing information about how our system operates, as well as data on our outcomes."

Boyd, as part of his transparency initiative, assembled a Transparency Advisory Group last year to review frequently requested information from the general public, media and legislators. Through the work of this group, UT established a central location for most frequently requested information to make it easier to find and access. To access the site, visit data.tennessee.edu.

The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis; the UT Space Institute in Tullahoma; the UT Institute of Agriculture with a presence in every Tennessee county; and the statewide Institute for Public Service.

The UT system manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory through its UT-Battelle partnership; enrolls about 50,000 students statewide; produces about 10,000 new graduates every year; and represents more than 387,000 alumni around the world.

Empty Bowls event helps fight hunger

The University of Tennessee at Martin and We Care Ministries Inc. will co-host the 16th annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper Nov. 23.

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

Empty Bowls, an international project to fight hunger one bowl at a time, started locally in 2003 to support relief efforts by the We Care food bank. For the past 16 years, UT Martin fine arts professor David McBeth, along with students and alumni, have created thousands of ceramic bowls for the event.

Standard-size bowls will be available during the event for a $15 donation, and larger bowls will have suggested donation amounts. Guests can then enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup supper provided by community members and local organizations.

In 2018, UT Martin's Empty Bowls event raised more than $12,000 for this project. McBeth and his students made more than 1,500 ceramic bowls that
UT-Martin plans Fall Preview Day

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a second Fall Preview Day from 9-11:30 a.m., Nov. 16, in the UT Martin Kathleen and Tom Elam Center for high school students who are considering UT Martin for their college careers. There is no charge to attend, but families should register at utm.edu/previewday.

Students will have the opportunity to hear about the UT Martin experience from a panel of current students and speak with representative from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs as well as various academic programs. Those attending will also be able to meet faculty members in their departments of interest and tour the main campus.

The Elam Center is located at 95 Mt. Pelia Road in Martin. Parking is available in the lots adjacent to the building. No vehicle tags will be needed. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
November 13, 2019  Dresden Enterprise  Dresden, Tenn.

Annual Empty Bowls Event to Fight Hunger is November 23

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin and We Care Ministries Inc. is co-hosting the 16th-annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 23, in the UT Martin Student Life Center at 199 Moody Ave. in Martin.

Empty Bowls, an international project to fight hunger one bowl at a time, started locally in 2003 to support relief efforts by the We Care food bank. For the past 16 years, UT Martin fine arts professor David McBeth, along with students and alumni, have created thousands of ceramic bowls for the event. Standard-size bowls are available during the event for a $15 donation, and larger bowls will have suggested donation amounts. Guests can then enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup supper provided by community members and local organizations.

In 2018, UT Martin’s Empty Bowls event raised more than $12,000 for this project. McBeth and his students, made more than 1,500 ceramic bowls that year, the community donated 34 crockpots full of soup and students in UT Martin’s General Studies 101 courses donated 102 boxes of saltine crackers.

The project is seeking sponsors this year to increase support for the local food bank. There are five levels of sponsorship: Pewter Partner ($150 for 10 bowls), Copper Cup ($300 for 20 bowls), Bronze Bowl ($450 for 30 bowls), Silver Spoon ($600 for 40 bowls) and Golden Goblet ($750 for 50 bowls). The deadline to submit sponsorship forms is Nov. 11.

Two community members examine the handmade bowls during the 2018 Empty Bowls Soup Supper.

The sponsored bowls will be available to pick up during the event, and interested parties should contact McBeth at 731-881-7416 or dmcbethme@gmail.com to obtain a sponsorship form.

For more information, contact David McBeth at 731-881-7416.
DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVE —
State Rep. Andy Holt (R-District 76, left) participated in a discussion panel Nov. 1, considering the question “How has Trump changed the Republican Party?” as part of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s ENGAGE Civic Initiative. Holt joined Dr. Joey Mehlhorn (right), adviser for the UTM College Republicans, and Student President Hayden Baucom (center) to discuss various aspects of the current president’s approach to the United States political system. The UTM ENGAGE program hosts an “ENGAGE the Times” discussion at noon each Friday during the academic semester in room 125 of the Skyhawk Dining Hall. The Nov. 8 panel focused on the question “How has Trump changed the Democratic Party?” All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Arthur Hunt, ENGAGE program co-coordinator, at ahunt@utm.edu.

HONORING OUR VETERANS — In honor of Veterans Day, several members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk Veterans Association visited the Tennessee State Veterans’ Home in Humboldt on Nov. 8 to speak with residents and thank them for their service. Student-veterans and veteran dependents spend time with the residents to share stories and distribute small mementos. Isaac Mecklin (right), a senior from Munford, is pictured speaking with a resident of the veterans’ home.

Fighting hunger one bowl at a time

The University of Tennessee at Martin and We Care Ministries Inc. will co-host the 16th-annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 23 in the UT Martin Student Life Center at 199 Moody Ave., in Martin.

Empty Bowls, an international project to fight hunger one bowl at a time, started locally in 2003 to support relief efforts by the We Care food bank. For the past 16 years, UT Martin fine arts professor David McBeth, along with students and alumni, have created thousands of ceramic bowls for the event.

Standard-size bowls will be available during the event for a $15 donation, and larger bowls will have suggested donation amounts. Guests can then enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup supper provided by community members and local organizations.

In 2018, UT Martin’s Empty Bowls event raised more than $12,000 for this project. McBeth and his students, made more than 1,500 ceramic bowls that year, the community donated 34 crockpots full of soup and students in UT Martin’s General Studies 101 courses donated 102 boxes of saltine crackers.

Sponsored bowls this year will be available to pick up during the event, and interested parties should contact McBeth at 731-881-7416 or dmbethme@gmail.com for information about sponsorship. For more information, contact McBeth at 731-881-7416.

EMPTY BOWLS — Two community members examine the handmade bowls during the 2018 Empty Bowls Soup Supper.
Carver representing region and state

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver continues to serve not only the university but also the region and state through committee membership and leadership in a variety of organizations.

Carver was announced this month as a member of the Jackson State Community College search advisory committee to fill the role of college president. The committee’s first meeting and public forum is scheduled for Friday to gather public opinion on the characteristics, qualities and skills needed in JSCC’s next president. The college’s fifth president, Dr. Allana Hamilton, was appointed vice chancellor for academic affairs of the College System of Tennessee by the Tennessee Board of Regents in September and assumed her new role at the system office in October.

UT Martin serves students on the Jackson State Community College campus through the UT Martin Jackson Center, which allows area students to finish their associate degrees at JSCC and transition seamlessly into a UT Martin bachelor’s degree program in the same location.

He was also approved to serve as chair of the Ohio Valley Conference Board of Presidents in September after a change in the board’s rotational schedule. He will serve as chair for the 2019-20 academic year followed by Dr. Glenda Glover, president of Tennessee State University, in 2020-21.

Carver also serves on the advisory council for the Tennessee Coalition for Better Health, an organization focused on improving policy at the public and institutional level to improve health outcomes in Tennessee. The advisory council is made up of 18 people who serve as a think-tank for the organization and help provide feedback and expert opinion on statewide programming and policy. The council’s first meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9 in Nashville.

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

PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE — The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre presented the 25th-annual Putnam County Spelling Bee from Nov. 7-10 in the Fine Arts Building Little Theatre. This Broadway comedy involves audience participation in some scenes, which on one night included UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts partnered with the Department of Music to include a student orchestra in the performance. For more information, contact Vanguard Theatre director Kevin Shell at kshell1@utm.edu or 881-7487.
UT Promise applications ready

University of Tennessee undergraduate students currently attending a UT campus are now able to apply for the UT Promise scholarship. UT Promise is a new undergraduate scholarship program guaranteeing free tuition and mandatory fees offered to qualifying Tennessee residents attending UT's campuses in Martin, Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis. UT Promise is a student-success oriented scholarship program that requires students to complete eight volunteer service hours each semester and participate in the UT Promise mentoring program to ensure a successful student experience. "I am thrilled that we are able to offer this scholarship to our current undergraduate students who attend our UT campuses across the state," Interim President Randy Boyd said. "We are committed to helping our students achieve their dream of obtaining an undergraduate degree, and the UT Promise scholarship helps alleviate some of the financial burden many college students face," Boyd added.

To be eligible to receive UT Promise, current UT students must have a family household income under $50,000 a year and qualify for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship. To view all eligibility requirements for current UT students, please visit the UT Promise website.

Students who receive the UT Promise scholarship will be paired with a UT Promise mentor in fall 2020. Current UT students wishing to apply for UT Promise must complete the following steps.

