Local students receive Legacy Scholarships

Several Weakley County students have received the 2020 Elam Legacy Scholarship to attend UT Martin. This scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UTM.

Students include:

- Garritt Baker of Martin is a management major.
- Carson Brigance of Martin is an engineering major.
- Grayson Brinkley of Martin is a computer science major.
- Kassidy Harris of Dresden is a biology major.
- Hattie Spencer of Martin is a psychology major.

For more information about the Elam Legacy Scholarship, contact Jacquelyn Johnson, assistant vice chancellor of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 731-881-3612. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.

UTM Visual and Theatre Arts to host exhibition

The UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will be hosting a pop-up exhibition of artwork by the Art 450 Professional Practices seminar students called "Omnium Gatherum." The exhibition will be held Sept. 12 at the sculpture patio on the Eastside of the Fine Arts Building and will be open to the public from 1-4 p.m. It will feature studio and digital artworks from Jasmine Williams, Bailey Rader, Knox Brewer, Jordan Copeland and Brandy Gaul.

The goal of the exhibition is to highlight the ability to find artists from different backgrounds with different chosen mediums who can come together in art and represent their community. Some of the artists are using this show as immediate reference for an upcoming senior exhibition, while others are using it as a precursor to prepare for it.

The public is invited. For more information, contact Brandy Gaul at bralgaul@utm.edu or 337-359-7499.

Fine Arts Gallery hosts 'Community' photo series

The University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery reopened to the public on Aug. 26, featuring the photo series "Community: UT Martin through the lens of Nathan Morgan." Morgan currently serves as the assistant director of the Office of University Relations but came to UT Martin in 2013 as the university photographer.

Morgan selected 25 photos to be featured in the gallery he says best represent the "authentic life" of UT Martin since he began photographing the campus community.

From events such as rodeo and homecoming to the iconic architecture on campus, viewers will see UT Martin as Morgan does through his camera.

"My hope is that this gallery captures the essence of our community and life as I see it at UT Martin," said Morgan. "I feel like what I do here at UTM is document the community, and I want to leave a legacy through my work."

The exhibit will be open through Sept. 25 from 1-5 p.m. Masks are required to enter the gallery.

Children's Center names new director

Tennessee at Martin Margaret N. Perry Children's Center.

In this role, Jimenez will be responsible for overseeing all center operations, which includes implementing a high-quality child care curriculum, ensuring the center is up-to-date with state licensing regulations, training staff members, providing academic support to the department of family and consumer sciences and more.

Jimenez is a UT Martin graduate and holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies as well as a master's degree in family and consumer sciences. She has worked in early child care and education for 18 years, spending 14 of those years working for the Tennessee Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

"I am excited to return to my alma mater, UT Martin, and to begin serving families of the community I love," said Jimenez.

For more information about the Perry Children's Center, contact Jimenez at bjimenez1@utm.edu.

Briana Cash Jimenez has been named the new director of the University of
Legacy laid in tile

Bricklayer’s mark on UT Martin uncovered

By SARAH KNAPP
Special to The Messenger
“James R. Vinson, Box 98 Sharon Tenn., 5-27-57, Bricklayer,” reads the tile in red ink.

For 63 years, this tile laid in a bathroom in Clement Hall on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus unbeknownst to all but the bricklayer who signed it, James R. Vinson.

However, after recent infrastructure renovations to Clement Hall, Vinson’s signature was recovered from the construction debris, bringing light to the now 90-year-old Union City resident and the legacy he literally built at UT Martin.

Vinson began working at UT Martin as a bricklayer in 1957 when he was 27 years old with his father, who taught him the trade. With Clement Hall as his first project, Vinson was later contracted to help build and repair at least seven buildings on campus, including the Paul Meek Library, the Student Recreation Center and multiple residence halls as well as the Hall-Moody Administration Building.

LASTING LEGACY — James Vinson is a 90-year-old bricklayer from Union City. A tile that he signed in 1957 when constructing Clement Hall at the University of Tennessee at Martin was recently recovered from construction debris during infrastructure renovations there. He helped construct seven buildings at UT Martin, as well as the Hall-Moody Administration Building brick sign. (See related photo, Page 8.)

Job. What they told me to do, I’d do it.”

Even if Vinson had never done what they asked him to do before, he said he’d try to do it to the best of his abilities, and if the lead contractor didn’t approve of it, he’d tear it down and try again.

After finding the tile, Kent Cook, the superintendent for Barger Construction, the company responsible for the renovations to Clement Hall, contacted Dana Hagan, project coordinator for the physical plant, to let her know he found something she should see.

Much to Mrs. Hagan’s surprise, when Cook handed her the tile, she quickly recognized the name as a man she had gone to church with for 40 years.

“My heart just immediately started pounding and my eyes welled up, and I was just like, ‘What in the world? I know him!’” Mrs. Hagan said. “What are the chances? This is a miracle.”

Vinson said he never expected to see the tile he laid so many years ago again, and when Mrs. Hagan returned the tile to him, he couldn’t help but tear up and hug her.

“I was shocked,” Vinson said when asked how he reacted to Mrs. Hagan giving him the tile. “I didn’t realize I’d ever see it again.”

Mrs. Hagan says the whole experience has been “overwhelming” as the renovations in Clement Hall are only happening in specific locations and “the chances of us cutting out the thing that held that (tile) ... is truly a miracle.”

Vinson currently has the tile on display in his home above his brick fireplace as a reminder of the life he built for himself through hard work.
Vinson grew up in the 1930s in a house near the heating plant on campus. He saw UT Martin grow from the wheat fields he and his brother used to play in to the university that would teach his children and grandchildren.

Vinson's bricklaying legacy is best exhibited in the Hall-Moody Administration Building front sign, which he helped build in his 60s. His family loves to remind him of his work at UT Martin every time they drive by the university sign.

"Whoever’s in the car with me ... says, 'There’s your sign!'" he said.

While Vinson enjoyed working at UT Martin and the surrounding area, he and his wife of 40 years, Glendel, often found themselves traveling across the country with a bricklaying team to build churches.

Just when the Vinsons and Mrs. Hagan didn’t think the chances of finding the tile could get any more unbelievable, one church in West Tennessee that Vinson helped rebuild happened to be Cook’s home church that burned down, which they discovered after meeting.

“That’s the best part of it to me,” said Cook, regarding his church. “It’s pretty interesting to meet someone who built a building 62 years ago. ... I was surprised he was still living and that anyone knew who he was.”

Overall, the Christian brick-laying team has traveled to 37 different states as well as the Philippines, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Brazil to brick churches.

“It’s been an adventure,” Vinson said. “I’ve enjoyed every bit of the work I’ve done (at UT Martin) and around.”

Editor’s note: Sarah Knapp is staff writer and addenda editor in the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
UT Martin receives national rankings

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received numerous national rankings for its online master’s programs and overall affordability.

Washington Monthly ranked UT Martin 31st in its 2020 “Best Bang for the Buck” category among southern colleges for helping “students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices.”

The UT Martin online master of science in education degree with a major in counseling received national rankings for its affordable, accelerated program. Collegevaluesonline.com ranked the degree 11th for its rigorous and fast-paced program in the Top 20 Accelerated Master’s in School Counseling Online Programs for 2020 category. Online-Psychology-Degrees.org also ranked the program 11th in the Top 30 Master’s Degrees in Educational Psychology Online 2020 listing.

Bestcounselingdegrees.net listed the degree 23rd in its Most Affordable Online Master’s in School Counseling Programs for 2020.

New Title IX regulations implemented at UTM

The U.S. Department of Education has mandated a new Title IX policy updating the measures higher education institutions — like the University of Tennessee at Martin — use to address sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence and stalking cases involving students, employees and third-party university contractors.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Through the policy, UTM works to create and maintain a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living and working environment free from sexual harassment.

The purposes are to define and prevent the effects of prohibited conduct including sexual assault, rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape, dating and domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation and retaliation; identify support and reporting options for students and employees; address all university employees’ obligations as mandatory reporters; and identify the grievance procedures the university conducts to thoroughly investigate any reports of prohibited conduct.

“These are significant changes to our policy that will provide equality and due process to all parties involved in this process,” said Joe Henderson, UT Martin Title IX coordinator. “Please be patient as we work through these new changes to strengthen our university community.”

Training for the new Title IX policy will be required in the fall.

Musical program set

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s music department will host “A Night with Chopin: Dr. Chan Mi Jean, Faculty Piano Recital” tonight at 7:30.

It will be live streamed on the UT Martin Music Facebook page. To learn more about upcoming events, visit utm.edu/musicevents.
Gallery hosting photo series

The University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery has reopened to the public featuring the photo series “Community: UT Martin through the lens of Nathan Morgan.”

Morgan currently serves as the assistant director of the Office of University Relations but came to UT Martin in 2013 as the university photographer. He selected 25 photos to be featured in the gallery he says best represent the “authentic life” of UT Martin since he began photographing the campus community.

From events such as rodeo and homecoming to the iconic architecture on campus, viewers will see UT Martin as Morgan does through his camera.

“My hope is that this gallery captures the essence of our community and life as I see it at UT Martin,” Morgan said. “I feel like what I do here at UTM is document the community, and I want to leave a legacy through my work. I want to show what life was like during the two thousand-teens to early two thousand-twenties.”

