Guitar As Art opens Sunday

The 3rd annual Guitar As Art exhibition opens Sunday with a reception beginning at 2 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building Gallery located on the UT-Martin campus. Awards will be presented at 3 p.m. The guitars will be on display throughout the Soybean Festival until September 17. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. daily and is free and open to the public.

‘Antiquated Ivory’
Last year’s winning entry, by Jason Taylor

First in Tennessee
UT Martin receives Top 20 ranking

The Washington Monthly 2016 College Rankings name the University of Tennessee at Martin 17th in the “Best Bang for the Buck Southern Colleges” category.

UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee institution, ahead of Tennessee Technological University (19th), Vanderbilt University (22nd) and Austin Peay State University (41st), among others.

Washington Monthly is known for ranking institutions based not only on price, graduation and retention rates, number of programs and other common factors, but also on qualities such as post-graduation earnings, student ability to repay educational loans, service to country and contributions to research.

Perhaps the heaviest factor in this ranking is the social mobility of enrolled students. Universities that make it a priority to help first-generation and lower or moderate-income students reach graduation and enter the workforce score well in these rankings.

Thirty-seven percent of UT Martin’s spring 2016 graduating class were first-generation college graduates, and 44 percent qualified for federal PELL grants.

The fall 2015 overall student body consisted of 39 percent first-generation students and 48.6 percent PELL-eligible students.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Soybean Festival features great performers

The city of Martin, UTM, and many local businesses and organizations partner to bring the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival to Martin each year, and the 2016 concert lineup is one to remember. The 23rd annual festival, to be held Sept. 2-9, will feature a variety of family-friendly entertainment options and several great concert appearances, including Vince Gill, Three Dog Night, the Plain White T’s, and Blood, Sweat and Tears.

CONCERT SCHEDULE

Morris Day and the Time, Friday, Sept. 2, 9 p.m., Festival Park. Tickets: $10 online, $15 box office.

The School of Rock Nashville, Saturday, Sept. 3, 8 p.m. in Festival Park. No charge. Sponsored by Hamilton-Ryker.

Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon: A Tribute to John Denver, Sunday, Sept. 4, 7 p.m., Martin Recreation Complex. No charge. Sponsored by Savant Learning Systems. Fireworks will follow the show.

The Brothers Osborne, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 8:30 p.m., Festival Park. Tickets: $7 online, $10 box office. Sponsored by Center Point Business Solutions.

Travis Cottrell and the Local Community Choir, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 6 p.m., Festival Park. No charge. Sponsored by the Martin Area Ministerial Alliance.

The Plain White T’s, Thursday, Sept. 8, 9 p.m., downtown Martin. Tickets: $15 online, $20 box office.

Vince Gill, Friday, Sept. 9, 9 p.m., Festival Park. Tickets: $15 online, $20 box office. Sponsored by Republic Services.

Blood, Sweat, and Tears, Saturday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m., Festival Park. Tickets: $15 online, $20 box office.

Three Dog Night, Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 p.m., Festival Park. Tickets: $15 online, $20 box office.

The festival will also feature the traditional Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade beginning at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 6, on University Street in front of UTM’s Hall-Moody Administration Building. The carnival midway and craft fair will be open each night in downtown Martin.

For information on additional events or to purchase tickets, visit tsosoybeanfestival.org/festival-schedule. Tickets for all events are available by selecting the event in which you are interested. For more information, contact festival coordinators at 731-588-1263 or info@tsosoybeanfestival.org.
Local residents attend UT Martin Legacy Luncheon

Ben Chrestman (center), of Adamsville, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2016 Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 19 in the Paul Meek Library. This event is held during move-in weekend each fall to welcome new freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. Chrestman is pictured with his parents, Craig (‘96) and Tammy Chrestman. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.
Local residents participate in move-in mania at UT Martin

Allie Ray (center), of Selmer, participated in Move-in Mania at the University of Tennessee on Aug. 19. Move-in Mania is the first event in First-Year Initiative, a required program for new freshmen which helps ease their transition to college life. UT Martin students officially began the fall semester Aug. 22. Ray, a secondary education major, is pictured with her parents, Stephanie and Jimmy Ray. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.
The city of Martin, the University of Tennessee at Martin and many local businesses and organizations partner to host the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival each year, and according to a press release, this year's concert lineup is one to remember.

The 23rd annual festival, going on now through Sept. 9, features a variety of family-friendly entertainment options, including concert appearances by the Plain White T's, Vince Gill and Three Dog Night.

The festival will also feature the traditional Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday on University Street in front of UT Martin's Hall-Moody Administration Building. The carnival midway and craft fair will also be open each night in downtown Martin.

Festival

Continued from Page 18

Children in the fourth and fifth grades are invited to an interactive workshop titled “The Bare Necessities of Making Music” from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday in room 206 of the UT Martin Boling University Center. Participants will build their own musical instruments and later play alongside the Martin Community Band at 6 p.m. in Virginia Weldon Park.

The School of Rock Nashville will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday in Festival Park. There is no charge for this concert, which is sponsored by Hamilton-Ryker.

The third annual “Guitar as Art” contest and exhibition will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building Gallery. The awards ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. More information and entry details are available at tnsoybeanfestival.org/guitar-as-art/

Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon: A Tribute to John Denver will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Martin Recreation Complex. The concert is sponsored by Savant Learning Systems and will be followed by a fireworks show.

The Brothers Osborne will perform at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday on the Festival Park main stage. Advance tickets are $7 online, and remaining tickets will be available for $10 at the box office prior to the show. This concert is sponsored by Center Point Business Solutions.

Travis Cottrell and the Local Community Choir will perform for Faith and Community Night beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday on the Festival Park main stage. The concert is sponsored by the Martin Area Ministerial Alliance, and there is no charge to attend.

UT Martin Student Night will feature a performance by the Plain White T’s beginning at 9 p.m. Thursday in downtown Martin. Advance tickets are $15 online, and remaining tickets will be available for $20 at the box office prior to the show.

Friday night’s concert headliner is Vince Gill, who will perform at 9 p.m. Friday in Festival Park. Advance tickets are $15 online, and remaining tickets will be available at the box office prior to the show. This concert is sponsored by Republic Services.

The Tennessee Soybean Festival West Tennessee Dairy Show will begin at 10 a.m. Sept. 10 in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the UT Martin campus. Animals may arrive Friday. Additional information and registration are available at tnsoybeanfestival.org/west-tennessee-dairy-show.

Blood Sweat and Tears will perform beginning at 7 p.m. Sept. 10 in Festival Park. Three Dog Night will end the evening with the festival’s headline performance at 9 p.m.

Advance tickets are each performance are $15 online, and remaining tickets will be available for $20 at the box office prior to the show.

UT Martin will wrap up festival week with the annual Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 11 in the Skyhawk Dining Hall, located inside the Boling University Center. The charge is $10.82 per person, while children ages 10 and under eat for $5.08.

This is not a comprehensive list of festival events. For information on additional events or to purchase tickets, visit tnsoybeanfestival.org/festival-schedule. Tickets for all events are available.

For more information, visit tnsoybeanfestival.org or contact festival coordinators at (731) 588-1263 or email info@tnsoybeanfestival.org.
CHEERED UP — South Fulton native Mikaela Hardy, a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will begin her final year of cheering for the football team when the Skyhawks travel to Cincinnati Saturday. A pre-med scholar at UTM, she has been a fixture at area doctors’ offices, where she has job-shadowed over the last several years in her efforts to prepare for the medical field. She is the daughter of Ben and Barbie Hardy of South Fulton. Saturday’s game, which kicks off at 6 p.m., may be viewed on ESPN3.

When not cheering on her Skyhawks, SF native pursuing medical dream

By KEVIN WEAKS
Messenger Sports

If you know Mikaela Hardy as the small-town girl who was taking gymnastics class by the age of 3, cheering for her beloved Red Devils as early as the third grade and is loving life as a University of Tennessee at Martin student and Skyhawk cheerleader, you’re probably impressed with her. And rightfully so. There’s so much more to know, however.

The daughter of Ben and Barbie Hardy of South Fulton, she’s a pre-med scholar at UTM studying to one day be a doctor. She has spent this summer job-shadowing for every doctor and at every clinic that would have her.

She’s scrubbed up and assisted in surgeries, she’s helped out in hospital labs and she can carry on a conversation about cell and molecular biology the way the rest of us talk about the weather. Very impressive, indeed.

MEDICAL JOURNEY
Hardy has taken at least 16 hours since arriving on the UT Martin campus and had 20 her last semester. She has done a lot of job shadowing as well — some set up for her by the university; some she has set up on her own.

She is now done with the shadowing as she makes the transition to completing her requirements for graduation in December.

“Through Pre-Med Scholars, I have seen a lot of specialties, such as cardiology, internal medicine, anesthesiology, gastroenterology, pediatrics and family medicine,” Hardy explained. “I’ve seen a wide spectrum of local doctors, and I’ve done a lot of shadowing along with my classes. The doctors, as they’re working, they are explaining to me. And, that’s good for the patient, too. I’ll ask questions. They’re really good about answering any questions I have, whether about the patient or about my journey to become a doctor.” (See Page 5, Col. 4)

Cheer...
(Continued from Page 1)

“It’s a very humbling job, from what I’ve seen,” she said. “For some, their health stops their life. For others, it’s a bump in a road. Dr. (Walter) Fletcher said what he loves is that it’s raw. It’s life. You’re somebody that people are coming to for a service that is priceless. Life is priceless. Shadowing has confirmed it for me.”

Hardy’s many labs at UTM have been a huge help, too. She’s had labs in microbiology, cells and chemistry and then has applied that knowledge during her shadowing.

“I have to commend UTM because it has done an amazing job preparing me for this,” she said. “I haven’t had one day of medical school and I already know some of these things. I’m still at the tip of the iceberg, though.”

However, lessons in becoming a doctor have been only half the learning experience for Hardy. She is getting lessons in life from the doctors, too.

“I have asked every doctor I’ve been with how they decided what type of doctor they wanted to be,” she said. “I’ve been told simply to go in with an open mind. Always pick what fits your personality best. I don’t know yet, but I do know it will be something where I’m interacting with the patient.”
ALWAYS ‘CHEER’FUL

It could be said that Hardy has a personality perfectly suited for cheerleading and that being a part of that type of team has helped prepare her for each new challenge.

“I can see how what I’ve learned in cheerleading will relate to my career,” she said. “It has helped toughen me in both a physical and mental sense.”

She credits her coaches for that, saying Fran Spears and Frances Cates taught her lessons beyond cheering during her freshman and sophomore years.

“They taught me to hold myself to a higher standard and not sell myself short,” she said. “It’s all learning how to be coachable. Bosses are not going to want to hear excuses. They just want it done.”

Hardy has also learned a lot about time management in college, something she was already well aware of doing cheer and gymnastics while also going to school and then being a cheerleader for the Red Devils in middle and high schools.

“I can remember on the way to games, always having homework on the bus,” Hardy said. “I can remember my sophomore year, on the way to Lexington to play Kentucky, I had my organic chemistry homework and thinking I just want to talk to everyone on the bus. But I had to get it done, so I just had to grin and bear it.”

It’s not like she’s never had fun with her teammates, though. In fact, that’s perhaps the biggest and best part of her time as a cheerleader.

“We’re some goofballs,” she said. “That cheer attitude comes out on bus rides. We have a lot of fun. Traveling and getting to be on TV, cheering at the OVC (basketball) tournament each year. It’s a lot to take in. Flying to places has been awesome. I feel like we’re getting special treatment. Going to Boise State was the first game when I got to know everyone on the squad.”

A football fan at heart, she is looking forward to cheering in the Georgia Dome and at Cincinnati this season. She will remember her final parade through Quad City for homecoming and already gets sad thinking about her final football game, which will be her last game as a cheerleader since she graduates in December.

While the cheerleaders have made trips to Boise, Idaho; Oxford and Starkville in Mississippi; and Lexington, Ky., the squad will not be able to make the Hawaii game this season.

MOVING ON

Hardy could be described as the ultimate Skyhawk, a poster woman for the university because of her love for her “hometown” school.

“I can’t explain how proud I am to go to UTM,” she said. “I knew I wanted to go to UTM. I didn’t look anywhere else, and I didn’t apply anywhere else. I knew that was where I wanted to go. It felt right. I can’t explain it. When you know, you know.

“It’s been amazing. It will be sad to go.”

Hardy will close the book on cheerleading, and the structure of practice sessions and games that goes with it, when the 2016 UTM football season ends. Then she will head off to medical school.

Always active, she believes athletics will still be a part of her life. Hardy plans to continue to exercise and stay fit. And, there could be another item to put on what will surely be a busy schedule.

“They have intramurals at medical schools now,” she pointed out. “I wonder if I can do soccer again?”

Impressed yet?

Sports reporter Kevin Weaks can be contacted by email at kweaks@ucmessenger.com.
UT Martin Creates New Concentration

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering announced plans to add a concentration in manufacturing engineering during a breakfast for area industry representatives August 24th. This would be the first and only training program for manufacturing engineers in Tennessee, and the university hopes to help fill a statewide employment gap in the industry.

“There is a high demand for manufacturing engineers (with undergraduate degrees) in the state, and nobody is producing them,” said Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and interim chair, UT Martin Department of Engineering. “Companies are having to hire engineers and train them in skills that they could learn as part of their education.”

The university plans to offer the new specialized courses beginning with the fall 2017 semester, and this will be the first engineering concentration added to UT Martin’s course offerings since the department was created in 1996.

“I’ve worked at several different manufacturing facilities around the West Tennessee area over the last 20 years, and this is definitely something I would have benefited from in my career if I had had it back then,” said Brian Bishop (UT Martin, ’94), engineering manager at Nobel Automotive in Paris.

Manufacturing is a major industry in the state, with 53 positions available per 1,000 people. However, the University of Miami offers the only bachelor’s-level training program for manufacturing engineers in the southeast.

This forces local companies seeking manufacturing engineers to either recruit out-of-state graduates or hire an engineer from another specialization.

“Engineers in other disciplines are having to learn these skills after they go on the job and by trade, not education, become a manufacturing engineer,” said LeMaster. This creates a difficult situation for new graduates who are faced with an unexpected learning curve.

“They’re going to get there, but how many months or weeks do they have to put in to pick up those skills that we could have taught them here if we had this concentration already in place,” said Dr. Jared Teague, associate professor of engineering. “This (new concentration) will help graduates get in faster and do the job more effectively.”

According to the Academic Program Supply and Occupational Demand Projections for 2012-2025, the state of Tennessee produces an average of 234 engineering graduates each year in the mechanical, electrical and industrial concentrations. Only eight of those graduates choose industrial engineering, and none specialize in manufacturing engineering. There are, however, an average of 295 statewide job openings in this industry each year, with 120 of those requiring industrial or manufacturing engineers.

“We’re producing about 20 percent fewer engineers per year than are needed for the number of openings throughout the state, and we’re not producing them in the right mix,” said LeMaster.

Industrial and manufacturing engineers overlap in many areas, however there are key differences that make the transition from one to the other more difficult than assumed. The training for industrial engineers is management-oriented and focuses on the worker to improve production.

The training for manufacturing engineers is process-oriented and emphasizes improving the production process and creating a high-quality product in the most efficient way possible. At UT Martin, the difference is seen in 27 hours of specialized coursework.

The new concentration would focus on meeting the needs of existing companies in West Tennessee and training a highly qualified workforce to take those companies into the coming years.

“Back when the engineering program was created in 1996, there was a lot of interaction with potential employers of the graduates and what they needed. A lot of that input shaped the courses we teach now,” said LeMaster. “We’re looking for that kind of involvement and feedback with this new manufacturing concentration program so that we in fact are turning out a product that is consistent with what (employers) need and also satisfies the requirements that we have from our accrediting bodies.”

“We recruit in manufacturing engineering, that’s what we’re looking for actually in this area,” said Jody Jones, engineering manager with NSK in Dyersburg. “We’ve got mechanical engineers that we normally hire to make that transition. ... It would be a lot easier for us to partner with someone like UT Martin and actually help develop that curriculum. We could hire our people straight out of school and have them come right to work.”

The UT Martin Department of Engineering is expected to grow exponentially with the completion of the university’s new Engineering and Science Building and a proposed Innovation and Product Realization Facility. The Bachelor of Science in engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. For more information on ABET accreditation, visit abet.org.

Attends Luncheon

ALLISON WEBB, center, of Ripley, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2016 Legacy Luncheon August 19th in the Paul Meek Library. This event is held during move-in weekend each fall to welcome new freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. Webb, a music major, is pictured with her parents, Kim (’95) and Steve Webb (’91). For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.
Annual Soybean Festival Slated

The City of Martin, the University of Tennessee at Martin and many local businesses and organizations partner to bring the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival to Martin each year. The 23rd annual festival, held September 2nd through September 9th, will feature a variety of family-friendly entertainment options, including concert appearances by the Plain White T’s, Vince Gill and Three Dog Night.

The festival will also feature the traditional Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade beginning at 6:30p.m., September 6th, on University Street in front of UT Martin’s Hall-Moody Administration Building. The carnival midway and craft fair will also be open each night in downtown Martin.

There will be a Minecraft Farming Challenge for children ages 10 through 15 August 27th in the UT Martin Paul Meek Library prior to the official start of the festival. Sessions are open from 8 a.m. through noon or 1 p.m. through 5 p.m. Registration is required for this event, and space is limited. Cash prizes will be given to challenge winners. Visit tnsoybean-festival.org/minecraft to register. This event is sponsored by the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center.

The Little Miss Soybean Pageant will be held from 9 a.m. through 10 a.m. that same day in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Harriet Fulton Theatre. This event is sponsored by the UT Federal Credit Union, and registration forms are available at tnsoybean-festival.org/ or at Martin City Hall.

Morris Day and The Time will make the festival’s first concert appearance, beginning at 9 p.m., September 2nd, on the Festival Park main stage in downtown Martin. Advance tickets are available with any remaining tickets available at the Festival Park box office prior to the show.

Elsa’s Magical Ice Cream Party will begin at 11 a.m. in the Duncan Ballroom of the UT Martin Boling University Center. There will be a registration fee per child and for each accompanying adult. Children are encouraged to dress as their favorite Frozen character, princess or superhero.

Children in the fourth and fifth grades are invited to an interactive workshop titled “The Bare Necessities of Making Music” from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., September 3rd, in room 206 of the UT Martin Boling University Center. Participants will build their own musical instruments and later play alongside the Martin Community Band at 6 p.m. in Virginia Weldon Park.

The School of Rock Nashville will perform at 8 p.m., September 3rd, in Festival Park. There is no charge for this concert, which is sponsored by Hamilton-Ryker.

The third annual “Guitar as Art” contest will begin at 2 p.m., September 4th, in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building Gallery. The awards ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. More information and entry details are available at tnsoybean-festival.org/guitar-as-art/.

Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon: A Tribute to John Denver will perform at 7 p.m., September 4th, at the Martin Recreation Complex. The concert is sponsored by Savant Learning Systems and will be followed by a fireworks show.

The Brothers Osborne will perform at 8:30 p.m., September 6th, on the Festival Park main stage. Advance tickets are available online, and remaining tickets will be available at the box office prior to the show. This concert is sponsored by Center Point Business Solutions.

Travis Cottrell and the Local Community Choir will perform for Faith and Community Night beginning at 6 p.m., September 7th, on the Festival Park main stage. The concert is sponsored by the Martin Area Ministerial Alliance, and there is no charge to attend.

UT Martin Student Night will feature a performance by the Plain White T’s beginning at 9 p.m., September 8th, in downtown Martin. Advance tickets are available online, and remaining tickets will be available at the box office prior to the show. Blood Sweat and Tears will perform beginning at 7 p.m., September 10th, in Festival Park. Three Dog Night will end the evening with the festival’s headline performance at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are available online, and remaining tickets will be available at the box office prior to the show.

UT Martin will wrap up festival week with the annual Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. in the Skyhawk Dining Hall, located inside the Boling University Center.

For information on additional events or to purchase tickets, visit tnsoybean-festival.org/festival-schedule/. Tickets for all events are available by selecting the event in which you are interested.
The Central Rappahannock Regional Library is partnering with the National Park Service to offer a speaker series each Thursday in September beginning Sept. 8, in honor of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary. Each event is free and begins at 7 p.m. at Headquarters Library at 1201 Caroline St.

Sept. 8: The Making of a Park. Superintendent Kirsten Talken-Spaulding will discuss how a national park is created. Who decides what’s significant and what gets to be a national park? What is involved in adding a unit to the National Park Service? As the first superintendent of Fort Monroe National Monument, Talken-Spaulding will explain how this incredible site became a park. Talken-Spaulding is currently serving as the 15th superintendent of Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Sept. 15: The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation. Dr. Timothy B. Smith’s talk is based upon his book by the same title, “The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation: The Decade of the 1890s and the Establishment of America’s First Five Military Parks.” Dr. Smith will first put the Golden Age into the larger context of Civil War battlefield preservation by discussing the various generations of preservation from the war until now. He will also look at the 1890s itself and examine why exactly it was so golden before launching into a discussion of the lasting importance of the Golden Age and its influence on later preservation. Smith is an author/historian and a professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Sept. 22: Interpretation: From the CCC to Pokemon Go. Dr. Joan Zenzen will describe interpretation at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park over time and discuss the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps’ transformation of the park, Mission 66 additions of the 1950s and 1960s and more recent challenges resulting from traffic congestion and developments. Zenzen will conclude with the effects of Pokemon Go on visitor experience and park management. Zenzen is an independent historian who has written extensively about the National Park Service, including official histories of five national parks and is the author of two books.

Sept. 29: Segregation in the Southern National Parks. Dr. Erin Krutko Devlin will explore her research on the evolution of NPS policy in relation to civil rights and illuminate the experience of African American park employees and visitors in the state of Virginia from the 1930s through the 1960s. In the mid 20th century, Southern national parks were segregated. Restrooms, picnic areas, lodges, lunch counters and cabins were designated for “White Only” or “Negro Only.” Devlin is an assistant professor of History and American Studies at the University of Mary Washington. She is the author of a National Park Service cultural resource study focused on segregation at Lewis Mountain in Shenandoah National Park. Her forthcoming book, “Remember Little Rock,” examines the public memory of the 1957 school desegregation crisis and its relationship to ongoing debates about race, education and public policy.

WestStar Leadership Program accepting applications for class

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2017.

The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 768 graduates in its 27-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over 1½ days.

The program begins Dec. 13 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 20, 2017, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, help West Tennessee become a better place and accept assertive leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, help shape West Tennessee’s future.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at (731) 881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/weststar.

The application deadline is Oct. 14, according to a spokesman.

Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.
Golf game funds youth program

5 managers will be celebrities for day

Tournament chairmen Ted Austin of Jackson Energy Authority and Charley Deal of the University of Tennessee at Martin, along with event sponsors, will recognize plant managers from five manufacturing facilities at the African-American Chamber’s upcoming golf tournament.

The designated “celebrities for the day” — Ricardo Anawate of Gerdau, Shawn Daly of Toyota Bodine Aluminum, Andre Gist of MIG Steel Fabrication, Mike Pace of Pinnacle Foods and Swee Har Wilcox of Armstrong Flooring — will be recognized during the closing awards luncheon at the sixth annual Follow Me Celebrity Golf Classic.

Presented by the Jackson Madison County African-American Chamber of Commerce, the four-player scramble will be held at 8 a.m. Sept. 13 at Bent Tree Golf Course, 2993 Paul Coffman Drive in Jackson.

According to a news release, the opening ceremony begins at 8:15 a.m. with opening remarks from Chamber President Duane Cherry, Ted Austin and Charley Deal and a meet-and-greet by several former NFL players invited by celebrity co-chairman and coach Derrick Burroughs.

Also taking place is a golf ball drop contest along with a putting contest and silent auction. Celebrity for the day honorees and winning golf teams will be honored during the closing luncheon beginning at 1:45 p.m. at the pavilion. Radio and TV personality Steve Bowers will emcee.

The tournament raises funds for the chamber’s Follow Me Into Business and development program for ages 12-18. The program focuses on job training skills and business basics training with mentoring, employment and community involvement opportunities.

Registration is $400 for a team of four and $100 for an individual player who will be assigned to a team.

Confirmed teams include BancorpSouth, City of Jackson, First Bank, First Tennessee Bank, Hardeman County Warriors, Jonah Affordable Housing, Lane College, MIG Steel Fabrication, Northwestern Mutual, Pinnacle Foods and Raymond James, as well as AIL Logistics Solutions, Jackson Energy Authority, Lane College, Northwestern Mutual, Toyota Bodine, UT Martin and West Tennessee Healthcare.

For more information about the tournament, contact Florence Howard at fhoward@jmcaacc.org or 901-827-0836.

LOCAL RESIDENTS ATTEND UT MARTIN LEGACY LUNCHEON - Ethan Brake (center), of Milan, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2016 Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 19 in the Paul Meek Library. This event is held during move-in weekend each fall to welcome new freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. Brake, a geoscience major, is pictured with his parents, Raymond and April Brake, who both received UT Martin degrees in 2010 and 2013. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu/advantage.
UTM adds manufacturing engineering concentration

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Engineering announced plans to add a concentration in manufacturing engineering during a breakfast for area industry representatives Aug. 24. This would be the first and only training program for manufacturing engineers in Tennessee, and the university hopes to help fill a statewide employment gap in the industry.

"There is a high demand for manufacturing engineers (with undergraduate degrees) in the state, and nobody is producing them," said Dr. Robert LeMaster, professor and interim chair, UT Martin Department of Engineering. "Companies are having to hire engineers and train them in skills that they could learn as part of their education."

The university plans to offer the new specialized courses beginning with the fall 2017 semester, and this will be the first engineering concentration added to UT Martin's course offerings since the department was created in 1996.

"I've worked at several different manufacturing facilities around the West Tennessee area...over the last 20 years, and this is definitely something I would have benefited from in my career if I had had it back then," said Brian Bishop (UT Martin, '94), engineering manager at Noble Automotive in Paris.

Manufacturing is a major industry in the state, with 53 positions available per 1,000 people. However, the University of Miami offers the only bachelor's-level training program for manufacturing engineers in the southeast.

This forces local companies seeking manufacturing engineers to either recruit out-of-state graduates or hire an engineer from another specialization.

"Engineers in other disciplines are having to learn these skills after they go on the job and by trade, not education, become a manufacturing engineer," said LeMaster. This creates a difficult situation for new graduates who are faced with an unexpected learning curve.

"They're going to get there, but how many months or weeks do they have to put in to pick up those skills that we could have taught them here if we had this concentration already in place," said Dr. Jared Teague, associate professor of engineering. "This (new concentration) will help graduates get in faster and do the job more effectively."

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The training for industrial engineers is management-oriented and focuses on the worker to improve production.

The training for manufacturing engineers is process-oriented and emphasizes improving the production process and creating a high-quality product in the most efficient way possible. At UT Martin, the difference is seen in 27 hours of specialized coursework.

The new concentration would focus on meeting the needs of existing companies in West Tennessee and training a highly qualified workforce to take those companies into the coming years.

"We recruit in manufacturing engineering, that's what we're looking for actually in this area," said Jody Jones, engineering manager with NSK in Dyersburg. "We've got mechanical engineers that we normally hire to make that transition. It would be a whole lot easier for us to partner with someone like UT Martin and actually help develop that curriculum. We could hire our people straight out of school and have them come right to work."

The UT Martin Department of Engineering is expected to grow exponentially with the completion of the university's new Engineering and Science Building and a proposed Innovation and Product Realization Facility. The Bachelor of Science in engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. For more information on the new concentration, contact the department at 731-881-7571.
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"Every student enrolled in college has a unique set of needs, and that is especially true for veteran students," said Mike Krause, THEC executive director. "Veteran Reconnect is assisting veterans on Tennessee campuses to both connect with their campus and with their fellow service men."

Chattanooga State Community College, Lipscomb University, Maryville College, Middle Tennessee State University and Tusculum College also received grant funding.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Apply now to WestStar Leadership Program

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The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 13 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 20, 2017, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, help West Tennessee become a better place and accept assertive leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, help shape West Tennessee’s future.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/department/weststar/. The application deadline is Oct. 14. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

TENNESSEE SOYBEAN FESTIVAL

DANCING IN THE STREETS — Morris Day and The Time (above) had Martin citizens dancing in the streets ... and even on stage at his event Friday night. Below, Magical Martin Day and Elsa’s Ice Cream Party were unforgettable moments on Saturday.

Photos by Christel Thompson Laney
UTM nursing program receives $20,000 scholarship award funding

Genex Services, a provider of managed care clinical services, has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Nursing $20,000 in scholarship funding through its fifth annual Case Manager Scholarship Program.

Each year, Genex Services asks case managers, supervisors and branch managers within the company to nominate nursing programs at colleges and universities which they believe deserve additional funding. Susie Moore, a 1987 UT Martin alumna, nominated the UT Martin program for the award.

"The Department of Nursing at UT Martin has a proud and successful history in nursing education," wrote Moore in her nomination letter. "I am very proud of my alma mater."

Five programs are selected each year, and the funds are intended to "recognize program alumni, strengthen awareness of the case management profession and invest in a new generation of graduates to fulfill a growing industry need." Genex Services focuses primarily on handling workers' compensation claims and managing the care of injured workers.

"The scholarship award is very special to Genex because it's through this initiative that we're really helping to develop the future professionals who will continue our mission to help injured workers return safely to their jobs," said Delphia Frisch, executive vice president and chief operations officer of Genex Services. "We're very proud of this program and our case managers."

The UT Martin Department of Nursing's scholarship award committee will accept student applications in the fall semester, and awards will be announced in the spring for the upcoming 2017-18 academic year. Award criteria and amounts have yet to be determined.

"All college students can benefit from financial aid, of course, but nursing majors have the added expenses of uniforms, shoes, stethoscopes and other equipment, as well as travel to various clinical sites. This gift will be very beneficial in helping them cover these costs in addition to tuition and books," said Dr. Mary Radford, chair, UT Martin Department of Nursing.

Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky; the University of San Diego in San Diego, California; the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, also received awards from Genex Services this year.

Soybean Festival is in full swing this week

The city of Martin, the University of Tennessee at Martin and many local businesses and organizations partner to bring the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival to Martin each year. The carnival midway and craft fair will also be open each night in downtown Martin.

Friday night's concert headliner is Vince Gill, who will perform at 9 p.m., September 9, in Festival Park. Advance tickets are $15 online, and remaining tickets will be available for $20 at the box office prior to the show.

The Tennessee Soybean Festival West Tennessee Dairy Show will begin at 10 a.m., September 10, in the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the UT Martin campus.

Blood Sweat and Tears will perform beginning at 7 p.m., September 10, in Festival Park. Three Dog Night will end the evening with the festival's headline performance at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are each performance are $15 online, and remaining tickets will be available for $20 at the box office prior to the show.

UT Martin will wrap up festival week with the annual Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Skyhawk Dining Hall, located inside the Boling University Center. The charge is $10.82 per person, while children ages 10 and under eat for $5.08.

For more info visit tnsoybeanfestival.org or contact 731-588-1263.
Photography course offered at UTM-Parsons

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an introductory course offered from 6-9 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 19-Oct. 10, at the UT Martin Parsons Center.

The course is designed to cover camera features and functions, exposure, composition, depth of field, focus, photography ideas and exercises in lighting, portrait, action and close-up shots.

Roger Hughes will instruct the course. Hughes is a retired special agent in charge of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and has spent years photographing major crime scenes. He began studying fine art imaging at the University of Tennessee and the Rocky Mountain School of Photography under the mentorship of three acclaimed wildlife and nature photographers. Samples of his work may be viewed at www.nwtpc.org.

The registration fee for this course is $125 per person. Students are required to bring their personal camera, operations manual and tripod. Print and email handouts will be available. Email and class evaluations of student images will also be utilized.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

UTM Somerville Actively Seeking Professors

In anticipation of a fully functioning UTM Somerville Center next fall, Director Kara Tapp has announced the availability of job opportunities for qualified higher education instructors at the local center. Most local instructors will be hired as Adjunct Professors and must have a minimum of 18 graduate hours in their teaching specialty. The specific positions being sought for next year are Computer Science and Public Speaking.

Nick Kirstenmacher, West Tennessee Coordinator for a U.S. Senator, has been teaching Political Science courses at the Somerville Career Center for the past two years, as the UTM Somerville Center has become established. Nick is typical of the type of instructor that is being sought for the Somerville Center.

"Nick brings his practical experience and current affairs expertise into the classroom, resulting in a very unique classroom atmosphere in which the students expand their own civic knowledge and explore opposing viewpoints, with a strong emphasis on historical concepts," said Vanessa Wright-Hayes, Supervisor of the Somerville Career Center and Distance Learning Technician for UT Martin Somerville.

In a typical class this past week, the students were studying the role of Presidents, Congress and their interaction, with a special portion of the class time devoted to current events, emphasizing the upcoming Presidential election.

"Nick stated, 'I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to teach in Somerville.'"

With its ideal location close to Memphis, the UT Martin Somerville Center expects to be especially attractive to nearby qualified instructors. UT Martin officials have stated that they believe the Somerville Center will be ideally suited to act as a hub for instructors teaching through live Distance Learning Equipment located in Somerville and broadcast through the other UTM Centers in Ripley, Selmer, Parsons, and Jackson.

Interested applicants for Adjunct Professor positions should contact UTM Somerville Center Director Kara Tapp at 901-465-7313, or stop by her office at the Somerville City Hall. Applicants will be expected to be focused on individual instruction and be committed to helping local students excel.
WestStar leadership program now accepting applications

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DRESDEN ENTERPRISE • SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

WestStar Program Accepting Applications For 2017 Class

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UT Martin Online Programs Recognized

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online programs have been recognized for great value at both the undergraduate and graduate levels by OnlineCollegePlan.com and GradSchoolHub.com. OnlineCollegePlan.com collectively ranked UT Martin’s five online bachelor’s programs 39th on its list of the “Top 50 Most Affordable Online Bachelor’s Degrees.” This ranking is based on the net yearly average price of obtaining a degree online from each included institution.

UT Martin offers online degrees in interdisciplinary studies, business administration management, agribusiness and farm and ranch management, as well as the RN to BSN nursing bridge option.

GradSchoolHub.com recently released its list of the most affordable top-ranked online MBA programs for 2016 and included UT Martin at number 15. The ranking focuses on institutions that have already been recognized by major publications such as Forbes magazine, The Princeton Review and U.S. News & World Report and ranks them according to degree cost.

UT Martin’s online MBA program is designed for financial services professionals and was most recently ranked 22nd in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.
Economic study reveals impact of UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin had a tremendous impact on the West Tennessee economy during the 2014-15 fiscal year, generating $481.1 million in added income for the region.

These results, based on a contracted study conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists International in Moscow, Idaho, illustrate the importance of maintaining a vibrant four-year university in northwest Tennessee.

Released in March, the study assesses the impact of university, student, visitor and alumni spending on the region and calculates the benefits generated by the university for students, taxpayers and society as a whole. The results of this study show that the added regional income generated by the university is equivalent to creating 8,074 new jobs.

University students, 23 percent of whom come from outside the region, generated about $8 million in added income (the equivalent of creating 221 new jobs). Each student enrolled at UT Martin adds about $10,026 in new income to the regional economy each year.

Visitors to university-related events created an additional $3.3 million in West Tennessee revenue throughout the year ($81 new jobs).

Thousands of former UT Martin students are currently employed in West Tennessee and the accumulated financial impact of these alumni on the region’s economy amounted to $374.9 million in added income (6,301 new jobs).

The proposed construction of a new science, technology, engineering and mathematics building on the main UT Martin campus will ignite new economic activity and add a total of $21.6 million to the regional economy (406 new jobs), and the finished building’s operational expenses will later add an estimated $812.8 thousand in annual regional income.

UT Martin creates a positive return on investments made by students, taxpayers and society as a whole.

Students who invest in an education from UT Martin earn an estimated $3.40 for every dollar spent on their degree. This means the 2014-15 student body is estimated to earn a collective $465.1 million in increased income over their working lives as compared to what they would have earned had they not invested in a UT Martin degree.

Because of higher earnings, these graduates will also contribute approximately $204.1 million to state and local tax revenues over their lifetimes, which earns the state a profit on the $43.4 million in taxpayer funding provided to UT Martin during the analysis period. There will also be a decreased demand for government-funded social services in West Tennessee, stemming from a better-educated workforce, which in turn saves the public sector an additional $54.1 million in government costs.

Because of these factors, taxpayers receive an average of $5.10 in return over these students’ working lives for each dollar originally invested in their education at UT Martin. In return, the state will receive an estimated $1.9 billion in added revenue over the course of the students’ working lives.

The EMSI report was financially supported by the City of Martin, mayor’s office, the Weakley County mayor’s office, Weakley County Economic Development, USDA Rural Development, the Northwest Tennessee Development District and the Southwest Tennessee Development District.

Student veterans benefit from grant

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has selected the University of Tennessee at Martin as one of six institutions to receive funding through the 2016 Veteran Reconnect program.

This is the second year Veteran Reconnect grants have been awarded and the first year for UT Martin to receive funding.

THEC granted the university almost $169,000 through a competitive proposal process. The 22-month grant will be used to hire a veteran service specialist and create a dedicated space on campus for a student veterans center.

The funding will also aid in the development of an orientation program specifically designed to assist student veterans with the transition to college life.