Deadlines:
Steps for eligible current UT students
•Feb. 1, 2020, Complete the UT Promise application: Current UT students.
•Feb. 1, 2020, File the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
•July 1, 2020, Complete and submit eight hours of community service.

Students may begin working on their service hours Feb. 2, 2020.

UT Promise has received 2,560 applications to date from first-time freshmen.

To maintain UT Promise eligibility, students must be a full-time, continuously enrolled student, maintain eligibility for Tennessee HOPE scholarship, complete the FAFSA annually, perform eight volunteer service hours each semester and complete mentoring requirements each semester.
UTM DEDICATES NUNNELLY FAMILY WELCOME CENTER — Bill and Rosann Nunnelly (left) are pictured with UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver on Nov. 2 after the unveiling of a plaque officially naming the Nunnelly Family Welcome Center.

UTM dedicates the Nunnelly Family Welcome Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin honored Bill and Rosann Nunnelly with the official naming of the Nunnelly Family Welcome Center on Nov. 2 as part of homecoming festivities.

The center is located on the first floor of the Boling University Center near Watkins Auditorium and is where all university campus tours begin.

The Nunnellys bequeathed $22 million to the university earlier this year to fund scholarships for students from underserved rural counties, including Hickman County, where Bill Nunnelly was raised.

Four of those scholarships have already been funded for the fall 2020 semester, and more than 90 Nunnelly Scholars will be able to attend UT Martin each year when the bequest is realized. Bill is a 1970 graduate of UT Martin and later established multiple businesses.

"(The Nunnellys) know that one of the most important things that you can do in life is to give back and invest in others, so today we are here to honor them for this incredible gift," said UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver during the homecoming dedication ceremony. Carver also announced the dedication of the two gateway columns along University Street, located outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building, as the Nunnelly Gateway Columns. This pathway is one of the most-traveled paths in and out of the university quadrangle, and the columns will now bear plaques in honor of the couple's generosity.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UT Martin Wildlife Society named Student Chapter of The Year

The University of Tennessee at Martin Wildlife Society received the Student Chapter of the Year Award from The Wildlife Society Southeastern Section on Oct. 29 at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' 73rd annual conference in South Carolina. Dr. Eric Pelren, professor of wildlife biology, led a group from the UT Martin Wildlife Society to the event, which focused on the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources and allowed 500 representatives to share ideas and information. For more information, contact Dr. Pelren at 731-881-7263 or epelren@utm.edu.
UT Martin dedicates Greek Garden at Unity Circle

Officials, alumni, students and friends of the University of Tennessee at Martin gathered Nov. 2 to dedicate the new National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Garden at Unity Circle in honor of the Divine Nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin.

"Not only is this an important day for the Divine Nine, but you all need to know that this is an important date in history for UT Martin. This not only signifies a place, a recognition spot, a gathering spot, a programming spot for our Divine Nine, it's also moving us along in our university mission and vision," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. "Being Greek is not only a good time as an undergraduate, but these organizations also support through their philanthropic efforts and become engaged with our campus and region. ... With the construction and dedication of the Greek Garden, we celebrate the Divine Nine here today. We also celebrate what this means in terms of inclusion and welcoming and diversity in our campus climate," he continued.

Kevin Laird, president of UT Martin's National Pan-Hellenic Council, also spoke prior to the unveiling of nine plaques commemorating the chartering of each of the UT Martin Divine Nine chapters.

"There are many institutions that speak on their commitment to diversity and inclusion, and so often they let their students down and (create) disappointment in the lack thereof. This NPHC Greek Garden at Unity Circle represents to us a commitment to commemorate the countless contributions of the men and women who stood against adversity and who used their intimate connections with other like-minded individuals to shape the black student experience here at UT Martin," he said.

Chapter alumni joined with current students to honor their charter members and recognize the academic, social, financial and professional influence of the chapters since their incorporation dates.

"Black Greek-letter organizations have been a pivotal part of the African-American culture since the early part of the 20th Century," said Anthony Prewitt, assistant director for multicultural affairs and adviser to the NPHC organizations. "These organizations have been essential resources for support, service and educational advancement, and the strengthening of social bonds among black students, entrepreneurs and professionals, especially when the organizations expanded into majority-white institutions of higher learning."

The NPHC Greek Garden at Unity Circle is located between Clement Hall and the Andy Holt Humanities Building on the UT Martin main campus.

For more information, contact Prewitt at 731-881-1864 or aprewitt@utm.edu.
GUEST ARTISTS — The Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series at the University of Tennessee will host Latitude 49 in concert with the UTM Contemporary Music Group Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Blankenship Recital Hall. Tickets are $10 for general admission, $5 for students and free for UTM students. They may be purchased at https://secure.touchnet.com/C21608_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=328&SINGLESTORE=true or at the door.

**Latitude 49 to perform at UT Martin**

Latitude 49 joins the University of Tennessee Department of Music to present an exciting concert program of new music, as well as a collaboration with the UTM Contemporary Music Group, on Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Blankenship Recital Hall. It is part of the Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series.

Latitude 49 is a dynamic mixed-chamber group blending the finesse of a classical ensemble with the drive and precision of a finely tuned rock band. With members coming together from across the United States and Canada, L49 epitomizes a diverse, unconventional family of sounds, instruments, and human experiences.

The group currently holds Ensemble-in-Residence positions at Princeton University and Baylor University with previous residencies at the University of Michigan, the Kenosha Creative Space and the University of Illinois Chicago.

Latitude 49 presents numerous concerts each season in major venues including the Ravinia Festival (Chicago), (le) Poisson Rouge (NYC) and Detroit Symphony Orchestra’s Music Box. More than 40 works have been written for L49 so far by a multitude of composers ranging from aspiring students to Pulitzer prize-winning masters. With commissioning and supporting living composers at the heart of its mission, L49 strives to engage diverse audiences with new sounds and specially curated programs that reflect the world in which we find ourselves, with all its beauty and curiosities. With its name taken from the parallel along the Canadian/United States border, Latitude 49 serves as a bridge between artists, composers and listeners of today.

These performances are supported in part by the Paul Meek Library. Tickets are $10 for general admission, $5 for students and free for UTM students. They may be purchased at https://secure.touchnet.com/C21608_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=328&SINGLESTORE=true or at the door.
UT Launches Data Dashboard

As part of its strategic plan, the University of Tennessee System has announced the creation of a “data dashboard” that will build on its commitment to providing greater and easier access to information for UT’s faculty, staff, students and the communities it serves.

The data dashboard provides frequently requested academic-related information about the university, including enrollment, composite ACT scores, weighted grade point averages, degrees awarded, and graduation and retention statistics.

“Providing a dashboard that tracks our student data was the next logical step in our transparency initiative,” said UT Interim President Randy Boyd. “We hope that the new data dashboard site, combined with the already-established transparency site, will send a clear message to our publics that we hear you and are committed to providing information about how our system operates, as well as data on our outcomes.”

Boyd, as part of his transparency initiative, assembled a Transparency Advisory Group last year to review frequently requested information from the general public, media and legislators. Through the work of this group, UT established a central location for most frequently requested information to make it easier to find and access. To access the site, visit data.utk.edu.

The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis; the UT Space Institute in Tullahoma; the UT Institute of Agriculture with a presence in every Tennessee county; and the statewide Institute for Public Service. The UT system manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory through its UT-Battelle partnership; enrolls about 50,000 students statewide; produces about 10,000 new graduates every year; and represents more than 387,000 alumni around the world.

For more information, contact the UT System Office of Communications and Marketing at 865-974-8184.

UTM’s Second Fall Preview Day Slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin is scheduled to host a second Fall Preview Day from 9 a.m. through 11:30 a.m., November 16th, in the UT Martin Kathleen and Tom Elam Center for high school students who are considering UT Martin for their college careers. There is no charge to attend, but families should register at utm.edu/previewday.

Students will have the opportunity to hear about the UT Martin experience from a panel of current students and speak with representative from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs as well as various academic programs. Those attending will also be able to meet faculty members in their departments of interest and tour the main campus.

The Elam Center is located at 95 Mt. Pelia Road in Martin. Parking is available in the lots adjacent to the building. No vehicle tags will be needed.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
WestStar program celebrates 30 years

WestStar Leadership Program alumni, friends, and supporters gathered Saturday, Nov. 9, at Discovery Park of America in Union City to celebrate the program's 30th anniversary. WestStar is sponsored by UTM and has graduated 857 class members since the program began.

Program alumni from Benton County include many notable county citizens. Graduates include Jenna Cole-Wilson, Margaret Crafton, Yana Dicus, Justin Hargrove, Jennifer Hayden, Brent Hedge, Bill Kee, Sara Kilgore, Brett Lashlee, Ben Marks, Mary Lou Marks, and Donna Vick.