The exhibit is open from 1-5 p.m. daily through Sept. 25. Face masks are required in the Fine Arts Gallery and only six visitors are allowed inside at a time.

Several local students have been named to the summer Chancellor’s Honor Rolls at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The honorees include:

- Union City — Kaleigh E. Bynum, high honors; Anna E. Oliver, high honors; Kursten H. Orsborne, highest honors; Jason M. Stone, highest honors; and Makaily B. Thomason, highest honors.

In addition, honorees with ties to Obion County include:

- Jordan, Minn. — Kelsey D. Simmons, highest honors.

The lists recognize outstanding academic achievement for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

MARTIN, Tenn.—The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Bradford –Katrina M. Tyler, High Honors.
Dyer –Brandt G. Wright, Highest Honors.
Humboldt – Colton M. Beasley, High Honors; Olivia P. Lovell, Honors.
Milan – Jason M. Carter, Highest Honors; Shellie R. Kosark, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Wilson, Highest Honors.
Rutherford –Cassey D. Faulkner, High Honors.
Trenton – Morgan G. Campbell, High Honors; Deeana R. Denton, High Honors.
UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses. For more information, visit utm.edu.

UT Martin announces scholarships

Two local students have received scholarships at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Cameron Patrick, of Milan, is an accounting major. Patrick was awarded the 2020-21 University of Tennessee Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship. The UTAA Legacy Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UT Martin.

Samuel Fagin is a natural resources management major from Milan. Fagin has received the 2020 Elam Legacy Scholarship. The Elam Legacy Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UT Martin.

For more information about the Legacy Scholarships, contact Jacquelyn Johnson, assistant vice chancellor of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 731-881-3612. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
DPA, UTM provide virtual learning help

Discovery Park of America is partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin to provide free digital resources to teachers and parents who are now navigating the world of virtual education. Many students are spending more time learning from home because of the threat of the coronavirus COVID-19.

Hosted by Katie Jarvis from Discovery Park, professors from UT Martin share a fun and entertaining 20-30 minute Zoom lesson utilizing their area of expertise. Topics covered include Japanese, computer science, astronomy, public speaking, history, music, geology and more. The lessons are recorded on Zoom and shared on Discovery Park’s education resource page.

“We met with our friends at UT Martin to explore ways we could combine our resources to support teachers and parents during this time, and collectively, we came up with this idea,” said Jarvis. “I am excited and honored to be the host of this series, especially with professors I had when I attended UT Martin.”

While the lessons target students in grades six through nine, they are available to anyone interested in the topics covered.

“This is a great opportunity for a university and a museum, both located in Northwest Tennessee, to collaborate together to bring rich, educational content not only to our local communities, but to students and lifelong learners around the world,” said Polly Brasher, Discovery Park’s education director. “Our mission is to inspire children and adults to see beyond, and we’re thrilled we can implement that mission beyond the walls of our museum in such a unique way.”

Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese at UT Martin, shared her thoughts on why technology and this partnership is so important today more than ever.

“There can be no doubt that technology has brought our world closer together than ever before. As an educator, I believe that we all should be curious what is going on outside our immediate borders and, above all, be compassionate toward one another,” said Hammond. “I consider teaching the Japanese language and culture at UT Martin to be a great privilege because it enables me to contribute to the goal of intercultural peace and understanding. I am very excited about our partnership with the Discovery Park of America and look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with Discovery Park to the benefit of all of us, here and abroad.”

Discovery Park also recently announced free virtual field trips that provide a unique, standards-based educational program that may be experienced from home or a classroom.

The first six recordings from the partnership include:

- “Japanese 101” with Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese
- “Storytelling with Alice” and “Programming in Python (3)” with Dr. Kate Ericson, associate professor of computer science
- “Why is physical activity important?” with Dr. Tim Dasinger, assistant professor of health and human performance
- “Introduction to German” with Dr. Charles Hammond, professor of German
- “Benefits of Teaching Physical Education during COVID-19” with Dr. Stuart Currie, associate professor of health and human performance
- “How to Organize and Deliver an Effective Speech” with Dr. Teresa Collard, communications professor

These and more can be found at discoveryparkofamerica.com/education.

Discovery Park’s Katie Jarvis interviews Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese at UT Martin. Hammond gives a lesson on how to say words and phrases in Japanese. (Photo submitted)
Weakley County Students Awarded UTM Legacy Scholarships

MARTIN (August 27) — Several Weakley County students received the 2020 Elam Legacy Scholarship to attend UT Martin. The Elam Legacy Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UT Martin. All recipients listed below are Martin residents who graduated from Westview High School.

- Garrett Baker is a management major.
- Carson Bragance is an engineering major.
- Grayson Brinkley is a computer science major.
- Hattie Spencer is a psychology major.

Dresden resident, Kassidy Martin, is a biology major who also earned a Legacy Scholarship.

For more information about the Elam Legacy Scholarship, contact Jacquelyn Johnson, assistant vice chancellor of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 731-881-3612. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.

UT Martin Names Local Students to Chancellor’s Summer Honor Roll

MARTIN (August 31) — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2020 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Local students named to the Honor Roll include:
- Gleason: Heidi E. James, Highest Honors.
- Martin: Mason B. Arant, Honors; Baylee L. Armott, Highest Honors; Tessa S. Bumann, Martin, High Honors; Ali E. Beverly, Honors; Darian E. Bricker, Honors; Boone L. Brown, High Honors; Carly J. Fowler, High Honors; Marshall B. Hammill, High Honors; Josten B. Jones, Highest Honors; Jessica N. Neloms, Honors; Kristen E. Parsley, Highest Honors; Jenna L. Pinson, Honors; Mindy A. Roberts, Highest Honors; Lindsay D. Sparks, Honors; Skylar M. Stewart, Highest Honors; Matthew C. Wright, High Honors; Wenwen Xu, Highest Honors.
- Sharon: Jordan R. Fischer, Highest Honors.

In addition, Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Weakley County include:
- Newbern: Delilah C. Ward, Highest Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses. For more information, visit utm.edu.

Local Woman Named Director of UTM Children’s Center

MARTIN (August 26) — Briana Cash Jimenez was named the new director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center.

In this role, Jimenez is responsible for overseeing all center operations, which includes implementing a high-quality childcare curriculum, ensuring the center is up to date with state licensing regulations, training staff members, providing academic support to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and more.

Jimenez is a UT Martin graduate and holds a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies, as well as a master’s degree in family and consumer sciences. She has worked in early care and education for 18 years, spending 14 of those years working for the Tennessee Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

"I am excited to return to my alma mater, UT Martin, and to begin serving families of the community I love," said Jimenez.

For more information about the Perry Children’s Center, contact Jimenez at bjimenez@utm.edu.
Enterprise Reporter Joins Pop-Up Exhibit At UT Martin

The UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts is hosting a pop-up exhibition of artwork by the Art 450 Professional Practices seminar students titled “Omnium Gatherum.” The exhibition is September 12 at the sculpture patio on the East side of the Fine Arts Building and is open to the public from 1-4 p.m. It features studio and digital artworks from Jasmine Williams of the Dresden Enterprise, Bailey Radnitzer, Knox Brewer, Jordan Copeland and Brandy Gaul. The goal of the exhibition is to highlight the ability to find artists from different backgrounds with different chosen mediums who can come together in art and represent their communities. Some of the artists are using this show as an immediate reference for an upcoming senior exhibition, while others are using it as a precursor to prepare for it. The public is invited. For more information, contact Brandy Gaul at bralgaul@ut.utm.edu or (337) 359-7499.

Local Student Receives UT Martin Legacy Scholarship

A Fayette County student has received the 2020 Elam Legacy Scholarship to attend UT Martin. The Elam Legacy Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UT Martin.

Justice Watkins is an engineering major from Rossville. Watkins graduated from Fayette-Ware High School.

For more information about the Elam Legacy Scholarship, contact Jacquelyn Johnson, assistant vice chancellor of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 731-881-3612. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
"EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, UT" MURALS TO BE PAINTED IN EVERY COUNTY

September 3, 2020 @ 2:24 pm Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.

Soon, every county in Tennessee will be painted with an "Everywhere You Look, UT" mural created through a campaign by the University of Tennessee.

While spaces in each of Tennessee's 95 counties are being donated to further the message of UT's reach, one mural in Greene County, over 380 miles away from the University of Tennessee at Martin, reminds one student of the impact the university has had on her life.

Sarah Douthat, a senior health and human performance major from Mohawk, Tennessee, says her family didn't hesitate to offer up their barn facing Tennessee State Route 348 for a UT mural and encourages others to do the same. As a multigenerational family of Vols and now a Skyhawk, the Douthats say they are proud to represent UT and the opportunities made available through its mission.

"It's an honor, really," said Douthat. "I am so proud that we get to help further the message that UT is everywhere."

While Douthat hails from a family of Volunteers, she said she knew UT Martin was for her as soon as she visited campus. She says her studies in public health and her connection to the Baptist College Ministry helped her find her home and purpose in life, just like her parents and grandparents did at UT Knoxville.