“I feel the additional funding will go a long way toward improving the veterans’ experience on campus,” said Tim McClain, a senior from Union City and a member of the Skyhawk Veterans Association. “The orientation program will assist incoming veterans with a sense of direction and a feeling of appreciation for service to our great nation.

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Chattanooga State Community College, Lipscomb University in Nashville, Maryville College, Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and Tusculum College in Greeneville also received grant funding.
UC Top Ten graduate begins urology residency program

Dr. Matthew Leland Davis, son of Dr. Leland and Tajuana Davis of Union City and a 2006 Top Ten graduate of Union City High School, has begun a urology residency program at Southern Illinois University in Springfield with the goal of completing the program over the next five years and returning to this area to practice.

Davis is a 2010 summa cum laude graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and went on to complete a master of science degree in pharmacology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center graduate school, earning a 3.75 grade point average.

He completed his medical studies at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine in May 2016.

While a student there, he was selected for membership in Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and earned a high class ranking and excellent performance evaluations from his professors. Described by his professors as performing “outstandingly,” he was recruited by the Student Academic Support Services and Integration Department to act as a tutor for medical students and physician assistant students.

An Eagle Scout, Davis had extensive involvement in research during his medical school experience and his work with UT urology faculty member Dr. Anthony Patterson on two different projects will be published later this year.

His overall medical school performance was rated “Outstanding,” and he was described as a “star student.” Davis received honors in all his clerkships, with extremely high ratings from some of the medical school’s most exacting faculty members, according to his performance evaluation.

UT Martin among ‘Best Bang for the Buck’

The Washington Monthly 2016 College Rankings name the University of Tennessee at Martin 17th in the “Best Bang for the Buck Southern Colleges” category.

UT Martin is the top-ranked Tennessee institution, ahead of Tennessee Technological University (19th) in Cookeville, Vanderbilt University (22nd) in Nashville and Austin Peay State University (41st) in Clarksville, among others.

Washington Monthly is known for ranking institutions based not only on price, graduation and retention rates, number of programs and other common factors, but also on qualities such as post-graduation earnings, student ability to repay educational loans, service to country and contributions to research.

Perhaps the heaviest factor in this ranking is the social mobility of enrolled students. Universities that make it a priority to help first-generation and lower or moderate-income students reach graduation and enter the workforce score well in these rankings.

Thirty-seven percent of UT Martin’s spring 2016 graduating class were first-generation college graduates and 44 percent qualified for federal Pell grants. The fall 2015 overall student body consisted of 39 percent first-generation students and 48.6 percent Pell-eligible students.

For more information, contact University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
LEGACY LUNCHEON – Cruz Kepner (left) of Union City recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 2016 Legacy Luncheon in the Paul Meek Library. Each fall, the event is held during move-in weekend to welcome new freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. Kepner, an engineering major, was joined by his mother, Gena Kepner, a 1989 graduate.

ATTENDS LUNCHEON – Mason Chandler of Kenton attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent 2016 Legacy Luncheon in the Paul Meek Library. This event is held during move-in weekend each fall to welcome new freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of UT Martin alumni. Chandler plans to major in agricultural engineering.
The interview process for the UT Martin chancellor's position continues today with the third candidate interviewing today and the fourth, and final candidate interviewing Thursday.

Dr. Keith Carver, Executive Assistant to UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro, interviews today and will conduct his public forum this afternoon from 2:00 until 4:00 in the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

Dr. Carver served as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development at UT Martin from 2005 until 2010.

Tomorrow, Dr. Joseph "Jay" Morgan will conduct his public forum at 2:00 in the Watkins Auditorium.

Like Dr. Carver, Dr. Morgan also has a past with Martin, as he was a teacher and coach at Westview from 1994 to 1996.

Dr. Morgan also spent 18 years at Murray State University in various leadership roles, including Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Drs. Mary Holz-Clause and Jerold Woolfolk interviewed for the UTM chancellorship last week.

According to Dr. DiPietro, a new chancellor for UT Martin should be named by the end of October.

Dr. Keith Carver

http://www.springhillhomepage.com/

Williamson students included in 291 receiving Community Foundation scholarships
Date: September 08, 2016

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee is awarding 291 scholarships to students pursuing secondary education at accredited schools throughout the United States.

A total of $548,200 is being awarded to students from 67 scholarship funds.

The 2016 scholarship recipients from Williamson County include:

Baylee West was awarded the The Shoot For The Future Scholarship to attend University of Tennessee at Martin.

"The Community Foundation has helped thousands access educational opportunities they might otherwise have been unable to afford by connecting them with the generosity of others," said Ellen Lehman, president of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. "This year we are honored to help hundreds more improve their futures, and the futures of their families, through the transformation offered by an education."

Dr. Joseph "Jay" Morgan
Chancellor candidate says he can build a team at UTM

KATHERINE BURGESS
KBURGESS@JACKSONSUN.COM

Coming to the University of Tennessee Martin would be like coming home, according to Dr. Keith Carver, executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee.

"We've got challenges," Carver said. "We've also got opportunities."

Born in Jackson and raised in Crockett County, Carver is one of four finalists in the search for the next UT Martin chancellor. He spoke and answered questions from faculty, staff and students at a public forum Wednesday, which was streamed online.

See Carver, Page 3A

Carver

Continued from Page 1A

"I think it gives us a real opportunity to tell our story, to tell a new story going forward and to talk about the SACS process and what did we learn from it and how did we become better because of it," Carver said.

Other challenges include six consecutive years of declining enrollment and the subsequent hit to revenue, Carver said.

However, Carver also highlighted opportunities for the university, including support from the state and the board of trustees. He also said the school is resilient and has contributed greatly to the region.

The way to address both the challenges and opportunities is with teamwork, Carver said.

When one man asked about Carver's dissertation, which was about failed university presidents, Carver said in all cases those presidents did not create a cohesive team.

"It's about building a team," Carver said. "I can build that team."

Carver has served as executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee since 2011. Carver's 19-year career at UT also includes various leadership positions at three of the system's campuses. He served as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis in 2010 after spending four years at UT Martin as assistant vice chancellor for development.

He also served more than 10 years in various positions at UT Knoxville, including as director of development and alumni affairs for the College of Law. Carver earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Memphis State University and master's and doctoral degrees from UT Knoxville in college student personnel and educational leadership and philosophy.

Carver said becoming chancellor at Martin could offer him something he has missed: the chance to once again be surrounded by faculty and students.

"I've realized that I miss that," Carver said. "I just miss the energy and excitement that goes with the campus community."

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathsburgess.
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“I feel the additional funding will go a long way toward improving
Local's are honored at mayor's luncheon

The King and Queen of the Tennessee Soybean Festival were crowned Tuesday at the Mayor's Luncheon in Martin.

Suzanne Harper of the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and Weakley County School Board Member John Hatler received their awards and their crowns of soybean leaves before a crowd of 350 community leaders.

The King and Queen contest is sponsored by the Pilot Club of Martin and is used to raise funds for free bicycle helmets for children participating in the annual bicycle rodeo.

The Soybean Service Award went to Nicole Kincade, designer and manager of the festival’s website, TNSoybeanFestival.org, and Suzanne Harper, one of the organizers of the award-winning Magical Martin Day.

Lynette Calhoun Wagner, general manager of the Weakley County Press, was this year’s inductee into the Soybean Hall of Fame for her years of dedication to the community, including the Historic Downtown Martin organization and the Soybean Festival, as well as other fundraisers supported by the newspaper throughout the year.

The Big Bean Award was given to Republic Services. Special recognition went to Dr. Jim Byford, 23-year employee and former dean of agriculture at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The Big Bean Award

Martin Beautiful Awards went to Lora and Scott McDonald for their residence, First United Methodist Church for the church award, Davis Automotive for the business award and The Shoe Shack for its Adopt-a-Site.

The registration fee for this course is $35 per session or $60 for both sessions. A limited number of kits are available, so registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
UT Martin has announced the building of a new engineering facility that will give students and local industry leaders the chance to work together.

The new facility is big enough to accommodate large projects like a small airplane, something that engineering seniors will actually be building for their capstone projects.

But the aim of the new facility isn't just to give students the space to finish engineering projects, but to give the area the opportunity for industry growth.

Bud Grimes, chief communication officer at UT Martin says the students being able to work side-by-side with local industry leaders will give students the chance for a job, and employers the chance to have a work ready employee.

"There are just opportunities here for these industries to basically preflight students in these projects and see them work and see what they can do," Grimes said. "They can have employment ready students when they come out of school."

According to recent statistics, 85-90% of UT Martin's engineering graduates stay in the West Tennessee region. Grimes says at the unveiling of the building, a graphic that was shown to local industry leaders made it clear how far they might have to go to get an engineering student that would be workforce ready by graduation.

"Nobody is preparing manufacturing engineers. The only program in the south is the University of Miami, it depends on how you define being in this region, but that's a long way off to potentially have to look somebody in manufacturing engineering ready to work."

UT Martin isn't only encouraging their students to interact with local industry leaders, but to be entrepreneurs, partnering with the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center and the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center to encourage students to start their own businesses in West Tennessee after graduation, a plan that could bring multiple new jobs to the region.
Final candidate speaks in UTM search

KATHERINE BURGESS
KBURGESS@JACKSONSUN.COM

Dr. Joseph “Jay” Morgan's grandfather wasn't a student at the University of Tennessee Martin.

Rather, he was a laborer on campus, doing construction projects.

"Much like my grandfather, he was a builder; I like to consider myself a builder," Morgan said. "I add one attribute to that in that I'm also an innovator."

Morgan, chief academic officer and vice president for academic affairs and student success with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, spoke and answered questions at a public forum Thursday.

It was the final forum for the four finalists in the search for the next UT Martin chancellor.

The other finalists are Dr. Keith Carver, executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee; Dr. Mary Holz-Clause, dean of the College of Agriculture at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California; and Dr. Jerald Woolfolk, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at the State University of New York at Oswego.

"My background is in academic success and academic excellence, and that's where I want to lead this campus," said Morgan, whose parents graduated from UT Martin.

Morgan grew up in Henry, Weakley and Carroll counties. He said he has family who have attended UT Martin, and he is both familiar and comfortable with the school.

He also said his experiences have shown him how to operate with a main campus and many satellite campuses.

"I understand that framework and model and have lived in it and been a leader in it," he said.

If he became chancellor, Morgan said he would seek to have enrollment up to 7,000 students by the fall of 2017, then up to 8,000 by 2020.

The school already is known for its academic excellence, he said, but its perception has been harmed by its academic probation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Addressing the accreditation issues, developing transfer agreements with community colleges, developing housing opportunities and drawing students from other states will all help to boost enrollment, Morgan said.

Morgan has served as chief academic officer and vice president for academic affairs and student success with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education since 2015. He previously spent almost 20 years in leadership roles at Murray State University in Kentucky, including serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs and as associate provost for graduate education and research.

Morgan is a trustee with the SACS Commission on Colleges. He stressed that he is familiar with the accreditation process and has been an accrediting visitor to other campuses.

He also led the accrediting process at his former institution.

Interim Chancellor Robert Smith, who was hired in April 2015, has done an excellent job of addressing the probation, Morgan said.

"I think the folks here have worked very hard in order to get those things cleaned up and moving forward," Morgan said.

Before beginning his career in higher education, he served as program director for the Agriculture Leadership Development Program in Kentucky for 10 years. Morgan earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agriculture science from Murray State and a doctorate in philosophy from Oklahoma State University.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathsburgess

See Search, Page 5A

Search

Continued from Page 3A
Growing up, I'd heard stories about where people were when Pearl Harbor was attacked or the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. They'd always describe it the same way, time stood still before shock, horror and, finally, grief set in.

I never really understood it until Sept. 11, 2001.

I was 20 years old, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and that day began like any other Tuesday. My first class was at 11:15 a.m. because I usually worked late on Mondays.

The phone rang just after 9 a.m. and my mother's voice woke me instantly.

"A plane just hit the World Trade Center," she said.

I was living off-campus, away from the services provided in the dorms, so I could only listen in horror as my mother described the scene in New York. While we were on the phone, a second plane hit the towers.

"America watched the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks unfold. (Photo: File/ASSOCIATED PRESS)"

I think I went into shock because I barely remember pulling on a pair of sweat pants and a t-shirt before I left the house.

It was beautiful outside. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, and I'll always remember that.

Once I got to campus, televisions were turned on in every corner with students, faculty and staff huddled around them. Some were crying. Others were trying to call home.

I stood with a group of about 50 people and watched for what felt like hours. No one spoke. No one made eye contact. We just stood there.

At one point, I was distracted. Class was about to start, so I went in and took my seat. Minutes later, the professor arrived, told us he couldn't teach and left. After an awkward silence, we left, too.

That day, I knew our country would never be the same. For so long, we thought nothing like that could happen in America. But it did, and it could happen again.

Every day, I kiss my husband and children goodbye, wave to them as they leave and pray for their safe return.

For many, the kisses and hugs they shared on 9/11 were their last, and it breaks my heart. We must never forget that day, not only for victims, but also for their survivors, who live each day with memories I can't even begin to imagine, much less comprehend.
A grand-opening ceremony and ribbon cutting for the new academic classroom space and football press box facility at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Hardy M. Graham Stadium is set for Saturday.

**UTM invites public to grand opening of new academic space, press box**

A grand-opening ceremony and ribbon cutting for the new academic classroom space and football press box facility at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Hardy M. Graham Stadium is set for 11:30 a.m. Saturday inside the new building. Refreshments will follow until 12:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The new four-story structure provides a major upgrade to Graham Stadium and a significant addition to the university's skyline. The ground level will house a renovated visiting team locker room, referee locker room, concession stand and other game-management space.

The second level will provide academic space for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and also serve as an academic support area.

The third floor houses the club level, which will provide a unique perspective of the game in a climate-controlled space.

The top floor houses a state-of-the-art facility for media, coaching staffs and game-management officials.

Kickoff for the UT Martin and Bacone College football game will follow at 2 p.m., which is the opening home contest for the Skyhawks in the 2016 season.
The UT Martin World Percussion Ensemble with present its Roots of Rhythm musical performance at DSCC on Sept. 19.

**UT Martin’s World Percussion Ensemble’s Roots of Rhythm Tour to make stop at DSCC**

Special to the State Gazette

The University of Tennessee at Martin World Percussion Ensemble is scheduled to present its award-winning Roots of Rhythm performance Monday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m., inside the E.H. Lannom Jr. Gymnasium on the Dyersburg State Community College Dyersburg campus. The free event is open to the community and is sponsored by the DSCC International Education Program.

The Ensemble’s Roots of Rhythm musical performances encourage cultural diversity within the greater West and Middle Tennessee community. It incorporates history, geography and music through a multi-sensory performance that allows the exploration of other cultures through music. Steel Drums and Tamboo Bamboo instruments from Trinidad, Shona Marimbas from Zimbabwe, Traditional Dundun Drums from Guinea, Brazilian Samba instruments and much more are used throughout the exciting performance. Audience members will be able to interact during the concert by listening, participating, observing and visualizing the differing societies and their cultures in Africa, Cuba, Brazil, the United States, and the Caribbean.

The Ensemble recently won the Percussive Arts Society’s International World Percussion Competition in the university showcase category for the first time in UT Martin’s history.

For more information regarding this event, contact Dr. Emily Pope, at 731-286-3210 or pope@dscc.edu. For additional information on the UT Martin Percussion Ensemble or the Percussive Arts Society, contact Dr. Julie Hill at 731-881-7418 or email jhills@utm.edu.
Reflections on my first festival

A hill of soybeans

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

This was my first Bean.

We call it the Bean at the Press because everything happens too fast to keep pronouncing the eight syllables of Tennessee Soybean Festival.

No matter what you call it, it's not like anything else I've ever experienced.

My first shock was when we started meeting about the Bean Book, otherwise known as the program. The list of proposed events was overwhelming, especially considering it was mainly up to Beth Cravens to put it together and design all the ads, while it was my job to come up with all the words, as we say.

Since I still had to get two issues of the Weakley County Press out each week, I knew I would need help with the words of the Bean Book.

So I started calling on all our stringers. Without Ashley Benson, Benita Evans and Sarah Skelton Stewart, we would never have gotten that Bean Book together.

I have no idea how Beth and Lynette Calhoun Wagster did all the rest.

All the event coordinators were so helpful, too, sending us their rules, their times and places, photos and so much more. I sometimes felt like I had moved into Executive Director David Belote's office, at least by phone and email, as well as Steve Vowell's.

But enough about the book.

When the festival arrived, the festivities came crashing down.

SEE FIRST BEAN,
PAGE 5
The Plain White T’s performance sponsored by the UTM Student Activities Council was a sellout at Festival Park on Thursday night.

**FIRST BEAN, From Page 1**

Again, the Press stringers came through.

If you don’t feel like you experienced every event, you haven’t been on our Facebook page enough. Award-quality photos are still being posted.

Christel Thompson Laney and Brad Copley managed to bypass the Crisis of the Bean Book, but they were warriors when the festival arrived.

So here’s what I learned at my first Bean.

No one human being can go to every event that’s offered, and only the youngest and most energetic can cover every event they want to see. I’m still sorry I missed the Panfilov Dog Show and the pet show at Weakly County Animal Clinic.

The first event I attended was the truck and tractor pull, and I only wish I could have stayed longer. It was a real powerhouse and ridiculous fun on a lovely summer evening.

One event I experienced entirely by accident.

Having covered parades in my former hometown for 10 years, and two more parades in my short tenure here in Martin, I was thrilled to find out two stringers would be at the festival parade. I went home to my house on Church Street to watch NCIS and prepare to get out another issue of the Press. I know you can imagine what happened next.

My house sits only about 10 or 12 feet from Church Street. I have a huge picture window in the living room and two dogs who monitor that window diligently.

About 7:15 p.m. my German Shepherd, Shelby, started her alarm bark. It’s so loud you can’t hear the television, so I looked up to see a bright red fire engine completely filling my picture window. I knew at that moment I wasn’t going to hear another word Mark Harmon said.

Fire trucks (mercifully silencing their sirens) were followed by tractors, trailers and floats full of people waving in my windows at my barking dogs. Then there were four-wheelers and dune buggies and aimless walkers.

It reminded me of evenings after the Christmas parade in LaFollette, Tenn., when my route home was full of cantering horses, huge floats and angels and elves floating through the trees on the back street, everyone trying to return to the parade starting point.

Once Santa found himself thumbing a ride and having trouble getting anyone to stop for him.

So last Tuesday night, Shelby had finally started to calm down until the motorcycles arrived. She was sure they were invading aliens and began throwing herself at the window again. Little Elvis, my terrier, chimed in ferociously.

Traffic began to slow and I was trying to catch the conclusion of my TV show. It was dusk when the horses galloped down Church Street escorted by a Martin Police Department cruiser with blue lights at full crank.

It’s a good thing NCIS was a rerun. Otherwise I’d have no idea how it ended. But the retroparade was much more fun.