WestStar began offering leadership development and education for selected West Tennesseeparticipants in 1989. Class members typically come from diverse professions and varied volunteer leadership experiences. Banking, chamber of commerce, economic-development professionals, government personnel, health-care professionals, educators, business leaders, and elected officials are regularly represented in classes.

In its 30-year history, WestStar graduates have assumed leadership roles in their communities, counties, and the state. Graduates often seek elected office, are driving forces in many local and regional initiatives, and volunteer for major community roles. Others maintain the networks and collaborations formed by class members during the program to assure that WestStar continues to prepare participants for future leadership roles.

A 30-day video countdown series leading up to the anniversary can be viewed on the WestStar Leadership Program's Facebook page, along with a video celebrating WestStar's 30-year milestone. Information about WestStar is available on the web at utm.edu/departments/weststar or by calling 731-881-7298.
UTM to hold fall preview day

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a Fall Preview Day from 9-11:30 a.m., on Saturday, Nov. 16, in the UTM Kathleen and Tom Elam Center for high school students who are considering UTM for their college careers. There is no charge to attend, but families should pre-register at utm.edu/preview-day.

Students will have the opportunity to hear about the UTM experience from a panel of current students and speak with representatives from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life, and multicultural affairs as well as various academic programs. Those attending will also be able to meet faculty members in their departments of interest and tour the main campus.

The Elam Center is located at 95 Mt. Pelia Road in Martin. Parking is available in the lots adjacent to the building. No vehicle tags will be needed. For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.
Five students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor the "Skyhawk Shed" community clothing donation event this month in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus. The project is based on "The Shed" community clothing project in Henry County, the university said in a news release.

Lexi Workman, a senior from Dyersburg; Dylan Parks, a sophomore from Cedar Hill; Ethan Bledsoe, a sophomore from Jamestown; Virginia Laflamme, sophomore from Lewisburg; and Caroline Gurton, a freshman from Paris, are organizing the event as part of a service-learning project in their agricultural leadership course, taught by Dr. Will Bird, assistant professor of agricultural education.

The project seeks to collect new and gently used clothing and distribute items to those in need in the local area. The group will collect donations from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m., Nov. 19 and 21, in the Boling University Center, and clothing will be distributed free of charge from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., Nov. 24, in the same location.

"We decided we could use the project as a resource for both students and community members who want or need new clothing, but also those who want to discard of unwanted items in a purposeful way," said Gurton. "If it's something that has enough turn-out and participation, we would hope to see this happen again."

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7612.
Empty bowls feed the hungry in Weakley Co.

November 15, 2019 by Julia Ewoldt

MARTIN, Tenn. — A local art professor has found a way to use empty bowls to feed hungry people.

"I started saying years ago, 'I can't write a $5,000 check to WE CARE for their food pantry, but I can make 500 bowls and maybe raise $5,000,'" said University of Tennessee at Martin ceramics professor David McBeth.

In the last 15 years, McBeth has raised $100,000 for Weakley County's food bank by making thousands of bowls.

"It evolved into a monster, a wonderful monster," McBeth said.

This year, his goal is to make 850 bowls, each with $15 donations that will go straight to feeding people whose bowls may be empty.

"21 percent of the children in Weakley County are food insecure, don't know where their next meal is coming from. That's wrong. That's not the way life should be," McBeth said.

Because of this project, his students have realized that need.

"It just changes their whole approach, their whole thinking about. It's abstract when you're in the studio making bowls, but when you're in the community seeing people who don't have enough food to feed their family, have to come get free food, it just opens their minds," McBeth said.

Empty Bowls is Saturday, November 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Student Life Center on University Street.

There will also be a soup lunch, funded and made by area churches.
A Henry County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2019-2020 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Chase Wyrick, of Cottage Grove, son of Scott and Barbara Wyrick, is a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.

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

Based on “The Shed” community clothing project in Henry County, five students at the University of Tennessee at Martin will sponsor the “Skyhawk Shed” community clothing donation event this month in the Boling University Center on the UT Martin main campus.

The project seeks to collect new and gently-used clothing and distribute items to those in need in the local area. The group will collect donations from noon-5 p.m. today (Tuesday) and Thursday in the Boling University Center. Clothing will be distributed free of charge from 1-5 p.m. Nov. 24 in the same location.

Individuals seeking assistance from the “Skyhawk Shed” will be permitted to take the clothing they need, no questions asked. Those who donate clothing will be entered to win raffle prizes after the event.

Lexi Workman, a senior from Dyersburg; Dylan Parks, a sophomore from Cedar Hill; Ethan Bledsoe, a sophomore from Jamestown; Virginia Laflamme, sophomore from Lewisburg; and Caroline Gurton, a freshman from Paris, are organizing the event as part of a service-learning project in their agricultural leadership course, taught by Dr. Will Bird, assistant professor of agricultural education.

“We decided we could use the project as a resource for both students and community members who want or need new clothing, but also those who want to discard of unwanted items in a purposeful way,” said Gurton. “If it’s something that has enough turn-out and participation, we would hope to see this happen again,” she added.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7612.
UT MARTIN HONORS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE — Lesley Martin (center), a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin Custodial Services staff, was honored Oct. 31 for 50 years of university service. Martin is pictured during a luncheon reception with Chancellor Keith Carver (left), who was dressed as Elvis Presley in celebration of Halloween, and UT System Interim President Randy Boyd.

UT MARTIN HONORS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE — Faculty and staff members who have served the University of Tennessee at Martin for 35 years as of 2019 were honored Oct. 31 during a luncheon reception. Pictured are (starting second from left) Susie Lewis, Computer Store; Trudy Henderson, Office of Intercollegiate Athletics; and Susan Box, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. The group is pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver (far left), who was dressed as Elvis Presley in preparation for the chancellor's community trick-or-treat event that evening, and UT System Interim President Randy Boyd (far right). Not pictured are Doug Cook, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, and Dr. Chris Caldwell, Department of Mathematics and Statistics.
TO PERFORM — The University of Tennessee at Martin Contemporary Music Group will be in concert this evening at 7:30 in Blankenship Recital Hall of the UTM Fine Arts Building. They will perform works by John Cage, Dan Musselman, Baljinder Singh Sekhon II and John Thrower.

Cheya Thousand to Speak On Minorities, Mental Health

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs will host wellness expert and motivational speaker Cheya Thousand at 2 p.m., Nov. 21, in room 111 of the Boling University Center. Thousand will discuss how to decompress and de-escalate stress and depression, immediately followed by a book signing.

Cheya Thousand is the CEO of CT Wellness Co., a faith-based wellness company based in Jacksonville, Florida. According to its mission statement, CT Wellness Co. is focused on improving overall physical and mental well-being and quality of life for students and leaders by empowering them to build sustainable lifestyles. Thousand started her business with a maternal wellness care package to encourage mothers to take care of themselves at all stages of their pregnancy. After expanding her goals to include supporting both men and women through personal stress and professional burnout, Thousand created CT Wellness Co. to offer self-help courses on self-awareness, mindfulness and healthy habits.

Thousand will educate students and audience members on the importance of wellness and mental health. She will also share tips on how to de-stress and create healthy sustainable habits. Her presentation is open to the public and sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs.
Martin, Tenn.—University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver has signed a climate resilience commitment to add UT Martin to the Climate Leadership Network of American colleges and universities committed to working toward carbon reduction and climate resilience. The Climate Leadership Network, organized by Second Nature, began in 2006 with 12 institutions and has since grown to include institutions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. By joining this network, UT Martin pledges to improve environmental sustainability and ensure that the campus is prepared for the impacts of climate change. Pictured at the signing are (seated) Carver and (standing, from left) student Emily Hudgins and Vivica Miller, interns with the UT Martin Center for Sustainability, and Dr. Eric Pelren, center coordinator.
UT Martin Parsons Center celebrates milestone of teacher's career

November 20, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

PARSONS, Tenn. — A local university celebrated a major milestone of a teacher's career on Wednesday.

UT Martin faculty, staff, students and community members all gathered Wednesday to celebrate mathematics and statistics teacher Jim Reed on more than half a century of teaching.

"And now, his former students are now teachers themselves," said Dr. Kelli Deere, director of the UT Martin at Parsons Center. "And the teachers, the math teachers that he had taught, are so wonderful that they're now even being promoted to math coaches and math supervisors, and so his influence will be seen for years to come. And we are just very appreciative and thankful that Mr. Jim Reed is celebrating not only his birthday today, but 55 years of education."
UTM suspends English program for international students

November 20, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — A local university has announced the suspension of an English program for international students.