For Douthat, having a piece of UT Martin and her family's alma mater on their farm is just proof of the impact the universities have had on their lives. She hopes others who see the murals and are interested in the University of Tennessee will pursue an education and enjoy the experience just as her family has.

"We just want everyone to know that UT is everywhere."

For more information regarding the "Everywhere You Look, UT" campaign, visit everywhere.tennessee.edu.

Photo ID: The latest "Everywhere You Look, UT" mural is located on a UT Martin student's family farm in Mohawk, Tennessee, facing State Route 348.
DPA, UT Martin combine forces to provide educational resources

Discovery Park of America is partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin to provide free digital resources to teachers and parents who are now navigating the world of virtual education. Many students are spending more time learning from home because of the threat of the coronavirus.

Hosted by Katie Jarvis from Discovery Park, professors from UT Martin share a fun and entertaining 20-30 minute Zoom lesson utilizing their area of expertise. Topics covered include Japanese, computer science, astronomy, public speaking, history, music, geology and more. The lessons are recorded on Zoom and shared on Discovery Park’s education resource page.

“We met with our friends at UT Martin to explore ways we could combine our resources to support teachers and parents during this time and, collectively, we came up with this idea,” said Ms. Jarvis. “I am excited and honored to be the host of this series, especially with professors I had when I attended UT Martin.”

While the lessons target students in grades six through nine, they are available to anyone interested in the topics covered.

“This is a great opportunity for a university and a museum, both located in northwest Tennessee, to collaborate together to bring rich, educational content to our local communities, but to students and lifelong learners around the world,” said Polly Brasher, Discovery Park’s education director. “Our mission is to inspire children and adults to see beyond, and we’re thrilled we can implement that mission beyond the walls of our museum in such a unique way.”

Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese at UT Martin, shared her thoughts on why technology and this partnership is so important today more than ever.

“There can be no doubt that technology has brought our world closer together than ever before. As an educator, I believe that we all should be curious what is going on outside our immediate borders and, above all, be compassionate toward one another,” said Ms. Hammond. “I consider teaching the Japanese language and culture at UT Martin to be a great privilege because it enables me to contribute to the goal of intercultural peace and understanding. I am very excited about our partnership with the Discovery Park of America and look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with Discovery Park to the benefit of all of us, here and abroad.”

DPA also recently announced free virtual field trips that provide a unique, standards-based educational program that may be experienced from home or a classroom.

Since opening, Discovery Park has provided support for teachers and administrators in taking STEAM and history teaching out of the classroom and applying it in a hands-on, state-of-the-art experience at the museum and heritage park. DPA is still hosting student groups for field trips and is open to the public. Officials there are strictly following all recommended health and safety guidelines for employees and guests including masks.

The first six recordings from the partnership include:

- “Japanese 101” with Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese

- “Storytelling with Alice” and “Programming in Python (3)” with Dr. Kate Ericson, associate professor of computer science

- “Why is physical activity important?” with Dr. Tim Dasinger, assistant professor of health and human performance

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These and more can be found at discoveryparkofamerica.com/education.
DPA and UTM partner to provide free virtual learning resources for grades 6-9

UNION CITY, Tenn. — Discovery Park of America is partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin to provide free digital resources to teachers and parents who are now navigating the world of virtual education. Many students are spending more time learning from home because of the threat of the coronavirus COVID-19.

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Since opening, Discovery Park has provided support for teach...
Skyhawks Athletic Director Kurt McGuffin gets four-year contract extension

Skyhawks Athletic Director Kurt McGuffin has agreed to a four-year contract extension.

The UT Martin Skyhawks and athletic director Kurt McGuffin have agreed to a four-year contract extension.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver made the announcement Friday, which is an extension of the first contract that McGuffin received when he was introduced as the 10th athletic director in Skyhawk history on May 22, 2017.

"Kurt has been a phenomenal leader for the UT Martin intercollegiate athletics program since 2017," Dr. Carver said. "I'm continually impressed with his vision, work ethic and passion for our coaches and student-athletes. Kurt has served as the primary advocate for Skyhawk Athletics but he's seen as an invaluable part of the campus leadership team as well."

During his UTM tenure, McGuffin has overseen multiple OVC championship programs while implementing significant facility upgrades across the board. This past season, the Skyhawks were on pace for their best finish in the OVC Commissioner's Cup standings in school history before the league's cancellation of spring championships. Academically, UT Martin Athletics shattered a school record with 191 OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll recipients in 2019-20 and set a new departmental record with a 3.26 Grade Point Average in the spring semester.

"This extension wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of our Skyhawk student-athletes, coaches and staff," McGuffin said. "The West Tennessee community has embraced my family and I since we arrived at UT Martin three years ago and we are so grateful for the confidence that Dr. Carver has shown in me throughout my time here."

McGuffin, who boasts almost 25 years of experience in the collegiate athletics forum, is a proud member of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and the National Association of Development Directors (NADD). He was selected as one of just 10 members to the NCAA Women's Basketball Committee this season and is also serving on the NACDA Football Championship Subdivision Athletic Directors Association Executive Committee while chairing the OVC's Council of Athletic Directors during the 2020-21 academic year.

"Under Kurt's leadership, UT Martin has achieved a record number of student-athletes on campus, seen a marked increase in private giving and has expanded our communication and marketing efforts outside our region," Dr. Carver said. "Additionally, our student-athletes have seen tremendous progress in the classroom as demonstrated by a record number of OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll recipients."

A native of Iola, Kansas, McGuffin graduated from Kansas State with a degree in education in 1996 and obtained his Master's degree in education from Wichita State in 1999. He's married to the former Jessica Wheeler of Goodland, Kansas and the couple has three children – Bryce, Brett, and Brea.
Discovery Park of America and UT Martin partner to provide free Virtual Learning Resources for grades six to nine

Discovery Park of America is partnering with the University of Tennessee at Martin to provide free digital resources to teachers and parents who are now navigating the world of virtual education. Many students are spending more time learning from home because of the threat of the coronavirus COVID-19.

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While the lessons target students in grades six through nine, they are available to anyone interested in the topics covered.

“This is a great opportunity for a university and a museum, both located in Northwest Tennessee, to collaborate together to bring rich, educational content not only to our local communities, but to students and lifelong learners around the world,” said Polly Brasher, Discovery Park’s education director. “Our mission is to inspire children and adults to see beyond, and we’re thrilled we can implement that mission beyond the walls of our museum in such a unique way.”

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About Discovery Park of America

The mission of Discovery Park of America, a premier world-class museum and 50-acre heritage park located in Union City, Tennessee, is to inspire children and adults to see beyond. Included is a 100,000-square-foot museum featuring 9 interactive exhibit galleries with additional space for temporary exhibits from around the world and a 50-acre heritage park. Discovery Park of America is a 501(c)(3) public charity funded by generous individuals, corporations and foundations including its principal funder, the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation. For more information, visit DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
Patriot Day still resonates with UTM

By Amanda Mansfield
Press Reporter

A 19-year anniversary might not seem like something to fervently commemorate. Just one more year, and the 20-year anniversary will occur, which naturally seems more monumental.

This year, however, the number 19 has been with us since the beginning. No, this article is not about the dreaded C-word. It is about something else — another plague we were haunted by 19 years ago — the attacks on our country that occurred Sept. 11, 2001.

If you’re one to indulge in the reverie of numerology, the number “19” holds great significance to what we are remembering this week. According to the highly reputable source (note the sarcasm), numerology.com, when analyzing the number “19”, it should be broken down into its parts. The number “1” represents bravery — one last-standing victorious knight, wearing a suit of arms during the middle ages, comes to mind. The number “9” represents benevolence, humanitarianism and sympathy for others.

Put the qualities associated with these two numbers together, and I can’t think of a better way to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the reasons we observe Patriot Day. The bravery and heroism of the selfless firefighters, police officers, medics, passengers of flight 93, and helpful strangers are some things that resounded, later transcending to benevolence and humanitarianism from New York and Washington, D.C., throughout the entire nation.

New Brunswick, New Jersey’s Rutgers University’s mascot is The Scarlet Knight, the brave and noble, Sir Henry. The reason I mention this tie-in with the significance of the number 19, is because Rutgers University is where UT Martin’s Dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences earned his PhD on Tuesday Sept. 10, 2002, after a successful defense of his thesis. Dr. Shadow Robinson, or just Shadow (as he prefers to be called), had only two choices of dates to defend his thesis, either Tuesday or Wednesday of that week.

At first, he recalls, he wanted to choose the later day, giving himself more time to prepare. Then a colleague asked Shadow if he remembered what Wednesday was. He paused a moment, his heart sank and then he said, “Well, let’s do it on Tuesday.”

After all, Wednesday would have been the one-year anniversary of what we commonly refer to as 9/11.

Shadow recalled what it was like in New Brunswick on Sept. 11, 2001, after the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers, a mere 35 miles away from Rutgers University, “I had gotten in late the night before, and I woke up to a phone call. It was a close friend who asked, ‘Are you watching TV?’”

Shadow’s story of that day, up to this point, is not unlike many of our own. We all woke up that Tuesday morning. Some of us went to school, to work, to run errands. Some of us slept in, waking up to phone calls from friends or relatives telling us to turn on the TV.