So, in my own way, I attended the festival parade.

The street fair was next, and hard to miss when your office is on that very street.

It started out rather slowly, with some Air Force recruiters and the local Republican party, but by Friday it was pretty exciting.

I had been told by experts to look for the church ladies and their fried pies, and I was whining about their late arrival.

Friday morning one of my stringers brought me two fried pies from the Martin Elementary School booth, and after I gobbled the first one down, I trotted down the street to buy more for the friends who were coming to visit me the next day. It took great willpower to save the rest for Sunday morning breakfast.

Friday was also the day Lynette and I discovered that Cowtown U.S.A. was parked right behind the Press, and availed ourselves of pet therapy several times that day. But more on that later in another edition of the Press.

Along with the stringers, Lynette was everywhere.

Saturday afternoon my friends arrived and we moseyed down the street, arriving at Festival Park just as the first notes of “Lucretia McEvil” erupted. It was a powerhouse show from there until the climax of Three Dog Night’s “Joy to the World.”

(You probably call it “Jeremiah was a bullfrog.”)

I went up to the mosh pit several times to get photos while there was still some sunlight, and videos after that. Every time I got mesmerized and stayed too long, according to my arthritic hip. But it took me on a long trip all the way back to seventh grade and I couldn’t miss that moment.

The young and the old, the dancers and the disabled all gathered at the feet of these venerable rock stars.

I don’t know what next year’s Bean will hold for me. But I guarantee we’ll have plenty of pictures for the Bean Book.
Tennessee Soybean Festival

Talent Show Winners

FESTIVAL STARS — Contestants from throughout the West Tennessee region competed in the Talent Contest held last Monday at the Tennessee Soybean Festival. The contest was sponsored by the Westview Key Club and WCMT radio. Pictured are (clockwise, from upper left) Otis Morris, Memphis, second place, age 5-8; Brenna Wilkins, Union City, grand prize; Elise Nanney, Martin, second, age 9-12; Trey Jackson, South Fulton, first place, 5-8; Sarah K. Hedgepath, Fulton, second place, age 13-21; Melissa Jackson, first place, age 22 and over; Ashley Deters, third runner-up, 13-21; Yvee Garcia, UTM, first runner-up, 13-21; Kyler Penick, Martin, first place, 9-12; and the Liberty Trio, second place, age 22 and over.
AND THE BEAN GOES ON — Entertainment last weekend ranged from (upper left) classic rock group Three Dog Night to close Saturday night to (upper right) Grammy award-winning country artist Vince Gill, who performed Friday night, to (left) classic rock band Blood Sweat & Tears, opening act on Saturday.

Photos by Christel Laney
BEST COSTUME — Peanut, owned by Terry and Cheryl Harrington, won first place in Saturday's dog show for his Waldo costume.

Photo by Sarah Stewart

PRAISING GOD — Faith and Community Night on Wednesday featured Travis Cottrell and the local community choir.

Photo by Ashley Benson
UT Martin hosts Grand Ole Opry exhibit

UT Martin is hosting a Grand Ole Opry exhibit through October.

The J. Houston Gordon Museum at the university library houses the display. The Grand Ole Opry traveling exhibition features photographs of Johnny Cash and other country artists.

The exhibit will run now on weekdays until October 14, and is free to the public.

UT Martin announces fall enrollment numbers

Just over 6,700 students are enrolled this fall at the UT Martin main campus and its five centers.

University Relations Director Bud Grimes says enrollment is down slightly from last year, but this year’s incoming freshman class has the highest ACT composite score in school history with just above a 23 average. The freshman class also holds an average high school GPA of 3.53, up from 3.48 a year ago.

Enrollment numbers for fall 2017 are expected to rise as more community college students are expected to transfer.
Joy To The World! Three Dog Night Closes Soybean Festival Concert Series

SOYBEAN FESTIVAL CONCERT - Three Dog Night performs on Saturday night at the Tennessee Soybean Festival in Martin. The rock 'n roll legends, best known for hits such as "Joy To The World", "Mama Told Me Not To Come", "Liar," "An Old Fashioned Love Song", "Black and White" and "The Show Must Go On", closed out the annual festival with their hour and a half set at Festival Park.

TRENTON GAZETTE

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

UT Martin sets Fall Preview Days

UT Martin Fall Preview Days will be held September 24, October 29, and November 12. Check in begins each day at 9 a.m. For more info, call 731-881-7020.
Local Students Discover the Magic of UT Martin Somerville

As the UT Martin Somerville Center continues to flourish and recruit local students, a number of success stories are emerging. This fall, two hard-working, industrious young ladies are well on their way of realizing their visions for the future, as they have found a way to overcome obstacles and continue their educational pursuits.

Courtney Wilburn, a 2016 graduate of Fayette Academy, has been admitted into the UT Martin Somerville degree program and plans to major in Early Childhood Education. Courtney said, "I feel so fortunate to be able to take advantage of having Martin right here in my hometown. It has given me the opportunity to keep my college cost to a minimum. I want to thank all who have worked so hard to get Martin to come here."

Ashley Guy, a 2003 graduate of Whitehaven High School, is pursuing a degree in Education at the local center as well. Ashley stated, "Sometimes you have to restart, it doesn't mean that you gave up." Ashley first began college at the University of Memphis in 2003, "but life happens," she said, "and now I have the opportunity to return and finish what I started at UT Martin Somerville."

Local citizens are discovering the magic of having a local college with a Director that is on call after normal business hours, guiding local students through the enrollment process. If you are interested in continuing your higher educational pursuits in your own backyard, you should call Kara Tapp, the UT Martin Somerville Center Director, at 901-465-7313 or stop by her office at the Somerville City Hall.

Grand opening for UTM football stadium on Saturday

A grand opening ceremony for the new press box facility at UT Martin's Hardy Graham stadium will be this Saturday morning at 11:30. The new four-story building gives Graham stadium a major upgrade. The ground floor features a visiting locker room and concession stand, while the second level offers academic space.

The third floor contains club level seating and the Chancellor's Box. The top floor is a state-of-the-art facility for media and coaching staff.

The ceremony, which is free and open to the public, is followed by a 2:00 kickoff of UT Martin's home opener against Bacone College.
Ceremony scheduled at UTM

A grand opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting for the new academic classroom space and football press box facility at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Hardy M. Graham Stadium is set for 11:30 a.m. Saturday inside the new building.

Refreshments will be served afterward until 12:30 p.m. The public is invited.

The new four-story structure provides a major upgrade to Graham Stadium and a significant addition to the university's skyline. The ground level will house a renovated visiting team locker room, referee locker room, concession stand and other game-management space. A lobby area and elevator access are also located on this level.

The second level will provide academic space for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and also serve as an academic support area.

The third floor houses the club level, which will provide a unique perspective of the game in a climate-controlled space. This level also includes the Chancellor’s Box for entertaining game-day guests.

The top floor houses a state-of-the-art facility for media, coaching staffs and game-management officials. The working media area will seat up to 25, which more than doubles the former press box’s capacity.

Kickoff for the UT Martin and Bacone College football game will follow at 2 p.m. This is the opening home contest for the Skyhawks in the 2016 season. Bacone College is a member of the Central States Football League and is located in Muskogee, Okla.

The stadium project was completed by Allen Searcy Builder-Contractor Inc. of Union City.

Innovation facility proposed at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin plans to add a new facility in the coming years to create workspace where local industry leaders can partner with students and faculty to develop and test new products and ideas.

The university unveiled plans for the facility during a recent breakfast event for local industry representatives in the Boling University Center.

“West Tennessee is not experiencing the resurgence of economy that is happening in Middle Tennessee and some parts of East Tennessee,” said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. “If we’re going to do anything, we’re going to have to do it ourselves. We are absolutely prepared to do that. If we can capitalize on the partnerships and opportunities (in this area), then great things can happen.”

The proposed facility, large enough to accommodate an 18-wheeler, will provide space for local industry representatives to construct new concepts, develop and test new ideas and improve upon existing products.

This not only gives UT Martin students and faculty an opportunity to assist with product development, it also gives local industries a chance to evaluate soon-to-be graduates and hire highly qualified students straight off the commencement stage.

The idea for this facility was originally presented by students, highlighting the need for hands-on experience as part of UT Martin’s degree programs. Students in the engineering programs are required to participate in team competition projects such as designing and constructing an airplane, bridge, Baja car or concrete canoe. The new facility will provide space for full-size construction of these projects.

The facility will also create partnerships with the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center and the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center. Both the REED Center and NTEC will have a physical presence in the building to help local entrepreneurs who wish to use the space.

“Sometimes they want to be their own boss, so we can bring in curriculum to help them prepare for creating their own venture, their own company,” said Carol Reed, NTEC executive director. “Entrepreneurship is a process very similar to manufacturing. It is working with a raw product, a raw idea, and working with components to make it into a viable business. ... If we can create 20-30 new companies that each hire 20 to 30 employees, think of the impact on West Tennessee.”

These additional resources will also benefit UT Martin students who wish to become business-owners. According to recent statistics, 85-90 percent of graduates from the UT Martin engineering program begin their careers in West Tennessee. The creation of new facilities for these graduates not only increases the value of the UT Martin program, but also puts highly trained employees into the regional workforce.

For more information on the facility, contact University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
ACT prep course slated

An ACT prep course for high school students will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from Sept. 24 to Oct. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Instructor Ron Ramage will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science. Students will use "The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition" and should bring the book to the first class meeting.

The registration fee is $95 per person, plus the cost of the textbook, which may be purchased online at Amazon.com.

To register, contact the Office of Educational Outreach at (731) 881-7082.

At the college level

The Educational & Memorial Foundation of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants recently awarded scholarships to nine West Tennessee area residents for the 2016-17 academic year.

The recipient are University of Tennessee at Martin students Jessica Davis, Emily McCartney, Robert Terrell and Carrie Turner.

UTM offers ACT Prep

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m. to noon, Sept. 24, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center.

Alex Beene, course instructor, will prepare students for the test by working through each section and teaching test management. He will also address the most commonly missed questions and give advice on how to answer them correctly.

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

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

UTM Ensemble will visit Halls Elementary on tour

The University of Tennessee at Martin's World Percussion Ensemble will present their Roots of Rhythm tour to local schools Sept. 19-20. The ensemble will perform at Halls Elementary School on Sept. 20.

The Roots of Rhythm tour will visit Southwest Calloway and East Calloway elementary schools in Calloway County, Ky., and the international program at Dyersburg State Community College in Dyer County on Sept. 19. The ensemble will then perform at Halls Elementary School and Trimble Elementary School in Dyer County on Sept. 20.

The Roots of Rhythm program combines history, geography and music to illustrate the transformation of musical styles around the world. Music from Africa, Cuba, Brazil, the United States and the Caribbean is used to show audience members how different societies formed and interacted through music.

Roots of Rhythm partners with the Tennessee Arts Commission to focus on a complete and balanced education for the children and youth of Tennessee. The UT Martin World Percussion Ensemble's mission is to encourage cultural diversity both on the UT Martin campus and in the West and Middle Tennessee community.

For more information or to book a tour, contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Music, at 731-881-7418 or email jhill@utm.edu.
UT Martin announces Fall Enrollment, National Rankings

The University of Tennessee at Martin has 6,705 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled for fall semester 2016 in final numbers announced Sept. 13. This total includes students on the main campus as well as online students and those attending on the university’s five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Total enrollment is down 1.8 percent (122 students) and total out-of-state enrollment increasing 15 percent. Out-of-state numbers do not include international students.

Enrollment numbers are expected to rise for fall 2017 as Tennessee Promise students complete their first two years at local community colleges and transfer to finish their degrees at four-year universities.

The university has also continued as a top university according to both U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked UT Martin 16th among public, southern universities in its 2017 list of the “Best Regional Universities” in the South. UT Martin is tied for this position with Marshall University in West Virginia and Radford University in Virginia, and is in a five-way tie for 47th-place overall. This is up from the 2016 ranking in which UT Martin tied at number 19 among public southern universities and number 50 overall. The rankings also place UT Martin in a tie for number 11 among the best public, southern universities for veterans this year (29th overall). UT Martin did not appear on this list in 2016.

The Princeton Review included UT Martin in its “Best of the Southeast” list for the 14th consecutive year.

The USA Today 2017 College Rankings released this month list UT Martin 10th in the state in the category “Best Colleges for the Money – Undergraduates with no Aid.” The university is also listed in the top fifth percentile for the categories “Agriculture, General: Most Popular” (3 of 83 universities ranked) and “Agriculture, General: Most Focused” (1 of 83).

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
ACT Prep Course Offered At UTM

High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m. until noon, September 24th, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center.

Alex Beene, course instructor, will prepare students for the test by working through each section and teaching time management. He will also address the most commonly missed questions and give advice on how to answer them correctly.

Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students since 2013 who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships. Those who participate in his courses increase their test scores by an average of 3.4 points.

For more information, call 731-881-7082.

World Percussion Ensemble Events

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s World Percussion Ensemble will present their Roots of Rhythm tour to local schools September 19th through September 20th.

The Roots of Rhythm tour will visit the international program at Dyersburg State Community College in Dyer County September 19th and then perform at Halls Elementary School and Trimble Elementary School in Dyer County September 20th.

The program combines history, geography and music to illustrate the transformation of musical styles around the world. Music from Africa, Cuba, Brazil, the United States and the Caribbean is used to show audience members how different societies formed and interacted through music.

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For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Music, at 731-881-7418.
Smith upbeat about future

UTM interim chancellor points to job placement

DAVID THOMAS
dgthomas@jacksonsun.com

Robert Smith may be at the University of Tennessee at Martin on an interim basis as chancellor, but it's obvious the school is getting a maximum effort.

Appointed to the position June 1, Smith discussed the "Impact of the University of Tennessee at Martin to West Tennessee's Future," when the Jackson Rotary Club met Wednesday at First United Methodist Church.

"UTM has the highest graduation rate of any university in West Tennessee, and the third highest in the state," Smith said. "Ninety-five percent of UTM graduates are currently employed or participating in advanced programs."

Smith said the economic impact of UTM brings at least $481.1 million in income annually to West Tennessee, and supports more than 8,074 jobs in the region.

"For the analysis year (2014-15), the Tennessee economic base will grow by $1.9 billion over the course of those students' working lives," Smith said. "Altogether, total benefits equal $2.2 billion, in present value terms."

But Smith was quick to point out that the state of Tennessee enjoys a 4.1 percent unemployment rate — those numbers have yet to cross the Tennessee River — and Madison County's 5.3 percent unemployment rate represents the lowest of any county in West Tennessee.

"We deliver high performing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workers to the West Tennessee labor force," Smith said. "More than 90 percent of our students are enrolled in chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics are from West Tennessee."

Smith said 85-90 percent of engineering graduates begin their careers in West Tennessee, and in the last three years, 38 percent of UTM graduates were accepted into medical school, 72 percent into pharmacy school and 37 percent continued their education in physical therapy.

On campus, Smith said the economic opportunity of a new engineering and science building will produce an overall economic impact of $56.3 million in added income and the creation of 901 jobs.

"Graduates will create $737,300 in annual added income, equivalent of creating 15 new jobs year after year after year," Smith said. "West Tennessee will gain from the services and operations of the building $1.6 million in added income annually, equivalent to creating 27 new jobs every year after year."

There's also a proposal for the Innovation and Product Realization Facility — better known as The Garage — which is comparable to the CO in Jackson.

Smith said The Garage will be a community workspace to foster innovation and collaboration through cross-disciplinary opportunities with industry and the university.

"A place where regional businesses can come to develop and test their next best idea," Smith said. "A laboratory where students and faculty can develop prototype solutions to regional industry, agricultural and business needs."

Smith, former dean of the UTM College of Arts and Sciences and co-creator and former executive director of the UTM-affiliated WestStar Leadership Program, is scheduled to leave his interim position Jan. 1, 2017.

"He placed a lot of emphasis on integrity, and to have a man of his stature to agree to return is a powerful statement," Dr. Ron Kirkland said. "We're in good shape and will continue to move forward in a positive way."

A graduate of UTM and longtime supporter of the school, Kirkland works with students at the university.

"I'm helping develop a program to improve students' to be accepted into professional schools — medicine, dentistry and optometry," Kirkland said. "We're preparing students with their test preparation and provide shadowing opportunities in the students' professional field of choice."

Reach David Thomas at (731) 425-9637. Follow him on Twitter: @dgthomasbiz
ENROLLMENT DROPS SLIGHTLY - Fall enrollment at the University of Tennessee at Martin dropped 1.8 percent, but its ranking for quality climbed in national studies and appeared for the first time in the top 20 of public, southern universities for veterans. Students are shown outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building on the main campus of UTM.

UTM announces fall enrollment figures

The University of Tennessee at Martin has 6,705 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled for fall semester 2016 in final numbers announced Sept. 13. This total includes students on the main campus as well as online students and those attending on the university’s five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Total enrollment is down 1.8 percent (122 students) from the fall 2015 headcount of 6,827 students, and there are 77 fewer first-time freshmen registered. However, this incoming freshman class boasts the highest average ACT composite score of any previous freshman class with an average of 23.01, up from 22.7 in 2015. The freshman class also holds an average high school grade point average of 3.53, up from 3.48 last year.

The number of enrolled graduate students increased by 8.7 percent (34 students) and transfer students increased by 4.3 percent (19 students). The largest jump occurred in the dual enrollment area, with a total of 604 high school students earning college credit from UT Martin. This is a 77.6 percent increase over the 340 students participating in fall 2015. The number of out-of-state students attending UT Martin has also increased.

UTM, From Page 1

increased this year, with out-of-state freshmen increasing 38 percent (22 students) and total out-of-state enrollment increasing 15 percent. Out-of-state numbers do not include international students.

Enrollment numbers are expected to rise for fall 2017 as Tennessee Promise students complete their first two years at local community colleges and transfer to finish their degrees at four-year universities.

The university has also continued as a top university according to both U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review.

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For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Benefit honors ‘Cowboy on Wheels’

By JEAN LITTLE
Special to the Press

The annual kick-off for the UTM Rodeo Winter Series of events has special meaning this year to those who know and love David Pruitt, long-time UTM Rodeo Team supporter and former member. The kick-off will be held this Friday and Saturday at the UTM Ag Pavilion and according to Katie White, UTM Rodeo Booster Club President, the club voted unanimously to dedicate the day and profits from the Saturday events to Pruitt in order to assist with medical bills.

Pruitt, who was a UTM Rodeo Team member in the late 1980s and early ’90s and was inducted into the UTM Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2010, has been in a wheelchair ever since a horse-training accident that occurred during a team practice in 1992, but recently has suffered severe complications due to breaking his left leg.