The University of Tennessee at Martin has announced that the Tennessee Intensive English Program at the university will suspend the program after the spring semester.

The program, known as TIEP, helps international students with language and cultural adjustment, according to a news release.

The program started in 1974 and has been a part of UT Martin's Office of International Programs and International Admissions, the release says.

The release says university provost and vice chancellor Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier said in an email Tuesday that the program had experienced a financial deficit for three years.

Part of that decline, according to the release, is a decline in student numbers in TIEP over the last five years.

According to the release, the program will be suspended on May 31, 2020.
English program for international students suspended at UT Martin

By FOX 23 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH 2019

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - Operations for the Tennessee Intensive English Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin will stop May 31, 2020.

University officials said the program helps international students with language skills and cultural adjustment.

TIEP will continue to provide intensive English programs for students already registered for short-term sessions in spring 2020.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said that the program has gone through a financial deficit for the past three years.

"I want to emphasize that we will continue to pursue degree-seeking international students through a variety of different avenues, and we will continue to grow our study-abroad and travel-study programs," Cavalier wrote in the email.

A five-year decline in TIEP student numbers also contributed to this deficit.

The TIEP began in 1974 and is part of UT Martin's Office of International Programs and International Admissions.

Copyright 2019 KFVS. All rights reserved.
UTM to suspend Tennessee
Intensive English Program in 2020

Posted on November 20, 2019 by Steve James
in Local News

UT Martin's Tennessee Intensive English Program will suspend operations May 31, 2020, following the conclusion of spring semester.

The program prepares international students with the language skills and cultural adjustment needed to succeed in university-level undergraduate and graduate programs.

In an email Tuesday to university leadership, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Phillip Acree Cavaleri, said that the program has experienced a financial deficit for each of the past three years. Contributing to this deficit is a five-year decline in TIEP student numbers, which is partially attributed to changes in international education.

The TIEP began in 1974 and is part of UTM's Office of International Programs and International Admissions.

TIEP will fulfill its commitment to provide intensive English programs for students already registered for short-term sessions in spring 2020.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 20, 2019

UTM HOMECOMING COURT — Hayden Love (fifth from right) of Alamo and Abby Bruff (sixth from right) of Union City were named homecoming king and queen, respectively, during the University of Tennessee at Martin's homecoming football game earlier this month. Love is a sophomore agriculture major representing the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, and Miss Bruff is a junior health and human performance major representing the Chi Omega sorority. Members of the homecoming court and their escorts were (from left) Mike Slaughter, Macy Slaughter's father; Ms. Slaughter, a senior from Dyersburg; Collin Stricklin, a senior from Martin; Olivia Reagan, Stricklin's friend; Jordan Stoner, Hannah Lightfoot's boyfriend; Ms. Lightfoot, a senior from Hampshire; Margaretta Knowels, James Fogg's aunt; Fogg, a senior from Nashville; Miss Bruff and Love; Shelby Guffey, a senior from Pleasant View; Griffin Birdsong, a senior from Pulaski; Aundrea Adams, a senior from Corinth, Miss.; and Andre Adams, Miss Adams' father.
**Dance ensemble to present showcase**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Dance Ensemble will host its fall showcase, titled "Find Your Own Rhythm," at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

Tickets are $15 for general admission and $5 for students, with children ages 10 and younger to be admitted free.

Tickets will be sold at the door starting at 7 the night of the performance.

This year's showcase will feature a variety of dances styles, including contemporary, post-modern, African, jazz and lyrical.

Sarah McCormick, ensemble director, choreographed six of the seven featured dances.

The dance ensemble went on tour in late October and early November to demonstrate their work to high school students in Mt. Pleasant and the Nashville area.

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

---

**Wellness expert to speak at UTM**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs will host wellness expert and motivational speaker Cheya Thousand at 2 p.m. Thursday in Room 111 of Boling University Center.

She will discuss how to decompress and de-escalate stress and depression, immediately followed by a book signing.

She is the CEO of CT Wellness Co., a faith-based wellness company based in Jacksonville, Fla. Its mission statement says CT Wellness Co. is focused on improving overall physical and mental well-being and quality of life for students and leaders by empowering them to build sustainable lifestyles.

Ms. Thousand started her business with a maternal wellness care package to encourage mothers to take care of themselves at all stages of their pregnancy. After expanding her goals to include supporting both men and women through personal stress and professional burnout, she created CT Wellness Co. to offer self-help courses on self-awareness, mindfulness and healthy habits.

Ms. Thousand will educate students and audience members on the importance of wellness and mental health. She will also share tips on how to de-stress and create healthy sustainable habits. Her presentation is open to the public and sponsored by the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs.

For more information, contact Anthony Prewitt, assistant director of multicultural affairs, at (731) 881-1864.
UTM Music Department announces performances

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music has announced the following upcoming performances:

Emma Foret
Senior Trumpet Recital
Emma Foret will present her Senior Trumpet Recital Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Blankenship Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

McKenzie Milburn
Senior Voice Recital
McKenzie Milburn will be performing her Senior Voice Recital at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Accompanied by Dr. Chai Mi Jean, Ms. Milburn will be performing vocal pieces by a variety of composers, including selections from Mozart, Debussy, Wolf and more. She will also be including a special piece by Walter Gross with the UTM small jazz ensemble.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Woodwind Day
The fifth annual Woodwind Day will be held Saturday in the Fine Arts Building from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be like-instrument choirs, master classes, competitions, performances and presentations.

The fee to participate is $25. A T-shirt is included in the fee.

For more information, contact Dr. Doug Owens at dowens14@utm.edu or (731) 881-7414 or visit online at www.utm.edu/ woodwindday.

Percussion Ensemble Concert
The UTM Martin Percussion Ensemble will be presenting a dynamic concert with everything from historic percussion ensemble pieces to brand new world premieres.

It will also be featuring two styles of Ghana, West Africa based on a Travel Study this past May.

The concert is at 3 p.m. on Sunday in Fulton Theater. Admission is free.

Trombone Night
The UT Martin Trombone Studio will host the annual fall Trombone Night concert on Sunday at 6 p.m.

This year’s performance will treat listeners to a range of music from different musical periods for various configurations of trombones.

The concert will feature the premiere performance of the newly-formed Select Octet and culminate in a mass trombone choir featuring area high school students performing alongside the UTM Trombone Choir.

The concert will feature music by Bolter, Brahms, Grieg, Premru, Saint-Saens, Strauss and Verhelst.

Treble Honor Choir Concert
On Monday, the Treble Honor Choir will be performing its annual concert in the Fulton Theater starting at 6 p.m.

This ensemble will feature guest conductor Terrell Hall who is the Director of Choral Studies at Olive Branch High School in Olive Branch, Miss.

This concert is free and open to the public.

Allison Webb
Senior Project
Allison Webb will be giving her Senior Project entitled “Music Heals” at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

This project will be held in the Blankenship recital Hall.

Admission is free and open to the public.
30 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP — The WestStar Leadership Program has benefited from consistent leadership during its history, and current and past program leadership attended the 30th-anniversary celebration Nov. 9 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. Pictured are (Back Row, L to R) David Belote, Dr. Nick Dunagan, Dr. Charley Deal and Dr. Bob Smith. Belote, Dunagan and Smith are former executive directors, and Deal is in his 10th year leading the program. Jordan Gardner and Virginia Grimes are pictured in the foreground. Gardner is administrative specialist and Grimes is in her 30th year as WestStar coordinator. The program was founded in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Weststar Celebrates 30 Years

MARTIN — Effective leaders strive for consistency. The same can be said for successful leadership programs, and consistency has been a trademark of the WestStar Leadership Program throughout its 30-year history. Approximately 250 alumni, friends and supporters gathered November 9 at Discovery Park of America in Union City to celebrate a program that has graduated 857 class members since its inception. WestStar is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WestStar, the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program, began offering leadership development and education for select West Tennessee participants in 1989. WestStar class members typically come from diverse professions, backgrounds and volunteer leadership experiences, and over the past three decades, graduates have assumed leadership roles in their communities, counties and the state.

Dr. Bob Smith, Dr. Nick Dunagan, David Belote and Dr. Charley Deal are the only executive class members who seek ways to make West Tennessee a better place in which to live and work.

Three members of WestStar’s first class attended the celebration, and Smith credited that inaugural class for setting the program’s tone. “I think it is because we all recognize that there is a purpose that has been fulfilled in our lives as a consequence of having this common experience,” Smith said to the audience. “You (the class of 1990) continue to be invested in this program so that same experience would be true for others.”

