Cassandra Stephenson  
The Jackson Sun

The University of Tennessee at Martin chamber choir will be singing at the top of their lungs to what might be their largest crowd ever at the Soybean Festival on Friday. But they won’t be performing alone. The New Pacer Singers will be backing rock band Foreigner, performing their hit song, “I Want to Know What Love Is,” as part of Foreigner’s Martin stop on their current tour celebrating their 40th anniversary.

“It was freaking out for sure,” three-year choir member and UTM vocal performance major Shelby Johnston said of hearing about the opportunity. “I think if I get to sing ‘I Want to Know What Love Is’ with them, my dreams will have come true.”

Foreigner invited the New Pacer Singers to join them on stage as part of a near decade-long effort by the band to draw attention to music programs in schools. Foreigner multi-instrumentalist Tom Gimbel said. Foreigner is partnered with The Grammy Foundation, a charity that aims to bring national attention to preserving music and arts education, according to the foundation’s website.

“We’re trying to do anything we can to talk to people, raise awareness and say ‘contact your Board of Education, your superintendent, your PTA,’ and say, ‘What can we do to not have these programs taken away,’” Gimbel said.

Foreigner will also donate $500 to the choir in return for their performance.

“It’s like giving them their first paying job, and they get to play in front of a crowd, which is such a wonderful experience that we hope they can draw from if they continue with a life of performing,” Gimbel said.

See SOYBEAN, Page 3A

Soybean

Continued from Page 1A

UTM Director of Choral Activities Mark Simmons said the donation will be used to purchase music and equipment for future choir performances. Members of the choir will also sell Foreigner CDs before the event, with all profits going to The Grammy Foundation.

Gimbel said the collaboration with the choir will be a high point for him in the upcoming concert. He said he especially likes the “gothic tone” that a choir adds to the band’s music.

Four-year member of the New Pacer Singers Wesley Sliger shares this affinity for mixing the two genres of music.

“It’s going to be awesome,” Sliger said. “When you hear a choir in rock music ... it’s like your mind immediately just pictures angels or something — at least mine does ... with the rock music, it’s just so different that it works super well together.”

Sliger, a senior at UTM, started singing when he was around 2 or 3 years old, he said. Both his parents have degrees in music education, and his mother teaches music at three schools in Weakley County.

Sliger said he hopes the performance will help draw attention to the UTM choir and encourage people to join, as the group is open to the community. Being part of the choir has allowed him to speak and bond with members of all ages and generations in addition to appreciating music, he said.

“There’s a lot that people are missing, so they don’t see that, they don’t hear about it, therefore they don’t fund it and it dies,” Sliger said.

Gimbel said this cause is especially near and dear to his heart, as he started drum lessons at his elementary school in fifth grade. He continued lessons through high school and now plays rhythm guitar, keyboards, saxophone and flute for the band. He has also taught private music lessons.

“I just think [music] keeps a lot of kids out of trouble, it gives them something to do, it makes them interact with other people,” Gimbel said. “They’re playing together with other musicians. Nowadays, anything that gets people away from being separate is like, worth its weight in gold.”

Johnston, who attended middle and
Foreigner performs during the band’s European 2016 tour. PHOTO COURTESY OF FOREIGNER

high school in Nashville, said she had the luxury of growing up with well-funded music and arts programs. She said she sees a "stark difference" in the sometimes scarce music offerings in West Tennessee schools. Johnston said she supports the funding of music programs because she sees how they influence what people view as acceptable in a culture.

"I think music plays a huge role in whether or not people are as open-minded, or lack thereof," Johnston said. "So, I think it's awesome."

Gimbel said encouraging audience involvement in their music is always something the band strives for, and he is looking forward to experiencing that in Martin.

"Any time you're in the states and you're playing rock music and people are there rocking with you, and especially if it's a kind of festival like this, it's just a good time," Gimbel said. "Everybody's in a good mood. There's good food."

He noted that catfish is one of his favorite things to eat when Foreigner performs in the South.

"We want everyone to get involved, sing along, dance around, stomp your feet, clap your hands — all those good things that happen at a rock concert," Gimbel said. "The word concert actually means, I think, 'join together,' so we love it when people get involved and become part of the energy."

Since coming back from a three-year break in 2005, Foreigner has worked hard to continue growing as a band, Gimbel said.

The band's 2018 release "Foreigner With the 21st Century Symphony Orchestra & Chorus" debuted at No. 1 on the Classical Albums and Classical Crossover Albums charts, according to Billboard. Foreigner will perform live with an orchestra in Australia later in their tour.

The group's latest album, "Feels Like the First Time," includes new digital recordings of the band's greatest hits, featuring current band members in addition to a CD with acoustic studio versions of some of their songs.

Gimbel said the band occasionally performs an acoustic version of "Say You Will" in concert, but whether the song will make the set list for the Soybean Festival show will depend on how much time they have to perform.

"People seem to like it, so it's fun," Gimbel said about the song. "It's a nice little gear shift, and the ears get a little extra seasoning. It's like a sauce, extra flavor."

Whatever the set list may be, Sliger said he hopes the concert will encourage the celebration of music in West Tennessee.

"Sports is king, and I just kind of hope that music people kind of balance the scales," Sliger said. "Care about one aspect of life as much as the other. Competition's one thing — but so is just sitting down and enjoying a super dense piece of music. Or super simple, like choir and rock bands."

Find the Soybean Festival schedule online at: tnsoybeancitestival.org
Reach Cassandra Stephenson at ckstephens@jacksonsun.com or at (731) 694-7261.
New tool available at University of Tennessee at Martin for transfer students

transfers from any institution can now use the University of Tennessee at Martin’s transfer equivalency self-service feature to determine how earned college credits will apply toward any UT Martin degree program.

"We know the first question transfer students ask when looking at colleges and universities is related to how their coursework will transfer into a new degree program. TESS makes that process quick and easy, and the system can be accessed at any time," said Destin Tucker, director of the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

This online tool provides an unofficial transcript evaluation for potential transfer students and allows them to see how transfer credits may be used toward a new degree program. Official transcript and degree evaluations will be completed after UT Martin admission. The credits to be evaluated must have been earned in 1995 or later.

Users can access the self-service program at utm.edu/tess. Online instructions are available through the UT Martin Registrar’s website at utm.edu/tessinfo.

Students must complete a minimum of 25 percent of degree coursework through UT Martin to receive a UT Martin degree.

For more information or assistance, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
Telethon of Stars 2018: Jayce
September 3, 2018
Jennifer Horbelt, Michael Bradford,

Jayce gives a high five.

UNION CITY, TN — The 62nd Telethon of Stars Celebration Concert is just weeks away. When you buy a ticket, you're helping some very special people in our community.

One of them is 1-year-old Jayce. He was born with Down syndrome. His mom said UTM Infant Stimulation, a program that serves children with developmental delays in six northwest Tennessee counties, has helped them in ways they never could have imagined.

Jayce is like most 1-year-olds.

"He's so sweet. He's got a ton of personality," Mallory West, with UTM Infant Stimulation, said.

He's a little stubborn, too. And when he gets mad?

Jasmine Davis holds her baby boy Jayce in the hospital.
"He will blow raspberries at you," West laughed.

With West's help, he's made big strides in his young life.

"Yay! Look at you!" West said, watching Jayce. "He wasn't doing that last time. That's awesome."

"I don't know what I'd do without them, I don't," Jayce's mom, Jasmine Davis, told Local 6.

Davis didn't expect West to come into her life. She also didn't expect to find out she was having a child with Down syndrome.

"It's something you don't think about when you get pregnant. You don't think about anything being mentally wrong with your child," Jasmine said. "It was hard at first, you know, to absorb, but we weren't gonna' love him no different."

Jayce was in the NICU for about a week after he was born.

Davis knew she would love her son before he ever arrived. Then, she held Jayce for the first time.

"I didn't get to hold him 'til he was 3 days old," Davis said, explaining that Jayce was rushed to a hospital in Jackson, Tennessee, with a neonatal intensive care unit. "See it on movies, you know, like, she crying. No, I cried. I don't know, it was a different type of love. Different feeling."

Davis is the type of mom to take things in stride, but she was still scared.

"It's certain things that you don't think about with babies with Down syndrome. It's certain stuff you don't think about. Simple as, like I said, him lifting his arm up," Davis explained.
In those ways, West has been an enormous support. She's seen a lot of progress in six months. "Even something as simple as kneeling on his knees and tolerating that," West said.

"Everything we do is in the home, which actually is really the cornerstone of our program," Program Director Lori Wilson said. "We want children to be successful in their natural environment."

Lori said paying for travel is the biggest challenge right now, and UTM Infant Stimulation can't turn away a child in need. So, they get creative.

"Here lately we've been saying can we, OK, we can't really fit y'all in for once a week every week or for an hour, but we might could do like maybe every other week," Lori said.

"I love to see the puzzle pieces falling together, and working out, and see him be successful," West said about working with Jayce.

Success for kids like Jayce takes consistency, though. That's where you come in when you give to the Telethon of Stars.

"There's a child every day that you could help, and my child is one of them, and he's special," said Davis.

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**LOCAL FAMILIES ATTENDS LEGACY LUNCHEON**

Chandler Carey (center, upper photo), a graduate of South Gibson County High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Carey plans to study sport business. He is pictured with his parents, Billy and Tiffany Carey ('96).

Lower photo-Dylan Thomas (center), a graduate of Milan High School. Thomas plans to study computer science. He is pictured with his stepfather, Shane Paschall, and mother, Monica Paschall.
Will Clark to speak at UTM scholarship benefit

Erin Chesnut
UT Martin

MARTIN — A former Cardinal will brighten UT Martin next week, as former first baseman Will Clark will speak to benefit scholarships named for Trey Lindsey.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Wildlife Society will sponsor a dinner at 6 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom to support the Philip Trey Lindsey Scholarship Endowment. And "Will the Thrill" is slated to be the featured speaker.

Clark began his Major League Baseball career with the San Francisco Giants in 1986 and played 15 seasons in the MLB, including three years with the Texas Rangers and two years with the Baltimore Orioles before ending his career with the St. Louis Cardinals. Nicknamed "Will the Thrill," he has received multiple athletic honors, including the Gold Glove Award, two Silver Slugger Awards and six All-Star recognitions.

The event will also include a silent auction featuring sports and celebrity memorabilia, as well as vacation and restaurant packages.

Lindsey, of Medon, graduated from UT Martin with a degree in wildlife biology in 2016. He passed away suddenly in July of that year after a blood clot in his leg caused cardiac arrest. Lindsey's friends and family members created the scholarship to honor his memory and help support students who choose to study wildlife biology at UT Martin.

Individual tickets can be purchased for $75 each, and tickets for the VIP meet and greet are sold separately for $60 each. Table sponsorships are also available for full or half-tables. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact John Lindsey at 731-217-7187 or email kingfish- ing.1972@gmail.com.

See CLARK, Page 5A
UTM scholarship event to feature former Card

The University of Tennessee at Martin Wildlife Society will sponsor a dinner at 6 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom to support the Phillip Trey Lindsey Scholarship Endowment. Will Clark, former first baseman with the St. Louis Cardinals, will speak during the event.

Clark began his Major League Baseball career with the San Francisco Giants in 1986 and played 15 seasons in the MLB, including three years with the Texas Rangers and two years with the Baltimore Orioles before ending his career with the St. Louis Cardinals.

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Ream takes part in Legacy Luncheon

Tanner Ream, center, a graduate of Halls High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Ream is pictured with his parents, David and Cindy Ream.

LOCAL FAMILY ATTENDS LEGACY LUNCHEON

Kelsey Stubblefield, left, a graduate of South Fulton High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Stubblefield plans to study nursing. She is pictured with her mother, Christy Stubblefield, who graduated in 1994. (Photo submitted)
Local freshmen move in at UT Martin

Sep 6, 2018

Allison Ogg (left) of Adams and Savannah Jones (center) of Cross Plains, moved into on-campus residence halls at the University of Tennessee at Martin during Move-In Mania on Aug. 24. Move-In Mania brings the campus and community together as volunteers from all areas welcome the incoming freshman class and help students settle into their new homes. Both students plan to study animal science. They are pictured with classmate Gracie Williams. SUBMITTED

The Camden Chronicle
Thursday, September 6, 2018

TANNER REAM, center, a graduate of Halls High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Legacy Luncheon August 24th for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Ream is pictured with his parents, David and Cindy Ream.
Luncheon celebrates all who have contributed to success of Tennessee Soybean Festival

Awards, music, laughter and speeches marked the Mayor’s Luncheon for the Tennessee Soybean Festival this year as the festival reached its 25th year. The ballroom at the Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin was filled from front to back with farmers, political figures, beautiful queens and handsome kings, but mostly with the everyday people who make the festival possible.

Brad Thompson of the City of Martin and Stephanie Scott of Styles on Broadway were crowned the Martin Pilot Club’s King and Queen Bean and received unusually large crowns.

The Big Bean award went to the leadership and employees of MTD, while Jeff Capps was inducted into the Soybean Hall of Fame for his ongoing service to the festival.

Parks Wells and Kenneth Moore were announced as the grand marshals of the Soybean Festival parade.

Coca Cola was recognized as the Big Harvester Sponsor and Danny Donaldson received the service award.

The “Soybean Song,” as required, was performed by Jim Byford and Larry Holder. Jai Templeton, state commissioner of agriculture, provided welcoming comments and Stephen Alexander Vaden, principal deputy general counsel for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was the keynote speaker.