For most of his life, Pruitt has been on the giving side of fundraising. Not only has Pruitt worked tirelessly as a UTM Rodeo Booster Club member, past president, archivist, historian, and public relations officer to raise money and awareness for the team he loves, but he has also donated his skills as a state-licensed auctioneer and experienced rodeo announcer to raise money for others. He has contributed his skills to a variety of organizations and events such as Future Farmers of America (FFA), charity rodeos, church socials, and most notably, the Country Music Fan Fair Celebrity Auction that took place in Nashville for many years, but there are lesser-known stories of giving when it comes to Pruitt.

Martha Freeman, a retired Martin Primary schoolteacher, recalls having a kindergarten student in 1994 who wanted to be a cowboy, but suffered from spinal bifida and was restricted to a wheelchair. This was only two years after Pruitt’s accident that put him in a wheelchair, but Pruitt went to the school and met with the little boy and talked to him about “cowboying.” Pruitt, also a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity during his time at UTM, contacted the fraternity and worked with them to provide a special Christmas for...
COWBOY,  
From Page 1  
the young boy. There just happened to be a cowboy hat under the Christmas tree that year just the right size for that little boy.  
"If you needed a shirt, he would give you the shirt off his back, then organize a fundraiser so that you could buy any shirt you wanted!" said Freeman.  
Pruitt, not one to complain about his condition, has never expected anyone to treat him differently. "He exemplifies the cowboy way; he never complains, doesn't want anything from anyone, does things on his own, and just wants to be of service to others," according to Gerry Jones, a long-time friend of Pruitt's and past president of the UTM Rodeo Booster club. "Whether on a horse or on wheels, nobody can take away the fact that he is a cowboy."  
The Martin rodeo community considers him an integral part of the heritage and history and, according to UTM Rodeo Coach Luthi, "a great asset to the team and booster club because of his impressive attitude."  
Although Pruitt is known by many people and for his many creative talents, he is better known for his loyalty to his friends, his love of rodeo and horses, his cowboy can-do attitude, his disarming humor, and his crooked mischievous grin. Nelson Davis, another long-time friend and UTM Rodeo team athletic trainer, said it best.  
"He has done so much for others without ever expecting anything in return, which is why we all want to give something back. Hell, he doesn't just support the rodeo team, he is the rodeo team," he said.  
Donations can be made directly to Friends of David Pruitt Account, C/O Citizens Bank in Martin, TN or call Amanda Freeman at 731-819-3384 or David Vowell at 731-431-6556.  

Students are encouraged to register for ACT course  
High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for an ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Sept. 24-Oct. 15, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.  
Ron Ramage, course instructor, will conduct four sessions focusing on English, math, reading and science. Students will use "The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition" and should bring the book to the first class meeting.  
The registration fee for this course is $95 per person plus the cost of the textbook, which can be purchased on Amazon.com.  
For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Rodeo team launches new season

The UTM Rodeo Team Meet & Greet Supper was held Monday at the UTM Ag Pavilion. This annual event serves as a way of introducing the rodeo team members, especially the freshmen, to the UTM Rodeo Booster Club and UTM Rodeo support staff.

The event’s meal is usually provided by the Booster Club members, but this year the family of Coy Lutz, UTM Freshman Rodeo team member who was fatally injured during a rodeo event last season, was in attendance and graciously provided the meal and spoke briefly to thank the UTM rodeo community for the support showed to their family during the passing of their son.

"You are now a Skyhawk Rodeo Team member, so look around this room and know that the people you see are here for you and want to help you be successful, both in and out of the arena," said Katie White, Booster Club President. She spoke to the team on the importance of community and utilizing the support system provided.

In closing, Nelson Davis, athletic trainer for the team, added that UTM rodeo has a proud heritage and history and each year it’s their job to keep it going. Being part of the UTM rodeo team isn’t just being part of a team, he told them, it’s being part of a tradition.
Program Independently Accredited — The Tennessee Intensive English Program, housed at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has earned independent accreditation from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation. CEA is recognized by the United States Secretary of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for English language programs and institutions in the U.S. Pictured are (back row, from left) Meghan Lupole, TIEP faculty; Ryan Diffee, assistant director, Office of International Programs and International Admissions; and Phil Taylor, TIEP faculty; (middle row) Caroline Ideus, TIEP faculty; Dixie Timmons, administrative support assistant; Ken Fackler; Tom Johnson and Kavitha Nambisan, all TIEP faculty members; Dr. Ross Dickens, dean, UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs; Dr. Malcolm Koch, executive director, Center for International Education; (front row) Nelda Rachels, TIEP faculty; Amy Fenning, director, Office of International Programs and International Admissions; Stephanie Butler, student services specialist; and Lynn Patterson, TIEP faculty coordinator and instructor. For more information about the Tennessee Intensive English Program, contact the UT Martin Office of International Programs and International Admissions at 731-881-7340.

STEM camp registration is offered on UT Martin campus

Parents of students in grades five through eight can register their children for a STEMulation camp offered from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19 and Dec. 10, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students can choose one session or attend all four.

The STEMulation camp, sponsored by Northwest Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub, gives students the opportunity to work through a series of hands-on STEM-based activities both individually and in teams. All activities are aligned with National Science Teacher Association’s academic standards and include egg drop vehicle construction, T-Bot II hydraulic arm, mousetrap vehicle construction, EZ Build dragsters and LabQuest activities.

The registration fee for this camp is $25 per session or $90 for all four dates.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.
Greenway extension closer to completion

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

Officials with the City of Martin hope they are close to reaching an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad to extend the Brian Brown Greenway to Lindell Street.

Mayor Randy Brundige said the city has been trying to buy the property from the railroad for over 10 years, but “we keep having to redraw documents.”

The greenway, which begins near the corner of University and Skyhawk Parkway, now ends at Carter Street. It was named in honor of a UTM professor who was struck and killed while riding his bicycle on the 45E bypass.

Before his death he had envisioned a greenway that would provide a safe recreational trail for area residents. After his death, individuals and groups united to realize Brown’s dream.

“It’s frustrating to be strung out this long,” said Alderman David Belote. “It hurts because there’s a lot here. There is a family that has been strung out for years. It doesn’t seem right; it doesn’t seem fair.”

“Everything is exceedingly frustrating,” he went on. “My comments won’t make a dent in the railroad, in their thinking, but as a community we need to know, they need to know. And they need to be told again. We are struggling to get this thing done and they are not helping us.”

“If it was left up to the city, it would have been done already,” Brundige said.

The area is designed for use by walkers, joggers and cyclists, and follows the right-of-way for the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad which was bought by Norfolk Southern. The tracks, which continued eastward across the state, are no longer in use and most trackage has been taken up in the Martin area.

At Monday night’s meeting the board also discussed a new grant that has been approved to upgrade University Street in the crosswalk area on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The grant will allow the city to upgrade sidewalks and install better lighting, as well as new crosswalk devices with audible signals for the blind or visually impaired.

The board also discussed the creation of a third fire station on property near Rural King.

Grand Ole Opry comes to UTM

The Grand Ole Opry traveling exhibition is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays, now through Oct. 14, at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum, located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The Grand Ole Opry exhibit consists of 30 black-and-white images by commercial photographer Gordon Gillingham and offers visitors a rare glimpse inside the Nashville-based radio show that brought country music to the masses. Gillingham’s photographs include Johnny Cash signing autographs backstage, artists rehearsing for the Grand Ole Opry television show and crowds of fans gathering outside the Opry auditorium.

The Grand Old Opry began broadcasting in 1925 on WSM radio station, run by the National Life and Accident Insurance Company. Since then, it has become an American institution and the longest-running radio show in the country. Today, the Opry showcases country music’s longstanding legends, including Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash and Dolly Parton, as well as contemporary artists such as Carrie Underwood and Blake Shelton. The Opry stage presents multiple concerts each week and draws thousands of music-lovers each year.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Parking permits for visitors are available at no cost from the Paul Meek Library Circulation desk staff.

For more information, contact the J. Houston Gordon Museum at 731-881-7464.

UT-Martin offering reading clinic

Every student has different reading abilities, and some need more assistance than can be provided during a normal school day.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade level reading standards.

Students can enroll in one of two remaining sessions this fall: Sept. 22-Oct. 31 or Nov. 1-30. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 per session (not per meeting), plus $25 for a required workbook.

Students are individually tested to determine specific needs in phonics and reading comprehension before being placed into a course of study designed to fill gaps in their skills and strategies. All lessons are taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center.

Contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 881-7082 to schedule a testing appointment.
City of Martin and UT Martin get USDA money

Posted on September 16, 2016 by Steve James in Local News

USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode joined City of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige in announcing a $10 million USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant that will be used to build new facilities in Martin.

The loan will be used to construct a 16,175 square foot facility to house the new Martin Police Headquarters on north Lindell Street across from Thunderbolt Broadcasting and city court services. A portion of this building will be built to FEMA specifications to become a community safe room. A 30,000 square foot, two story building will also be constructed to house a new library as well as serve as a community meeting and education space.

Meanwhile USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode along with Interim Chancellor Bob Smith also announced three funding awards for the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM). The university will receive a total grant amount of $130,000.

“The three funding awards presented today illustrate the impact that UTM has on West Tennessee,” Goode said. “These awards will provide the funds necessary to assist the university in creating a stronger rural economy for the areas they serve.”

As a recipient of Rural Business Development Grants totaling $30,000, UTM will use $10,000 of RD funds to conduct an economic impact analysis that will be used to determine the impact the university has on the rural regions of West Tennessee. The study will focus on the specific economic impact in Weakley County. $20,000 of the grant will be used to conduct leadership and entrepreneur training for the WestStar Leadership Program.

This program serves all 21 counties in West Tennessee, many of which are poverty stricken and have high unemployment, and provides participants with new leadership skills and strategies for assisting their communities in problem solving and creating economic opportunities.

Lastly, UTM will receive a $100,000 Community Facilities Direct Grant to provide the requisite supplies and equipment necessary for the commercial culinary program. This will include catering and food lab space for the UT Martin Hospitality and Food Service Management curriculum.
Weststar Leadership Program now accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the UTM WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2017. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 768 graduates in its 27-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing issues important to W. Tennessee's development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 13 with an opening one-day retreat, and ends June 30, 2017, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage, and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved, help W. Tennessee become a better place, and accept assertive leadership roles. Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, help shape the region's future.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/departments/weststar/. The application deadline is Oct. 14. Anyone can apply to participate in the program - nominations are accepted but not required.

UTM offers photography course

Community members interested in digital photography are encouraged to register for an introductory course offered from 6-9 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 19-Oct. 10, at the UTM Parsons Center, or Tuesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 11, at the Robert E. Lee Academy for the Arts in Paris.

The course is designed to cover camera features and functions, exposure, compositional principles, light and composition, and exercises in lighting, portrait, action, and close-up shots.

Roger Hughes will instruct the course. Hughes is a retired special agent with the TBI and has spent years photographing major crime scenes. He began studying fine art imaging at UT Knoxville and the Rocky Mountain School of Photography under the mentorship of three acclaimed wildlife and nature photographers. Samples of his work may be viewed at www.nwtpc.org.

The registration fee for this course is $125 per person. Students are required to bring their personal camera, operations manual, and tripod. Print and email handouts will be available. Email and class evaluations of student images will also be utilized.

For more information or to register, contact the UTM Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

UTM's Fall Preview is Sept. 24

UTM encourages high school students to visit the main campus during one of three Fall Preview Days. Students can attend on Sept. 24, Oct. 29, or Nov. 12.

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

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

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

SET TO OPEN - The new football press box facility at UTM's Hardy M. Graham Stadium will open at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 17. Refreshments will follow until 12:30 p.m., and UTM's first home football game will kickoff at 2 p.m.
UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Bob Smith said he believes the University has addressed all the questions raised regarding the University meeting the accreditation requirements.

Chancellor Smith said he awaits the final review process of the 196 page, 50 thousand word document and 1,100 support documents with an additional 7 thousand pages.

The reports and supporting documentation were mailed to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges visiting committee members. That committee determines the accreditation of the University.

A team will be on campus the first week of October to interview faculty and staff, discuss the report, and write a recommendation concerning the probationary status.

Dr. Smith said he expects to receive the final decision on accreditation the first of December and believes the University will be in good standing after the committee meets.

Area colleges ranked by national magazine

U.S. News & World Report releases annual rankings

KATHERINE BURGESS
KBURGESS@JACKSONSUN.COM

U.S. News & World Report has released its 2017 Best Colleges Rankings, with local colleges receiving both national and regional recognition.

Union University tied for 169th place in national universities, tied 97th for engineering programs with no doctorate, tied 446th for business programs and tied 267th for high school counselor rankings.

Lane College also tied for its ranking as 56th in regional colleges in the South.

The University of Tennessee at Martin tied for 47th in regional universities in the South, tied 29th in best colleges for veterans, tied 16th in top public schools, tied 131st in engineering programs with no doctorate and tied 326rd in business programs.

Freed-Hardeman University ranked 14th in best value schools and tied for 43rd in regional universities in the South.

Bethel University's rankings were not published.

The University of Memphis, which has a campus in Jackson at Lambuth, tied for 247th place in high school counselor rankings, tied 133rd in business programs and tied 170th in engineering programs.

Its placement in national universities was not ranked.

Descriptions of the categories and how U.S. News ranks colleges and universities can be found at www.usnews.com/education.

The website also includes information about the cost, mission, size and history of the school. Potential students can read about class size, student to faculty ratio and campus safety data.

Reach Katherine at (731) 425-9748. Follow her on Twitter: @kathsburgess
Hardy Graham unveils new press box

By JOSH LEMONS
Sports Editor

Chris Brinkley, voice of the Skyhawks, spends a lot of time on the road, calling football and basketball games for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

When his GPS fails him on his way to road venues, he said he often looks to the skyline to find the venue in an unfamiliar town.

As Brinkley stood in front of a crowd of around 50 that included the Martin and Weakley County mayors, local dignitaries, donors and supporters of UT Martin athletics, he looked up at the four-story, 75-foot newly-renovated press box facility at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Visible from the intersection of Skyhawk Parkway and University Street, now visiting teams and broadcasters will have that luxurious view, he told the crowd.

Prior to the home opener Saturday, a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the facility.

UT Martin Interim Chancellor Bob Smith called it a “historic day” for the university.

“Having this new facility makes a statement about the future of this university,” Smith said.

The $6 million structure includes renovated and expanded concessions on the first floor, as well as a new visiting locker room and an officials’ locker room. The second story holds classrooms and faculty offices for the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences; a concentration Smith said is growing “exponentially.”

Smith said the focus of building on to the stadium has always had a focus on athletics, pointing to the East-side visiting bleachers as an example with the ROTC building being housed underneath. With the some of the agriculture classes being taught in the facility, that puts them closer to the hands-on facilities, such as the farm and the Ag Pavilion.

“There’s a number of classrooms here that give us an expansion space for what is the fastest growing college in the university,” Smith said. “We’re going to be making some announcements about the farm and some other facilities so this becomes a little more central to their work.”

The third floor houses the “Champions Club,” a lounge for the top tier season-ticket holders during game-day. But that doesn’t mean it will remain empty the other 360 days of the year.

“We’ve already planned that this facility is going to be more than five Saturdays in October and November,” Smith said. “We’ve got a whole schedule of events that we can now host here and what a venue for doing that.”

The top floor is for working media that includes coaches boxes, home and visiting radio booths, as well as the award-winning student radio station, WUTM-FM, 90.3. “The Hawk” and an expanded area for print and television reporters and the game-day sports information staff.

Martin Mayor Randy Brundidge said the ribbon cutting ceremony marked a great day for the city.

“This is a great improvement to the stadium and hopefully it will bring more people to watch ballgames,” Brundidge said. “What’s good for the university is good for the city. When you bring in students and you show them this facility, they’re going to want to go here even more.”
UTM awarded $130K in grants

Bobby Goode, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development state director for Tennessee, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin on Sept. 15 to announce three grants totaling $130,000 in support of UT Martin initiatives and the WestStar Leadership Program.

The first grant, in the amount of $10,000, supports the economic development study conducted earlier this year to show UT Martin's impact on the regional and local economies. Tennessee's USDA Rural Development Office served as one of six partners to fund the study, conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists International in Moscow, Idaho.

"What this grant allowed us to do was to add a report on the economic impact (of the university) if we had the science building. And that report is staggering," said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. "The most important number in that report is that, with the construction of this building, you add 900 jobs to the West Tennessee economy."

The new science and engineering building will house the university's departments of engineering, computer science, chemistry and physics, and mathematics and statistics. The plans include classrooms and teaching laboratories, as well as dedicated student laboratories and project work spaces.

"Rural areas, rural communities, rural counties, they celebrate 10 jobs. We, as rural people, celebrate 12 jobs. ... For this university to have an impact of 900 jobs, that's huge. So we're really happy to be a part of that," said Goode.

The second grant provides $20,000 to support the WestStar Leadership Program, which is the oldest and largest regional leadership program in the state, with more than 730 alumni over 27 years.

"I've really learned that leadership is probably the most important economic development factor there is," said Goode. "People who are truly passionate about their area and about what they do and about what they want to see become better - those people make a huge difference in community and economic development. WestStar does that; WestStar has developed these leaders for all these years, and it's great to be a part of all this today."

Finally, USDA Rural Development contributed $100,000 dollars toward the equipping of a new conference and convention center located off Skyhawk Parkway. This center, which will include a hotel component and a 5,000-plus-seat arena, will serve as a multipurpose conference location for the multistate region.

"This is going to be a game-changer for the economic and tourist prosperity of this area," said Smith. "If the USDA had not stepped up and shown us a way, a path, that this could be achieved, we would have this on the drawing board for the next 10 years and still not be sure how to do it."

The facility will also house the university's food and hospitality management concentration, which will operate in conjunction with the conference and hotel areas. The USDA grant will be used to provide culinary equipment for the laboratories and practical-use areas for that concentration.

"(This concentration) will be another example of what UT Martin does so well, and that is have an academic component with a very clear, practical and applied approach to it," said Smith. Students operating out of this facility will have countless opportunities for hands-on, real-world application of classroom and laboratory skills, making them competitive applicants in the job market after graduation.

For more information on these three grants, contact the USDA Rural Development Office in Union City at 731-885-6480.

$130K IN GRANTS AWARDED

- The University of Tennessee at Martin was recently awarded $130,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Pictured at the grant announcement are (from left) Tyler Hayes, USDA area specialist; Charley Deal, West Star executive director; Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator; Dr. Robert Smith, interim chancellor; Bobby Goode, USDA state director; Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Joel Howard, USDA area director; and Matt Varino, field representative, office of Sen. Lamar Alexander.