Annual class projects and the program’s board of trustees have contributed to WestStar’s staying power by consistently creating and supporting leadership development opportunities and conferences beyond the long-standing leadership program. The Working Women’s Conference and the African American Leadership Conference, both in their 22nd years, regularly welcome top speakers and full audiences. FutureStar and RisingStar are more recent leadership-focused programs that benefit middle and high school students respectively. WestTeach is the newest program and gives K-12 teachers an opportunity to learn about economic needs and opportunities in West Tennessee.

WestTeach was a 2017 WestStar class assignment that’s now in its second year and, according to Art Sparks, provides a valuable experience for teachers. “This is bringing together educators across West Tennessee from the different systems to show them what assets there are in West Tennessee, a lot of which these teachers had no idea that were even here and that the job opportunities were even available,” he said. Sparks, of Union City, is a current WestStar board member, and the current UT Martin Advisory Board chair and partner with regional accounting firm Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC.

The 20th anniversary planning committee believed so strongly in the FutureStar program for at-risk middle school students that the entire $5,700 in proceeds from the evening’s silent auction goes to support that program. Finding ways to make a difference remains a consistent theme for a program long dedicated to making West Tennessee stronger.
Local Governor's School 'Grads' Encourage Next Class to Apply

Rarely do four hours of study in the morning, four in the afternoon, then writing essays or preparing slide presentations seem like an ideal way to spend a summer day. But for the chosen few who applied for and made it into one of 11 Governor's Schools in Tennessee, the month-long investment of time is deemed "well worth it."

That's the assessment of four Westview seniors who attended schools at Tennessee Tech, University of Tennessee at Martin, and UT Knoxville this year and who gathered to share their insights this week with counselor Erica Myer. She hopes more students will follow their example and meet the December 1 deadline for applications.

Kizer Riley and Sarah Foltz took Emerging Technologies at Tech. Hanna Harris explored humanities at UTM. And Destin McKeel dove into science and engineering at UT Knoxville.

According to the Tennessee Department of Education website, "The programs are academically demanding and require students who are high achievers. Eligible students typically rank in the top of their high school class, and are academically talented in the arts. Applicants must also be 11th or 12th graders who are nominated by high school faculty and then complete the application, provide transcripts, write personal statements and collect recommendations."

"The program is very competitive," noted Myer. "For us to have four get accepted was exceptional."

A motivating factor for many who attend is the opportunity to be with fellow students who are equally excited about the subject matter. McKeel acknowledged, "It's hard to find people as interested as you are in the subjects you are passionate about."

Making friends was on everyone's list of benefits. Riley pointed out, "You met 29 other people like you." That fact was true for he and Foltz whose technology emphasis netted 30 participants. Harris had a larger group of 56 with whom to collaborate, and McKeel had the largest cohort of 129.

Harris shared an understanding she embraced when faced with the opportunity to start over in a new academic setting. "I realized I have the authority to be friends with whoever I want to make friends with." McKeel observed that a prior lifetime of friendship wasn't required in order to connect. "They still cared about me. People didn't have to know your history to care about you as a person."

Among the other big takeaways were the chance to live independently — having to do their own laundry and make it to meals (which also got high marks) on time — and the instruction.

All agreed the instructors were "awesome" and the small class size meant getting to know the teachers better.

The website notes that Governor's Schools instructors include writers, language experts, historians, philosophers, artists, actors, conductors, expert musicians, scientists, distinguished professors, and career-level teachers — "the best in their fields."

The learning wasn't limited to inside a classroom. Foltz and Riley enjoyed field trips to Oak Ridge, Arnold Air Force Base and Vanderbilt while McKeel went white water rafting and to the Chattanooga Aquarium. While the schedule was full, Riley, an athlete, still was afforded time to run and lift weights. And others knew band members who brought their instruments and saw flag corps continuing to practice.

As for takeaways, the experience helped cement career directions. Riley discovered that what he thought he wanted to do with his life was not exactly on the mark. As a result of Governor's School, he has switched from electrical engineering to structural. Foltz plans on being an aerospace engineer. Harris is still undecided but is considering marketing. And McKeel felt absolute confirmation of her choice of going into nanotechnology engineering.

A month away and on your own can be an enticement or a safety concern. The students agree that they always felt safe and mentioned several conditions to ensure safety. Riley pointed to the requirement to go out in groups of three. Foltz noted that they had to report to college-aged counselors assigned to them. And McKeel, who was on the largest campus and in the most urban setting, said there were clearly defined boundaries of where students could go in the city and on campus.

Without hesitation, McKeel confessed that Governor's School was the "best decision I ever made."

Meyers is equally impressed. "I feel like it plays to the students' strengths and makes a strong student even stronger."

The only other student in the county who attended Governor's School last year was Dresden's Erin Mallory who was part of the Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at UTM.

"My biggest take away from my month at Governor School was definitely that agriculture is one of the most amazing industries in our world and it makes all other industries possible," she wrote in a requested assessment of her experience.

"I was able to grow as an individual while gaining outstanding experiences along the way. Governor School is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I'm very thankful I was accepted."

All students attending Governor's Schools will receive a scholarship, which covers the cost of tuition, dorms, and meals; however, some Governor's Schools have additional student activity fees to defray costs of activities or other non-academic expenses, which are not covered by the scholarship. Need-based financial support may be available in those instances. For more information, visit https://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/idoe-governors-schools.html
Westview students who attended the Tennessee Governor's School last summer are (L to R) Kizer Riley, Hanna Harris, Sarah Foltz, and Destin McKeel.

Cheya Thousand to Speak On Mininorities, Mental Health

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs will host wellness expert and motivational speaker Cheya Thousand at 2 p.m., Nov. 21, in room 111 of the Boling University Center. Thousand will discuss how to decompress and de-escalate stress and depression, immediately followed by a book signing.

Cheya Thousand is the CEO of CT Wellness Co., a faith-based wellness company based in Jacksonville, Florida. According to its mission statement, CT Wellness Co. is focused on improving overall physical and mental well-being and quality of life for students and leaders by empowering them to build sustainable lifestyles. Thousand started her business with a maternal wellness care package to encourage mothers to take care of themselves at all stages of their pregnancy. After expanding her goals to include supporting both men and women through personal stress and professional burnout, Thousand created CT Wellness Co. to offer self-help courses on self-awareness, mindfulness and healthy habits. Thousand will educate students and audience members on the importance of wellness and mental health. She will also share tips on how to de-stress and create healthy sustainable habits. Her presentation is open to the public and sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs.

Johnson Receives UTM Scholarship

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

Michael Johnson, of Greenfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shump Johnson, is a junior. He received the Elam Transfer Promise Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
EXPLAINING THE USE OF DRONES IN AGRICULTURE — Dr. Phillip Smartt, professor of park management and heritage interpretation at UT Martin, was the featured guest speaker at the Nov. 4 meeting of the Fortnightly Club. He is pictured here near the UTM Equine Center with hostesses (from left) Linda Slack, Mollie Gallien, and Donna Jones. Dr. Smartt was introduced by program leader Donna Jones. As a certified drone pilot, Dr. Smartt explained the use of drones, especially in agriculture and for photography. He said that the Dresden High School farm and the UT Martin farm are two examples of places where drone photography has been used. He also explained that precision agriculture will enable the regulation of seed, fertilizer, and pesticide use. After answering questions concerning drones, Dr. Smartt gave a demonstration of a drone flying over the UTM farm.

ENGAGE THE TIMES DISCUSSES DEMOCRATIC PARTY — The University of Tennessee at Martin's ENGAGE Program hosted a Nov. 8 discussion on the topic "How has Trump changed the Democratic Party?" as a follow-up to its Nov. 1 discussion on the Republican Party. Participating on the panel were (from left) Deane Arganbright, chair of the Weakley County Democratic Party; Richard Underwood, president of the UT Martin College Democrats; Luke Winters, vice president of the college democrats; and Dr. Chara Van Horn, advisor for the college democrats and associate professor of communications. The UT Martin ENGAGE Program hosts an "ENGAGE the Times" discussion panel each Friday at noon in room 125 of the Skyhawk Dining Hall. All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Arthur Hunt, ENGAGE program co-coordinator, at ahunt@utm.edu.
Engineering student turns current job into internship opportunity

Dustin Warren, a senior engineering major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, didn’t have to look far to find an internship opportunity for his engineering degree. Already an employee at Advanced Technology Services Inc., Warren reached out to his supervisors to find out if he could apply his engineering coursework toward an internship position with the company.

ATS is a company that contracts industrial maintenance projects for other corporations. Warren’s internship included extensive work matching current equipment updates to the appropriate paperwork. This involved evaluating the equipment to determine what updates have already been made and what components matched the existing manuals. He was also able to determine which machines needed appropriate documentation.