Martin Beautiful presented its awards for city beautification. Winners were individual residence, Dr. Henry Parker and Marilyn Crist, 139 Glenwood Drive, and Cyndy and Marvin Richardson, 608 Jackson St.; multiple residence, Wesley at Martin, 448 Hannings Lane.; business, Guy Robbins accepted the award for Baptist Medical Group Women’s Health Center of Martin, 300 W. Peach St., adopt-a-site, the Keith Cursey family, Frederick Street; church, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 145 Hannings Lane.

HALL OF FAME — Jeff Capps, who has directed every Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade, was honored for his service by being chosen for the Soybean Festival Hall of Fame. He is pictured with Martin Mayor Randy Brundige (left) and Festival Executive Director David Belote.
Clinton duo takes first place

Out of the 25 acts from prior auditions for Froggyland's Got Talent, 11 took the Oxford Street Stage of the Tennessee Soybean festival on Monday night and one duet came out the winner. Ryker and Julie Cagle Clinton, Ky., took home the $1,000 check and the chance to perform later in the week at another festival venue. Upon accepting the check from the 103.7 on-air personality Marty McFlies, James Pond, and Heath McRibbits, Ryker proclaimed, "I'm grateful that God has given me the ability to sing." With Ryker on guitar, the duo have sung before audiences at church but never professionally, said mom Julie. Her pride in her son was evident as he visited with audience members after the performance, smiling as she noted her role was "just the backup." A new event for the 25th Annual festival, the talent show allowed local acts to perform before packed and overflowing bleachers. Staff from 103.7 served as the judges.

The acts varied in instrumentation included a piano, autoharp, electric and acoustic guitars and CD. One performed a capella and several sang their own compositions. Those performing included John B. Head, Corey Rogers and J. Gibson, Alisabeth Culp, "Tennessee Bob" Peckham, Trevor Warren, Kate Lyn Smith, Rachelle Beck, Madison McNabb, Kyeler Penick, and Tony Garner.

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UT Martin alumni raise funds for theatre renaming

ERIN CHESNUT
UT Martin

MARTIN – Alumni, faculty and staff from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Visual and Theatre Arts have started a fundraising effort to rename the university’s Vanguard Little Theatre after the late Bill Snyder, professor emeritus of theatre.

Snyder, longtime director of the UT Martin Vanguard Theatre, died in March 2008. He retired from UT Martin in 1996 after 32 years of teaching and is estimated to have directed more than 150 productions during his time at UT Martin. He was named a University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Distinguished Professor in 1990.

In addition to his work at UT Martin, Snyder was also a New York actor, playwright, producer and director. One of his plays, “The Days and Nights of Bee-Bee Fenstemaker,” ran for 304 performances Off-Broadway at the Sheridan Square Playhouse in New York City.

“I personally credit Bill with much of what I have achieved as an artist, or frankly as a human being in my life and my career. I’ve missed him every day since his retirement,” said Doug Cook, chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. “The Vanguard Little Theatre is our newer, smaller theatre space. It’s a space designed with Bill in mind. He was always fond of intimate theatre spaces, and I think our Little Theatre venue would have pleased him greatly.”

Supporters have established a goal to raise $100,000 to finance the renaming in honor of Snyder’s legacy. Those wishing to support this effort can do so online at utmforever.com/snydertheatre or by contacting the UT Martin Division of University Advancement at 731-881-7633.

UTM hosting golf tournament for student internships

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will host the second-annual Career Classic golf tournament beginning at 9 a.m. Oct. 3, at the Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon. Registration is $75 per player or $300 for a four-person team. Players must be registered by Sept. 28.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start promptly at 9. Lunch will be provided at noon. Participants can register as a team or as individuals; those not registered with a team will be assigned to one by the tournament director.

Registration for the four-person scramble tournament includes cart rental, green fees, range balls and lunch. Prizes will be presented to the first, second and third-place teams. Proceeds from the tournament help fund travel and housing stipends for UT Martin students who earn internship placements both domestically and internationally.

Sponsorship opportunities are available beginning at $200.

Registration checks should be made payable to the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development and sent to the University of Tennessee at Martin, Boling University Center, Room 210, Martin, TN, 38238. Participants should include the name, address, phone number and email address of all team members when sending payment.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or registration assistance, contact Dr. Mark McCloud, interim assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, at 731-881-7712 or email mmcloud5@utm.edu.
Prince completes UTM vet tech program

SUBMITTED Sep 8, 2018 Updated Sep 8, 2018

Stasha Prince, of Lebanon, completed the course requirements for the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) Veterinary Health Technology Program during the spring 2018 semester. She received her veterinary health technician pin during a ceremony held May 4 and will finish a six-week internship in an active practice before receiving her degree in the fall.

SUBMITTED

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New partnership agreement reached between JSCC and UTM

September 10, 2018 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
(https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbb7eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

JACKSON, Tenn.—Two local colleges announce a new partnership to benefit students.

Monday, Jackson State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin signed a partnership agreement, which will allow students to be admitted to both schools at the same time.

The president of Jackson State said this benefits the students by having an advisor at UTM.

"We’re just excited to have UT Martin as our partner and more importantly, we are excited to provide these pathways for our students," said president of Jackson State Community College, Dr. Allana Hamilton.

"So when you get a student that comes in from Jackson State, they’re ready, they’re ready and they matriculate through and graduate and this really just finalizes the agreement that we’ve had, I guess unwritten for many years and that we really want Jackson State students at UT Martin," said Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Dr. Hamilton said 50 percent of students at Jackson State plan to transfer to a 4-year college or university.
Webb experience at governor's school 'life-changing'

Special to The DPA Sep 10, 2018

http://www.dailypoostathenian.com/

An Englewood resident enjoyed a "life-changing" experience at an exclusive school recently.

Madison Webb, a senior at McMinn Central High School, attended the Tennessee Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences in June, a month-long program at the University of Tennessee-Martin. 

"I had the opportunity to attend in June of 2018 and it was definitely an unforgettable, life-changing experience," Webb said. "The governor's school is all expenses paid and you get to experience all the amenities of a college lifestyle."

The application process was "rigorous," Webb said, noting that essay writing and personal references are required to be considered and only 32 out of 119 applicants are accepted.

However, the benefit to the program is worth the process of getting in, she said.

"While at Martin, I had the opportunity to earn six intro to ag business college credit hours, as well as explore the diverse science of agriculture," she said. "I even got to tour our state capitol, department of agriculture, and speak with Commissioner of Agriculture Jai Templeton over debatable topics in Tennessee Agriculture."

Webb said she was already considering a career path in agriculture and this experience convinced her it's the right call.

"The governor's school program solidified my dreams of earning a degree in agriculture," she said.

During her time at governor's school, Webb was provided a "broad overview of agriculture and natural resources, worked with veterinarians on necropsies, neuters, and basic procedures, and participated in group study projects that specialize in designated aspects of agriculture."

Webb, the daughter of Lea Ann and Matt Webb, serves as the president of the McMinn Central Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter and she said she plans on attending UT Martin in the fall.
Weststar Leadership Program accepting applications for '19 class

MARTIN — Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2019.

The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 825 graduates in its 29-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development.

Each seminar takes place over ½ days. The program begins Dec. 11 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 25, 2019, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee’s economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles.

Participants learn leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize potential.

Participants also become part of a growing network of WestStar alumni who help shape West Tennessee’s future.

WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and service.

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

The application deadline is Oct. 12. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.
UTM unveils new recycling center

A new self-sort station is available at the University of Tennessee at Martin Recycling Facility, thanks to a 2017 Giving Circle Grant from the University of Tennessee Alliance of Women Philanthropists. Community members are asked to use this station to sort recyclable materials as they are delivered.

According to Mike Davis, facility manager, the recycling facility once employed four full-time staff members and close to 20 student workers. However, the facility is now only staffed by two full-time workers, a part-time employee and two student assistants. Because of these changes, community members are asked to self-sort materials in order to keep the recycling process efficient and costs low. Davis says the facility is charged a penalty fee when a vendor must sort recyclables.

SEE RECYCLING,

PAGE 12

RECYCLING,
FROM PAGE 1

"We used to have more volunteers ... and now we're just low on help. Meanwhile, the volume of recycling has expanded, thanks to campus and community involvement," said Dr. Angie MacKewn, co-sponsor of the UTM Recycles! program. According to annual records, the recycling facility recycled approximately 182 tons of cardboard, 45 tons of mixed office paper, 17 tons of various plastics and almost two tons of aluminum beverage containers in 2017.

The recycling facility currently accepts plastic materials with either a number one or a number two inside the recycling symbol. These include clear plastics, colored plastics, opaque plastics such as milk jugs, and grocery bags, which must all be sorted separately. The facility also accepts both aluminum and steel cans, paper, cardboard, scrap metal, ink cartridges and books.

All items must be rinsed and delivered with the lids taken off and discarded. Items should also be sorted loose.

Items in bags cannot be inserted into the recycling equipment; items with lids cannot be crushed effectively; and items that are unrimmed attract rodents and other unwanted animals to the site.

The recycling facility currently cannot accept aerosol or pressurized cans, paint cans, Styrofoam, clothing, glass, plastics not marked with a number one or number two, or any electronics. However, MacKewn, Davis and Dr. Heidi Huse, program co-sponsor, hope future grants will fund the purchase of a can condenser and a glass crusher and allow the facility to expand its list of acceptable items.

"While the changes at the recycling facility may require extra steps from campus and community recyclers, we are excited to see the UT Martin recycling program evolve. We hope it continues to be something the campus and community can support and be proud of," said Huse. Huse and MacKewn are co-writers of the grant that funded construction of the new self-sort station.

The recycling facility, located on Moody Avenue, is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and from 3 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The facility is closed on Sundays, holidays and any time when the university is not in operation.

For more information, contact Davis at 731-881-7640 or email UTM Recycles! at recycle@utm.edu. Program information is also available on the UTM Recycles! Facebook page.
ATTENDS LEGACY LUNCHEON – Kelly Childress (left), a graduate of Dresden High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Childress plans to study health and human performance. She is pictured with her mother, Becky Childress.

FUQUA ATTENDS LUNCHEON — Bennett Fuqua (center), a graduate of Westview High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Fuqua plans to study accounting. He is pictured with his parents, Staci and Phillip Fuqua.

FAMILY ATTENDS LUNCHEON — Madison Vincent (center), a graduate of Westview High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Vincent plans to major in educational studies. She is pictured with her parents, Michelle and Jeff Vincent.

KELLYS ATTEND LEGACY LUNCHEON — Emma Grace Kelly (center), a graduate of Westview High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Kelly plans to study biology. She is pictured with her parents, Chris (’93) and Tina Kelly.
Josh Williams (center), a graduate of Dresden High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Williams plans to study education with a concentration in mathematics. He is pictured with his parents Michelle ('95) and Stacy Williams ('96).

Kinleigh Harris (right), a graduate of Greenfield High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Harris plans to major in educational studies. She is pictured with her mother, Danielle Vancleave.

Dylan Ingram (fourth from left) was the winner of the Weakley County Press’ contest for free tickets, a free CD and a “meet and greet” with members of Foreigner on Friday night. He attended the event with his father Craig (third from right). The Press contest on Facebook was for subscribers to post photos of themselves with the Tennessee Soybean Festival book published by the Press.
UTM Family Weekend set to begin Friday

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

Family Weekend will be held at the University of Tennessee at Martin with participation from the city of Martin.

Friday night includes a food truck party with live music at Virginia Weldon Park. Families must preorder weekend packages, which can be picked up Friday night at the park or Saturday morning at the Martin Coffeehouse.

The Ivory Tower of Power Band will perform Friday, along with Dave Evans the “Balloon Man.”

On Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m., city merchants will hold a fall open house and discounts will be offered at local restaurants.

Martin Economic and Community Development Director Brad Thompson told the board of mayor and aldermen Monday night that Dr. Joe DiPietro, president of the University of Tennessee, will be present at the “Donuts with the Deans” event at the coffeehouse, and Mayor Randy Brundige asked department heads as well as aldermen to attend if possible.

Thompson said 600-700 people are expected to participate in family weekend.

For more information go to http://www.utm.edu/departments/studentlife/family_weekend.php.

Debbie Yeager, director of human resources, announced the city had received 11 applications for school resource officer and would begin interviewing next week.

City Public Works Director Marty Able reported Lindell Street had been reopened with the close of the Tennessee Soybean Festival and he planned to reopen Main Street on Tuesday.

City Aldermen Terry Hankins and Danny Nanney both described this year’s festival as the best one ever and Hankins jokingly accused Festival Director David Belote of carrying around batteries like the Energizer bunny.

Belote insisted it was a team effort. “There has to be a willingness on the part of the city to make it happen,” he said.

In official business, the board approved:

- An application for a transportation alternatives program grant from the state department of transportation for improvements to sidewalks on Elm Street in 2019. The application was approved on third and final reading.
- A resolution to annex property on Sand Hill Road as a low-density residential area. Brundige said the request came from the property owner and that 30-35 houses are planned. The resolution was approved on first reading and a public hearing will be announced and held in October.

MARTIN, FROM PAGE 1

Elliott chosen for WestTeach program

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program has selected Kimberly Elliott, a teacher at Westview High School, as one of 12 area educators to participate in the new WestTeach program.

WestTeach is a development program for West Tennessee teachers in grades K-12 who aspire to be leaders in their schools. UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program founded the workshop series as an extension of its mission to equip West Tennessee’s community leaders with the skills and tools needed to support the region.

Over the course of three months, program participants will attend five sessions on topics such as West Tennessee agriculture, entrepreneurship and economic development. WestTeach offers an opportunity to build connections with industry and community leaders as well as develop skills for leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

The WestTeach class of 2018 is the first group to complete the program. The WestTeach Leadership Steering Committee selected participants based on leadership potential and nominations from area principals and school superintendents.