When Shadow turned his TV on, American Airlines flight 77 had just crashed into the Pentagon, at approximately 9:37 a.m. EST. “I was just disoriented and couldn’t say anything,” Shadow recalls. “My friend had to walk me through what I was seeing.”

But even as he was being told about what his friend knew at the time, Shadow was unable fully process what his friend was saying. Checking to make sure he was still with him, his friend asked Shadow to repeat what he had just told him. “I couldn’t,” he said.

Shadow’s friend, who woke him up that morning and convinced him to turn on his television was watching on a TV with rabbit ear antennas. For you younger readers, rabbit ears are those old-time adjustable metal things that used to sit on top of TVs, and they affected reception and clarity of the broadcast.

Well, just as the towers began to collapse, a moment that had been etched into our memory, Shadow’s friend’s television lost reception and went snowy, as we used to call it. Being that close to the havoc that was occurring caused a blackout, of sorts, to those watching without a cable connection. So, at that point, Shadow was trying to explain to his friend what he was seeing. Eventually, Shadow’s friend came to his house, and they sat, mesmerized by what they saw, together.

“Everyone at Rutgers knew someone who was there,” says Shadow. “For days, weeks, months after the attacks, people would just spontaneously break down, remembering whomever they lost. My clearest memory of the event was seeing the smoke. There were only 2 or 3 parking lots on campus where I would park, and from one of those lots, on a clear day, even several weeks after the attack, you could still see smoke rising in the distance.” a reminder of what had happened.

“That year, I worked crazily hard to get my PhD, and when it was time to defend my thesis, I only had two days on the calendar I could get everyone together at the same time to get it done.”

He didn’t realize it at the time that it was the week of the first anniversary of 9/11. When you’re in a PhD program, especially during that last year, you can lose all sense of time and reality, focusing on your research and writing.

The anniversary of the day you defend your thesis should be a happy day. “For me, it’s not. Every year, I get calls or messages wishing me happy anniversary on earning my PhD from friends and colleagues at Rutgers. But I know the reason they remembered was because of what happened the year before. I know who they’re really thinking about,” says Shadow. “They’re thinking about the person they lost that day. But they take time out to contact me. We’ve kept connections because of that tragedy.”

This year, when we remember the lives lost and upheaved by the tragedies that unfolded 19 years ago, we can still look at it as a time to keep and develop connections to those around us. We can still look at the bravery and compassion of others, celebrating them and lifting them up. We can think of that brave, yet benevolent, knight. We can think of all those brave, yet benevolent men and women who helped at the scene and during the aftermath. We can think of the brave, yet benevolent women and men who served and continue to serve and defend our country in the military. We can celebrate the lives of the brave, yet benevolent heroes of United Airlines Flight 93. And we can pause and reflect on how we can incorporate those qualities into our own lives.

This week, I challenge you to be brave in the face of uncertainty, and to be benevolent and compassionate toward others, no matter your differences.
WE REMEMBER — Students gather for a student-organized service the evening of September 11, 2001 at the quadrangle's Centennial Circle. Inside today's Press is a first hand account from Dr. Shadow Robinson, Dean of Engineering and Natural Sciences, who was in New Jersey at the time of the terrorist attacks. Picture courtesy of UT Martin.

At the college level

Three students from Obion County have received 2020 Elam Legacy Scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Recipients include:

- Diego Arriaga, a computer science major from South Fulton who graduated from Union City High School;
- Alayna Snow, a social work major from South Fulton who graduated from South Fulton High School;
- Nolan Wilson, a computer science major from Union City who graduated from UCHS.

The scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UT Martin.
UC student seeks to help others through Call Me MiSTER effort

By SARAH KNAPP
Special to The Messenger

"You have to make sure you have the experience; don't let the experience have you."

Through the University of Tennessee at Martin's Call Me MiSTER program, Justyn Johnson of Union City has done just that: made the most of every situation he's experienced while in college.

The Call Me MiSTER program, originally founded at Clemson University in 2000, is a leadership program that seeks to provide future teachers from diverse backgrounds with the tools and support needed to pursue successful careers in elementary and middle schools across the nation.

"MiSTER" stands for "Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models," and the program's goal is to provide under-served, socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities with minority educators.

Johnson, a sophomore secondary education major, applied to the Call Me MiSTER program in his senior year of high school with the hopes of becoming a history teacher in West Tennessee.

As an African American man, Johnson grew up without seeing minority male representation in the education system and wanted to help change that for future generations of students.

"(The Call Me MiSTER program) is something that represents a lot more than just being male minority teachers. I think it is helpful because...some people go their entire school careers without ever having a minority teacher,"

Johnson said. "For me, I hope that one day when I teach a kid that is like me, that might be mixed or might not come from a good home life, they can look at me and be like, 'Well, he is like me, and he is successful. He is thriving in his life, so, why can't I?'"

Austin Ferrell, academic coordinator of UT Martin's Call Me MiSTER program, explained that fewer than 2 percent of educators are minority males, so the purpose of the Call Me MiSTER program is to encourage diversity in classrooms and provide minority males the resources to be effective educators and role models.

"The potential this program has in molding and shaping the students, not only students of color in K-12 but students in general by having...that minority male in the classroom in their presence in schools, is very powerful," Ferrell said.

Johnson credits two of his teachers from high school for inspiring him to become a teacher and says he wants to become the positive influence in his students' lives that they were to him. Having teachers who supported not only his educational growth, but also his personal well-being showed him the impact he could one day have on his students.

"(I want to let my students) know that even though I'm their teacher, I can also be there to talk to them if they feel like they don't have anyone else to talk to," he said.

Johnson said he is currently receiving the mentorship and support he hopes to give back to his students in his classroom through the Call Me MiSTER program.

"It has made a big difference because I know that UT Martin, in general, has a great support system, but, especially being an African American or a mixed man, having other strong, powerful black men to support us like Anthony Prewitt (assistant director of multicultural affairs), Samuel Tharpe (administrative coordinator of the Call Me MiSTER program) and Austin Ferrell means a lot to me," Johnson said. "They're an example of what I can get to as long as I stay on the right path."

He said being in the Call Me MiSTER program has afforded him opportunities he wouldn't have had the chance to experience if he hadn't been a part of the program, like living on campus and being involved in student organizations like SOAR (Summer Orientation and Registration) staff and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

"Those are aspects of my life I've enjoyed being a part of that I never thought I would be a part of. It was an interesting plot twist, but one I've enjoyed," he said.

While only in his second year as a MiSTER, Johnson has already had the opportunity to serve in the West Tennessee community and see his impact first-hand.

Through a mentorship partnership with minority students at Fulton Independent School District, granting scholarships to teachers in West Tennessee for their classrooms and working with the Rotary Club of Martin, Johnson has already accrued experiences he says will help him as a teacher.

As Johnson continues his education at UT Martin, Ferrell is excited to see his personal growth in life and the program.

"I want Justin to continue being an effective leader for UT Martin," Ferrell said. "I want him to continue to push and to eventually be a great role model teacher for other people to look up to, not only people in the Call Me MiSTER program but people in the community, his students, his family and so on."

When asked what advice he had for other students, Johnson said, "You have to make sure you have the experience; don't let the experience have you. So, if something is going wrong in your life, don't let that define who you are. Take that experience, make it a part of you and grow from it."

Just as he has done.

Editor's note: Sarah Knapp is staff writer and addenda editor in the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
The latest "Everywhere You Look, UT" mural is located on a UT Martin student's family farm in Mohawk, facing State Route 348.

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Mural connects UTM to home for student

BY SARAH KNAPP
UTM MEDIA RELATIONS

Soon, every county in Tennessee will be painted with an "Everywhere You Look, UT" mural created through a campaign by the University of Tennessee.

While spaces in each of Tennessee's 95 counties are being donated to further the message of UT's reach, one mural in Greene County, over 380 miles away from the University of Tennessee at Martin, reminds one student of the impact the university has had on her life.

Sarah Douthat, a senior health and human performance major from Mohawk, Tennessee, says her family didn't hesitate to offer up their barn facing Tennessee State Route 348 for a UT mural and encourages others to do the same.

As a multigenerational family of Volunteers and now a Skyhawk, the Douthats say they are proud to represent UT and the opportunities made available through its mission.

"It's an honor, really," said Douthat. "I am so proud that we get to help further the message that UT is everywhere."

While Douthat hails from a family of Volunteers, she said she knew UT Martin was for her as soon as she visited campus.

Douthat says her studies in public health and her connection to the Baptist College Ministry helped her find her home and purpose in life, just like her parents and grandparents did at UT Knoxville.

"Every time I step on the campus, it feels like I'm meant to be there," said Douthat. "The whole campus feels like a family."

For Douthat, having a piece of UT Martin and her family's alma mater on their farm is just proof of the impact the universities have had on their lives.

She hopes others who see the murals and are interested in the University of Tennessee will pursue an education and enjoy the experience just as her family has.

"We just want everyone to know that UT is everywhere."

For more information regarding the "Everywhere You Look, UT" campaign, visit everywhere.tennessee.edu.
Discovery Park, UTM partner to help virtual learning students

From Staff Reports

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“Our mission is to inspire children and adults to see beyond, and we’re thrilled we can implement that mission beyond the walls of our museum in such a unique way.”

Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese at UT Martin, shared her thoughts on why technology and this partnership are so important today more than ever.

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These and more can be found at discoveryparkofamerica.com/education.
Discovery Park of America, UT Martin Partner to Provide Free Virtual Learning Resources for Children

UNION CITY (August 31) — Discovery Park of America partnered with the University of Tennessee at Martin to provide free digital resources to teachers and parents who are now navigating the world of virtual education. Many students are spending more time learning from home because of the threat of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

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Fine Arts Gallery Hosts ‘Community’ Photo Series by Nathan Morgan

MARTIN (August 25) — The University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery reopened to the public Wednesday, August 26, 2020, featuring the photo series titled, “Community: UT Martin through the lens of Nathan Morgan.”

The “Community” gallery’s opening night was on the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts Facebook page, Tuesday, August 25. Morgan discussed the history of the photographs and why he selected them for the gallery. He hoped viewers of the discussion will take the time to appreciate each photograph he selected and examine the small details deliberately captured in each frame.

Morgan currently serves as the assistant director of the Office of University Relations, but came to UT Martin in 2013 as the university photographer. Morgan selected 25 photos to be featured in the gallery he says best represent the “authentic life” of UT Martin since he began photographing the campus community.

From events such as rodeo and homecoming to the iconic architecture on campus, viewers will see UT Martin as Morgan does through his camera.

“My hope is that this gallery captures the essence of our community and life as I see it at UT Martin,” said Morgan. “I feel like what I do here at UT Martin is document the community, and I want to leave a legacy through my work. I want to show what life was like during the two thousand-teens to early two thousand-twenties.”

The exhibit is open from 1-5 p.m. through September 25. Masks are required in the Fine Arts Gallery, and only six visitors are allowed inside at a time.

For more information, contact Dr. Carol Eckert, chair of the visual and theatre arts department, at 731-981-7400.
BY JASMINE WILLIAMS
jasmine@dresdenenterprise.com

MARTIN — (September 4) — Members of Governor Bill Lee's Unified Command Group visited Weakley County Friday, September 4, 2020 to discuss COVID-19 with officials from across the county. The meeting was held in UT Martin's Watkins auditorium and included information regarding the most recent data for the state and county about COVID-19. Officials and others in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Unified Command Group.

The group planned to prepare a report for Governor Lee. Two members of the Command Group, who were present included Chief of Staff Scott Brower with the office of the governor and epidemiologist Jane Yackley with the Tennessee Department of Health.

Brower said the Command Group is traveling each county of the state in each county to discuss how Tennesseans have been affected by novel coronavirus.

Yackley explained how to best interpret the data provided by the state daily on the Department of Health's website. Yackley highlighted two COVID-related stories after surveys were conducted since the pandemic began earlier this year. One highlighted crew members of the USS Theodore Roosevelt after an outbreak occurred in April. A survey was conducted of those who did and did not test positive for the coronavirus. The survey found those who increased

See UNIFIED on Page 3

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum addressed members of Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee's Unified Command Group when they visited the University of Tennessee at Martin campus Friday, September 4, 2020, to discuss circumstances surrounding data and information about the global health pandemic.
Unified

...From Front Page

hand washing, wore face masks and avoided common areas saw a sharp decline of contracting COVID-19 than those who did not.

Another survey was conducted after two hairstylists in Missouri worked while displaying COVID-19 symptoms. It was found that due to a city mandate, all clients and both hair stylists wore face coverings. Also found was that all clients who came into contact with the hairstylists did not contract the coronavirus.

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum said mask-shaming is not something he wants any member of the community to face reiterating that no one should feel ashamed for wearing a mask. Brower responded, saying it has been proven time and time again across the country that wearing masks results in lower numbers of COVID-19 cases.

Yackley also spoke about reported COVID-related deaths. She said many who have underlying illnesses who die from the coronavirus result from COVID causing further complications with their health. She gave an example that if someone dies after surgery for cancer due to an infection; they died from an infection caused by a cancer-related surgery. She said this is very similar to how those who are dying from cancer with other health issues, are being recorded as dying from COVID-19 that caused further complications to occur.

Bynum asked the representatives about those who live outside of the county and attend college in Weakley County, where their case is counted if they test positive. Yackley said the case number will only go to the county where the citizen is quarantined. If a student stays at UT Martin, the case is added to Weakley County's total. If the student returns home and quarantines in another county, the case added to that county's number.

Bynum also asked about the online dashboard being created to report students who have tested positive for COVID-19. The Command Group said almost all universities have created a dashboard with the most current numbers of students who have tested positive, including UT Martin.

The mayor also asked when should a community look into not renewing its public mask mandate. Brower said it is being recommended that a mask mandate should not expire until after a proven vaccine has been made, distributed and taken by community members.

Yackley said the state has made no guidelines for how long facemasks in communities are needed, but wearing masks are proven to work to decrease the spread of COVID-19 for those who utilize masks, along with social distancing and handwashing.

Director of Schools Randy Frazier asked the Command Group questions about returning to school for those who are quarantined and requested consistent messaging. He also said there are some in the county who do not have access to COVID-19-related information the state releases online. Brower responded the management of information is important to the state and having accurate and easily-accessible information is one of the state's top priorities.

Yackley noted that how long someone is quarantined from the public setting to ensure that no one contracts COVID-19 is important. According to state and federal guidelines, the person in quarantine should show no symptoms and feel as healthy as they did before contracting COVID-19 and stay in contact with their health department or health care provider for further information.

One member of the community asked if all people who are counted as positive for COVID-19 were also being tested. The community member said he knew of someone asked to quarantine after being around someone who tested positive for the coronavirus, but were told they did not have to be tested. The Command Group members said if someone was in close contact to COVID-19, but did not show symptoms, he/she was asked to quarantine and not be tested until symptoms begin to show.

The Command Group was asked when schools in the county can expect more masks to be sent for students to wear. Brower responded more should be sent to schools at some point, but a date is not known.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, Mayor Bynum reported Weakley County still does not have enough Personal Protective Equipment for first responders.

Bynum also asked the Command Group members what is their biggest concern regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

They responded the attention span of the country has reached a point in which everyone wants to go back to normal even though the virus is still spreading.
(L to R) Gov. Bill Lee’s Unified Command Group members made a visit to Weakley County Friday afternoon on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin to provide a statewide picture of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pictured are Jane Yackley, Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, Scott Brewer and Mario Vigil.
UTM offers ACT prep courses

The UTM Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses through the fall for students preparing for the test. These ACT workshops will teach students test-taking strategies over Zoom.

The ACT Digital One-Stop Success Tactics workshops will be offered in two ways. One choice is to take a 4-hour session on a Saturday. The 4-hour session will cover all subjects on the ACT and will be held from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Sept. 12 and Oct. 10. The registration fee for a 4-hour session is $60.

The other choice is to take two 2-hour sessions on the first Tuesday and Thursday of each month. The registration fee for each 2-hour course is $30.

Math and science reasoning will be taught on Tuesdays, and English and reading will be taught on Thursdays, from 5-7 p.m. each evening. The workshop dates for math and science reasoning are Oct. 6, Nov. 3, or Dec. 1. English and reading workshops will be held Oct. 8, Nov. 5, or Dec. 3.

University Outreach also is offering ACT Mastery Classes, which provide expanded, in-depth ACT prep instruction. Students also will be able to take a full practice exam and learn strategies not taught in the success tactics workshop. Each course has a registration fee of $50, but students will receive a $20 discount if they register for all four courses (a total cost of $180).

The mastery classes cover four topics and are offered from 5-7 p.m. on consecutive nights. They begin with English on Sept. 21, math on Sept. 22, reading on Sept. 23, and science reasoning on Sept. 24.

UTM adjunct faculty member and author Alex Beene will teach the courses. Beene currently serves as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and works primarily with high school juniors and seniors needing academic help with standardized testing.

To participate, students must have access to a computer with video and audio capabilities in order to connect to Zoom. To register, visit www.utm.edu/actprep. For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.

Area students earn UTM honors

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the Colleges of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Business and Global Affairs; Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences; Engineering and Natural Sciences; and Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UTM, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 (B) GPA. Students can make the honor roll with honors (3.2-3.49), high honors (3.5-3.79) or highest honors (3.8-4.0).

Abigail Holladay and Macy Wardlaw, both of Camden, earned highest honors recognition for the summer semester. Karlie Hudson, of Big Sandy, Olivia Lowry, of Bruceton, and Hannah Sampson, of Camden, earned high honors for the summer.

In other UTM honors news, Casey Wright, of Holladay, received the Skyhawks' Education, Readiness, and Valor Endowment (S.E.R.V.E.) Award from the UTM College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in recognition of departmental achievements during the 2019-20 academic year.

New freshman Jake Seaton, of Eva, received the UTM Chancellor's Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. This annual award is renewable for four years and contingent on the recipient maintaining a 3.2 GPA.

Two Benton County students received the Elam Legacy Scholarship to attend UTM, which is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UTM. Both 2020 graduates of CHS, Julie Baker, of Camden, plans to major in nursing, while Ryan Baker, of Holladay, will major in natural resources management.