“I had to read through and analyze prints and schematics to determine which documents go to which machines and check the different versions to find which were valid and which were obsolete,” Warren said. “On my new project, I will be using [computer-aided design] to draw up new prints and schematics so that someone else can apply the modifications to other pieces of equipment.”

Warren’s regular position with ATS is not based in engineering, so his internship was an opportunity to apply his education in new ways and stretch himself as a professional.

The UTM engineering program introduced a manufacturing concentration in 2017 to fill an industry need among engineering professionals. The program is the first of its kind in Tennessee and the second bachelor’s-level training program for manufacturing engineers in the southeast. Manufacturing is one of six available concentrations within UTM’s engineering major, the others being civil, mechanical, mechatronics, electrical and industrial.

SHARING SMILES AND SERVICE — Martin Elementary School K-Kids were excited to meet Ric Johnson (back row, second from left), director of basketball operations for the Skyhawk men’s basketball team, and four current members of the team (from left) Craig Randall, Quintin Dove, Trenten Williams, and Ajani Kennedy. The UT Martin athletes helped MES students with a service project.
SKYHAWK BASKETBALL PLAYERS VISIT K-KIDS — Four athletes from the UT Martin Skyhawk basketball team helped 16 K-Kids make 175 Smile Kits to distribute to friends, MES faculty and staff, and others in the community. Pictured with K-Kids Advisor Sara Sieber are: Craig Randall from Youngstown, Ohio; Quintin Dove from Cleveland, Ohio; Trenten Williams from Houston, Texas; and Ajani Kennedy from Moreno Valley, California. Ric Johnson, director of basketball operations for the team, accompanied the Skyhawk players.

Kiwanis K-Kids meeting featured 4 Skyhawks as special guests

Special guests for the Kiwanis K-Kids meeting on Nov 7 at Martin Elementary School were four members of the UT Martin Skyhawk basketball team and Ric Johnson, director of basketball operations for the team. Johnson is a former player of current head coach Anthony Stewart during his time at Ohio University from 2012-14.

The athletes helped the young students assemble Smile Kits to give to other students or to anyone who might need a boost. K-Kids advisor Sara Sieber explained that this project is another way that students can promote positive and inclusive experiences for all. Each Smile Kit included a paper with the words “something to smile about,” an eraser to wipe out all mistakes, a penny so you will never be broke, a jingle bell to add a jingle to your step, string to tie things together, a rubber band to stretch yourself, and a chocolate kiss to know you are loved. Each kit also featured a blue Kiwanis sticker.

Each K-Kid got to take home several kits to distribute. The 16 students who attended this meeting helped make 175 Smile Kits, and soon all 48 teachers and staff members at MES will receive a kit.

Local student receives scholarship to UTM

A Weakley County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2019-20 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantoone, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

*Michael Johnson of Greenfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shamp Johnson, is a junior. He received the Elam Transfer Promise Scholarship. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
UT MARTIN HOMECOMING COURT — Hayden Love (fifth from right), a sophomore agriculture major representing the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity of Alamo and Abby Bruff (sixth from right), a junior health and human performance major representing the Chi Omega sorority of Union City, were named homecoming king and queen during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s homecoming football game Nov. 2. Pictured (from left) are members of the homecoming court and their escorts: Mike Slaughter, Macy Slaughter’s father; Macy Slaughter, a senior from Dyersburg; Collin Stricklin, a senior from Martin; Olivia Reager, Stricklin’s friend; Jordan Stoner, Hannah Lightfoot’s boyfriend; Lightfoot, a senior from Hampshire; Margaretta Knowels, James Fogg’s aunt; Fogg, a senior from Nashville; Bruff and Love; Shelby Guffey, a senior from Pleasant View; Griffin Birdsong, a senior from Rutledge; Andrea Adams, a senior from Corinth, Mississippi; and Andrea Adams, Andrea Adams’ father.
UT Health Services Center hosts summit to improve campus mental health

Joseph Choi, Nashville Tennessean  Published 4:36 p.m. CT Nov. 22, 2019

Faculty and staff from multiple University of Tennessee campuses gathered in Nashville on Friday to discuss measures that can help improve mental health for both students and faculty.

The 2019 Academic and Student Affairs Summit took place in the Nelson Andrews Leadership Lodge and covered methods that the University of Tennessee Health Science Center was utilizing to prevent worsening mental health among students.

These methods include integrating campus institutions to better communicate with each other regarding what students are going through. The National Behavioral Intervention Team Association or NaBITA was brought in to make an assessment of the campus and consult in making improvements, speaking with students and faculty about mental health services. The university has also partnered with The JED Foundation to provide students with online mental health resources and materials.

According to Lori Gonzalez, vice chancellor and professor at UTHSC, students on her campus have depression rates 20-to-30% higher than the general population. She cites stress stemming from student debt, pressure from class and job placement as a root cause for many. On top of student life, generational concerns about the environment, gun violence and justice inequality are also issues that were believed to cause worsening mental health.
UTHSC hosted a mental health summit in the Nelson Andrews Leadership Lodge on Nov. 22, 2019 to discuss ways to improve student mental health. (Photo: Joseph Choi)

"We had a call to action in our team after a series of adverse circumstances that really told us we need to do something differently and we needed to integrate more," Gonzalez said. The pivotal moment that spurred a change was the attempted suicide of a student at UTHSC.

Various members of faculty and staff shared methods on their campus that they believed helped students and faculty better address mental health issues.

Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management and heritage interpretation at UT-Martin, said he felt Hawk Alerts were extremely helpful for faculty members who were concerned about a student's safety. Hawk Alerts are a mobile notification system that can inform campuses of potential threats to safety in emergency situations.

Kathy Gibbs, assistant vice chancellor at UTHSC, stressed the importance of including faculty in the conversation of mental health.

"Students need us to show to them that we are human and that we have struggles," Gibbs said. "They see their professors, their physicians, whoever is with them and teaching them as not having gone through any problems. They see them as perfect and we're communicating indirectly, this is how you should be, too."
Nashville, TN – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) has announced grant awards for nine higher education projects through the state's Veteran Reconnect program, developed to assist veterans and service members attain college degrees and workforce training.

A total of $1 million in Veteran Reconnect Grants will be distributed to universities, community colleges, and colleges of applied technology (TCATs) to support programs and services for student veterans.

The grants were included in Governor Bill Lee's proposed budget and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly earlier this year.

"Tennessee continues to make veteran access to higher education a priority through this program as well as numerous other initiatives," THEC Executive Director Mike Krause said. "These institutions are highly focused and helping our state become a national leader in this arena."

2019 Veteran Reconnect Grant Recipients:
Austin Peay State University
Dyersburg State Community College
Lipscomb University  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Southwest Tennessee Community College and Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Memphis (Collaborative Partnership)  
Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology at Harriman, Jacksboro, Oneida/Huntsville, and Knoxville (Collaborative Partnership)  
Tusculum University  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
University of Tennessee at Martin

THEC utilized a competitive Request for Proposals which required applicants to submit plans supporting a student veteran’s higher education experience. Program options included strategies for the transition from the military into higher education, academic success in pursuing a degree, and preparation for entry into the civilian workforce.

Since funding began in 2015, THEC’s Veteran Reconnect Grants have supported a variety of projects such as hiring veteran resource officers, and establishing professional development programs and campus veteran service centers for student veterans.

Decades of leadership

The WestStar Leadership Program has benefited from consistent leadership during its history, and current and past program leadership attended the 30th anniversary celebration recently at Discovery Park of America. Among those taking part in the event were (from left) David Belote, Jordan Gardner, Dr. Nick Dunagan, Virginia Grimes, Dr. Charley Deal and Dr. Bob Smith. Belote, Dunagan and Smith are former executive directors, and Deal is in his 10th year leading the program. Ms. Gardner is administrative specialist and Ms. Grimes is in her 30th year as WestStar coordinator. The program was founded in 1989 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Effective leaders strive for consistency.
The same can be said for successful leadership programs, and consistency has been a trademark of the WestStar Leadership Program throughout its 30-year history.

About 250 alumni, friends and supporters gathered recently at Discovery Park of America to celebrate a program that has graduated 857 class members since its inception. WestStar is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WestStar, the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program, began offering leadership development and education for select West Tennessee participants in 1989.

WestStar class members typically come from diverse professions, backgrounds and volunteer leadership experiences, and over the past three decades, graduates have assumed leadership roles in their communities, counties and the state.

Dr. Bob Smith, Dr. Nick Dunagan, David Belote and Dr. Charley Deal are the only executive directors in the program’s 30 years. Deal is in his 10th year as the program’s current executive director. Virginia Grimes is in her 30th year as WestStar coordinator; and Jordan Gardner is in her fifth year as administrative specialist.