For more information on WestTeach or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.
UTM's WestStar Leadership program to begin in October

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2019.

The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee, with 825 graduates in its 29-year history. The program begins Dec. 11 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 25, 2019 with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially-designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee's development.

Each seminar takes place over 1-1/2 days.

Participants learn leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize potential.

Participants also become part of a growing network of WestStar alumni who help shape West Tennessee's future.

The application deadline is Oct. 12. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

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

Family tradition

Austin Watkins (center), a graduate of Henry County High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 24 for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Watkins is pictured with his parents, Leigh (left) and John Watkins (right) who were both graduates of the class of 1988. Austin is also the grandson of Phil Watkins, UT Martin vice chancellor emeritus of student affairs.
MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program has selected Tracy Connell, a teacher at Huntingdon High School, and Lindsey Parham, a teacher at McKenzie High School, as two of 12 area educators to participate in the new WestTeach program.

WestTeach is a development program for West Tennessee teachers in grades K-12 who aspire to be leaders in their schools. UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program founded the workshop series as an extension of its mission to equip West Tennessee’s community leaders with the skills and tools needed to support the region.

Over the course of three months, program participants will attend five sessions on topics such as West Tennessee agriculture, entrepreneurship and economic development. WestTeach offers an opportunity to build connections with industry and community leaders as well as develop skills for leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

The WestTeach class of 2018 is the first group to complete the program. The WestTeach Leadership Steering Committee selected participants based on leadership potential and nominations from area principals and school superintendents.

For more information on WestTeach or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

Local Family Attends UTM Legacy Luncheon

MARTIN (August 29) — Kelsey Hand (center), a graduate of West Carroll High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Friday for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Hand is pictured with her parents, Annie and Clint Hand (’88). Photo courtesy UTM
UTM host fine arts workshops

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third-annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 29, in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus. The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theatre must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; online instructional technology in art teaching, grades 6-12; voice and movement methods in theatre; abstraction; and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theatre.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at eckert@utm.edu. For more information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

https://www.thunderboltradio.com

Former UTM chancellor to discuss memoir

Posted on September 11, 2018 by Steve James - Local News

Dr. Charles Smith served as the university's fifth chancellor from 1980-1985 and is a former Tennessee commissioner of education as well as a previous chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

He served in President George W. Bush's administration as executive director of the Nation's Report Card and has held leadership roles in education, journalism, and both state and federal government.

His book, "Journal of a Fast Track Life" focuses on lessons learned from a number of high-level mentors and professional guides across three industries.

Dr. Smith will discuss his experiences and sign copies of his book Thursday afternoon at 5:00 at the Paul Meek Library.

He'll also take questions from the audience.

Dr. Smith will also be the guest on 30 MINUTES this weekend on WCMT, MIX 101.3 and STAR 95.1.
Family Weekend planned locally

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its second annual Family Weekend Friday through Sunday.

The weekend’s activities begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday with a food truck event in Weldon Park in downtown Martin.

Saturday will feature the Bowtie 5K/one-mile run with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. Onsite check-in opens at 8 a.m. in front of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, and the run will begin at 9. Online pre-registration is required and the $15 registration fee includes a T-shirt.

Donuts with Deans will begin at 10 a.m. at the Martin Coffeehouse on Lindell Street. A tailgate party will begin at noon at Hardy Graham Stadium prior to the football game at 3 p.m., where the UT Martin Skyhawks will face the UT Chattanooga Mocs. A drive-in movie showing of “Avengers: Infinity War” will begin at 9 p.m. near Pacer Pond.

A Family Weekend Package is available for $30 per person and includes one voucher for the food truck event; one meal ticket for the tailgate party; one general admission football ticket; a Family Weekend T-shirt; a $2 coffee voucher to the Martin Coffeehouse; and a variety of discount coupons at local restaurants.

Packages must be pre-ordered online and picked up either at the food truck dinner or at Donuts with Deans.

Tickets and concessions can also be purchased at individual activities.

The weekend’s events end Sunday with a student-led non-denominational worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium, followed by Bowtie Brunch from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the UT Martin Dining Hall. The all-you-can-eat brunch will be $12.21 plus tax for adults and $5.78 plus tax for children ages 12 and younger.

Current UT Martin students are not required to register for Family Weekend activities, with the exception of the Bowtie 5K.

Student meal plans will be accepted during the tailgate party and the Bowtie Brunch, and students can use their Skyhawk ID cards to enter the football game free of charge.

The first 500 students to enter the stadium will receive a free Family Weekend T-shirt. Visit utm.edu/family-weekend to register for the Bowtie 5K, reserve a Family Weekend Package or see a full schedule of activities.

For assistance, contact the Office of Student Life at (731) 881-7525.

Ex-UTM chancellor to discuss, sign book

Dr. Charles Smith, former chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, will discuss his recently-published memoir, “Journal of a Fast Track Life,” at 5 p.m. Thursday in the Paul Meek Library on campus.

Smith served as the university’s fifth chancellor from 1980-85 and is a former Tennessee commissioner of education as well as a previous chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

He served in President George W. Bush’s administration as executive director of the Nation’s Report Card and has held leadership roles in education, journalism and both state and federal government.

His book focuses on lessons learned from a number of high-level mentors and professional guides across three industries. Some research for the book was conducted at the Paul Meek Library.

Smith will discuss his experiences and sign copies of his book during the event. He will also be available to take questions from the audience.
UT Martin Recycling Facility requests community assistance

A new self-sort station is available at the University of Tennessee at Martin Recycling Facility, thanks to a 2017 Giving Circle Grant from the University of Tennessee Alliance of Women Philanthropists. Community members are asked to use this station to sort recyclable materials as they are delivered.

According to Mike Davis, facility manager, the Recycling Facility once employed four full-time staff members and close to 20 student workers. However, the facility is now only staffed by two full-time workers, a part-time employee and two student assistants.

Because of these changes, community members are asked to self-sort materials in order to keep the recycling process efficient and costs low. Davis says the facility is charged a penalty fee when a vendor must sort recyclables.

"We used to have more volunteers ... and now we're just low on help. Meanwhile, the volume of recycling has expanded, thanks to campus and community involvement," said Dr. Angie MacKewn, co-sponsor of the UTM Recycles! program.

According to annual records, the Recycling Facility recycled approximately 182 tons of cardboard, 45 tons of mixed office paper, 17 tons of various plastics and almost two tons of aluminum beverage containers in 2017.

The Recycling Facility currently accepts plastic materials with either a number one or a number two inside the recycling symbol. These include clear plastics, colored plastics, opaque plastics such as milk jugs and grocery bags, which must all be sorted separately. The facility also accepts both aluminum and steel cans, paper, cardboard, scrap metal, ink cartridges and books.

All items must be rinsed and delivered with the lids taken off and discarded. Items should also be sorted loose. Items in bags cannot be inserted into the recycling equipment; items with lids cannot be crushed effectively; and items that are unriused attract rodents and other unwanted animals to the site.

The Recycling Facility currently cannot accept aerosol or pressurized cans, paint cans, Styrofoam, clothing, glass, plastics not marked with a number one or number two or any electronics. However, Dr. MacKewn, Davis and Dr. Heidi Huse, program co-sponsor, hope future grants will fund the purchase of a can condenser and a glass crusher and allow the facility to expand its list of acceptable items.

"While the changes at the Recycling Facility may require extra steps from campus and community recyclers, we are excited to see the UT Martin recycling program evolve. We hope it continues to be something the campus and community can support and be proud of," Dr. Huse said.

Drs. Huse and MacKewn are co-writers of the grant that funded construction of the new self-sort station.

The Recycling Facility, located on Moody Avenue, is open from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and from 3-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The facility is closed on Sundays, holidays and any time when the university is not in operation.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program has selected Union City High School teacher Beth McManus as one of 12 area educators to participate in the new WestTeach program.

WestTeach is a development program for West Tennessee teachers in grades K-12 who aspire to be leaders in their schools. UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program founded the workshop series as an extension of its mission to equip West Tennessee’s community leaders with the skills and tools needed to support the region.

Over the course of three months, program participants will attend five sessions on topics such as West Tennessee agriculture, entrepreneurship and economic development. WestTeach offers an opportunity to build connections with industry and community leaders as well as develop skills for leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

The WestTeach class of 2018 is the first group to complete the program. The WestTeach Leadership Steering Committee selected participants based on leadership potential and nominations from area principals and school superintendents.

For more information on WestTeach or WestStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at (731) 881-7298.

Photo class scheduled at university

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a digital photography class 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays from Tuesday through Oct. 9.

The course is open to anyone looking to improve his or her photography skills and does not require enrollment at the university.

The four-week course, which includes 12 hours of classroom instruction, will be held on the main campus in Martin. The registration fee for the course is $125, which does not include supplies.

Dr. Tom Gallien, course instructor, will introduce students to basic digital photography and will focus both on understanding camera functions and analyzing photograph compositions. Students will learn not only what makes a photograph visually appealing but also how to intentionally use camera settings.

The course will use peer and self-evaluations to prepare students for the more advanced digital photography course offered later this fall.

For more information or to register for this course, visit utm.edu/connect and choose "Non-Degree Programs," then "General Classes" and select the Martin campus.

Legacy Luncheon - Alli Shaw (right), a graduate of Obion County Central High School, recently attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Ms. Shaw, who plans to study nursing, was joined by her mother, Tracy Shaw (’96).

Attend Luncheon - Kelsey Stubblefield (left), a graduate of South Fulton High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s recent annual Legacy Luncheon for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Miss Stubblefield plans to study nursing. She was joined by her mother, Christy Stubblefield (’94).
UT Martin Hosts Workshops in Art, Dance, Theatre

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third-annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 29, in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus. The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theatre must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; online instructional technology in art teaching; grades 6-12; voice and movement methods in theatre; abstraction; and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Session C will begin at 1 p.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theatre.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at ceckert@utm.edu. For more information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

Alexander Elected To Chair Statewide Humanities Board

MARTIN, Tenn. – Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s College of Humanities and Fine Arts, has been elected to serve as chairman of the Humanities Tennessee Board of Directors. She will serve a one-year term with the possibility of reelection to a second year.

 Humanities Tennessee is a statewide organization that sponsors projects focused on literature, history and culture across the state. Programs currently available in West Tennessee include the “Water Ways” Smithsonian exhibit at Reelfoot Lake; the “Tennessee Waters” exhibit in Covington later this month; the Neighborhood Story Project conducted by the UT Martin Paul Meek Library; and the forthcoming Smithsonian tour “Crossroads: Changing Rural America.”

 Humanities Tennessee is funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities and private donations. Statewide sponsored programs include the Southern Festival of Books; the Appalachian and Tennessee Young Writer’s Workshops; and Chapter16.org.

For more information, contact Alexander at lalexan@utm.edu or visit HumTN.org.

Dr. Lynn Alexander
Weakley County Teacher Chosen For Leadership Program

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program has selected Kimberly Elliott, a teacher at Westview High School, as one of 12 area educators to participate in the new WestTeach program.

WestTeach is a development program for West Tennessee teachers in grades K-12 who aspire to be leaders in their schools. UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program founded the workshop series as an extension of its mission to equip West Tennessee’s community leaders with the skills and tools needed to support the region.

Over the course of three months, program participants will attend five sessions on topics such as West Tennessee agriculture, entrepreneurship and economic development.

WestTeach offers an opportunity to build connections with industry and community leaders as well as develop skills for leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

The WestTeach class of 2018 is the first group to complete the program. The WestTeach Leadership Steering Committee selected participants based on leadership potential and nominations from area principals and school superintendents.

For more information on WestTeach or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-881-7298

http://bartlett-express.com

UT-Martin’s WestStar program now accepting applications

By Carolyn Bahm (http://bartlett-express.com/author/cbahm/) 1 day ago

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2019. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 825 graduates in its 29-year history.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 11 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 25, 2019, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee’s economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles.

Participants learn leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of WestStar alumni who help shape West Tennessee’s future. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and service.
The City of Martin and UT Martin welcomes UTM students and families

UT Martin invites your family to join us for Family Weekend 2018. We have a great weekend of events planned for our students and their families to enjoy.

Friday night includes a Food Truck party with live music at Martin's downtown Virginia Weldon Park. Saturday will kick off with the Bowtie 5K/1 Mile Walk followed by a "Donuts with Deans" reception at the Martin Coffee House. A huge tailgate party will lead up to a clash on the gridiron between your Skyhawks and the visiting Moccasins from UT Chattanooga.

We will wrap up Saturday night with a Drive-In Movie by Pacer Pond featuring "Avengers: Infinity War". Sunday will feature a student led non-denominational worship service followed by the Bowtie Brunch in the UTM Dining Hall.

UTM to host in-service workshops

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third-annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 29, in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus.

The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend. Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theatre must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; online instructional technology in art teaching; grades 6-12; voice and movement methods in theatre; abstraction; and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay, sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1.

Photography course to be offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a digital photography class from 6-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 18-Oct. 9. The course is open to anyone looking to improve his or her photography skills and does not require enrollment at the university.

The four-week course, which includes 12 hours of classroom instruction, will be held on the main campus in Martin. The registration fee for the course is $125, which does not include supplies.

Dr. Tom Gallien, course instructor, will introduce students to basic digital photography and will focus both on understanding camera functions and analyzing photograph compositions. Students will learn not only what makes a photograph visually appealing but also how to intentionally use camera settings.