Congratulations to each of these area students for their academic achievements and the honors and awards they have received.
UT MARTIN TO HOST LOS LOBOS’ VIRTUAL APPEARANCE

September 14, 2020 @ 9:18 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a virtual music presentation and interactive Q&A with “Los Lobos,” a Grammy-winning band from Los Angeles, at 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25, as the first performance in the fall.

The Los Lobos event is sponsored by the Department of Music, the Department of History and Philosophy, the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs and the Coleman Family Latino Student Recruitment Initiative.

Los Lobos has created culturally diverse music for almost 50 years, incorporating genres like soul, R&B, Tejano, son jarocho, rock ‘n’ roll and folk into their music to showcase America’s cultural identity as a melting pot.

The event will be livestreamed from the UT Martin Department of Music Facebook account.

The guest artist series is named for UT Martin alum Ed Sargent, a 1982 graduate from Bolivar. Sargent is a Grammy-nominated producer and has completed many national and international tours. He currently serves as tour coordinator for Rock and Roll Hall of Fame icon Joan Jett and the Blackhearts.

For more information about the event, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402 or visit utm.edu/musicevents.
The University of Tennessee at Martin ranked among top universities in the South in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report (Source: KFVS)

By Jessica Ladd | September 14, 2020 at 7:14 PM CDT - Updated September 14 at 7:14 PM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin ranked among top universities in the South in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report in categories including best regional universities south, best colleges for veterans, best value schools and more.

UT Martin ranked 13th in the South as a top regional public institution, 30th out of all regional southern universities, 49th as a best value school in the South and tied in 52nd-place as a top performer in social mobility.

The university was also designated a veteran-friendly campus with a 17th-place ranking for best colleges for veterans in the South.

The Princeton Review also recognized UT Martin as a university among the best in the southeast in the 2021 Best Colleges: Region by Region list for the 18th consecutive year.

"UT Martin continues to provide our students with a high-quality, cost-effective education in numerous programs, and the rankings we've received from the U.S. News & World Report and designation by The Princeton Review are proof of our long-term commitment to helping students achieve their goals," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

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

Campbell receives UT Martin Legacy scholarship

By Kendall Patterson - September 15, 2020

Jaycee Campbell, a Chester County student, has received the 2020 Elam Legacy Scholarship to attend UT Martin. The Elam Legacy Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen whose parents or grandparents attended UT Martin.

Campbell is a management major from Milledgeville and graduated from Adamsville High School.
Enrollment at UT is up this year, with a record number of first-year students in Knoxville

Monica Kast, Knoxville News Sentinel Published 5:01 a.m. ET Sept. 15, 2020

Enrollment at two University of Tennessee campuses is up this year, including a record number of first-year students at UT Knoxville. There are over 52,500 students enrolled in the UT System this year, up from just over 51,500 last year. Enrollment at UT Knoxville is up by nearly 1,100 students this semester, for a total enrollment of 30,559 students, according to information from the UT System.

Enrollment at UT Chattanooga is up by about 100 students, with a total enrollment of 11,696. UT Martin and the UT Health Science Center, however, both saw small declines in their enrollment.

Despite challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic, UT System President Randy Boyd said he's optimistic about the state of the System.

"I couldn't be more excited in the face of all these challenges," Boyd said on Friday. "We're taking each challenge each day."

In total, there are 52,560 students enrolled across the UT System, a 1.5% increase over last year. With the announcement Friday that UT is hoping to add Martin Methodist College as its fourth undergraduate campus (/story/news/education/2020/09/11/university-tennessee-hopes-add-martin-methodist-college-system/3456496001/), Boyd said he's optimistic "that the System is going to continue to grow."

"The general outlook of the University of Tennessee is great," Boyd said.

UT Knoxville was optimistic early in the summer that its enrollment would pass 30,000 students. Enrollment for fall 2020 is 30,599, according to the UT System.

First-year enrollment at UT Knoxville is the largest on record, with over 5,500 new first-year students. Transfer students are also up by 11%. In all, enrollment is up 3.7% over last year and 8.9% compared to 5 years ago.

At the chancellor's advisory board meeting (/story/news/education/2020/09/27/covid-19-has-cost-university-tennessee-knoxville-58-million/3429204001/) earlier this semester, Chancellor Donde Plowman said she was thrilled with the enrollment increase.

"We didn't know what to expect," Plowman said. "We began to plan for staying flat. At one point, we were talking about maybe it would be a 1% to 2% drop."

Plowman said the university had recruitment events planned around the country but wasn't able to hold them because of the pandemic. The university had to change strategies, and it paid off.

"If you imagine increasing your enrollments during a year when you weren't able to hold any face-to-face events ... we should be thrilled by that," Plowman said. "It's really good."

Other UT campuses

Enrollment at UT Chattanooga also increased this year, to 11,696 students. Enrollment last year was 11,590 and is up 1.4% compared to five years ago. Enrollment at UT Martin, the smallest of the UT undergraduate campuses, and the UT Health Science Center, both fell by approximately 2% this year.

UT Martin's enrollment is 7,117, down by 183 students compared to last year. Enrollment at the Health Science Center, 3,188, is down by 64 students this year.
UT Martin students share how COVID-19 is changing the college experience

Abisola Adeyemo
Sep 15, 2020

Martin, TN -- College students across the Local 6 area have now spent their first month back on campus.

Freshman Claire Weber is hanging out with her new friends. Socializing on UT Martin's campus during a pandemic looks different.

"I miss the larger groups of people," Weber said. "But I feel like it's a lot easier to connect with people in smaller groups. You kind of get more of that bonding experience."

Freshman Benjamin Ellis and his friend are taking most of their classes through Zoom. Ellis wishes he could interact with more people on campus. He's still making the most of the unique college experience.

"They'll ask questions and it's very interactive, even online," Ellis said. "And teachers here...professors are really striving to make it as personal and amazing as possible online. I give them thanks for that."

There aren't as many opportunities to socialize in-person on campus, students say they're finding ways to socialize through virtual events.

Vice Chancellor Andy Lewter said they reinforce mask wearing, social distancing, and sanitizing around campus.

"How do we create the best possible college experience in the middle of a global pandemic?" Lewter said. "And so whatever we can do to be creative, keep our students engaged. Give them some opportunities to know one another and connect. And then have a great classroom experience."

Weber said going to college in the middle of a pandemic can be stressful. She's focusing on school and safely spending time with friends.

If on-campus students test positive for COVID-19, the school has isolation dorms where they can quarantine. Only 50% of students are taking in-person classes.
UT Martin names local students to summer Chancellor's Honor Rolls

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the summer 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Gibson County students receiving recognition are:

**Humboldt** - Colton M. Beasley, High Honors; and Olivia P. Lovell, Honors;
**Medina** - Jason L. Mottett, Highest Honors;
**Milan** - Jason M. Carter, Highest Honors; Shellee R. Kosark, Highest Honors; and Elizabeth A. Wilson, Highest Honors;
**Rutherford** - Cassey D. Faulkner, High Honors; Trenton - Morgan G. Campbell, High Honors; and Deana R. Denton, High Honors;

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses. For more information, visit utm.edu.
The back-to-school experience during a pandemic:

sky's the limit!

Marissa Laws, College Freshman

By Brandi Cochran
Special to The Press

When Marissa Laws decided to transition from Gleason High School to the Tennessee Online Public School program for her final two years of school, she had no idea she was putting herself above the learning curve she and her fellow scholastic peers would soon be facing due to the international coronavirus pandemic.

"I already knew how to use things like Canvas online," said Laws. "And I learned how to teach myself and manage my time (before the pandemic)."

These self-management tools could not be used at a better time, considering most of UT Martin, where Laws is now entering as a freshman, is hosting most of its classes online until further notice.

Laws describes the campus as a "ghost town," detailing that only 10 students are allowed per classroom; all group, club and campus activities have gone virtual; and even furniture has been removed from the library to discourage too much group gathering.

"It feels kind of lonely," she said. "It's harder to make friends right now."

This is especially true for incoming freshmen, like Laws, who are living on campus. The regulations put into place for dorm living include a ban on non-student visitors, specified entry and exits throughout the buildings, mandatory mask use in all parts of the dorms (minus residents' rooms) and a limit on the number of
dorm or suite mates allowed. Laws, for example, has only one roommate in her Ellington Hall dorm room.

But this upcoming generation of scholars has proven over the past year how resilient they are, and they are continuing to do so by creating new ways of tackling the local loneliness they all must be sharing.

Laws explained to The Press that each dorm and every class has formed online groups to help keep everyone on track socially and academically. The UTM Writing Center, an essential tool for so many students, can still be accessed through email for minor issues and questions. For more intensive one-on-one meetings, advisor meetings are also being regularly conducted through Zoom by appointment and, even though the library may be missing some of its furniture, the study rooms and desks are still up for grabs.

From the outside, UTM may look like a ghost town right now, but behind closed doors are hundreds of hard-working administrators, professors, staff, and students putting forth their best efforts to make this school year as safe and social for everyone as possible.