UTM GRANT, From Page 1

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For more information on these three grants, contact the USDA Rural Development Office in Union City at 731-885-6480.
UT-Martin announces Honor Rolls

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

DRESDEN: Crystal E. Browning, Highest Honors; Wynter L. Crowell Highest Honors; Kory Green Highest Honors.
GREENFIELD: Lauren E. Rush, High Honors.
MARTIN: Zackary P. Austin, Highest Honors; Tevin Evans, Highest Honors; Steven E. Hahn, Honors; Terri M. Hernon, Highest Honors; Megan M. Jones, Honors; Michael J. McGrath, Honors; Kristy M. Milan, High Honors; Collyn J. Sensing, Honors; Teddy K. Vincent, High Honors.
MCKENZIE: Sara N. Bradford, Highest Honors.
PALMERSVILLE: Lauren S. Smethwick, Highest Honors.
UT-Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.
UTM names local students to summer semester honor roll

MARTIN, Tenn. — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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- Hannah K. McDade, Atwood, Highest Honors
- Tanner R. Petty, Humboldt, Highest Honors
- Madeleine R. Harrison, Milan, Honors
- Haleigh N. Hoke, Milan, Highest Honors
- Kenneth P. Wilson, Milan, Highest Honors
- Amber N. Wallsmith, Trenton, Highest Honors

UT Martin is a comprehensive public university that maintains an excellent reputation for its high-quality undergraduate programs, its beautiful campus and caring professors.

Fall Preview Days are set at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin encourages high school students to visit during one of three Fall Preview Days hosted on the main campus. Students can choose to attend special activities on September 24, October 29 or November 12.

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

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

Register online at utm.edu/preview. For more information, contact at 731-881-7020 or email admitme@utm.edu.
At the college level

Seven students from Obion County were among those honored for outstanding academic achievement during the summer semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll were:

- Rives — Jake R. Blakely, high honors.
- South Fulton — Mindy A. Baker, honors; Sarah R. Dodd, highest honors; and Saralynn Eaves, highest honors.

University — Mary H. Driver, highest honors; Marley S. Speed, honors; and Shawn A. Weak, high honors.

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University enrollment at 6,700 for fall

The University of Tennessee at Martin has 6,705 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled for fall semester 2016 in final numbers announced recently. This total includes students on the main campus, as well as online students and those attending on the university’s centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Total enrollment is down 1.8 percent (122 students) from the fall 2015 headcount of 6,827 students and there are 77 fewer first-time freshmen registered. However, this incoming freshman class boasts the highest average ACT composite score of any previous freshman class with an average of 23.01, up from 22.7 in 2015.

The freshman class also holds an average high school grade point average of 3.53, up from 3.48 last year.

The number of enrolled graduate students increased by 8.7 percent (34 students) and transfer students increased by 4.3 percent (19 students). The largest jump occurred in the dual enrollment area, with a total of 604 high school students earning college credit from UT Martin. This is a 77.6 percent increase over the 340 students participating in fall 2015. The number of out-of-state students attending UT Martin has also increased this year, with out-of-state freshmen increasing 38 percent (22 students) and total out-of-state enrollment increasing 15 percent. Out-of-state numbers do not include international students.

Enrollment numbers are expected to rise for fall 2017 as Tennessee Promise students complete their first two years at local community colleges and transfer to finish their degrees at four-year universities.

RIBBON CUT — A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new academic classroom space and football press box facility at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Hardy M. Graham Stadium was held Saturday before the Skyhawks’ first home game of the 2016 season. Preparing to cut the ribbon that officially opened the four-story, 20,000-square-foot facility were (from left) Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement; Dr. Margaret Toston, vice chancellor for student affairs; Jake Bynum, Weakley County mayor; Randy Brundige, Martin city mayor; Bill Blankenship, university donor; Dr. Bob Smith, interim chancellor; Miranda Rutan, UT Martin student and student trustee, UT Board of Trustees; Dr. Jefferson Rogers, UT Martin faculty member and faculty trustee, UT Board of Trustees; Jason Simpson, head football coach; Petra McPhearson, vice chancellor for finance and administration; and Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
UT Martin officially opens academic space, press box

Retired University of Tennessee at Martin athletics director Phil Dane remembers all too well the inadequate press box facilities that greeted fans and game-management staff for decades at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

This all changed Sept. 17 as the first home football game of the 2014 season provided the perfect opportunity to officially open the university’s new academic classroom space and football press box.

Dane joined fans, elected officials, former players, the UT Martin cheerleaders, Captain Skyhawk and others who gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony outside the building.

The four-story structure, completed by Allen Searcy Builder-Contractor Inc. of Union City, stands about 75 feet tall and contains 20,000 square feet of space, providing a major upgrade to Graham Stadium and a significant addition to the university’s skyline.

The ground level includes a renovated visiting team locker room, referee locker room, concession stand and other game-management space, as well as a lobby area and elevator access.

The second level provides academic space for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and also serves as an academic support area. The third floor houses the club level, which provides a unique perspective of the game in a climate-controlled space. This level also includes the Chancellor’s Box for entertaining game-day guests.

The top floor houses state-of-the-art facilities for media, coaching staffs and game-management officials. The working media area seats up to 25, which more than doubles the capacity of the former press box.

When discussions about the project began, Dane envisioned a facility that would serve the university’s long-term needs and not simply replace existing space.

Architectural renderings that determined the project’s direction were completed in early 2013, but funding issues delayed the project for two football seasons. Work finally began following the 2015 season, and completion came in time for the current season. As noted, other benefits of the new facility include vastly improved game-management space and related technology, as well as improved facilities for entertaining guests and university donors.

Chris Brinkley, radio voice of the Skyhawks, led a brief program before the ribbon cutting and recalled the stadium’s history.

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, recognized many individuals in the audience who supported the project.

“And it (the facility) is also a statement about partnerships,” he said, noting the presence of significant academic space and also acknowledging Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum and Mayor Randy Brundige for the county’s and city’s support of the project.

He also highlighted lead gifts for the project from Bill Blankenship of Memphis and Bettie and Newell Graham of Union City and thanked other donors who made gifts that supported the naming of rooms.

Jason Simpson, UT Martin head football coach, thanked supporters, including former UT Martin football Coach Bob Carroll, whom he acknowledged “for being a pioneer of this program.” He also credited Phil Dane with the vision for making the facility a reality.

Dr. Todd Winters is pleased to have the new academic space provided in the facility.

“Our program in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences has been really bustling at the seams, so we really needed some new space,” he said following the ribbon cutting. “And the nice thing about this facility is that it’s between campus and our (university) farm ... and students can have classes in the four new classrooms here, and we’re just really looking forward to having a state-of-the-art classroom to actually teach in.”

Tim Barrington, UT Martin public address announcer since 1973, now has a larger space and new technology for game day.

Tim Nipp, director of the university’s physical plant, recognized the project’s successful coordination that involved different groups at all levels.

“We did a best-value approach to this where we selected three contractors that we felt were qualified to do the work and then got competitive bids for them,” Nipp said. “And then Searcy Construction just came in and did put together an excellent team of subcontractors. ... And then it was a team effort between the UT System and the architect and the engineers and the physical plant here.”

“Well, it’s a great addition to the stadium and to the community. And anything that’s good for UT is good for the city of Martin,” Brundige said.

“It (the facility) will bring more people here, and we have something great to show off.”

Dane, who was inducted last fall into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame, is justifiably proud of the new academic and press box space, which both supports the university’s teaching mission and its commitment to the student-athletes and others who benefit from the football program. And, he will be permanently linked to the facility through the new athletic director’s box named for him, thanks to donor gifts made in his honor.

“It’s humbling,” he said of the room naming. “The donors that gave to that are all special people to me.”
USDA Awards Funding To City of Martin, UTM

The USDA recently approved a facilities loan for the City of Martin and grant funding for UTM.

On Thursday, September 15, USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode joined City of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige in announcing a $10 million USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant that will be used to build new facilities in Martin.

"USDA Rural Development is excited to be a part of a growing rural Tennessee," Goode said. "The City of Martin will build two new facilities that will improve the safety and quality of life for its citizens."

The loan will be used to construct a 16,175 square foot facility to house the city police, dispatch, and court services. A portion of this building will be built to FEMA specifications to become a community safe room.

A 50,000 square foot, two-story building will also be constructed to house a new library as well as serve as a community meeting and education space.

Mayor Brundige stated the $10 million loan/grant will be split up into two phases.

"We're very proud to get it," Mayor Brundige said. "It's a 2.73 percent 40-year loan, and we have five years to spend the money." He explained the City of Martin receives funding as it spends money for the two projects. If the full amount of the loan is not needed, it is not charged to the City.

"The police station will be first, and later on, the library," Mayor Brundige said.

He stated the property acquired for the new police station (the old Tom Taylor building) on North Lindell Street, has already been cleared in preparation for construction, which he anticipates will get underway after the first of the year. Mayor Brundige estimated that the police station will take 18 months to build.

The location of the library will most likely be where the current police station, REED Center and adjacent parking lot are located.

Also, on Thursday, USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode, along with Interim Chancellor Bob Smith, announced three grants in support of the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) initiatives and the WestStar Leadership Program, totaling $130,000.

"The three funding awards presented today illustrate the impact that UTM has on West Tennessee," Goode said. "These awards will provide the funds necessary to assist the university in creating a stronger rural economy for the areas they serve."

As a recipient of Rural Business Development Grants totaling $30,000, UTM will use $10,000 of RD funds to cover the cost of an economic development study conducted earlier this year to show UT Martin's impact on the regional and local West Tennessee economies.

Tennessee's USDA Rural Development Office served as one of six partners to fund the study, conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists International in Moscow, Idaho.

"What this grant allowed us to do was to add a report on the economic impact (of the university) if we had the science building. And that report is staggering," said Smith. "The most important number in that report is that, with the construction of this building, you add 900 jobs to the West Tennessee economy."

The new science and engineering building will house the university's departments of engineering, computer science, chemistry and physics, and mathematics and statistics. The plans include classrooms and teaching laboratories, as well as dedicated student laboratories and project work spaces.

"Rural areas, rural communities, rural counties, they celebrate 10 jobs," Goode said. "We, as rural people, celebrate 12 jobs. For this university to have an impact of 900 jobs, that's huge. So we're really happy to be a part of that."

The second grant provides $20,000 to support the WestStar Leadership Program, which is the oldest and largest regional leadership program in the state, with more than 730 alumni over 27 years. This program serves all 21 counties in West Tennessee, many of which are poverty stricken and have high unemployment, and provides participants with new leadership skills and strategies for assisting their communities in problem solving and creating economic opportunities.

"I've really learned that leadership is probably the most important economic development factor there is," said Goode. "People who are truly passionate about their area, and about what they do, and about what they want to see become better - those people make a huge difference in community and economic development. WestStar does that; WestStar has developed these leaders for all these years, and it's great to be a part of all this today."

Lastly, USDA Rural Development contributed $100,000 dollars toward the equipping of a new conference and convention center located off Skyhawk Parkway. This center, which will include a hotel component and a 5,000-plus-seat arena, will serve as a multipurpose conference location for the multi-state region.

"This is going to be a game changer for the economic and tourist prosperity of this area," said Smith. "If the USDA had not stepped up and shown us a way, a path, that this could be achieved, we would have this on the drawing board for the next 10 years and still not be sure how to do it."

The facility will also house the university's food and hospitality management concentration, which will operate in conjunction with the conference and hotel areas. The USDA grant will be used to provide culinary equipment for the laboratories and practical-use areas for that concentration.

Smith said that this concentration "will be another example of what UT Martin does so well, and that is have an academic component with a very clear, practical and applied approach to it." Students operating out of this facility will have countless opportunities for hands-on, real-world application of classroom and laboratory skills, making them competitive applicants in the job market after graduation.
Calligraphy course to be offered at UTM

Community members interested in the fundamentals of calligraphy are encouraged to register for a four-week course offered from 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 4-25, on the main campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Ron Ramage, course instructor, will introduce participants to the basics of modern calligraphy. He will cover basic tools and preliminary knowledge of modern, pointed-pen calligraphy and introduce three styles of calligraphic alphabets.

Participants will need to bring a supply of lined and unlined paper, and two or three soft-tip calligraphy markers in a variety of sizes.

The registration fee for this course is $85 per person.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

Personalized Reading Clinic Sessions Can Improve Skills

Every student has different reading abilities, and some need more assistance than can be provided during a normal school day. The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade level reading standards.

Students can enroll in one of two remaining sessions this fall: Sept. 22-Oct. 31 or Nov. 1-30. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

The registration cost is $100 per session (not per meeting), plus $25 for a required workbook.

Students are individually tested to determine specific needs in phonics and reading comprehension before being placed into a course of study designed to fill gaps in their skills and strategies. All lessons are taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center.

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

UTM Names Local Students To Summer Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2016 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Crystal E. Brown, Dresden, Highest Honors; Wynter L. Crowell, Dresden, Highest Honors; Kory Green, Dresden, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Rush, Greenfield, High Honors; Zackary P. Austin, Martin, Highest Honors; Tevin Evans, Martin, Highest Honors; Steven E. Hahn, Martin, Honors; Terri M. Henson, Martin, Highest Honors; Megan M. Jones, Martin, Honors; Michael J. McGrath, Martin, Honors; Kristy M. Milan, Martin, High Honors; Collyn J. Sensing, Martin, Honors; Teddy K. Vincent, Martin, High Honors; Sara N. Bradford, McKenzie, Highest Honors; Lauren S. Smethwick, Palmersville, Highest Honors
UTM can drive set

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center is collecting canned food items for a homecoming food drive now through Oct. 7. Donations will be taken to the main UT Martin campus for distribution to area organizations, including WeCare Ministries.

Regular and dual-enrollment students wishing to ride the bus from the UT Martin Ripley Center to the homecoming festivities in Martin must bring three canned food items to gain admission. Students who wish to ride the bus can contact the center at 731-881-8778 to sign up. Other donations can be taken to the center over the next two weeks.

This is the second food drive hosted by the UT Martin Ripley Center this fall. The first collected more than 60 items, which benefited the Ripley Elementary School food pantry and a program at Ripley High School that rewards seniors for hard work.

UTM names honor students

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

Crystal V. Smith of Ripley and Amy J. Medford of Ripley were listed with highest honors, while Erin E. Crihfield of Halls and Diane Simmons were listed with honors.

Obion County residents on UTM Chancellor’s Honor Roll

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Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Among Obion County students receiving the honors were Jake R. Blakely, of Rives, High Honors; Mindy A. Baker, of South Fulton, Honors; Sarah R. Dodd, of South Fulton, Highest Honors; Saralynn Eaves, of South Fulton, Highest Honors; Mary H. Driver, of Union City, Tenn., Highest Honors; Marley S. Speed, of Union City, Honors; and Shawn A. Weak, of Union City, High Honors.
The Jackson Sun  Wednesday, September 21, 2016

UT Martin opens stadium building

New classrooms, press box space for Graham

Retired University of Tennessee at Martin athletics director Phil Dane remembers all too well the inadequate press box facilities that greeted fans and game-management staff for decades at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

This all changed Saturday as the first home football game of the 2016 season provided the perfect opportunity to officially open the university’s new academic classroom space and football press box, according to a press release. Dane joined fans, elected officials, former players, the UT Martin cheerleaders, Captain Skyhawk and others who gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony just outside the building’s west entrance.

The four-story structure, completed by Allen Searcy Builder-Contractor Inc., of Union City, stands about 75 feet tall and 20,000 square feet of space, providing a major upgrade to Graham Stadium and a significant addition to the university’s skyline.

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The four-story structure, completed by Allen Searcy Builder-Contractor Inc., of Union City, stands about 75 feet tall and 20,000 square feet of space, providing a major upgrade to Graham Stadium and a significant addition to the university’s skyline.

The ground level includes a renovated visiting team locker room, referee locker room, concession stand and other game-management space, as well as a lobby area and elevator access.

The second level provides academic space for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and also serves as an academic support area.

The third floor houses the club level, which provides a unique perspective of the game in a climate-controlled space. This level also includes the Chancellor’s Box for entertaining game-day guests.

The top floor houses state-of-the-art facilities for media, coaching staffs and game-management officials. The working media area sits up to 25, which more than doubles the capacity of the former press box.

When discussions about the project began, Dane envisioned a facility that would serve the university’s long-term needs and not simply replace existing space.

“But I knew that to do that, we were going to have to come up with some kind of a partnership idea,” Dane said in the release. “So, a lot of the space in this facility can be used for academics, and the administration supported that at the time.”

Architectural renderings that determined the project’s direction were completed in early 2013, but funding issues delayed the project for two football seasons. Work finally began following the 2015 season, and completion came in time for the current season. As noted, other benefits of the new facility include vastly improved game-management space and related technology, as well as improved facilities for entertaining guests and university donors. “So... there was a fundraising dimension, there was a work atmosphere dimension, and then the partnership (with academics) were all things that I think allowed it (the project) to come together,” Dane said.

Chris Brinkley, radio voice of the Skyhawks, led a brief program before the ribbon cutting and recalled the stadium’s history. “From a technological standpoint, this is the present, and this is the future,” he said. “I know when we have ESPN come to Martin, Tennessee, to broadcast a game nationally, even globally for us with the old press box, we would turn the world upside down to provide them with power and all of the capabilities that they needed to broadcast the game.

“So, then they just walk through those doors, and they’re ready. And I could not be more excited to do the game today from this building.”

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, recognized many individuals in the audience who supported the project. “And it (the facility) is also a statement about partnerships,” he said, noting the presence of significant academic space and also acknowledging Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige for the county’s and city’s support of the project. He also highlighted lead gifts for the project from Bill Blankenship, of Memphis, and Betty and Newell Graham, of Union City, and thanked other donors who made gifts that supported the naming of rooms.

Jason Simpson, UT Martin head football coach, thanked supporters, including former UTM football Coach Bob Carroll, whom he acknowledged “for being a pioneer of this program.” He also credited Dane with the vision for making the facility a reality. “This university deserves everything first class. This community deserves everything first class,” Simpson said. “I’m proud today to stand on the sidelines with this behind me.”

Dr. Todd Winters is pleased to have the new academic space provided in the facility. “Our program in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences has been really bustling at the seams, so we really needed some new space,” he said following the ribbon cutting. “And the nice thing about this facility is that it’s between campus and our (university) farm... and students can have classes in the four new classrooms here, and we’re just really looking forward to having a state-of-the-art classroom to actually teach in.”

Tim Barrington, UT Martin public address announcer since 1973, now has a larger space and new technology at his disposal for game day. “Well, you know the whole idea of being able to go into a facility that has all
A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new academic classroom space and football press box facility at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Hardy M. Graham Stadium was held Saturday before the Skyhawks' first home game of the 2016 season.

Technology that we've ever wanted and will need for a long time to come, it's a great feeling," he said.

Tim Nipp, director of the university's Physical Plant, recognized the project's successful coordination that involved different groups at all levels. "We did a best-value approach to this where we selected three contractors that we felt were qualified to do the work and then got competitive bids for them," Nipp said. "And then Searcy Construction just came in and put together an excellent team of subcontractors. ... And then it was a team effort between the UT system and the architect and the engineers and the Physical Plant here"

"Well, it's a great addition to the stadium and to the community. And anything that's good for UTM is good for the city of Martin," said Mayor Brundige. "It (the facility) will bring more people here, and we have something great to show off."