The course will use peer and self-evaluations to prepare students for the more advanced digital photography course offered later this fall.

For more information or to register for this course, visit utm.edu/connect and choose "Non-Degree Programs" then "General Classes" and select the Martin campus.
UTM, Jackson State sign dual enrollment agreement

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Dr. Allana Hamilton, president of Jackson State Community College, signed a dual admission partnership agreement on Monday to give students a clear transition path between the two institutions.

“This is another step in solidifying a great, long-standing relationship with Jackson State,” said Carver. “Let me tell you what we know at UT Martin when we get a Jackson State student who has finished an associate degree: They are ready to study. They are ready to continue on, and they are going to take a clear path to graduation from UT Martin. They are mature, and they are prepared, so we really appreciate the great work that happens here (at JSCC).”

According to the partnership agreement, students who enroll at JSCC with fewer than 15 college-level semester hours, major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway baccalaureate program and meet current UT Martin admission criteria can complete an intent-to-enroll application with UT Martin. Doing so will guarantee the student a position at UT Martin after completion of their JSCC associate degree, provided the student maintains at least a 2.0 grade point average at the end of their second year.

Students who participate in the dual admission partnership will be considered students of both institutions and be assigned to both JSCC and UT Martin academic advisors to ensure they stay on track to complete both two-year and four-year degrees in their chosen fields.

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

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

UT Martin established a similar partnership with Dyersburg State Community College in 2015 under the leadership of then-chancellor Dr. Bob Smith.

For more information about the agreement, contact Dr. Larry Bailey, vice president of academic affairs at JSCC, at lbailey@jscc.edu or Destin Tucker, director of undergraduate admissions at UT Martin, at dtucker@utm.edu.
Visual, theater arts workshops set at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theater Arts will host its third annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers.

The workshops are from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus.

The workshop has 60 spaces available on the first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

Interested teachers of the K-12 art, dance and theater must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second choice workshops in each session.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences to Carol Eckert, professor of art, at ceckert@utm.edu.

Attendeers may sign in at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom of monoprints and drawing, online instructional technology in art.

Grades 6-12 includes classes on voice and movements methods in theater, abstraction and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops in 6-12 classroom; a new Tennessee dance standard domains, monoprints and drawings, kente cloth for elementary students, basket weaving and clay sculpture.

Lunch begins at 12:20 p.m. followed by sessions C at 1 p.m. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities, basket weaving, abstraction, group movement and rhythm-based dance in theater.

For more information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theater Arts at 731-881-7400.

UTM hosting tourney for student internships

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will host the second-annual Career Classic golf tournament beginning at 9 a.m., Oct. 3, at the Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon. Registration is $75 per player or $300 for a four-person team. Players must be registered by Sept. 28.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start promptly at 9. Lunch will be provided at noon. Participants can register as a team or as individuals; those not registered with a team will be assigned to one by the tournament director.

Registration for the four-person scramble tournament includes cart rental, green fees, range balls and lunch. Prizes will be presented to the first, second and third-place teams. Proceeds from the tournament help fund travel and housing stipends for UT Martin students who earn internship placements both domestically and internationally.

Sponsorship opportunities are available beginning at $200.

Registration checks should be made payable to the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development and sent to the University of Tennessee at Martin, Boling University Center, Room 210, Martin, TN, 38238. Participants should include the name, address, phone number and email address of all team members when sending payment.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or registration assistance, contact Dr. Mark McCloud, interim assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, at 731-881-7712 or email mmcccloud@utm.edu.
Briarwood teacher chosen for new WestTeach leadership program at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program has selected Autumn Ratliff, a 4th grade teacher at Briarwood Elementary School, as one of 12 area educators to participate in the inaugural WestTeach program.

In only her third year at Briarwood, Ratliff teaches math, reading, writing, social studies, and science. A lifetime native of Big Sandy, Ratliff is a 2009 graduate of Big Sandy High School and an alumnus of UTM.

WestTeach is a development program for West Tennessee teachers in grades K-12 who aspire to be leaders in their schools. UTM's WestStar Leadership Program founded the workshop series as an extension of its mission to equip West Tennessee's community leaders with the skills and tools needed to support the region.

The WestTeach class of 2018 will be the first group to complete the program. The WestTeach Leadership Steering Committee selected participants based on leadership potential and nominations from area principals and school superintendents.

The new program offers an opportunity for educators to build connections with industry and community leaders as well as to develop skills for leadership both inside and outside of the classroom. Over the course of three months, program participants will attend five sessions on topics such as West Tennessee agriculture, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

"Participating in the new WestTeach program has already been a blessing to me. I'm meeting teachers who have amazing ideas for their classrooms that I can implement in mine," Ratliff said. "I'm also meeting people who have many great ideas to better our communities. We are connecting our schools together to make a better West Tennessee. This program is something I will remember forever."

Ratliff's ambitions are not limited to the classroom. This year she is also pursuing her goal of running for Big Sandy Mayor, a dream she has had since she was 8 years old.

"Children are our future, and they should have great role models to look up to. I want to better Big Sandy by getting things for children, making our streets look better with some beautification projects, and just making sure everyone is as proud of our small town as I am!" Ratliff said.

UTM congratulates Ms. Ratliff on being selected for this exciting new program. For more information on WestTeach or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Program Coordinator Virginia Grimes at UTM by calling 731-881-7298.
University of Tennessee at Martin hosts workshops for art, dance and theatre educators

kmorris  Sep 14, 2018

T he University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third-annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus. The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theatre must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; online instructional technology in art teaching, grades 6-12; voice and movement methods in theatre; abstraction; and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1 p.m. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythmand-based dance in theatre.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at cecbert@utm.edu. For more information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.

University of Tennessee at Martin golf tournament is October 3

kmorris  Sep 14, 2018

T he University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will host the second-annual Career Classic golf tournament beginning at 9 a.m., Oct. 3, at the Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon. Registration is $75 per player or $300 for a four-person team. Registration deadline is Sept. 28.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start promptly at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided at noon. Participants can register as a team or as individuals; those not registered with a team will be assigned to one by the tournament director.

Registration for the four-person scramble tournament includes cart rental, green fees, range balls and lunch. Prizes will be presented to the first, second and third-place teams. Proceeds from the tournament help fund travel and housing stipends for UT Martin students who earn internship placements both domestically and internationally.

Sponsorship opportunities are available beginning at $200.

Registration checks should be made payable to the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development and sent to the University of Tennessee at Martin, Boling University Center, Room 210, Martin, TN, 38238. Participants should include the name, address, phone number and email address of all team members when sending payment.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or registration assistance, contact Dr. Mark McCloud, interim assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, at 881-7712 or email mmccloud@utm.edu.
Tennessee voter turnout discussed at Chamber forum

BY BILL McCUTCHEON
POST-INTELLIGENCER

Tennessee voter turnout discussed at Chamber forum

A decreased emphasis on civics being taught in school, people “just wanting to be left alone” and many people who don’t consider themselves as either liberal or conservative were three of the suggestions about low voter turnouts that were brought forth in a forum Thursday at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

About 30 attended the event and actively took part in both the discussion as well as a power-point presentation that allowed use of cell phones or other electronic media to answer various questions.

One of those present said he had heard new educational standards were coming that would call for more civics classes to be taught, either in junior high or high school.

University of Tennessee at Martin political science teacher Chris Baxter was the facilitator at the forum and said he had found that many feel political campaigns just feature “one liar versus another.”

One attendee, Armand Herbert III, said he had moved to McKenzie from New Hampshire.

“If you live in New Hampshire and haven’t actually shaken hands with the next president,” he said, “you haven’t participated in the process.”

The people in New Hampshire are proud to come out and vote, with one town beginning their hours at 12:01 a.m. on election day, taking pride in being the first in the country to have their votes cast.

Some 48 percent of those present Thursday thought elections now were “somewhat free from foreign interference,” while 28 percent were very confident they were and 25 percent were not confident.

Baxter said that it was unfortunately still true that minorities for the most part only vote on election day, not in early or absentee voting.

“They seem to fear their votes will be lost,” he said, “perhaps looking back to the times when they could not cast ballots at all.”

Asked about where they generally get news on national and local politics and elections, 14 percent of those attending said local newspapers, 11 percent said national nightly news and 10 percent said Facebook.

Other sources were only in the single-digit percentages.

Local newspapers also were voted the top source for delivering the most valid information as well as carrying the most weight in making a voter’s decisions. Facebook, CNN and Fox News were next.

Tennesseans age 65 and over vote at a higher rate than those ages 18-24; about 64 percent to 31 percent.

In 2014, Tennessee ranked 50th in voter turnout, but moved up slightly to 47th in 2016.

Williamson County was tops in 2016 voter turnout with 76 percent of registered voters participating.

Henry County ranked at 51.5 percent. Other area counties’ turnouts were Stewart at 52 percent, Humphreys at 51.6, Benton at 49.7, Carroll at 47.7 and Weakley at 45.6.

Lake County was at the bottom of the list with a turnout of slightly more than 31 percent.

Baxter said a 2018 survey of likely Tennessee voters showed 56 percent concerned about foreign countries or governments trying to influence elections; 69 percent concerned about computer hacking of voting results; 56 percent concerned about outdated election infrastructure and 55 percent concerned about the privacy of voter data.

In addition to Humanities Tennessee, the forum also was sponsored by ThinkTennessee.

Chamber Executive Director Travis McLeese said the next grub club is set for Oct. 24.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a digital photography class from 6-9 p.m. on Mondays, Sept. 17-Oct. 8. The course will be held at the Lee Academy for the Arts, 402 Lee St. in Paris.

Digital Photography I is a basic four-week course, which includes 12 hours of classroom instruction, but it does not require enrollment at the university.

It is open to anyone looking to improve their photography skill.

The registration fee for the course is $125, which does not include supplies.

Tom Gallien, the course instructor, will introduce students to basic digital photography and will focus both on understanding camera functions and analyzing photograph compositions.

Students will learn not only what makes a photograph visually appealing but also how to intentionally use camera settings.

The course will use peer- and self-evaluations to prepare students for the more advanced digital photography course offered later this fall.

For more information or to register for this course, visit utm.edu/connect and choose "Non-Degree Programs" then "General Classes." Select the Martin campus and choose "Photography and Photoshop" then "Read More." Choose the "Paris" tab.
University of Tennessee President DiPietro to retire in 2019

UT Board of Trustees Chair John Compton praised DiPietro.

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro announced Monday that he will retire Feb. 14, 2019.

He will step down from active service Nov. 21 to use his remaining vacation time, according to a news release from the school.

DiPietro, UT’s 25th president, has led the University of Tennessee system since January 2011. He serves as the chief executive officer of UT and its campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and the Institute of Public Service.

The time has come for him to step down, he said:

"I am very proud of all we have accomplished together, which would not have been possible without the important efforts of our talented faculty, students, staff and administrators and the steadfast support of the Board of Trustees," DiPietro said.

"The University is well positioned for success—we are coming off a record-breaking year in research funding as well as private fundraising, and we have a committed group of chancellors and system administrators to move the University forward."

UT Board of Trustees Chair John Compton praised DiPietro. "We should all be thankful for Joe's leadership. He and the former Board of Trustees accomplished a great deal together. All stakeholders in the University system have been well-served by his tireless commitment to continual improvement across all of our campuses. Our new board will convene soon to discuss next steps in selecting a new leader for the University of Tennessee system."

During DiPietro's tenure, he oversaw a record four years of low tuition increases, including a zero percent tuition increase this year for UT Knoxville and UT Chattanooga. In 2017, UT research achieved a record-high, system-wide $481 million in sponsored-program expenditures. The UT Foundation experienced a record fundraising year of more than $397 million given during 2017-2018 fiscal year. The record year of giving included the naming of two colleges at the UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Chattanooga, which join two other colleges named at UT Knoxville since 2014. The UT Institute of Agriculture and Institute for Public Service had more than 5 million contacts with Tennesseans statewide.

He oversaw the construction of the Cherokee Farm Innovation Campus and its growth to two buildings providing laboratory and work space for private industry, researchers and scientists affiliated with the University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Also, during DiPietro's tenure, UT was chosen to lead the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation, a $259 million public-private partnership. Under DiPietro's leadership, more than 240 projects totaling more than 11.5 million square feet were constructed or renovated across the system. Those projects reflect investments by the state of more than $727 million and more than $1.25 billion by the University.

When notified of an impending $377 million shortfall by 2025, DiPietro established the Budget Advisory Group. Through cost cutting, reallocated funds and unexpected increases in state allocations, the project shortfall has been erased.

"I did not want to kick dealing with this problem down the road," DiPietro said. "It was important for me to leave the University in good financial shape, and now thanks to hard work by faculty, staff and the Board of Trustees as well as increases in state appropriations for the last seven consecutive years by the governor and legislature, we are."
President Joe DiPietro announces retirement date

DiPietro is the 25th president of the University of Tennessee system. He will step down in November with a retirement date effective in February 2019.

Knoxville — University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro has announced his retirement date.

We've known the system president planned to retire by the end of the year, but didn't know when. Now, he has set his retirement date as Feb. 14, 2019, but will use his remaining vacation time to step down from active service on Nov. 21.

DiPietro has led the UT system, which includes campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and the Institute of Public Service, since January 2011.

"I am very proud of all we have accomplished together, which would not have been possible without the important efforts of our talented faculty, students, staff and administrators and the steadfast support of the Board of Trustees," DiPietro said. "The University is well positioned for success—we are coming off a record-breaking year in research funding as well as private fundraising, and we have a committed group of chancellors and system administrators to move the University forward."