Following an opening reception, Deal welcomed attendees, recognized corporate sponsors and introduced UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, a 2009 WestStar graduate, who talked about WestStar’s longevity among leadership programs, noting the limited lifespan of some others. “When you look at WestStar, I think it’s remarkable that we’ve been in existence 30 years, but it’s really easy to see why. And I think the first thing is when you think about WestStar is it’s constantly evolving,” he said.

Carver credited Smith and Dunagan, both WestStar founders and UT Martin chancellors emeriti, for steadily improving the program’s curriculum and expanding beyond adult and community leadership education. He also recognized WestStar class members who seek ways to make West Tennessee a better place in which to live and work.

The members of WestStar’s first class attended the celebration, and Smith credited the inaugural class for setting the program’s tone. “I think it is because we all recognize that there is a purpose that has been fulfilled in our lives as a consequence of having this common experience,” Smith said to the audience. “You (the class of 1990) continue to be invested in this program so that same experience would be true for others.”

During the evening, other WestStar alumni commented about the program’s long-term impact on West Tennessee. Shannon Cotter, of Rossville, said the program has encouraged people from different backgrounds to help improve communities at the local level. “Those people who may have been a little bit shy to get involved, now that they’ve gone through WestStar, they have the little extra incentive, that little extra push to say, ‘Yeah, I can do that. I can help make a difference,’” said Cotter, a current WestStar board member and project manager for SIC Management.

“I see WestStar including every county’s leadership in West Tennessee, and it (the program) offers a chance for every county’s leadership team to work together, and so no county’s left behind,” said Michael Overbey, current WestStar board member and general manager of Central Distributors in Jackson. “And so, when you think of WestStar, you think of all the counties in West Tennessee, not just a few.”

Annual class projects and the program’s board of trustees have contributed to WestStar’s staying power by consistently creating and supporting leadership development opportunities and conferences beyond the long-standing leadership program. The Working Women’s Conference and the African American Leadership Conference, both in their 22nd years, regularly welcome top speakers and full audiences.

FutureStar and RisingStar are more recent leadership-focused programs that benefit middle and high school students respectively. WestTeach is the newest program and gives K-12 teachers an opportunity to learn about economic needs and opportunities in West Tennessee.

WestTeach was a 2017 WestStar class assignment that’s now in its second year and, according to Art Sparks, provides a valuable experience for teachers.

“This is bringing together educators across West Tennessee from the different systems to show them what assets there are in West Tennessee, a lot of which these teachers had no idea that were even here and that the job opportunities were even available,” he said.

Sparks, of Union City, is a current WestStar board member, the current UT Martin Advisory Board chair and partner with regional accounting firm Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC.

“(WestStar) continues to reinvent itself,” said Yvette Blue, associate superintendent and chief academic officer for Haywood County Schools. “Being a person in education, I appreciate RisingStar and FutureStar and now WestTeach. That’s important because, number one, any time we can bring in the youth, we work toward that goal of being able to sustain ourselves, whatever that organization is.”

The 30th anniversary planning committee believed so strongly in the FutureStar program for at-risk middle school students that the entire $5,700 in proceeds from the evening’s silent auction will be used to support that program. Finding ways to make a difference remains a consistent theme for a program long dedicated to making West Tennessee stronger.

“(WestStar) has brought the rural counties of West Tennessee together so that we all see that we all have the same problems and same issues and are all looking to solve those problems,” said Sparks. “And working together we can better solve those problems than working by ourselves.”
UT Martin chancellor 'disappointed and disgusted' by racist flyers found on campus

Leanne Fuller  Nov 26, 2019 Updated 21 hrs ago

MARTIN, TN — In a letter to the campus community, the chancellor of a university in the Local 6 area said he is "disappointed and disgusted" after flyers promoting a racist group were found on vehicles on campus.

In an email to students and others, University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said the university "discovered disturbing, racist literature that has been placed on numerous vehicles on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. I am very disappointed and disgusted in the message that the flyers conveys."

UT Martin spokesman Bud Grimes says someone placed 36 flyers promoting the Church of Creativity, also known as Creativity Alliance, on the windshields of cars parked on campus. The flyers were found early Tuesday morning.

The Church of Creativity is a white supremacist, anti-Semitic, anti-Christian group. Earlier this year, flyers promoting the group were found on the campuses of other colleges in the Local 6 area: Murray State University in Kentucky, John A. Logan College in Illinois, and Southeastern Illinois College.

In full, Carver's letter reads:
Campus Community,

Earlier this morning we discovered disturbing, racist literature that has been placed on numerous vehicles on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. I am very disappointed and disgusted in the message that the flyers conveys.

Goal 3 of UT Martin's Strategic Plan provides for "a campus that is open, accessible and welcoming to all." This literature is not reflective of the core values that we hold so dear on our campus.

In no uncertain terms, UT Martin condemns hate in any form, and I have instructed university personnel to remove the fliers immediately. Hatred directed to anyone at UT Martin is hatred directed at us all, and these actions will not be tolerated.

Keith Carver,

Chancellor
UT System ignites action of mental health and wellness during summit

Nashville — According to a recent study by the American Council on Education, 74% of presidents at public four-year institutions are hearing about students with mental health issues on their campuses with more frequency, ranging from a few times a month to once a week or more. However, 50% of these same presidents stated they do not have the tools they need to address mental health concerns.

The University of Tennessee System responded to this mental health crisis by igniting action around the issue at the 2019 Academic and Student Affairs Summit: Building a Unified Mental Health Culture. The summit was held recently in Nashville.

"By coming together for events such as this, we hope to remove silos that exist between academic affairs and student life, develop new skills from mental health professionals within our system and learn from current students about their experiences accessing mental health resources. I hope we can all leave the meeting today with a greater sense of direction and purpose to help us address student well-being more effectively," Leigh Cherry, UT System coordinator for student success initiatives, said.

For David Arnold, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators assistant vice president for health, safety and well-being initiatives, addressing mental health begins by building a strong community of health and well-being at institutions of higher education.

"There is a connection between students' educational outcomes and their positive health outcomes," Arnold said in his keynote address. "It is our job to make it known that while we are making a healthy community, we also need to make an educated community."

Students turn to behavioral coping when dealing with mental health struggles, Arnold said. This way of coping can be comprised of high-risk alcohol use, prescription stimulant medication misuse, poor sleep, poor diet, lack of physical activity and social isolation.

Arnold stated that one in five college students engage in frequent binge-drinking episodes while more than 60 percent of students report poor sleep, which directly affects their emotional and academic stress.

A UT Martin faculty member emphasized the importance of its CARE team; its team members attend all of the college's meetings at the beginning of the academic year to share about mental health services available to students.

"This helps me destigmatize mental health," John Oelrich, UT Martin director of bands, said. "Just because you don't physically see the symptoms of mental health struggles doesn't mean they aren't real. It's important for faculty to model this to our students as they often look to us as to how it should be."

Student representatives from each UT campus sat on a student panel and discussed mental health challenges that college students face.

UT Martin sophomore, Ray Washington, continued the conversation by wanting adults on campus to understand that not everyone expresses their mental health struggles the same way.

"Students will try to get your attention in different ways. Some might come and talk a lot while others might just come to you and sit in silence," Washington said. "No matter how they come, value when that student comes to you because it means that they trust you."

Amelia Thompson, a second-year pharmacy student at the UT Health Science Center, also mentioned how much a professor can impact a student's mental health.

"If we know our professors value their life, time and families, it gives this idea that we can do the same. We can live our life while still working hard in school. When I see, from administrators, that I can have both, it gives me hope," Thompson said.

"Our students' well-being is why we do what we do. One person can make a difference," Linda Martin, UT System vice president for academic affairs and student success, said. "Systematically it might seem too big, but it all starts with one person."
UT MARTIN HONORS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE — Faculty and staff members who have served the University of Tennessee at Martin for 30 years as of 2019 were honored Oct. 31 during a luncheon reception. Pictured are (seated, from left) Hogan Courtney, Physical Plant; Dr. William Davis, Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; Ken Fackler, Office of International Programs and International Admissions; (standing, second from left) Mary Baker, Division of University Advancement; Dr. Lynn Alexander, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; and Dr. Daniel Pigg, Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. The group is pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver (back row, far left), who was dressed as Elvis Presley in preparation for the chancellor's community trick-or-treat event that evening, and UT System Interim President Randy Boyd (far right).