Dane, who was inducted last fall into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame, is justifiably proud of the new academic and press box space, which both supports the university's teaching mission and its commitment to the student athletes and others who benefit from the football program. And, he will be permanently linked to the facility through the new athletic director's box named for him, thanks to donor gifts made in his honor.
UT Martin percussion ensemble wins international showcase competition

By Nathan Morgan
UTM University Relations

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Ensemble has won the Percussive Arts Society's International World Percussion Competition in the university showcase category for the first time in school history.

The ensemble will perform at 2 p.m., Nov. 10, during the Percussive Arts Society International Convention held in Indianapolis, Ind. A reception for area UT Martin alumni will be held from 9 to 11 p.m. that evening.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for both the teachers and the students. My students work exceptionally hard, and I demand so much of them," said Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music and director of the UT Martin percussion program. "For them to be recognized like this on an international stage in front of their peers and percussion heroes from around the world is something none of us will ever forget."

"Winning this competition is a testament to the work we put in and what we learn here at UT Martin," said Nathanial O'Neal, an ensemble member from Smyrna. "We spend hours rehearsing and practicing our parts for just one or two performances a semester. Now, I am able to stand with my fellow percussionists and perform with them on one of the largest stages at PASIC."

The UT Martin percussion program is different from those at many other institutions, and Hill believes that difference is part of what makes her students stand out from those in other ensembles.

"Many groups focus on one area and have a separate world music ensemble from their traditional percussion group. At UT Martin, we are all the same group, so students here experience everything from contemporary percussion music to historic and world music," she said. "I try to make their experience as diverse as possible, ... so we present a very unique and diverse program executed at a very high level. I think this diversity is something they (competition judges) rarely see, and they recognized and rewarded that."

"In the UT Martin percussion studio, you really get to hone your craft and learn everything there is to know so that you are completely ready and prepared to join the workforce," said Hohner Porter, of Trenton. "We strive to not only be the best musicians we can be, but also to be the best people and educators that we can."

The ensemble's performance will present music from Brazil, Zimbabwe, West Africa and Trinidad, among other countries. The concert will also include interdisciplinary elements featuring an appearance by the UT Martin Dance Ensemble, directed by Sarah McCormick, UT Martin associate professor of dance, and background artwork by Lane Last, UT Martin professor of art, and his students.

Local residents are invited to attend a preview concert at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 6, in the UT Martin Fulton Theatre. Tickets will be sold at this event to offset convention travel costs.

UT Martin students and alumni have a significant presence in the Percussive Arts Society, which recently elected members from around the world to serve in various capacities. Several UT Martin alumni were appointed to serve in the organization, including two current students. Hill is the current society president.

For additional information on the UT Martin Percussion Ensemble or the Percussive Arts Society, contact Hill at (731) 881-7418 or email jhill@utm.edu.
Local students named to UTM summer Honor Roll

By Nathan Morgan
UTM University Relations

MARTIN, Tenn.—The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

• Madison B. Pickens, Adamsville, Highest Honors
• Elizabeth P. Beene, Bethel Springs, High Honors
• Elizabeth B. Redmon, Bethel Springs, Highest Honors
• Heather R. Bryant, Booneville, Miss., Honors
• Carlanna S. Morris, Martin, Highest Honors
• Kristen N. Wilkins, Selmer, High Honors
Entrepreneurial course to be offered

Current and prospective business owners interested in the fundamentals of small business development are encouraged to register for a four-week course offered from 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 4-25, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

Small Business Basics Boot Camp, led by small business experts and business owners, is designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. Each session will focus on topics such as business planning, financial awareness and accountability, advice on legal issues and ideas for business marketing. The course features GrowthWheel, a visual tool that provides structure and direction in order to allow business owners to set goals and take action. GrowthWheel works for all businesses in all stages and industries.

The registration fee for this course is $25 and all materials are provided. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at 731-587-7333 or register online at tsbdc.org/training.

Free entrepreneur workshop series to be offered this fall

A series of free workshops this fall will focus on the needs of entrepreneurs. The Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center (NTEC), the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund, the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise-College of Business & Global Affairs at University of Tennessee at Martin and the Gil Parker Chair of Excellence-College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin have created a series of workshops for existing business owners and anyone considering starting a business. This series of free workshops will provide a platform for gaining a more comprehensive understanding of how to create a sustainable, growing and scalable business.

Over the span of six weeks, participants will learn from the real-life experiences of successful entrepreneurs: How to identify the true purpose of a business; the value of knowing the competition; and how to view a business through the eyes of potential investors. From an experienced intellectual property law attorney, participants will receive valuable information about how to identify and protect intellectual property.

All residents of northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky who are interested in learning how to be a more successful entrepreneur are encouraged to attend the workshops to receive valuable tips and critical information on how to build a viable business. All sessions are free.

"These workshops were developed to help students and people in the community understand more about entrepreneurship. An impressive collection of speakers is scheduled for these sessions. An informal networking session will begin each session and a question and answer session will follow the presentation," said Tommy Cates, the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at University of Tennessee at Martin.

"I am excited about this joint venture of NTEC, the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund, the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. Our mission is to help create and foster high-quality business ventures that will benefit our rural communities' economic development," said Carol Reed, executive director of the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center.

Skyhawk Entrepreneurial Vision Workshops begin on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m., concluding at 7:45, and continue each Thursday for six weeks until Thursday, Nov. 10.

The workshops are being held at the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business & Global Affairs Building, Room 33. Workshop materials and a light meal will be included each night, free of charge with an RSVP.

Those persons attending all six sessions will have an opportunity to register for a $250 door prize during the final session.

RSVP online at nteconnect.com/programs/skyhawk-workshops or contact Carol Reed, executive director, Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center at Carol.Reed@nwtdc.org or call 731-587-4213 ext.275.

This project is funded under an agreement with Launch Tennessee and/or the State of Tennessee.
UTM rodeo season to open tonight

The University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo program opens its 2016-17 slate this weekend when it travels to Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Mo. The rodeo will take place on Thursday, Sept. 22 through Saturday, Sept. 24.

The opener at Missouri Valley College is one of nine regular-season rodeos for the team this season, including the 49th annual UT Martin Spring College Rodeo on April 6-8, 2017.

The UT Martin men’s team will look to qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo under the direction of head coach John Luthi. The veteran coach enters his 20th year at UT Martin after overseeing another Ozark Region championship last season – the 14th of his illustrious tenure.

In addition to the Ozark Region title, the UT Martin men’s squad finished 14th nationally after picking up wins in exactly half of its 10 regular-season rodeos last year.

The men's team returns eight cowboys (including 2016 CNFR participant Douglas Rich) and welcomes in eight newcomers in 2016-17.

The UT Martin women’s team boasts a wealth of experience this season, as it returns 20 cowgirls from 2015-16. Three-time CNFR participant Nealey Dalton is the top returner for a team who placed in the top-five in six of its nine rodeos last season – including a victory at East Mississippi Community College.

The women's team will also look for contributions from nine newcomers this season.
Martin’s Fall Preview Days

The University of Tennessee at Martin encourages high school students to visit during one of three Fall Preview Days hosted on the main campus. Students can choose to attend special activities on September 24th, October 29th, or November 12th.

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

Pre-registration is encouraged to ensure each student is able to visit areas of personal interest. Register online at utm.edu/preview.

HONOR ROLL

Local students at the University of Tennessee at Martin selected for the summer Chancellor’s Honor Roll include Erin E. Crihfield, of Halls, honors; and Amy J. Medford and Crystal V. Smith, highest honors; and Diane Simmons, honors, all of Ripley.

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

Keith Carver, executive assistant to the president of the UT system, has been selected by UT President Joe DiPietro to serve as the next chancellor of UT Martin, according to a release from UTM.

DiPietro will recommend Carver's election to the post by the UT Board of Trustees during their Oct. 13-14 meeting in Knoxville.

If approved by the board, Carver will start the new role Jan. 3. He would replace Tom Rakes who stepped down from the position in April 2015 to return to teaching, according to the release.
University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro is recommending Keith Carver to serve as chancellor of University of Tennessee at Martin.

Carver is the executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee System. DiPietro will make his recommendation to the UT Board of Trustees during their October 13 and 14 meeting. DiPietro said in a news release Carver “understands the culture and communities of Northwest Tennessee.”

If approved, Carver’s start date will be January 3.

Carver would replace Tom Rakes who said in April 2015 he was returning to the classroom. Bob Smith has served as interim chancellor since May 2015.

The chancellor search began in March 2016. Four candidates were brought to campus in August and September, including former Murray State administrator Jay Morgan.

Prior to his role as executive assistant to the president, Carver held roles at UT Knoxville, Martin and Memphis, including assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin. He has a bachelor's degree from University of Memphis and master's and doctoral degrees from UT Knoxville.
UT stays in-system for Martin chancellor

Keith Carver, executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee System, has been selected by UT President Joe DiPietro to serve as the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

DiPietro will recommend Carver’s election to the post by the UT Board of Trustees during its Oct. 13-14 meeting in Knoxville.

“Keith brings a tremendous amount of knowledge and love for UT Martin to this role,” DiPietro said. “He understands the culture and communities of northwest Tennessee and has extensive relationships on campus, in the community and across the state. He recognizes the progress UT Martin has made as a campus to address critical issues and identify new opportunities.”

Pending approval by the board, Carver’s effective start date will be Jan. 3, 2017. An internal search to fill the executive assistant position will begin soon.

(See Page 9, Col. 5)

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(Continued from Page 1)

with the intent of having someone in place by the end of the year.

Carver will replace Tom Rakes, who in April 2015 announced he was returning to the classroom. Bob Smith has served as interim chancellor since May 2015. Previously, Smith was president of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and he was dean of UT Martin’s School of Arts and Sciences from 1987 to 1999.

“I’m grateful to Bob for his superior leadership as interim chancellor,” DiPietro said. “He’s done an exceptional job enhancing our mission to serve the people, communities and businesses of West Tennessee.”

The search for the next UT Martin chancellor began in March 2016 and was conducted by a 21-member committee of faculty, staff, students and community members chaired by UT Chattanooga Chancellor Steve Angle. The committee selected four candidates to bring to campus for open forums in August and September.

Carver has served as executive assistant to the president since January 2011. Prior to that, he held roles at UT campuses in Knoxville, Martin and Memphis, including serving as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin. He held several positions at UT Knoxville, including assistant director and director of development and alumni affairs for the College of Law, program director for the Office of Student Activities and co-director of TeamVOLS.

He also worked as director of special projects and coordinator of experiential education at Marietta College in Ohio for two years.

Carver has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Memphis, a master’s degree in college student personnel and educational leadership from UT Knoxville and a doctoral degree from UT Knoxville. His doctoral dissertation was titled, “A Study of Presidential Denuclearization in Public Research Universities.”

Carver and his wife, Hollianne, are the parents of a daughter and two sons.
Workshops offered for entrepreneurs

A series of free workshops this fall will focus on the needs of entrepreneurs.

The Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center, the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund, the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise-College of Business & Global Affairs at University of Tennessee at Martin and the Gil Parker Chair of Excellence-College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin have created a series of workshops for existing business owners and anyone considering starting a business.

This series of free workshops will provide a platform for gaining a more comprehensive understanding of how to create a sustainable, growing and scalable business.

Over the span of six weeks, participants will learn from the real-life experiences of successful entrepreneurs: How to identify the true purpose of a business; the value of knowing the competition; and how to view a business through the eyes of potential investors.

From an experienced intellectual property law attorney, participants will receive valuable information about how to identify and protect intellectual property.

All residents of northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky who are interested in learning how to be a more successful entrepreneur are encouraged to attend the workshops to receive valuable tips and critical information on how to build a viable business. All sessions are free.

“These workshops were developed to help students and people in the community to understand more about entrepreneurship. An impressive collection of speakers is scheduled for these sessions. An informal networking session will begin each session and a question and answer session will follow the presentation,” said Tommy Cates, the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise at University of Tennessee at Martin.

“I am excited about this joint venture of NTEC, the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund, the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs,” said Carol Reed, executive director of the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center. “Our mission is to help create and foster high-quality business ventures that will benefit our rural communities’ economic development.”

Skyhawk Entrepreneurial Vision Workshops begin Oct. 6 at 6 p.m., concluding at 7:45, and continue each Thursday for six weeks until Nov. 10.

The workshops are being held at the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business & Global Affairs Building, Room 33. Workshop materials and a light meal will be included each night, free of charge with an RSVP.

Those persons attending all six sessions will have an opportunity to register for a $250 door prize during the final session. RSVP online at nteconnect.com/programs/skyhawk-workshops or contact Ms. Reed at Carol.Reed@nwttdd.org or call 731-587-4213 ext.275.

This project is funded under an agreement with Launch Tennessee and/or the State of Tennessee.

First of UTM music performances is today

MARTIN – The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will present performances by faculty members, university choirs and the UT Martin Percussion Society in the coming weeks, according to a press release from the school.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Charles Lewis and Dr. Liz Alexander, Douglas Owens, Jessie Thomas and Kurt Gorman, all faculty members in the UT Martin Department of Music, will perform in a faculty recital at 12:15 p.m. today in the UT Martin Fine Arts Building’s Blankenship Recital Hall. The group will perform “Five Inventions for Flute and C Trumpet” by William Presser and “Suite for Wind Quintet” by Josiah Sprinkle.

A mini-concert based on the story of Don Quijote will take place at 2 p.m., Oct. 7, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The performance will feature Department of Music faculty members Dr. Roberto Mancusi, bass voice, and Dr. Elaine Harriuss, piano.

Don Quijote follows the adventures of a middle-aged gentlemen from La Mancha, Spain, who is captivated by chivalrous ideals and decides to fight the wicked and defend the helpless.

The University choirs are hosting a dessert evening at 7 p.m., Oct. 7-8, in the Fine Arts Building. The event will feature vocal performances and dessert. Tickets are $18 for adults and $12 for students and children under 12. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Sherry Adams at (731) 881-7402 or email sadams@utm.edu.

The UT Martin Percussion Society will later host a Drum Circle at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 8, during Quad City as part of UT Martin’s homecoming festivities.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
The Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board has recently awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin three grants, totaling more than $34,000, to support faculty research projects. Drs. Barbara Darroch, Paula Gale and Sandy Mehlhorn, all from the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, were grant recipients.

Darroch will conduct a project titled "The Effect of Planting and Maturity Group on Plant Development and Yield of Soybeans" to evaluate the effect of seeding date on representative soybean cultivars from different soybean maturity groups.

A replicated field trial will look at early and late seeding dates, which will be similar to standard seeding dates used by farmers when planting soybeans after no winter cover crop (early date) or after wheat has been harvested in late spring or early summer.

Gale's project, titled "Measuring Water Dynamics in Soybean Production Systems: A Student Learning Opportunity," involves measuring both percolation and infiltration of water in soybean production systems under a variety of different winter cover crops. This project is student-centered and will provide students with a full spectrum of research experiences, from experimental design to data interpretation and presentation. "Project RTOT: Enhancing Unmanned Aerial System-based Precision Agriculture Education by Integrating Research, Teaching and Outreach in Tennessee," conducted by Mehlhorn, takes a threefold approach to integrate research, teaching and outreach based on a collaborative effort between UT Martin and Middle Tennessee State University, two of Tennessee's non-land-grant universities.

The overall theme is to enhance unmanned aerial system-based precision agriculture.

This initiative benefits producers, agronomists and economists through UAS-centered remote sensing research within different cropping systems; helps students and faculty members through instrument acquisition and teaching enhancement; and improves public understanding and awareness of UAS-based technology through outreach activities.

"The Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council is a great partner to the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. (It) understand(s) our mission of including students in applied research to answer important questions in soybean production," said Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

The Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council strives to ensure soybean farmers have access to the best tools, resources and information to help address issues they face in the field. Providing sponsored funding opportunities for colleges like UT Martin allows the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council to invest and leverage soybean checkoff dollars to maximize profit opportunities for soybean farmers.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts at (731) 881-7015.

**UT-Martin REED Center presents:**
**Small Business Boot Camp featuring GrowthWheel**

Calling all prospective business owners is invited to a four-week Small Business Basics Boot Camp seminar series featuring GrowthWheel.

GrowthWheel is a new innovative tool that allows the business owner to concentrate on the most pressing need for the business. It also is a visual tool which provides structure and direction allowing a business owner to set goals and take action.

GrowthWheel is not just for new businesses but also works for all businesses, in all stages and for all industries. Come try this totally innovative approach to business planning.

Classes will be led by small business experts and are designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. They will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays from Oct. 4 to Oct. 25 at the UT Martin REED Center at 406 S. Lindell St. in Martin.

The schedule is:
- Oct. 4: Session 1. Introduction to GrowthWheel and Business Planning
- Oct. 11: Session 2. Financial Awareness and Accountability
- Oct. 18: Session 3. Advice on Legal Issues

and Graduation

Pre-registration is required. The cost is $25 with all materials provided.


Participants attending all four sessions will receive a graduation Certificate of Completion.
Keith Carver, executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee System, has been selected by UT President Joe DiPietro to serve as the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin. DiPietro will recommend Carver’s election to the post by the UT Board of Trustees during its Oct. 13-14 meeting in Knoxville.

“Keith brings a tremendous amount of knowledge and love for UT Martin to this role,” DiPietro said. “He understands the culture and communities of Northwest Tennessee and has extensive relationships on campus, in the community and across the state. He recognizes the progress UT Martin has made as a campus to address critical issues and identify new opportunities.”

Pending approval by the board, Carver’s effective start date will be Jan. 3. An internal search to fill the executive assistant position will begin soon, with the intent of having someone in place by the end of the year.

Carver will replace Tom Rakes, who in April 2015 announced he was returning to the classroom. Bob Smith has served as interim chancellor since May 2015. Previously, Smith was president of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and he was dean of UT Martin’s School of Arts and Sciences from 1987 to 1999.

“I’m grateful to Bob for his superior leadership as interim chancellor,” DiPietro said. “He’s done an exceptional job enhancing our mission to serve the people, communities and businesses of West Tennessee.”

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**CHANCELLOR, From Page 1**

several positions at UT Knoxville including assistant director and director of development and alumni affairs for the College of Law, program director for the Office of Student Activities and co-director of TeamVOLS. He also worked as director of special projects and coordinator of experiential education at Marietta College in Ohio for two years.

Carver has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Memphis, a master’s degree in college student personnel and educational leadership from UT Knoxville and a doctoral degree from UT Knoxville. His doctoral dissertation was titled, “A Study of Presidential Derailment in Public Research Universities.”