In a press release, the university touted DiPietro's success, including a record four years of low tuition increases, including a zero percent tuition increase this year for UT Knoxville and UT Chattanooga. He also presided over record fundraising and big campus expansions.

DiPietro was criticized for firing UT Knoxville chancellor Beverly Davenport in May, in most part for the scathing termination letter he wrote that became public.

UT Board of Trustees Chair John Compton praised DiPietro. "We should all be thankful for Joe's leadership. He and the former Board of Trustees accomplished a great deal together. All stakeholders in the University system have been well-served by his tireless commitment to continual improvement across all of our campuses. Our new board will convene soon to discuss next steps in selecting a new leader for the University of Tennessee system."

DiPietro plans to retire to Illinois and to spend time with his wife, Deb, their three children and six grandchildren.
Former chancellor Smith holds book signing at university

Dr. Charles Smith, fifth chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, returned to campus Sept. 13 to discuss his newly published memoir “Journal of a Fast Track Life and Lessons Learned Along the Way.”

His book focuses on lessons learned from a number of high-level mentors and professional guides, including former governor Ned Ray McWherter and John J. Hooker.

“Trust, respect and communication – if there’s one lesson out of the whole book it would be, if you’re going to be a leader, you’d better be able to have those three attributes. It’s not a pick and choose; you’ve got to have all three, in my judgment. You have to earn trust and build respect and be willing to communicate openly without favor,” said Smith. He also stresses the importance of building professional experience and finding mentors you can learn from along the way, especially as a young adult.

“To me, (your 20s are) one of the most important periods of anyone’s life. That’s the time in your life when you really should put aside trying to make a lot of money quick and use that time getting an experience base – that’s very important – and developing mentors that will help you the rest of your life and then learning from whatever experiences that you’ve had,” he said. “By the time I was 29, I’d had three bosses who were hard as nails. They demanded a lot. I got chewed out more in those 10 years than I guess in the rest of my life. They pushed me hard. … I didn’t appreciate it then, but it really helped pave the way for what came later.”

Smith held positions as assistant news editor for the Nashville Tennessean, news bureau director and public relations director for the University of Tennessee System, chancellor of the University of Tennessee Nashville campus and editor of the Nashville Banner before accepting a post as UT Martin chancellor in 1980.

“I came down here (to interview at UT Martin) and spent two days, … and I was absolutely overwhelmed by the good people I met on this campus,” he said. After initially declining the post in favor of the Nashville Banner, Smith returned the next year to accept. “I came here and spent the best six years of my life,” he added.

He served UT Martin for five years before leaving the campus to become vice president of the University of Tennessee System in 1986. After that he became commissioner of education for the state of Tennessee and later served in President George W. Bush’s administration as executive director of the Nation’s Report Card.

Smith’s book is available in the UT Martin Barnes & Noble Bookstore as well as on Amazon.com.

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BOOK SIGNING — Dr. Charles Smith (foreground), former chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, discusses his new memoir Sept. 13 at the Paul Meek Library. The event was facilitated by David Murphy, longtime Martin resident and personal friend of Smith’s.
DiPietro announces retirement

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro announced Monday that he will retire Feb. 14, 2019.

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DiPietro, UT’s 25th president, has led the University of Tennessee system since January 2011. He serves as the chief executive officer of UT and its campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and the Institute of Public Service.

The time has come for him to step down, he said.

“I am very proud of all we have accomplished together, which would not have been possible without the important efforts of our talented faculty, students, staff and administrators and the steadfast support of the board of trustees,” DiPietro said. “The University is well positioned for success—we are coming off a record-breaking year in research funding as well as private fundraising, and we have a committed group of chancellors and system administrators to move the University forward.”

UT Board of Trustees Chair John Compton praised DiPietro. “We should all be thankful for Joe’s leadership. He and the former board of trustees accomplished a great deal together. All stakeholders in the University system have been well-served by his tireless commitment to continual improvement across all of our campuses. Our new board will convene soon to discuss next steps in selecting a new leader for the University of Tennessee system.”

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LOCAL APPEARANCE — University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro provided backup vocals on "Mustang Sally" at Food Truck Friday in Martin. He announced his retirement Monday.

FOOD TRUCK FRENZY — Food Truck Friday, part of a town-and-gown event hosted by the City of Martin the University of Tennessee at Martin, was wildly successful, with more than 1,500 visitors enjoying the treats from 10 food trucks. In fact, several vendors sold out and some people reported standing in line for an hour for food.

Photo by Karen Campbell
Dodd wins agronomy awards

The American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) announces the following 2018 award recipient to be formally presented at the ASA Awards Ceremony on Nov. 5 during the scientific society’s annual meeting in Baltimore, CSSA Awards Ceremony on Nov. 6 during the scientific society’s annual meeting in Baltimore and SSSA Awards Ceremony on Jan. 8 during the scientific society’s annual meeting in San Diego.

The annual awards are presented for outstanding contributions to agronomy through education, national and international service, and research.

Sarah E. Dodd of Trenton, a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin Agronomy Club and Golden Opportunity Scholars, will receive the awards.

Dodd is a senior at UT Martin, studying plant and soil science with a focus in crop and soil management. She interned last year at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center and assisted in cotton research under Dr. Tyson Raper. This year, she is conducting soybean research under Dr. Barbara Darroch at UT Martin.

Dodd provides leadership in several organizations; she is president of her sorority, Sigma Alpha, vice president of the UTM Agronomy Club, and a campus leader for the UTM agriculture department. She is also an active member of the UTM weeds and crop judging teams.

Upon graduation from UT Martin, Dodd plans to work towards a master’s degree in agronomy with a focus in cotton production. She hopes to work with cotton producers in the future and become a young leader in the cotton industry.

Golden Opportunity Scholars

This program, sponsored by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, develops the agronomy, crops, soils, and environmental science professions by strengthening the next generation of leaders in the profession. Students from across the world in associate or bachelor degree programs are considered.

Local teacher named to UTM leadership program

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program has selected a Paris Special School District teacher as one of the 12 area educators who will participate in the WestTeach program.

Christy Buckelew, a teacher at Paris Elementary School, was chosen to participate in WestTeach, a development program for West Tennessee teachers in grades K-12 who aspire to be leaders in their schools. The WestStar program founded the workshop series as an extension of its mission to equip West Tennessee's community leaders with the skills and tools needed to support the region.

Program participants will attend five sessions on topics such as West Tennessee agriculture, entrepreneurship and economic development during the course of three months. The program offers participants the opportunity to build connections with industry and community leaders as well as development skills for leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

The WestTeach class of 2018 is the first group to complete the program. The WestTeach Leadership Steering Committee selected participants based on leadership potential and nominations from area principals and school superintendents.
KNOXVILLE — University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro announced Monday that he plans to retire early next year. DiPietro said he will retire Feb. 14, but will actually step down from active service Nov. 21 to use his remaining vacation time.

"I am very proud of all we have accomplished together, which would not have been possible without the important efforts of our talented faculty, students, staff and administrators and the steadfast support of the Board of Trustees," DiPietro said in a statement. "The University is well positioned for success — we are coming off a record-breaking year in research funding as well as private fundraising, and we have a committed group of chancellors and system administrators to move the University forward."

DiPietro has served as president of the University of Tennessee system since January 2011. His role makes him chief executive officer of the University of Tennessee and its Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin campuses as well as the Health Science Center in Memphis and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and the Institute of Public Service.

UT Board of Trustees Chair John Compton praised DiPietro's leadership.

"He and the former Board of Trustees accomplished a great deal together. All stakeholders in the University system have been well-served by his tireless commitment to continual improvement across all of our campuses," Compton said.

DiPietro forced out chancellor Beverly Davenport earlier this year, citing "numerous areas of unsatisfactory performance." Her ouster came less than 15 months at the helm after a tumultuous search for a head football coach and other controversies.

During DiPietro's tenure, UT had low tuition increases and the UT Foundation had record fundraising.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third-annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers from 9 a.m. -3 p.m., Sept. 29, in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus. The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

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Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; online instructional technology in art teaching, grades 6-12; voice and movement methods in theatre; abstraction; and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theatre.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at eckert@utm.edu. For information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Randy Boyd tapped to serve as interim president of the University of Tennessee

Adam Tamburin, Nashville Tennessean  Published 9:30 a.m. CT Sept. 19, 2018 | Updated 10:30 a.m. CT Sept. 19, 2018

The new University of Tennessee board will meet next week to finalize Boyd’s selection, board chairman says

Randy Boyd, a Knoxville businessman, philanthropist and former Republican candidate for governor, has been tapped to lead the University of Tennessee following the retirement of the college system’s outgoing president. (Photo: Calvin Mattheis/News Sentinel)

The UT Board of Trustees will meet next week to consider hiring Boyd as interim president. The plan, proposed Wednesday morning by the board chair and touted as a “win” by the governor, calls for Boyd to serve for one or two years.

Boyd’s work could pave the way for major changes to the college system that includes the state’s flagship campus in Knoxville as well as institutions in Memphis, Chattanooga and Martin.

“The board’s intention will be for him to come in and take a holistic view about where we are and where we want to be and then to help us reorganize our organizational structure to make that happen,” John Compton, the newly elected board chairman, said in an interview.

Compton, elected board chairman in August, said he had already heard from campus-level officials who mentioned friction between the system office and individual campuses. Addressing that tension likely be one of Boyd’s top priorities.

“While there is a lot of love for UT, it is time to raise the bar and examine whether there are other organizational structures that we should consider so that we can elevate our university to even higher levels of success,” Compton said.

Compton did not comment on specific changes that might be in store for the system, saying only that the board was open to “new ideas.” Boyd was the ideal choice to lead a review and develop those ideas, Compton said.

Haslam says Boyd a ‘win’ for UT

Gov. Bill Haslam and Compton discussed the issue before the Wednesday announcement.

In an interview, Haslam said hiring Boyd would be a “net win” for the state.

Boyd earned a reputation as a change agent while working in Haslam’s administration — he shaped Tennessee Promise, the governor’s signature higher education program that offers every high school graduate the chance to attend community or technical college tuition-free.
Boyd also served as the state's economic development chief and traveled to each of Tennessee's 95 counties this year during an unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination for governor.

Compton said that experience made Boyd his top candidate to lead UT into a new era.

"I just don't think there's a better choice," Compton said. "We're lucky that he's available at this point of time to consider this."

If he is selected, Compton said, Boyd has said he would not take a salary for his work.

**Boyd approached after primary loss**

Compton said he began talking with Boyd after his loss in the Aug. 2 gubernatorial primary. Boyd was seen as an early front-runner for the Republican nomination, but came in second with 24 percent of the vote, 13 points behind winner Bill Lee.

The GOP primary was the most expensive campaign to date in Tennessee, and featured an onslaught of negative ads, particularly between Boyd and rival candidate U.S. Rep. Diane Black.

Boyd, 56, became a self-made millionaire after founding $400 million company Radio Systems Corp. He spent more than $21 million on his campaign, including millions of his own money.

Compton initially called Boyd to gauge his thoughts as a prominent UT graduate and big-ticket donor. But as Boyd began to sketch his vision for higher education in Tennessee, Compton said, he became a front-runner to replace UT President Joe DiPietro, who planned to retire at some point in the next year.

DiPietro fast-tracked those plans Monday, announcing his last day would be Nov. 21.

DiPietro served as president for eight tumultuous years that saw tremendous growth of enrollment, construction and achievement metrics matched by upheaval in the national economy, General Assembly and campus administrations.

Compton said replacing DiPietro with an interim made sense given a series of power shifts across the state.

**Haslam pushed for new board structure**

Haslam just pushed for a new, smaller board to guide the UT system — and lawmakers have only signed off on seven members so far, with three spots still vacant. And a new governor and dozens of new lawmakers will start work in 2019.

All of those factors could influence the direction of a search for a permanent replacement.

"I think the board is wise in deciding that interim is the right path at this point," Haslam said in the interview. "It would be difficult to select a ... president who's going to serve for multiple years at this point."

Haslam is hopeful Boyd's experience on the campaign trail could mend some frayed relationships in the statehouse. The General Assembly has sparred bitterly with UT in recent years, at one point ripping funding from the flagship campus budget after a pair of online posts about Christmas parties and gender pronouns.

"The obvious answer is more communication will help," Haslam said. "That's where I think the whole experience of campaigning is very helpful."
UT President Joe DiPietro will retire

KNOXVILLE — University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro announced Monday that he will retire Feb. 14, 2019.

He will step down from active service Nov. 21 to use his remaining vacation time.

DiPietro has led the University of Tennessee System as its 25th president since January 2011. He serves as the chief executive officer of UT and its campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Martin, the Health Science Center in Memphis, the statewide Institute of Agriculture and the Institute of Public Service.

"I am very proud of all we have accomplished together, which would not have been possible without the important efforts of our talented faculty, students, staff and administrators and the steadfast support of the Board of Trustees," DiPietro said. "The university is well positioned for success — we are coming off a record-breaking year in research funding as well as private fundraising, and we have a committed group of chancellors and system administrators to move the university forward."

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During DiPietro’s tenure, he oversaw a record four years of low tuition increases, including a zero percent tuition increase this year for UT Knoxville and UT Chattanooga. In 2017, UT research achieved a record-high, system-wide $481 million in sponsored-program expenditures. The UT Foundation experienced a record fundraising year of more than $397 million given during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The record year of giving included the naming of two colleges at the UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Chattanooga, which join two other colleges named at UT Knoxville since 2014. The UT Institute of Agriculture and Institute for Public Service made more than five million contacts with Tennesseans statewide.