Marissa Laws may have just been one of the few students who lucked out due to the changes. "Before the pandemic, when I thought about college, I was scared of going back into a classroom, but now, I don’t have to worry about changing a thing," she said.
VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE — Los Lobos will appear in a virtual music presentation and interactive Q&A at 8 p.m. Sept. 25 for the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event will be live-streamed from the UT Martin Department of Music Facebook account. (Photo by Piero F. Giunti)

UTM to host Los Lobos performance

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a virtual music presentation and interactive Q&A with “Los Lobos,” a Grammy-winning band from Los Angeles at 8 p.m. Sept. 25 as the first performance in the fall 2020 installment of the Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series.

The Los Lobos event is sponsored by the Department of Music, the Department of History and Philosophy, the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs, and the Coleman Family Latino Student Recruitment Initiative.

Los Lobos has created culturally diverse music for almost 50 years, incorporating genres like soul, R&B, Tejano, son jarocho, rock 'n' roll and folk into their music to showcase America’s cultural identity as a melting pot.

The event will be live-streamed from the UT Martin Department of Music Facebook account.

The guest artist series is named for UT Martin alum Ed Sargent, a 1982 graduate from Bolivar. Sargent is a Grammy-nominated producer and has completed many national and international tours. He currently serves as tour coordinator for Rock and Roll Hall of Fame icon Joan Jett and the Blackhearts.

For more information about the event, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402 or visit utm.edu/musicevents.
Children's center director welcomed

Briana Cash Jimenez has been named the new director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Margaret N. Perry Children's Center.

In this new role, Ms. Jimenez will be responsible for overseeing all center operations, which includes implementing a high-quality child-care curriculum, ensuring the center is up to date with state licensing regulations, training staff members, providing academic support to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and more.

Ms. Jimenez is a University of Tennessee at Martin graduate who holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies as well as a master's degree in family and consumer sciences.

She has worked in early care and education for 18 years, spending 14 of those years working for the Tennessee Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

"I am excited to return to my alma mater, UT Martin, and to begin serving families of the community I love," Ms. Jimenez said of the opportunity.

For more information about the Perry Children's Center at UT Martin, contact her by email at bjimenez1@utm.edu.

https://www.thunderboltradio.com/

UT Martin ranks among top universities in the South

Posted on September 19, 2020 by Steve James in Local News

UT Martin ranked 13th in the South as a top regional public institution, 30th out of all regional southern universities, 49th as a best value school in the South, and tied in 52nd-place as a top performer in social mobility. The university was also designated a veteran-friendly campus with a 17th-place ranking for best colleges for veterans in the South.

The Princeton Review also recognized UT Martin as a university among the best in the southeast in the 2021 Best Colleges: Region by Region list for the 18th consecutive year.

"UT Martin continues to provide our students with a high-quality, cost-effective education in numerous programs, and the rankings we've received from the U.S. News & World Report and designation by The Princeton Review are proof of our long-term commitment to helping students achieve their goals," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.
UT MARTIN RECREATION FACILITIES REOPEN ONLY TO STUDENTS

The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center, Elam Center and swimming pool reopen Monday, August 17, 2020, to registered UT Martin students, but will remain closed to the public in response to safety and health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The recreation facilities will adopt modified hours of operation and guidelines, which students will be informed of before the beginning of the semester. All UT Martin faculty, staff, retiree and family memberships will continue to be suspended until further notice. For more information, visit https://www.utm.edu/departments/campusrec/ or utm.edu/coronavirus.

COVID-19 Rates at local colleges

September 17, 2020 | Joanna Rander

Before anyone can enter the building at Jackson State community college, they have to scan a QR code. One is for current students and employees, and the other is for visitors.

"Everyone fills out the COVID report before they’re allowed to come on campus and answer certain questions," said Dr. George Pimentel, president of Jackson State Community College.

Pimentel says that is one of the ways the institution keeps track of COVID-19 cases.

"It seems to be managing our crisis right now, or at least our cases on campus," he said.

Each Wednesday, he and the COVID-19 response team meet to discuss virus exposures and quarantines.

"We have seven students that are positive and have zero positive employees, and 13 recovered previously," said Pimentel.

So far, for this semester, the positivity rate remains under one percent.

Even on the Union University campus, there are two active cases for the student body and one active case for faculty and staff.

The faith-based institution participates in in-person learning, and new newcomers believe the staff is doing their best to keep students safe.

"I was nervous about maybe school looking a little different, but I think Union has done all they can to promote that freshmen college lifestyle while still being safe," said Ryan Columbus, a student at Union University.

Lane College is closed temporarily after 18 students tested positive for COVID-19. That is less than two percent of the student body.

For UT Martin, this week, there are active student cases.

On all of the campuses, when a student or faculty member tests positive, they must quarantine. All of the people they came in contact with must isolate also.
UTM confirms Chancellor Keith Carver quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure

September 17, 2020 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
(https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin has confirmed Chancellor Keith Carver is in quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19.

UTM says in a statement that Carver was identified as a close contact to an active COVID-19 case.

Carver is working remotely from home, and is not showing symptoms at this time.

His quarantine follows recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to the university.

Their full statement is below:

"Chancellor Keith Carver has entered quarantine as he was a close contact of an active COVID-19 case. He will be working remotely from home during this period. The chancellor is showing no symptoms and is able to keep all his appointments in a virtual format.

"The chancellor's action follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for quarantine."
UTM chancellor in quarantine after close contact with COVID-19 case

Posted on September 17, 2020 by Steve James in Local News

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver is quarantine after being in close contact with a COVID-19 case.

UTM's Bud Grimes says Dr. Carver is not showing any symptoms at this time and is working remotely from home and keeping all of his scheduled appointments in a virtual format.

UT Martin chancellor in quarantine after 'close contact'

September 17, 2020 GMT

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — The chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Martin, is in quarantine after having close contact with a person who has an active COVID-19 case, according to a brief announcement from the school on Thursday.

The announcement offered no details other than to say that Chancellor Keith Carver is showing no symptoms and plans to keep all of his appointments while working from home.

Carver took over as chancellor in 2017. He has worked with the UT System for 22 years and served as executive assistant to the UT president before taking the post at UT Martin, according to a biography on the UT Martin website.

Overall, the school had two active COVID-19 cases among faculty and staff and 32 among students as of midday Thursday, according to a count on the school website.

Tennessee recorded 1,053 new cases on Thursday and 13 new deaths, bringing the death toll in the state to 2,164.
UT Martin chancellor in quarantine after 'close contact'

By - Associated Press - Thursday, September 17, 2020

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) - The chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Martin, is in quarantine after having close contact with a person who has an active COVID-19 case, according to a brief announcement from the school on Thursday.

The announcement offered no details other than to say that Chancellor Keith Carver is showing no symptoms and plans to keep all of his appointments while working from home.

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From the University of Tennessee Martin –

"Chancellor Keith Carver has entered quarantine as he was a close contact of an active COVID-19 case. He will be working remotely from home during this period. The chancellor is showing no symptoms and is able to keep all his appointments in a virtual format.

"The chancellor's action follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for quarantine."
Both UT-Martin and Murray State have been recognized among the top universities in the South.

The recognition came from the U.S. News & World Report, which ranks schools in categories including best regional universities, best colleges for veterans, and best value schools.

UT Martin ranked 13th in the South as a top public institution, 30th out of all regional southern universities, and 49th as a best value school in the South.

The university was also designated a "veteran-friendly campus" with a 17th place ranking for best colleges for veterans in the South.

Murray State was ranked 26th in the "Best Regional Universities in the South" category and is the highest-ranked regional public university in Kentucky.

Murray State also ranked 11th among peer institutions in the "Top Public Regional Universities in the South" category, along with being recognized in the "A-plus Schools for B Students" category.

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — The chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Martin, is in quarantine after having close contact with a person who has an active COVID-19 case. According to a brief announcement from the school on Thursday, Chancellor Keith Carver is showing no symptoms and plans to keep all of his appointments while working from home. Overall, the school had two active COVID-19 cases among faculty and staff and 32 among students as of midday Thursday. Tennessee recorded 1,053 new cases on Thursday and 13 new deaths, bringing the death toll in the state to 2,164.
Ceremonies were held on the campus of UT-Martin on Friday morning for the Latimer Engineering and Science Building on campus.

Bill Latimer, of Union City, donated $6.5 million dollars to make the $65 million dollar project possible.

Construction at the site is already ongoing, with plans for completion set for the Fall of 2022.

/photos by Charles Choate – 104.9 KYTN / 105.7 WOAK)
Governor Bill Lee.....

University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd.....

Bill Latimer (center) speaks with State Senator John Stevens, Lt. Gover Randy McNally and Governor Bill Lee.....(photos by Charles Choate - 104.9 KYTN / 105.7 WQAK)
Governor, legislators attend UT Martin groundbreaking ceremony
September 18, 2020 by Clint Eiland

MARTIN, Tenn. — Gov. Bill Lee and other legislators attended a groundbreaking ceremony in West Tennessee.

"If you have been blessed by God, you need to use his blessings to bless others, and this is one way you can do that," said Bill Latimer, a University of Tennessee President’s Council member.

Now, Latimer’s name will grace the Latimer Engineering and Science Building at UT Martin.

The facility will be three stories and 120,000 square feet. It will also have updated amenities at every turn.

"I think what you'll find is that this building is designed with 21st century students in mind," said UT Martin Dean of Engineering and Natural Sciences Shadow Robinson.