Keith and his wife, Hollianne, are the parents of a daughter, Carson, and two sons, Jack Thomas (J.T.) and Britton.
Recitals slated at UTM in October

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will present performances by faculty members, university choirs and the UT Martin Percussion Society in the coming weeks. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

A mini-concert based on the story of Don Quixote will take place at 2 p.m., Oct. 7 in the Reickenship Recital Hall. The performance will feature department of music faculty members Dr. Roberto Mancusi, bass voice, and Dr. Elaine Harriss, piano.

Don Quixote follows the adventures of a middle-aged gentlemen from La Mancha, Spain, who is captivated by chivalrous ideals and decides to fight the wicked and defend the helpless.

The university choirs are hosting a dessert evening at 7 p.m., Oct. 7 in the Arts Building. The event will feature vocal performances and dessert. Tickets are $18 for adults and $12 for students and children under 12. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Sherry Adams at 731-881-7402 or email sadams@utm.edu.

The UT Martin Percussion Society will later host a Drum Circle at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 8, during Quad City as part of UT Martin’s homecoming festivities.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
ACT prep course offered at UT Martin Jackson Center

MARTIN, Tenn. — High school students interested in preparing for the ACT are encouraged to register for a one-day ACT prep course offered from 8 a.m.-noon, Oct. 1 or 15, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Jackson Center.

Alex Beene, course instructor, will prepare students for the test by working through each section and teaching time management. He will also address the most commonly missed questions and give advice on how to answer them correctly.

Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students since 2013 who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships. Those who participate in his courses increase their test scores by an average of 3.4 points.

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

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach at 731-881-7082 or visit the course website at utm.edu/connect and select non-degree programs.

UTM Department of Music To Host Events

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will present performances by faculty members, university choirs and the UT Martin Percussion Society in the coming weeks. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

A mini-concert based on the story of Don Quixote will take place at 2 p.m., Oct. 7, also in the Blankenship Recital Hall. The performance will feature Department of Music faculty members Dr. Roberto Mancusi, bass voice, and Dr. Elaine Harriss, piano. Don Quixote follows the adventures of a middle-aged gentleman from La Mancha, Spain, who is captivated by chivalrous ideals and decides to fight the wicked and defend the helpless.

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The UT Martin Percussion Society will later host a Drum Circle at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 8, during Quad City as part of UT Martin's homecoming festivities.
UTM homecoming to celebrate strength, spirit

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual homecoming week festivities Monday through Oct. 9. Featured will be the homecoming football game against Austin Peay State University at 2 p.m. Oct. 8 in Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

This year’s activities focus on the theme “Superheroes.”

The Skyhawk Volleyball team will start the week with a match against Southeast Missouri at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

The Public Relations Student Society of America will later host the annual “Womanless Revue” fund-raiser at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

The University Choirs Dessert Evening will be held at 7 nightly Oct. 7-8 in the Fine Arts Building. Tickets for this event are $18 for adults older than age 12 and $12 for children younger than 12 and UT Martin students with valid student ID.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting the Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.

Oct. 8 will be the busiest day of homecoming week and will begin with the Letterwinners’ Breakfast and Athletics Hall of Fame inductions at 7:30 in the Student Life Center. The Chancellor’s Brunch and Awards Program will follow at 9:30 in the Paul Meek Library.

Quad City will open at 10:30 and feature a variety of tents and activities, including the “Ivory Tower of Power” sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations. Quad City traditionally includes special events such as a petting zoo and pet show, as well as the football team’s “Skyhawk Walk” at 11.

Quad City will end with the start of the football game at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Football tickets can be purchased in advance or at the gate. Chair seats are $20 each, reserved bench back seats are $18 each and general admission is $15 per person. Groups of 10 or more can purchase tickets for $12 each in advance. UT Martin students with valid student IDs may enter free of charge.

The Black Alumni Council will host a reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse and the Young Alumni Council will host a reception at 7 p.m. at The Stables in downtown Martin. The National Panhellenic Council Step Show will also begin at 7 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The week will end with the annual Skyhawk Homecoming Brunch in the Skyhawk Dining Hall beginning at 10:30 Oct. 9. Brunch admission is $11.48 for adults and $5.43 for children younger than age 10.

Homecoming week will also include the traditional rope pull, lip sync and pyramid events throughout the week, which feature various Greek life organizations.

For a full list of events and times, go online to www.utm.edu/homecoming.

Grand Ole Opry now open at UTM

The Grand Ole Opry traveling exhibition is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays now through Oct. 14 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s J. Houston Gordon Museum, located inside the Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit consists of 30 black-and-white images by commercial photographer Gordon Gillingham and offers visitors a rare glimpse inside the Nashville-based radio show that brought country music to the masses.

Gillingham’s photographs include Johnny Cash signing autographs backstage, artists rehearsing for the Grand Ole Opry television show and crowds of fans gathering outside the Opry auditorium.

The Grand Old Opry began broadcasting in 1925 on WSM radio station, run by the National Life and Accident Insurance Company. Since then, it has become an American institution and the longest-running radio show in the country. Today, the Opry showcases country music’s longstanding legends, including Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash and Dolly Parton, as well as contemporary artists such as Carrie Underwood and Blake Shelton.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Parking permits for visitors are available at no cost from the Paul Meek Library Circulation desk staff.
Local students named to UT Martin summer semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2016 Chancellor’s Honor Roll for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Hannah K. McDade, Atwood, Highest Honors
Tanner R. Petty, Humboldt, Highest Honors
Madeleine R. Harrison, Milan, Honors
Haleigh N. Hoke, Milan, Highest Honors
Kenneth P. Wilson, Milan, Highest Honors
Amber N. Wallsmith, Trenton, Highest Honors

UTM Reed Center offers small business basics course

Current and prospective business owners interested in the fundamentals of small business development are encouraged to register for a four-week course offered from 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 4-25, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

Small Business Basics Boot Camp, led by small business experts and business owners, is designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. Each session will focus on topics such as business planning, financial awareness and accountability, advice on legal issues and ideas for business marketing.

The course features GrowthWheel, a visual tool that provides structure and direction in order to allow business owners to set goals and take action. GrowthWheel works for all businesses in all stages and industries.

The registration fee for this course is $25 and all materials are provided. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at 731-587-7333 or register online at tsbdc.org/training.

Fall preview days set at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin encourages high school students to visit during Fall Preview Days hosted on the main campus. Students can choose to attend special activities. The first preview day was last week on September 24. Two more dates, October 29 and November 12.

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

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

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

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s online programs have been recognized for great value at both the undergraduate and graduate levels by OnlineCollegePlan.com and GradSchoolHub.com.

OnlineCollegePlan.com collectively ranked UT Martin’s five online bachelor’s programs 39th on its list of the “Top 50 Most Affordable Online Bachelor’s Degrees.” This ranking is based on the net yearly average price of obtaining a degree online from each included institution.

UT Martin offers online degrees in interdisciplinary studies, business administration management, agri-business and farm and ranch management, as well as the RN to BSN nursing bridge option.

GradSchoolHub.com recently released its list of the most affordable top-ranked online MBA programs for 2016 and included UT Martin at number 15. The ranking focuses on institutions that have already been recognized by major publications such as Forbes magazine, The Princeton Review and U.S. News & World Report and ranks them according to degree cost.

UT Martin’s online MBA program is designed for financial services professionals and was most recently ranked 22nd in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

For more information on UT Martin’s online degrees, contact UT Martin Online at (731) 881-7080.

Personalized reading clinic sessions offered

Every student has different reading abilities, and some need more assistance than can be provided during a normal school day.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Reading Center offers personalized reading clinic sessions for students in grades 2-12 who have difficulty reading or are falling behind grade level reading standards.

Students can enroll in one of two remaining sessions this fall: Sept. 22-Oct. 31 or Nov. 1-30. Each session will meet twice per week for one hour each on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule. The registration cost is $100 per session (not per meeting), plus $25 for a required workbook.

Students are individually tested to determine specific needs in phonics and reading comprehension before being placed into a course of study designed to fill gaps in their skills and strategies. All lessons are taught by experienced reading professionals from the UT Martin Reading Center.

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

Business course available

Current and prospective business owners interested in the fundamentals of small business development are encouraged to register for a four-week course offered from 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays starting next week at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

The course will run through Oct. 25.

Small Business Basics Boot Camp, led by small business experts and business owners, is designed to serve as a guide to small business development and entrepreneurship. Each session will focus on topics such as business planning, financial awareness and accountability, advice on legal issues and ideas for business marketing.

The course features GrowthWheel, a visual tool that provides structure and direction in order to allow business owners to set goals and take action. GrowthWheel works for all businesses in all stages and industries.

The registration fee for this course is $25 and all materials are provided. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact the UT Martin REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or register online at tsbdc.org/training.
UT Martin Department of Music presents Don Quixote Friday October 7

http://www.thunderboltradio.com/

The UT Martin Department of Music presents a mini-concert performance of Don Quixote Friday October 7 at the Fine Arts Building in Blankenship Recital Hall.

This presentation includes faculty members Dr. Roberto Mancusi singing bass voice, and Dr. Elaine Harris playing piano.

Don Quixote is about the adventures of a middle-aged gentleman from Spain who decides to fight wickedness and defend the helpless in the name of chivalry.

This event is part of Homecoming Week at UTM and is open to the public.

Workshops to focus on starting new businesses

The Skyhawk Venture Development Workshop Series, featuring speakers on a variety of business topics, is open to the public beginning Oct. 6. Workshops will be held at 6 p.m., Thursdays, Oct. 6-Nov. 16, in room 33 of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Business Administration Building. There is no charge to attend.

This series is designed to assist students and community members who wish to start or purchase their own businesses. UT Martin alum William Donnell (’96), owner and founder of design firm Sodium Halogen, will speak Oct. 6 on the purpose and strategy of starting a new business.

Subsequent speakers will address topics such as intellectual property, due diligence, target markets, competitors and leadership skills.

A light meal will be provided each night. Interested parties should register to attend at utm.edu/entrepreneur.

The series is sponsored by the UT Martin Tom Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise and the Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture in partnership with the Northwest Tennessee Entrepreneur Center and the Northwest Tennessee Angel Fund.

For more information contact Dr. Tommy Cates, UT Martin Tom Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise, at 731-881-7228 or by email at tcates@utm.edu.
Alumni to be honored at homecoming

Dr. Karoline Pershell, of Zenti and Service Robotics & Technologies; Bobby Goode, of the USDA Rural Development for Tennessee; and David Murphy, of Murphy Funeral Home, will receive alumni awards during the University of Tennessee at Martin’s homecoming festivities Oct. 8. The homecoming football game against Austin Peay will begin at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium, and award-winners will also be recognized during halftime.

Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor, will present the awards during the Chancellor’s Brunch and Awards Program in the Paul Meek Library, slated to begin at 9:30 a.m., Oct. 8. The individual awards are as follows:

• Dr. Karoline Pershell, Outstanding Young Alumni Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the recipient’s chosen profession (recipient must not be more than 40 years of age);
• Bobby Goode, Outstanding Alumni Award, which recognizes an alum for outstanding achievement in his or her chosen profession;
• David Murphy, Chancellor’s Award for University Service, which recognizes exemplary service to the university.

See Alumni, Page 7
Byford to be inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame

Dr. James (Jim) L. Byford of Martin, Tennessee will be inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on Oct. 7 for his lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H.

Honored by the Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Program, Byford will be one of 16 people inducted during the ceremony at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) by 4-H National Headquarters/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

Honorees will be presented with a National 4-H Hall of Fame medallion, plaque and memory book during the ceremony. The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as part of the Centennial Project of the NAE4-HA in partnership with National 4-H Council and National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. For more information about the National 4-H Hall of Fame event and past recipients, visit www.nae4ha.com/hof.

“We are proud to acknowledge the outstanding 2016 National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees for the passion, dedication, vision and leadership they’ve shown toward our young people during their many years of service to 4-H,” says Jeanette Rea Keywood, National 4-H Hall of Fame Committee Chair.

Byford is a respected leader, a committed citizen and a person of impeccable character. He is a highly respected educator, an author, a storyteller and a songwriter. He is known as an environmentalist, a sportsman and a dedicated husband, father and grandfather.

Dr. Byford served as Extension wildlife specialist for the University of Tennessee for 18 years, where he initiated the 4-H wildlife project enrolling over 30,000 members annually. To enhance the learning experience, Byford developed a 4-H wildlife judging contest. The contest went national in 1988 (now called Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program) and has been recognized as a National Program of Distinction. He began the 4-H FACE (Food and Cover Establishment) Contest enabling 4-H members to grow a wildlife food plot with a free bag of seed. He developed a statewide 4-H wildlife conference, served on the Southern Region 4-H Wildlife Literature Committee and provided leadership for the Tennessee/Southern Region 4-H Fish and Wildlife Adult Leaders Conference. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal from NAE4-HA in 1979. In 1987, he became dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In that role, he was untiring in his efforts to recruit students to campus and made sure 4-H members were always welcome to events and campus visits. He often volunteered to assist with events at State 4-H Roundup by sharing stories and songs around a campfire. He served as advisor for the UTM Collegiate 4-H Club. He served as a role model and mentor to 4-H members who chose to continue their education at UTM. In 2011, he was recognized with the prestigious State Friend of 4-H Award.

Dr. Byford has always been a promoter of service to others. He has served on the board of directors of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation and the Volunteer Community Hospital. He served on the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives, on the West Tennessee River Basin Authority Board and the UT Press Editorial Board. As a public service, he makes 35-40 presentations each year to community groups and local educational institutions.

As an extension specialist, Dr. Byford set an example for other state staff by serving as vice-president of the Tennessee Association of Extension Workers. He has also served as president of The Wildlife Society (Southeastern Section); chairman of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee of Tennessee on Biodiversity Programs; member of the Executive Board of Tennessee Hunters for the Hum-
UTM Skyhawk Band to Join Bobcat Band

Band Director Ryan Foret is pleased to announce a special treat for the Bobcat family this weekend. The UTM Skyhawk Band will be playing with the Bobcat Band during the game. At halftime, they will present their field show.

“Our 2016 Show is called Clubbin’ and features 3 movements: Birdland – Made famous by Maynard Ferguson; Uptown Funk – Mark Ranson & Bruno Mars (Features Battery Percussion); a medley of Daft Punk music (Features Baritone Duet as well as a Mellophone and a Colorguard Soloists)” said Dr. Bill Waterman, who is the UTM Director of Athletic Bands.

The band has a little over 100 students, including MCHS alumni Emma Foret, Will Latham and Caitlyn King. Dr. Waterman said it was a “no-brainer” when asked why they chose to come to MCHS.

“The time that Dr. John Oelrich and I have been at UTM, we have built a strong relationship with the band program through Ryan Foret, and Micaiah and Kerry Radcliff (both of which are also alums of UTM). They have all been extremely welcoming and supportive of many of our departments events such has: Honor Band, Honors Chamber Festival, and many students making the two-plus hour travel time to take lessons with some of our faculty. We’re very proud of what they are building and the people they are.”

Dr. Waterman would love for students, parents, directors, and even community members to check out their website (www.utm.edu/departments/music) and Facebook pages: UTM Music and UTM Bands. He says they always have great information about what’s happening at UTM and how students and parents can learn more about their amazing concerts and events. There are many opportunities for students to engage in activities on campus such as the West Tennessee Marching Championships, UTM Honor Band, Chamber Festival, Junior/Senior Day, auditioning into our program, and much more.

“We’d certainly like to thank Ryan, Rebecca, Micaiah, Kerry, and all of the McNairy Central Band students and boosters for having us. They’ve done nothing less than roll out the red carpet for us and we can’t express our appreciation enough. This program is a class act and the community should be very proud of them.” said Waterman.

MCHS alumni Emma Foret and Will Latham are members of the UTM Skyhawk Band that will be performing at the football game on September 30.
KEITH CARVER, executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee System, has been selected by UT President Joe DiPietro to serve as the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin. DiPietro will recommend Carver's election to the post by the UT Board of Trustees during its October 13th and 14th meeting in Knoxville.

Pending approval by the board, Carver's effective start date will be January 3rd. An internal search to fill the executive assistant position will begin soon, with the intent of having someone in place by the end of the year.

Carver has served as executive assistant to the president since January 2011. Prior to that, he held roles at UT campuses in Knoxville, Martin and Memphis, including serving as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and assistant vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Knoxville. His doctoral dissertation was titled, "A Study of Presidential Derailment in Public Research Universities."

Keith and his wife, Hollianne, are the parents of a daughter, Carson, and two sons, Jack Thomas (J.T.) and Britton.

Carver has served as executive assistant to the president since January 2011. Prior to that, he held roles at UT campuses in Knoxville, Martin and Memphis, including serving as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin. He held several positions at UT Knoxville including assistant director and director of development and alumni affairs for the College of Law, program director for the Office of Student Activities and co-director of TeamVOLS. He also worked as director of special projects and coordinator of experiential education at Marietta College in Ohio for two years.

Carver has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Memphis, a master's degree in college student personnel and educational leadership from UT Knoxville and a doctoral degree from UT Knoxville. His doctoral dissertation was titled, "A Study of Presidential Derailment in Public Research Universities."

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HAILEY HOLCOMB, of Ripley, was selected as one of two students from the University of Tennessee at Martin to receive a 2016 Golden Opportunity Scholar Award from the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America. Holcomb is a senior pursuing a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a concentration in plant and soil science.

This award, which matches undergraduate students with society professionals, comes in part because of her research work with soybeans through the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Holcomb’s summer position with the West Tennessee Research and Education Center began immediately after her freshman year at UT Martin, and she has returned each summer since that time.

“The first two summers I worked with Dr. Angela McClure, who is the corn and soybean research specialist for the center,” said Holcomb. “Helping her with test plots, such as irrigated and non-irrigated studies in corn and soybeans, sparked my interest in research.” Holcomb didn’t start the position with previous research experience, and wasn’t sure how she would enjoy the job. However, she learned quickly and developed a love for the profession. “I didn’t know anything about research until I started with Dr. McClure. To see how well different varieties of seed performed in the trials was eye-opening to how important research really is.”

Soybean research isn’t only important when the crops are in the fields, however. Holcomb also worked with Dr. Barbara Darroch, assistant professor of agriculture at UT Martin, during the year to study the timing and effects of fungicide use on soybean crops.

Holcomb also completed personal research this summer as part of her first official internship with the West Tennessee Research and Education Center. Dr. Larry Steckel, a weed scientist with the center, mentored her through “an antagonism study between Liberty and Select herbicides.” This purpose of this project was to examine “how well different amounts of the herbicides, applied at different gallons per acre, controlled weeds before one started to lessen the control of the other.” Holcomb will present this research to a group of professors and peers later in the semester.

While many students complete internships during their junior or senior years of college, Holcomb urges an early start.

“Right out of the gate, go get summer jobs and internships in the field you are interested in. Make sure you enjoy what you’re doing before you spend four years studying something and realize it isn’t for you,” she said.

Holcomb plans to graduate in May 2017 and hopes to become a University of Tennessee extension agent in the West Tennessee area.