DiPietro also oversaw the construction of the Cherokee Farm Innovation Campus and its growth to two buildings that provide laboratory and work space for private industry, researchers and scientists affiliated with the university and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. UT was also chosen to lead the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation, a $259 million public-private partnership, during DiPietro’s tenure.

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

When notified of an impending $377 million shortfall by 2025, DiPietro established the Budget Advisory Group. Through cost cutting, reallocated funds and unexpected increases in state allocations, the projected shortfall has been erased.

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

Donations in honor of DiPietro can be made to the newly established Joe and Deb DiPietro Endowment for Leadership Development. The endowment will provide support to assist UT employees in developing their leadership skills and understanding leadership’s role in higher education.

The endowment will be used to provide funding for the Executive Leadership Institute, which DiPietro established to help with succession planning for the university. It will also provide scholarships for participants.

The institute will host its first cohort this fall, and DiPietro plans to teach part-time in the program.

Before serving as system president, DiPietro led the Institute of Agriculture for five years from 2006-11.

DiPietro plans to retire to Illinois and spend time with his wife, Deb, and their three children and six grandchildren.
KNOXVILLE — The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. to consider appointing an interim president.

UT President Joe DiPietro announced Monday that he planned to retire from active service Nov. 21.

The newly-formed board of trustees will consider appointing UT Knoxville alumnus and Knoxville businessman Randy Boyd to serve as the interim president for up to 24 months or until the effective date of appointment of a new president following an external search. If appointed interim president, Boyd has declined to be paid a salary.

Members of the public can preregister to address the board regarding the proposed appointment during a 30-minute comment period at the Tuesday meeting at the Visitors Center on the UT Knoxville campus.

UT Board Chair John Compton said appointing an interim president gives the trustees time to plan for the university’s future. He and the other trustees, since beginning their work Aug. 1, have individually been meeting with and listening to key stakeholders, including legislators, faculty, campus leadership and alumni.

“These conversations have revealed that it is necessary to take a step back and evaluate the strategic needs of each campus and institute and support required from the UT System Administration in order to raise the bar on our overall success,” said Compton.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host performances by the University Trio, Hypercube and Studio D during the week of Sept. 23-28.

All events will be held in the Blankenship Recital Hall, located inside UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building, and are open to the public free of charge unless otherwise noted.

UT Martin’s University Trio will perform from 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday. The ensemble consists of Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, on piano; Dr. Christa Frye, adjunct instructor of music, on clarinet; and Charles Lewis, also adjunct instructor of music, on flute.

The Allison Nelson Guest Artist Series will feature Hypercube, an electronic chamber music ensemble from New York, from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday. The ensemble includes accordion, electric guitar, piano, percussion and saxophone. The group will hold a master class at 2 p.m. to introduce the public to the musicians, their composition and the challenges of this type of performance.

Admission is $10 for the general public, $5 for students and free for UT Martin students with a valid student ID. Tickets for this event will be available at the door.

Studio D, a saxophone and double-reed ensemble, will perform from 7:30-9 p.m. Sept. 28. It is led by Dr. Douglas Owens, associate professor of music.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
UTM, JSCC partner

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Dr. Allana Hamilton, president of Jackson State Community College, signed a Dual Admission Partnership Agreement last week to give students a clear transition path between the two institutions.

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

According to the partnership agreement, students who enroll at JSCC with fewer than 15 college-level semester hours, major in an eligible Tennessee Transfer Pathway baccalaureate program and meet current UT Martin admission criteria can complete an intent-to-enroll application with UT Martin. Doing so will guarantee the student a position at UT Martin after completion of their JSCC associate degree, provided the student maintains at least a 2.0 grade point average at the end of their second year.

Students who participate in the dual admission partnership will be considered students of both institutions and be assigned to both JSCC and UT Martin academic advisors to ensure they stay on track to complete both two-year and four-year degrees in their chosen fields. Students will also have full access to the UT Martin library, computer labs and student affairs offices during their time at JSCC. Those who elect to pay applicable student fees will be able to attend UT Martin sporting events and participate in campus activities as well.

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

UT Martin established a similar partnership with Dyersburg State Community College in 2015 under the leadership of then-chancellor Dr. Bob Smith.

UTM hosts workshops in art, dance, theater

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theater teachers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus.

The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theater must reserve a seat by Monday and indicate first- and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theater.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at ceckert@utm.edu. For more information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at (731) 881-7400.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpting.
Increased enrollment for UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin reports a total enrollment of 7,069 students for the fall 2018 semester, showing a 4 percent increase from fall 2017. This is the highest total enrollment UT Martin has seen since fall 2013.

First-time freshmen enrolled this semester account for 1,143 students, showing an 8.7 percent increase over the first-time freshman class enrolled last fall. This is the university’s largest freshman class since fall 2014. UT Martin has seen a 21 percent increase in the size of its freshman class over the past two years.

The university welcomed more than 450 transfer students for the sixth consecutive year with 474 first-time transfer students enrolled this semester. The number of dual-enrollment students is up 79.4 percent this fall with more than 1,200 students taking classes through UT Martin.

The current student body represents 89 Tennessee counties, 45 states and 22 foreign countries.

UTM enrollment highest since 2013; several awards announced

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In addition to increased enrollment, UT Martin has also received national rankings from U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review, Washington Monthly and BestColleges.com in recent weeks.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked UT Martin as tied for 14th among public schools in the south, up from 16th in 2017. UT Martin is also tied for 29th among the best southern colleges for veterans, tied for 42nd among southern regional universities and stands alone at 44th among the best value schools in the south.

The Princeton Review has placed UT Martin among the best colleges in the southeast for the 16th consecutive year, and Washington Monthly lists the university at 28th in its “Best Bang for the Buck” category among southern colleges and universities for 2018. UT Martin is the top-ranked public university in Tennessee on this list.

BestColleges.com has included UT Martin among the best colleges in Tennessee (16th) and specifically the best online colleges in Tennessee (eighth).

For more information on UT Martin enrollment or recognitions, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-88-7615.
Lawyer Houston Gordon addresses UTM students on Constitution Day

Houston Gordon, managing member of the Gordon Shaw Law Group in Covington, spoke Monday at the University of Tennessee at Martin in observation of Constitution Day. Gordon is a 1968 UT Martin graduate and has been a practicing trial lawyer for almost 50 years with experience in both civilian and military cases.

Gordon addressed a crowd of UT Martin students and faculty members from the political science, pre-law and history programs, among others, and discussed the Bill of Rights and its importance for citizens today.

"Before (the Constitution) was approved, some of the framers had the foresight to say, 'We want to place amendments to the Constitution because the government has all of this power. ... We need to be able to protect individual people.' And that's the Bill of Rights came from," he said. "The Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of speech; the Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion. The Bill of Rights guarantees the right to bear arms, guarantees due process of law, guarantees indictment by a grand jury if you're tried for a criminal charge. It guarantees in two separate places the right to a trial by jury. Those individual liberties are as important to you, today, as they were when they were penned. ... I hope that at least one or two or three or more of you will take an interest in your rights, your individual liberties."

Gordon listed various legal decisions and political actions that, in his opinion, have eroded the Bill of Rights over the past decade and urged audience members to pay attention to the choices their elected officials make regarding civil liberties and personal freedoms.

"I urge you to learn about your government, learn about your state, learn about how things work in your state and in your government because it affects you every single day whether you realize it or not. ... I beg you to pay attention, get involved," he said.

He also encouraged audience members to surround themselves with competing viewpoints through news media and other sources and seek to find the balance among differing ideas.

"I encourage you to read all of them (competing newspapers). ... When you have competing ideas, then somewhere in that you can probably figure out the truth," he said. Gordon quoted President Ronald Reagan as saying, "Trust, but verify."

"Trust what you hear, and then check it out, because it's your life and your rights that are at stake," he added.

Gordon also quoted the inscription along the top of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., which has helped him through many difficult cases in his career. "Written around the top (of the memorial) are these words, 'I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility toward any form of tyranny over the minds of men.' Tyranny over our minds, whether it comes from the media or from the White House or from press conferences, is still tyranny," he said. "Don't let anybody take your minds captive. If I have a definition of freedom and liberty, then that's it."

Gordon graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1970 and joined the United States Army Judge Advocate General Corps.

His first major case was defending Lt. William Calley on appeal, the only soldier convicted of war crimes committed during the My Lai Massacre in Vietnam. Gordon was 24 years old at the time.

RESISTING TYRANNY OVER MINDS — Houston Gordon told UTM students that mental tyranny is still tyranny and should be resisted.
Boyd tapped to serve as interim UT president

Randy Boyd, a Knoxville businessman, philanthropist and former Republican candidate for governor, has been tapped to lead the University of Tennessee following the retirement of the college system’s outgoing president.

The UT Board of Trustees will meet next week to consider hiring Boyd as interim president. The plan, proposed Wednesday morning by the board chair and touted as a “win” by the governor, calls for Boyd to serve for one or two years.

Boyd’s work could pave the way for major changes to the college system that includes the state’s flagship campus in Knoxville as well as institutions in Memphis, Chattanooga and Martin.

See BOYD, Page 7A

Boyd

Continued from Page 3A

"The board’s intention will be for him to come in and take a holistic view about where we are and where we want to be, and then to help us define the organizational structure to make that happen," John Compton, the newly elected board chairman, said in an interview.

Compton, elected board chairman in August, said he had already heard from campus-level officials who mentioned friction between the system office and individual campuses. Addressing that tension will likely be one of Boyd’s top priorities.

"While there is a lot of love for UT, it is time to raise the bar and examine whether there are other organizational structures that we should consider so that we can elevate our university to even higher levels of success," Compton said.

Compton did not comment on specific changes that might be in store for the system, saying only that the board was open to "new ideas." Boyd was the ideal choice to lead a review and develop those ideas, Compton said.

Boyd tweeted that he’s "truly honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve my alma mater, University of Tennessee, and our great state."

"If selected, looking forward to listening and learning about how we can accelerate the positive momentum across all of our campuses and throughout the UT system!"

Haslam says Boyd a 'win' for UT

Gov. Bill Haslam and Compton discussed the issue before the Wednesday announcement.

In an interview, Haslam said hiring Boyd would be a "net win" for the state.

Boyd earned a reputation as a change agent while working in Haslam’s administration — he shaped Tennessee Promise, the governor’s signature higher education program that offers every high school graduate the chance to attend community or technical college tuition-free.

Boyd also served as the state’s economic development chief and traveled to each of Tennessee’s 95 counties this year during an unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination for governor.

Compton said that experience made Boyd his top candidate to lead UT into a new era.

“Just don’t think there’s a better choice,” Compton said. “We’re lucky that he’s available at this point of time to consider this.”

If he is selected, Compton said, Boyd has said he would not take a salary for his work.

Boyd approached after primary loss

Compton said he began talking with Boyd after his loss in the Aug. 2 gubernatorial primary. Boyd was seen as an early front-runner for the Republican nomination, but came in second with 24 percent of the vote, 13 points behind winner Bill Lee.

The GOP primary was the most expensive campaign to date in Tennessee, and featured an onslaught of negative ads, particularly between Boyd and rival candidate U.S. Rep. Diane Black.

Boyd, 58, became a millionaire after founding $400 million company Radio Systems Corp. He spent more than $20 million on his campaign, in-
Compton initially called Boyd to gauge his thoughts as a prominent UT graduate and big-ticket donor. But as Boyd began to sketch his vision for higher education in Tennessee, Compton said, he became a front-runner to replace UT President Joe DiPietro, who planned to retire at some point in the next year.

DiPietro fast-tracked those plans Monday, announcing his last day would be Nov. 21.

DiPietro served as president for eight tumultuous years that saw tremendous growth in enrollment, construction and achievement metrics matched by upheaval in the national economy, General Assembly and campus administrations.

Compton said replacing DiPietro with an interim made sense given a series of power shifts across the state.

**Haslam pushed for new board structure**

Haslam pushed for a new, smaller board to guide the UT system — and lawmakers have only signed off on seven members so far, with three spots still vacant. And a new governor and dozens of new lawmakers will start work in 2019.

All of those factors could influence the direction of a search for a permanent replacement.

"I think the board is wise in deciding that interim is the right path at this point," Haslam said in the interview. "It would be difficult to select a ... president who's going to serve for multiple years at this point."

Haslam is hopeful Boyd's experience on the campaign trail could mend some frayed relationships in the statehouse. The General Assembly has sparred bitterly with UT in recent years, at one point ripping funding from the flagship campus budget after a pair of online posts about Christmas parties and gender pronouns.

"The obvious answer is more communication will help," Haslam said. "That's where I think the whole experience of campaigning is very helpful."

Reach Adam Tamburin at 615-726-5986 and atamburin@tennessean.com. Follow him on Twitter @tamburintweets.

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**UTM host fine arts workshops**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third-annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 29, in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus. The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theatre must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; online instructional technology in art teaching, grades 6-12; voice and movement methods in theatre; abstraction; and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theatre.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at ceckert@utm.edu. For information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Randy Boyd recommended as interim UT president

KNOXVILLE (AP) — The chairman of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees announced Wednesday that he is recommending former gubernatorial candidate Randy Boyd to serve as the university system's interim president.

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro announced Monday he will retire effective Feb. 14.

He will leave active service Nov. 21 to use his remaining vacation time.

Trustees Chairman John Compton recommended that Boyd serve as interim president for up to 24 months or until a permanent president takes over.

A university release announcing Compton's recommendation said that Boyd has declined to be paid a salary if he is appointed.