UT MARTIN HONORS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE — Faculty and staff members who have served the University of Tennessee at Martin for 25 years as of 2019 were honored Oct. 31 during a luncheon reception. Pictured are (starting second from left) Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, Office of SACS Accreditation; Dr. Mike McCullough, Department of Marketing, Management and Information Systems; and Virginia Grimes, WestStar Leadership Program. The group is pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver (far left), who was dressed as Elvis Presley for Halloween and UT System Interim President Randy Boyd (far right). Not pictured were Tracey Mires, Educational Outreach; Dr. Deborah Gibson, Department of Health and Human Performance; and Dr. John Collins, Department of Biological Sciences.
FILLING BOWLS AND FULFILLING NEEDS — Members of the community gathered in the Student Life Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin Saturday afternoon for the 16th annual Empty Bowls event. UTM students, volunteers and philanthropist potter and UTM professor David McBeth started the event 16 years ago by creating handcrafted, ceramic bowls they donated in exchange for a $15 purchase. All of the proceeds go to We CARE Ministries, a non-profit organization that provides meals, jackets and toys for needy families throughout the holiday season. Ryan Trump and Caroline Ideus picked out their favorite empty bowl Saturday. McBeth reported nearly $13,000 was raised from Saturday’s event. Of the 850 soup bowls crafted for the Empty Bowls event, there were a little less than 150 remaining. The can be purchased at the Student Life Center, first come, first served or contact McBeth by email at dmcbeth@utm.edu. Photo by UT Martin Associate Professor of Graphic Design Sarah Haig

UT Martin to host ACT prep class

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting a one-day ACT prep class for any high school junior or senior planning to take the ACT exam. The class will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon, Dec. 7, on the UT Martin main campus. Registration is $45, and online registration is required.

Students will learn how to boost their overall scores, manage their time, create better study habits and work more efficiently. Students who have taken this class report as high as a three-point increase on their composite scores. Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, author and educator, will instruct the course. Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships, and he continues to work as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties.

This course will also be offered from 4:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 3, at the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/actprep. For more information, contact UT Martin Outreach at 731-881-7104.
Effective leaders strive for consistency. The same can be said for successful leadership programs, and consistency has been a trademark of the WestStar Leadership Program throughout its 30-year history. Approximately 250 alumni, friends and supporters gathered Nov. 9 at Discovery Park of America in Union City to celebrate a program that has graduated 857 class members since its inception. WestStar is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

WestStar, the state's oldest and largest region leadership program, began offering leadership development and education for select West Tennessee participants in 1989. WestStar class members typically come from diverse professions, backgrounds and volunteer leadership experiences, and over the past three decades, graduates have assumed leadership roles in their communities, counties and the state.

Dr. Bob Smith, Dr. Nick Dunagan, David Belote and Dr. Charley Deal are the only executive directors in the program's 30 years. Deal is in his 10th year as the program's current executive director. Virginia Grimes is in her 30th year as WestStar coordinator, and Jordan Gardner is in her fifth year as administrative specialist.

Following an opening reception, Deal welcomed attendees, recognized corporate sponsors and introduced UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, a 2009 WestStar graduate, who talked about WestStar's longevity among leadership programs, noting the limited lifespan of some others.

Carver credited Smith and Dunagan, both WestStar founders and UT Martin chancellors emeriti, for steadily improving the program's curriculum and expanding beyond adult and community leadership education. He also recognized WestStar class members who seek ways to make West Tennessee a better place in which to live and work.

Annual class projects and the program's board of trustees have contributed to WestStar's staying power by consistently creating and supporting leadership-development opportunities and conferences beyond the long-standing leadership program. The Working Women's Conference and the African American Leadership Conference regularly welcome top speakers and full audiences. FutureStar and RisingStar are more recent leadership-focused programs that benefit middle and high school students respectively. WestTeach is the newest program and gives K-12 teachers an opportunity to learn about economic needs and opportunities in West Tennessee.
UT Martin chancellor addresses hate group fliers on campus

Abisola Adeyemo, Mason Watkins  Nov 27, 2019 Updated Nov 27, 2019

MARTIN, TN — The University of Tennessee at Martin leaders say they condemn hate in any form after a white supremacy group put fliers on cars on campus this week.

Now, the school is taking action with the help of students.

UT Martin senior J.C. Fogg says he was angry and disappointed, but not surprised, when he found out about the fliers.

"A lot of people believe 'We're in 2019, almost 2020; racism doesn't really exist anymore, or may not be as strong as it was before,' but it is still pretty strong," Fogg says.

He says he is often the only black student in his classes.

"It is something that kind of weighs on me, being the only black student at class, and then when I work in group projects I'm, like I said, the only black student in that group project," Fogg says. "And now I'm dealing with even more feeling and alone and excluded."
The university says it is handling this head on. Monday, students will get the chance to sit down with UT Martin's chancellor, and talk about all their concerns.

The university released a statement saying, in part: "This literature is not reflective of the core values we hold so dear on our campus," and "UT Martin condemns hate in any form."

Chancellor Keith Carver says he looks forward to talking through this with students.

"Let's get together and talk about — OK let's talk about what happened, but what can we do to move forward," Carver says. "And how can we use this as a learning experience and have a dialogue to talk more about societal issues."

Fogg says he understands the chancellor is doing his best and hopes the school can grow from this.

Similar fliers have previously been found at other local campuses, including Murray State University in Kentucky and John A. Logan Community College in Southern Illinois.
Martin’s 16th Annual Empty Bowls for Hunger Relief

BY JASMINE WILLIAMS

MARTIN (November 23) — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Student Life Center hosted the 16th Annual Martin Empty Bowls charity event Saturday.

For over the past decade in Weakley County, UT Martin art professor David McBeth has been making thousands of bowls to go towards hunger relief in Weakley County. Each bowl is made and decorated by hand by McBeth himself, students and other local potters in Weakley County.

This year, over 1,000 bowls were made to be sold with the proceeds going to WE CARE Ministries to help hunger relief in Weakley County. Over the years, Martin Empty Bowls has raised over $100,000 for hunger relief.

The Empty Bowls event was held at the Student Life Center on the UT Martin campus with free soup and chili provided, donated by local churches. People could buy handcrafted bowls for the holiday season, all for a good cause.

McBeth hosts another charity event on February 4 called Cups for a Cure, where hundreds of ceramic cups and mugs will be sold to raise money for cancer foundations.

See BOWLS on Page 3

UT Martin to suspend program in 2020

The Tennessee Intensive English Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin will suspend operations May 31, 2020, following the conclusion of spring semester.

The program prepares international students with the language skills and cultural adjustment needed to succeed in university-level undergraduate and graduate programs.

In an email last week to university leadership, Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said the program has experienced a financial deficit for each of the past three years.

Contributing to this deficit is a five-year decline in TIEP student numbers, which is partially attributed to changes in international education.

"I want to emphasize that we will continue to pursue degree-seeking international students through a variety of different avenues, and we will continue to grow our study-abroad and travel-study programs," Cavalier wrote in the email.

The TIEP began in 1974 and is part of UT Martin’s Office of International Programs and International Admissions. TIEP will fulfill its commitment to provide intensive English programs for students already registered for short-term sessions in spring 2020.
Attends Preview Day

LOCAL STUDENTS, Taylor Mayfield and Madison Olds, in upper photo, both of Ripley, Alexis Paris, in middle photo, of Ripley, and Meredith Wilson, in lower photo, of Halls, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Fall Preview Day on November 16th. Taylor and Madison are both students at Halls High School. The students are pictured with Mayfield’s family members, Kiley and Dusty Mayfield, while visiting the campus. Alexis is a student at Gateway Christian High School and is pictured with her father, Lewis Paris. Meredith is a student at Halls High School and is pictured with her mother, Dana Maupins. During preview days, high school students have the opportunity to hear about the UT Martin experience from a panel of current students. Those attending are then able to meet faculty members in their departments of interest and tour the main campus. For more information, visit utm.edu/previewday or contact the UT Martin Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020.
UTM to host multiple concerts, recitals

The University of Tennessee at Martin has a number of concerts coming up next week. The UTM Big Band concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Fulton Theatre. Admission is free.

Jacob Hargrove’s senior percussion recital will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Blankenship Recital Hall. He will be performing multiple pieces for percussion. Admission is free.

The UTM Wind Ensemble will present its second performance of the year, “Americana,” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Fulton Theatre. The performance is shared by the UTM Concert Band and its conductor, Steve Barnett. The Wind Ensemble portion of the program includes wind band master works, both old and new. The ensemble pays tribute to our armed forces with a performance of composer and Marine Corps veteran Onsby Rose’s monumental Symphony No. 1 “Heroes.” This four-movement work is a musical depiction of life as a member of the armed forces with movement titles “From Sea, From Above, From Land, and For the Fallen.” The performance will conclude with the national march of the United States, “Stars and Stripes Forever” by John Philip Sousa. Admission is free.