The board of trustees will meet Tuesday in Knoxville to consider Compton's recommendation.

At a Wednesday news conference, Compton said he's recommending an interim president because DiPietro is stepping down a little earlier than expected and the current board of trustees is new and incomplete.

Seven trustees have been selected for a board that will eventually include 10 members.

"It is wise to take a pause, to take 12 to 24 months, and objectively think about the future of the University of Tennessee and the organizational requirements to enable that future," Compton said.

Compton said he didn't want to select someone who's already working on a Tennessee campus or within the state university system to avoid any potential biases.

Boyd is a Tennessee alumnus who lost to Bill Lee last month in the Republican gubernatorial primary. Compton said Boyd spoke to him after the primary to discuss future plans for his business, his family foundation and his advocacy of higher education.

"As I was listening to Randy, I thought to myself, 'I'm staring at the next person who should be recommended for the interim president role at the University of Tennessee,'" Compton said.

Compton didn't rule out the possibility of Boyd becoming a permanent president but said that would have happen through a national search.

Compton said he and Boyd haven't discussed whether Boyd might have any interest in taking the role permanently.

"If selected, looking forward to listening & learning about how we can accelerate the positive momentum across all of our campuses & throughout the UT system!" Boyd tweeted Wednesday.

Compton said he's known Boyd for about 20 years and noted that they worked together on the board of Tennessee's Haslam School of Business for more than 10 years.

Boyd founded Radio Systems Corp., a Knoxville company that produces invisible fences and other pet products, which has more than 700 employees and $400 million in annual revenue.

He took a yearlong leave of absence in 2013 to serve as an adviser to Gov. Bill Haslam, helping him create education initiatives such as the Tennessee Promise program for free tuition at state community colleges.

In December 2014, Haslam named Boyd the next state Economic and Community Development commissioner, a post he filled until January 2017.

Compton also noted Boyd's role as an architect in Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative, which is aimed at increasing the number of Tennesseeans with a postsecondary degree or certificate to 55 percent by 2025.

Although Compton said Haslam was a "sounding board" in this decision, Compton noted that he brought the idea to the governor rather than the governor recommending it to him.

Compton also dismissed speculation that the Boyd selection had anything to do with connections to the rest of the Haslam family, which includes Pilot Corp. founder Jim Haslam and Cleveland Browns owner Jimmy Haslam.

"At no point along the way since I've been chair of the Board of Trustees have I emailed, texted, phone called or met in the mall with Jim Haslam or Jimmy Haslam," Compton said. "The only Haslam I have talked to is Bill Haslam, not because he's a Haslam but because he's the governor and the governor needs a voice in the presidency of the University of Tennessee."

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UTM hosting open forums Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs finalists

Four finalists to fill the position of vice chancellor for student affairs left open by the retirement of Dr. Margaret Toston earlier this year will participate in campus open through the 5th.

Dr. Brandon Frye will appear at an open forum on October 1st. Frye is associate vice president for enrollment and student affairs, and deputy Title 9 coordinator at the Pensacola.

Dr. Jamie Mantooth will appear in an open forum on October 2nd. Mantooth has led the UTM Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement as executive director spending three years as director of retention services at Murray State.

Dr. Andy Lewter will have his open forum on October 3rd. Lewter has been dean of students at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville since 2013, and student affairs at Maryville College.

And Dr. Mark McCloud’s open forum will be October 4th. McCloud moved to the position of interim assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students in two years as director of the Office of Career Planning and Development.

John Abel has served as interim vice chancellor since Toston’s retirement in June. He will return to his position as assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of student’s position is filled.

All open forums will begin at 3:00 in the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or registration assistance, contact Dr. Mark McCloud, interim assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, at 731-881-7712 or email mccloud@utm.edu.

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UTM hosting golf tournament for student internships

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will host the second-annual Career Classic golf tournament beginning at 9 a.m., Oct. 3, at the Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon. Registration is $75 per player or $300 for a four-person team. Players must be registered by Sept. 28.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start promptly at 9. Lunch will be provided at noon. Participants can register as a team or as individuals, those not registered with a team will be assigned to one by the tournament director.

Registration for the four-person scramble tournament includes cart rental, green fees, range balls and lunch. Prizes will be presented to the first, second and third-place teams. Proceeds from the tournament help fund travel and housing stipends for UT Martin students who earn internship placements both domestically and internationally.

Sponsorship opportunities are available beginning at $200.

Registration checks should be made payable to the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development and sent to the University of Tennessee at Martin, Boling University Center, Room 210, Martin, TN, 38238. Participants should include the name, address, phone number and email address of all team members when sending payment.

UTM host fine arts workshops

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Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theatre must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theatre.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at eckert@utm.edu. For information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Randy Boyd to serve as interim UT system president when DiPietro retires

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees voted Tuesday morning to appoint Boyd as interim UT system president. As the board started its vote, a few students began protesting.

Randy Boyd, the Knoxville entrepreneur who made improving education a key plank in his failed bid this summer to be Tennessee’s governor, will take over as interim University of Tennessee system president when current President Joe DiPietro retires in November.

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees voted Tuesday morning to appoint Boyd to the role. As the board started its vote, a few students began protesting.

After the interruption, the board unanimously voted to appoint Boyd as interim UT system president.

Boyd will serve as interim president for up to 24 months or until the effective date of appointment of a new president following an external search. DiPietro said he would formally retire in February and informally leave in November.

Of all the speakers at Tuesday’s meeting, only two endorsed Boyd as system president.

Board Chair John Compton said Boyd hasn’t expressed wanting to be a long term president. Compton said they will conduct national search for president but aren’t ruling out Boyd as a possibility if he, “falls in love with the job.”

Tuesday’s vote marks a first for the university’s new, smaller board of trustees.

Boyd’s appointment gives the new board of trustees time to think more completely about where UT goes now. DiPietro has been system president since 2011.

Gov. Bill Haslam is in the final months of his second term and UT Knoxville needs a new chancellor, with DiPietro’s dismissal of Beverly Davenport in the spring.

Haslam is a longtime champion and friend of Boyd, who served as the governor’s commissioner of economic development for two years. Before that Boyd was Haslam’s special adviser on higher education, helping to boost development of state initiatives to increase the number of Tennesseans with advanced job skills and training.

A little about Boyd

Boyd is a University of Tennessee graduate.

The South Knoxville native and his wife Jenny are longtime supporters of education in Tennessee. The Boyds have given money to support local secondary schools as well as the University of Tennessee.

Their monetary gifts support the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and the Boyd Venture Challenge, which is a seed grant program for student entrepreneurs.

Boyd founded Radio Systems Corp. in the early 1990s. The privately held Knoxville company makes pet produces that include PetSafe and Invisible Fence.

He spent millions of his own money this year during the Republican primary to become governor. He came in second last month to Bill Lee, who now is running against Democrat Karl Dean in the Nov. 6 election for governor.
Boyd unanimously voted UT interim president

Posted on September 24, 2018 by Steve James in Local News

University of Tennessee alumnus and former Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Randy Boyd was unanimously voted by the Board of Trustees to serve as UT interim president after the retirement of UT President Dr. Joe DiPietro.

The vote was not without debate as several guests were asked to speak with some speaking in favor of Boyd and some speaking against the board's proposal to fill the position.

There were also outbursts from a few students before the board's vote. Those students were escorted out by UT Police.

There were also reports of protests on the UT Knoxville campus against Boyd's appointment.

As interim president of the UT system, Boyd will serve as CEO of the Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Martin campuses.

Last week, Boyd visited with UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver in Martin for about 45 minutes to discuss the interim position and to get input from Dr. Carver.

Dr. DiPietro announced last week his plans to retire in February, but will step down November 21 to use his remaining vacation time.

Boyd will assume the interim president role on November 22.

Randy Boyd to be considered for UT's interim president

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will meet today in Knoxville to consider appointment of an interim system president to serve upon UT President Joe DiPietro's retirement, which was announced last week.

The meeting was to begin at 11:45 a.m. EDT in the Visitors Center at 2712 Neyland Drive on the UT Knoxville campus. Board members unable to be present in Knoxville were able to participate by telephone.

The meeting will be webcast live and archived for later viewing; a link to the webcast will be available at tennessee.edu.

The board will consider appointing UT Knoxville alumnus and Knoxville businessman Randy Boyd to serve as interim system president for up to 24 months or until the effective date of appointment of a new president following an external search.

Persons who have pre-registered to speak will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Speakers will be limited to five minutes each, and the total time available for speakers will be 30 minutes.

The agenda will also include action to waive the requirement that DiPietro provide 180 days' written notice of his retirement.

The meeting agenda and materials are available by contacting Jennifer Sicling, assistant director of media relations for the UT System, at jsicking@tennessee.edu.

The University of Tennessee System distributed this notice to all faculty and staff as part of its compliance with the adequate public notice requirement of state open meetings law.
TAKING PRIDE IN LEARNING — Children at the Martin Enrichment Academy show off new books provided by Phi Kappa Phi. Adults in the background are (from left) Robert Nunley, director of the Martin Enrichment Academy and Dontrel Owens, assistant director.

UTM faculty helps students at Martin Enrichment Academy

The Measurement Literacy Enrichment Program helps students understand what measurement means and equips the students to perform measurements. The program is supported by a $1,500 grant from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. The work is part of the mission of the STEM Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Each week this fall, college faculty visit students at the Martin Enrichment Academy, an after-school program in Martin.

The college teachers read books with measurement themes to the children. The children conduct some of the measurements suggested in the stories. During a recent visit the children listened to "How Short How Tall How Faraway" by David Adler. They measured the length of a room in paces, found Egypt and Rome on a map, and measured each other's heights in cubits. During future visits they will make the same measurements in standard units such as feet and inches.

Because of the funding provided by the Literacy Grant program of Phi Kappa Phi, each child gets to keep a copy of the book and will receive a ruler and measuring tape.

Other books included in the program are "Measuring Penny" by Loren Leedy, "Spaghetti and Meatballs for All" by Marilyn Burns, "What's the Matter with Starting 6th Grade" by Kelly Staggs, and "Bud, not Buddy" by Christopher Paul Curtis. The books introduce a variety of quantities, including length, surface area, mass, volume, density, and time.

The books are written for different age groups from primary grades through middle school.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 and recognizes outstanding scholarship in all fields of study. The society also promotes public service by its members.
UTM searching to fill newly created office

The University of Tennessee at Martin has begun a national search for an executive director of research, outreach and economic development to lead a newly created office of the same name.

"This position is a direct result of our new strategic plan," said Chancellor Keith Carver. "We are committed to strengthening our existing public and private partnerships, expanding our research portfolio and becoming an integral part of the economic development initiatives across the region."

The executive director of research, outreach and economic development will report directly to UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and work closely with the UT System's Office of Government Relations and Advocacy in support of state and regional relationships.

This position is also responsible for oversight and compliance of university-sponsored programs, and the promotion and coordination of outreach activities including non-degree programs.

Dr. Phillip Acree Cavalier, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, is serving as chair of the search committee, which includes representation from UT Martin faculty and staff as well as an outside representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The committee members are Harriet Cannon, assistant to the state director and administrative programs director for the USDA (retired); Dr. John Oelrich, director of bands and associate professor of music; Dr. Kelli Deere, director of the UT Martin Parsons Center; Landy Fuqua, director of the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center; Dr. Mark McCloud, interim assistant vice chancellor for student affairs; Dr. John Overcash, assistant professor of chemistry and co-director of the UT Martin STEM Center for Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Rachna Tewari, associate professor of agricultural economics.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, is serving as executive recruiter for this position.

The committee hopes to begin conducting interviews for this position by the end of October.

For more information or to nominate a candidate, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.

WestStar now accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2019. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 825 graduates in its 29-year history.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee's economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/weststar. The application deadline is Oct. 12. Anyone can apply to participate in the program; nominations are accepted but not required.

UTM host fine arts workshops

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host its third-annual in-service workshops for K-12 art, dance and theatre teachers from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 29, in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus. The workshop has 60 spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no cost to attend.

Interested teachers of K-12 art, dance and theatre must reserve a seat by Sept. 24 and indicate first and second-choice workshops in each session. Placements are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attendees will sign in beginning at 9 a.m. Workshop session A begins at 9:30 and includes discussions on best practices in the K-5 classroom; monoprints and drawing; online instructional technology in art teaching, grades 6-12; voice and movement methods in theatre; abstraction; and printmaking on clay.

Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theatre.

Interested educators must send their names and contact information, along with workshop preferences, to Dr. Carol Eckert, professor of art, at eckert@utm.edu. For information on individual sessions, contact the UT Martin Office of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Boyd approved as UT interim president

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the selection of Knoxville businessman and former gubernatorial candidate Randy Boyd as the university system's interim president.

Board members voted Tuesday on the recommendation that Trustees Chairman John Compton had made last week.

"It's an incredible honor," Boyd said. "I'm humbled."

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro announced Sept. 17 that he would retire Feb. 14. He will leave active service Nov. 21 and use his remaining vacation time, with Boyd taking over after that. Boyd has agreed to serve for up to 24 months or until a permanent president takes over.

Boyd is a Tennessee alumnus who lost to Bill Lee in the 2018 Republican gubernatorial primary.

Before the vote, a few speakers objected to the pick by noting Boyd's relative lack of academic experience and arguing he wouldn't be an advocate for diversity or inclusion. Several students held signs protesting Boyd's selection.

"Hiring Randy Boyd would be disastrous for UT's political climate," said Alayna Cameron, a senior at Tennessee's Knoxville campus. "We need someone who will bring us together and prioritize all students. We don't need a politician running our university."

A few more people were escorted out of the meeting after complaining they weren't allowed to speak and trying to interrupt the vote. One was cited for trying to disrupt a public meeting.

Citizens were permitted to speak only if they'd submitted a request online beforehand.

Lang Wiseman, a member of the Board of Trustees, said the "overwhelming consensus" of feedback he'd received on Boyd was favorable.

"We've been hearing what Tennesseans have said about where they want the university to go, and two of the biggest things I've heard are that people want a Tennessean and want someone who understands the culture," said Kim White, another member of the Board of Trustees. "From that standpoint, I can think of no one better (than Boyd)."

Boyd founded Radio Systems Corp., a Knoxville company that produces invisible fences and other pet products, which has more than 700 employees and $400 million in annual revenue.

Despite protests

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Roots of Rhythm to tour schools

The Martin Percussion Ensemble from the University of Tennessee at Martin will take its Roots of Rhythm performance on tour to six elementary schools — including one in Union City — Thursday and Friday.

The ensemble will give private performances Thursday at Medina Elementary School and at Pope and East elementary schools in Jackson. The tour will also visit Yorkville Elementary School, Union City Elementary School and East Calloway Elementary School in Murray, Ky., on Friday.

Roots of Rhythm is a unique percussion performance that uses world history, geography and music to increase cultural awareness. The ensemble displays a global perspective in an energetic performance, using a variety of instruments native to countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, Mali, Brazil and others.
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Before the vote, a few speakers objected to the pick by noting Boyd’s relative lack of academic experience and arguing he wouldn’t be an advocate for diversity or inclusion. Several students held signs protesting Boyd’s selection.

“I want to thank the Board of Trustees for this opportunity. I’m humbled. I’m grateful. I’m honored. It’s an honor to be called a Tennessean,” Boyd said.

Boyd will succeed Joe DiPietro, who is retiring Feb. 14 after 17 years in the post. Boyd will serve nine months to a year, pending the hiring of a permanent president.

The lecture, titled “How Luther Campbell Screwed up Transformative Use for Everybody,” will be held in the Blankenship Recital Hall inside UT Martin’s Fine Arts Building and is open to the public.

Qualls will speak on “fair use” provisions, the Copyright Act of 1977, transformative use doctrine and relevant court cases involving musical artists.

The presentation includes some adult content.
The University of Tennessee at Martin has conducted a national search for candidates to fill the position of vice chancellor for student affairs left open by the retirement of Dr. Margaret Toston earlier this year. A search committee has identified four finalists who will participate in campus open forum sessions Monday through Oct. 5.

All open forums will begin at 3 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium on the first floor of the Boling University Center. All sessions are open to the public.

The schedule of appearances includes:

- Dr. Brandon Frye, Monday;
- Dr. Jamie Mantooth, Tuesday;
- Dr. Andy Lewter, Oct. 3;
- Dr. Mark McCloud, Oct. 4.

Frye is associate vice president for enrollment and student affairs, dean of students and deputy title IX coordinator at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. He accepted this position in 2017 after serving as assistant vice president for student affairs since 2013.

In his current role, Frye has played an active role in the development and implementation of the university’s strategic plan; created new programs and services to support student retention; and formed a new Office of Student Involvement to engage more than 70 percent of the first-year class during the past academic year.

Mantooth has led the UT Martin Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement as executive director since 2015 after spending three years as director of retention services at Murray (Ky.) State University.

In his current position, he has helped improve fall-to-fall retention rates of first-year students 1.6 percent from fall 2015 to fall 2017; supervised the recruitment of the largest class of first-year students since fall 2014; and restructured merit-based scholarships to award more students, including transfer students.

Lewter has been dean of students at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville since 2013 and he previously spent 17 years in student affairs at Maryville College in Maryville.

In his current role, Lewter has created a bias incident response process; supervised the move of several departmental units into the division of student affairs; and opened The Hub, which houses the university’s Cultural Center, Women’s Center and LGBT programs.

McCloud moved to the position of interim assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students at UT Martin this year after serving two years as director of the Office of Career Planning and Development. He spent nine years as assistant director for career development at the University of Mississippi in Oxford prior to working with UT Martin.

In his current position, McCloud oversees university career services; student conduct; student life and multicultural affairs; the Student Concern Team; and evaluation and assessment within the Division of Student Affairs.

The vice chancellor for student affairs is the primary student advocate within the UT Martin community. The position provides supervision and leadership development for the areas of student affairs, residential and student life, dining services, student health and counseling services, student conduct, career planning and development, multicultural affairs, and student affairs evaluation and assessment. The vice chancellor supports the development, assessment and improvement of student services to meet expectations of the university’s mission and strategic plan.

John Abel has served as interim vice chancellor since Dr. Toston’s retirement in June. He will return to his position as assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students when the vice chancellor’s position is filled.

NEW FACES — University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver welcomed new faculty members and administrators to campus recently with a dinner in the Champions Club of the new football press box facility at Hardy Graham Stadium. Those present were able to meet members of the chancellor’s staff as well as the deans of UT Martin’s five colleges. Attending were (from left, front row) Dr. Yu-Ho Chi, Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; Dr. Michelle Arant, Department of Educational Studies; Dr. Michelle Chesean, Veterinary Health Technology Program; Melissa Engleman, Paul Meek Library; Dr. Windy Wang, Department of Visual and Theater Arts; Dr. Chin Mi Jean, Department of Music; Erin Peters, Paul Meek Library; (middle row) Dr. Carver; Dr. Tony Delmond, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; Dr. Brian Towell, Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; Dr. Jared Linna, Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; John Blue, Division of Student Affairs; Larry McKenzie, Department of Health and Human Performance; Dr. Timothy Dasinger, Department of Health and Human Performance; Chris Stachewicz, Division of Student Affairs; Dr. Phillip Acree Cavalier, vice chancellor for academic affairs and university provost; (back row) Anthony Prewitt, Division of Student Affairs; Dr. John Glass, Honors Program; Dr. Shadow Robinson, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Chris Gunlefinger, Office of Campus Recreation; Dr. Kent Kelso, Department of Educational Studies; and Ryan Jenkins, Office of Intercollegiate Athletics. Some new faculty members were unable to attend.
Student numbers increase for fall

The University of Tennessee at Martin reports a total enrollment of 7,069 students for the fall 2018 semester, showing a 4 percent increase from fall 2017. This is the highest total enrollment UT Martin has seen since fall 2013.

First-time freshmen enrolled this semester account for 1,143 students, showing an 8.7 percent increase over the first-time freshman class enrolled last fall. This is the university's largest freshman class since fall 2014. UT Martin has seen a 21 percent increase in the size of its freshman class over the past two years.

The university welcomed more than 450 transfer students for the sixth consecutive year with 474 first-time transfer students enrolled this semester. The number of dual-enrollment students is up 79.4 percent this fall with more than 1,200 students taking classes through UT Martin.

The current student body represents 89 Tennessee counties, 45 states and 22 foreign countries.

In addition to increased enrollment, UT Martin has also received national rankings from U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review, Washington Monthly and BestColleges.com in recent weeks.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked UT Martin as tied for 14th among public schools in the south, up from 16th in 2017. UT Martin is also tied for 29th among the best southern colleges for veterans, tied for 42nd among southern regional universities and stands alone at 44th among the best value schools in the south.

The Princeton Review has placed UT Martin among the best colleges in the southeast for the 16th consecutive year, and Washington Monthly lists the university at 28th in its "Best Bang for the Buck" category among southern colleges and universities for 2018. UT Martin is the top-ranked public university in Tennessee on this list.

BestColleges.com has included UT Martin among the best colleges in Tennessee (16th) and specifically the best online colleges in Tennessee (eighth).

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UTM holds Fall Preview Days

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host Fall Preview Days for high school students and their families on Oct. 6 and Nov. 10. This event provides students an opportunity to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment.

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.

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Session B will begin at 11 a.m. and features workshops on best practices in the 6-12 classroom; new Tennessee dance standard domains; monoprints and drawing; kente cloth for elementary students; basket weaving; and clay sculpture.

Lunch will start at 12:20 p.m. with session C workshops following at 1. This session includes discussions of digital images, devices and opportunities; basket weaving; abstraction; and group movement and rhythm-based dance in theatre.

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Randy Boyd named University of Tennessee’s interim president

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees appointed alumnus Randy Boyd as interim system president in a specially called meeting on Tuesday. Boyd will begin his new role Nov. 22.

Dr. Joe DiPietro, the system’s 25th president, recently announced he will retire from active service Nov. 21. He has led the university since January 2011.

“I have confidence in Randy and will do everything I can to make sure he gets a good start,” DiPietro said after the vote. “He will take the momentum we have achieved and will make the university even bigger, better and greater.”

Boyd, a Knoxville businessman who spent much of his childhood visiting his grandparents in Knoxville, will serve for up to 24 months or until a new president is appointed following an external search. He has declined to be paid a salary. He will receive a stipend of $10,000 per year to cover costs related to enrollment in the state group health insurance plan.

“I am committed to the success of the University of Tennessee and will dedicate my full focus to continuing the momentum achieved by Dr. DiPietro and leaders throughout the system,” Boyd said after trustees voted to approved his appointment. “Thank you for this honor and for putting your trust in me.”

John Compton, UT Board of Trustees chairman, nominated Boyd for the interim position, stating that an interim would allow trustees time to plan for the university’s future. He said Boyd’s unique set of experiences made him the ideal candidate.

“He’s a true public servant, and he will work every day to make sure the University of Tennessee System is meeting the needs of our state,” Compton said.

As part of the decision, Compton said he and the other trustees reviewed emails and social media posts and listened to opinions from faculty, students and the general public before and during the meeting.

“All of the feedback we’ve been given electronically has been shared with trustees,” Compton said. He added that a majority of the feedback received was positive.

Trustee Lang Wiseman said they heard the concerns of those who responded.

“Diversity and tolerance are important characteristics of the university that each one of us shares and upholds,” he said. “I feel certain and confident that (Boyd) will uphold the characteristics and traits we want in our university.”

Boyd graduated from UT Knoxville in 1979 with a bachelor’s degree in industrial management and from the University of Oklahoma in 1988 with a master’s degree in liberal studies focused on foreign policy. He is the founder and chairman of Radio Systems Corp., which has more than 700 employees, offices in six countries and the brands PetSafe, Invisible Fence and SportDOG.

He was the architect for “Drive to 55” with the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect scholarship programs to help 55 percent of Tennesseans earn a post-secondary degree by 2025. He led Tennessee Achieves as chairman and acted as Gov. Bill Haslam’s adviser for higher education. He also served as chair of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

Through his philanthropy, Boyd also supports the UT Knoxville Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and the UT Institute of Agriculture College of Veterinary Medicine’s Boyd Venture Challenge seed grant program for student entrepreneurs. He has funded Boyd Scholarships for Tennessee Promise students and supported the UT Knoxville Boyd Family Track and Field Center.

Boyd ran for the Republican nomination for governor this year but was defeated in the primaries by Bill Lee.

Some students protested Boyd’s appointment due to his lack of experience in higher education administration and accused him of racism and homophobia.

Trustees also approved waiving the requirement that DiPietro provide 180 days’ written notice of his retirement.

NEW APPOINTEE — Randy Boyd addresses the UT Board of Trustees and members of the UT community shortly after being appointed UT’s interim president.
UTM ensemble to visit schools

The University of Tennessee at Martin Percussion Ensemble will take its Roots of Rhythm performance on tour to six elementary schools Sept. 27-28.

The ensemble will give private performances Sept. 27 at Medina Elementary School, and Pope and East elementary schools in Jackson.

The tour will also visit Yorkville Elementary School, Union City Elementary School and East Calloway Elementary School in Murray, Kentucky, on Sept. 28.

Parents interested in attending private performances at their child's school should contact the school directly regarding guest attendance.

For more information on the Roots of Rhythm performance or to book a future tour date for your school, visit utm.edu/roots.

Locals attend soybean luncheon

Several Dyer County residents attended the Soybean WestStar Luncheon Sept. 7 at Simmons Bank in downtown Martin. The 13th annual barbecue lunch was hosted by city of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige.

Pictured are (lr) Steve Guttery, of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce; Hughes Clardy, a retiree; Sandy Tarkington, of First Citizens National Bank; Paul Carson, of Tigrett & Pennington Inc.; John Holden, mayor of the city of Dyersburg; Tammy Hall, of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce; Chad Davis, of Davis Wealth Services; Bob Kirk, a retiree; Chris Young, mayor of Dyer County; and Tommy Allmon, of Whites & Associates Insurance.

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at 731-861-7298.
UT Martin’s Fall Preview Days Set

The University of Tennessee at Martin is scheduled to host Fall Preview Days for high school students and their families October 6th and November 10th. This event provides students an opportunity to speak with academic advisers, financial counselors and other campus resources in a low-stress environment. 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. Register online at utm.edu/preview. For more information, call 731-881-7020 or email admmitme@utm.edu.

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UTM to present public physics demonstration

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics will present the annual “Phun with Physics” event at 6 p.m., Oct. 9, in room 258 of Brehm Hall on the UT Martin main campus.

“Phun with Physics” is a demonstration appropriate for all ages. The presentation will use electrocution, magnetization, freezing, heating and fracturing to explain how nature works. Specific demonstrations involve driving a nail into wood with a frozen banana and pumping the air out of a marshmallow.

Physics faculty members along with members of the UT Martin chapter of the Society of Physics Students will give the presentations.

For more information, contact Dr. Jason Alexander, associate professor of physics, at jalexa39@utm.edu.
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