"Students can come in early in the morning, spend their day here. They can engage with faculty in four different departments throughout the day. [They] can go to all their classes in the same building, all while working on state of the art equipment," Robinson said.

It was made possible by Latimer’s $6.5 million donation, which raised enough money to get the funding matched by the state. It’ll cost $65 million altogether.

"It takes private citizens to step up. The Latimer family has been a great partner to this community, to our state, and now specifically to this university," said Gov. Lee said.
"Every day I wake up and thank them for what they believe in and their belief in this university," Robinson said.

Officials ranging from Randy Boyd to the governor all spoke about the brand new building, which they hope will bring even more interest in STEM education.

"A facility like this will show to the industries and corporations that are thinking of relocating, that this might be a good place to be," Robinson said.

"What we're doing is creating a skilled workforce that's attractive to businesses, that creates jobs. It drives an economy in this region," Gov. Lee said.

Latimer reiterated that he wants this building for the future generations.

"We do believe in education, because it is the best way to raise people out of poverty," Latimer said.

The new building is expected to open in fall of 2022.
GOV. LEE JOINS UTM COMMUNITY TO HONOR LATIMER $6.5M GIFT

September 18, 2020 @ 6:31 pm Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin community, along with Governor Bill Lee and numerous other notable Tennessee officials, gathered in front of the future site of the Latimer Engineering and Science Building, on Sept. 18, to honor Bill and Carol Latimer for their $6.5 million gift to the university.

The Lotimers, Tennessee Gov. Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally and UT President Randy Boyd were all in attendance to help break ground on the first academic building to be constructed at UT Martin in over 40 years.

"Bill and Carol truly understand the vital role education plays in changing the trajectories of families, strengthening communities and developing future leaders," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavaller, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Like many of the speakers and dignitaries who are here today, they value the role the University of Tennessee at Martin plays in the economic development of West Tennessee. Recognizing the new ways this building will contribute to the transformational experiences of our students, Bill provided the lead gift for this building that enabled us to secure the matching funds from the state. Today, because of Bill's incredible leadership and generosity, we are officially breaking ground on this great new facility."

Bill donated the 10% match for the $65 million, 120,000-square-foot, three-story STEM building in 2016 while Dr. Robert Smith was UT Martin interim chancellor. Bill attributed Smith's diligent work to bettering the university as one of the reasons the groundbreaking ceremony was even happening. Through the hard work and dedication of many UT Martin officials, including Smith and current UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, over the past four years, the Lotimers' donation was realized, and construction began.

Bill said of the many reasons he and his wife decided to provide UT Martin with the match needed to fund the building, his faith in God and his faith in UT Martin were the leading factors.

"Carol and I believe that if God has blessed you, then you need to use His blessings to bless others," said Bill. "God has blessed us much more than we could ever have expected and much, much more than we deserve, and God's blessing is the reason we are up here today."
The Lotimer Engineering and Science Building will house the departments of chemistry and physics, computer science, engineering, mathematics and statistics and the pre-professional health sciences program. The Lotimer Building will feature classrooms, laboratories, offices, as well as a small observatory.

The building is estimated to have an economic impact of $56.3 million, as well as create over 900 jobs from initial construction through the first 10 years of graduates.

"The Lord certainly granted favor to this university when he introduced the Latimers to it, or when they became as engaged in it as they have been," said Lee. "Thank you very, very much for your commitment here. It wouldn't have happened except for you. This building wouldn't be going up except for you. The lives that are going to be changed in that facility and in this region wouldn't be changed except for you. We are deeply grateful for that."

The Lotimer Engineering and Science Building is scheduled to open fall 2022. Current construction for the Lotimer Building can be viewed from the Holt Humanities Building webcam at utm.edu/webcams.

For more information about the Lotimer Engineering and Science Building, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

Photo: Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, Carol and Bill Latimer, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and UT President Randy Boyd break ground on the Lotimer Engineering and Science Building Sept. 18. The building is scheduled to open fall 2022.
UTM discusses diversity plan, initiatives on campus

September 21, 2020 by Ali Mason

MARTIN, Tenn. — A university discussed new plans to make the campus a more inclusive learning space.

One of the major conversations in Friday's UT Martin advisory board meeting was the campus plans for diversity.

"We're all trying to figure out a way to talk, and not just to talk, but to listen and to act," University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said.

UT Martin advisory board members discussed ways to do just that, and how to create positive change.

During the meeting, the new chief diversity officer, Dr. Mark McCloud, discussed the 90 day campus diversity plan.

"What it will do is really help us chart a course for making sure that our campus is a place where people can come with different ideas, they can voice those ideas, and we can learn more about each other, but do it in ways that are civil," Carver said.
One of the initiatives is the Beyond Colorblind Tour.

"We're doing a series of virtual town halls where students can come together and talk about issues in a safe and affirming environment," Carver said.

The university is also launching a new reporting system.

"We just launched a bias reporting initiative, where students, faculty, and staff can report instances of bias," Carver said.

The university is also looking at curriculum, student programming, making changes to the student code of conduct, and working on new courses.

"I think it will also impact things that we need to be thinking about each day, and think about all aspects of our student life and how they feel on our campus," Carver said.

"If we can make it a better place on our college campuses, they become better places when folks graduate and move into new communities," Carver said.

The board also discussed athletics, which are pushed back into the winter and spring.

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**UT Martin ranks among top universities in the South**

The University of Tennessee at Martin ranked among top universities in the South in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report in categories including best regional universities south, best colleges for veterans, best value schools and more.

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"UTM continues to provide our students with a high-quality, cost-effective education in numerous programs, and the rankings we've received from the U.S. News & World Report and designation by The Princeton Review are proof of our long-term commitment to helping students achieve their goals," said UTM Chancellor Keith Carver.

For more information, contact 731-881-7615.
Latimers honored during science building groundbreaking ceremony

The University of Tennessee at Martin community, along with numerous notable Tennessee officials, gathered in front of the future site of the Latimer Engineering and Science Building, on Sept. 18, to honor Bill and Carol Latimer for their $6.5 million gift to the university. The Latimers, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally and UT President Randy Boyd were all in attendance to help break ground on the first academic building to be constructed at UT Martin in over 40 years.

"Bill and Carol truly understand the vital role education plays in changing the trajectories of families, strengthening communities and developing future leaders," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Like many of the speakers and dignitaries who are here today, they value the role the University of Tennessee at Martin plays in the economic development of West Tennessee. Recognizing the new ways this building will contribute to the transformational experiences of our students, Bill provided the lead gift for this building that enabled us to secure the matching funds from the state. Today, because of Bill's incredible leadership and generosity, we are officially breaking ground on this great new facility."

Bill donated the 10% match for the $65 million, 120,000-square-foot, three-story STEM building in 2016 while Dr. Robert Smith was UT Martin interim chancellor. Bill attributed Smith's diligent work to bettering the university as one of the reasons the groundbreaking ceremony was even happening. Through the hard work and dedication of many UT Martin officials, including Smith and current UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, over the past four years, the Latimers' donation was realized, and construction began.

Bill said of the many reasons he and his wife decided to provide UT Martin with the match needed to fund the building, his faith in God and his faith in UT Martin were the leading factors.

"Carol and I believe that if God has blessed you, then you need to use His blessings to bless others," said Bill. "God has blessed us much more than we could ever have expected and much, much more than we deserve, and God's blessing is the reason we are up here today."

The Latimer Engineering and Science Building will house the departments of chemistry and physics, computer science, engineering, mathematics and statistics and the pre-professional health sciences program. The Latimer Building will feature classrooms, laboratories, offices, as well as a small observatory.

The building is estimated to have an economic impact of $56.3 million, as well as create over 900 jobs from initial construction through the first 10 years of graduates.

"The Lord certainly granted favor to this university when he introduced the Latimers to it, or when they became as engaged in it as they have been," said Lee. "Thank you very, very much for your commitment here. It wouldn't have happened except for you. This building wouldn't be going up except for you. The lives that are going to be changed in that facility and in this region wouldn't be changed except for you. We are deeply grateful for that."

The Latimer Engineering and Science Building is scheduled to open fall 2022. Current construction for the Latimer Building can be viewed from the Holt Humanities Building webcam at utm.edu/webcams.

For more information about the Latimer Engineering and Science Building, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
GROUNDBREAKING — From left, Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, Carol and Bill Latimer, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and UT President Randy Boyd break ground on the Latimer Engineering and Science Building Sept. 18. The building is scheduled to open fall 2022.

BREAKING GROUND — For the first time in more than 40 years, ground was broken on an academic building to be constructed at the University of Tennessee at Martin. State, local and university officials gathered Friday to recognize Bill and Carol Latimer for their gift of $6.5 million to the university for the Latimer Engineering and Science Building Friday. Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony were (from left) Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, the Latimers, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and UT President Randy Boyd. The building is scheduled to open in the fall of 2022. Current construction can be viewed from the Holt Humanities Building webcam at utm.edu/webcams.
Latimbers honored at groundbreaking ceremony

The University of Tennessee at Martin community, along with numerous notable Tennessee officials, gathered in front of the future site of the Latimer Engineering and Science Building Friday to honor Bill and Carol Latimer for their $6.5 million gift to the university.

The Latimers, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally and UT President Randy Boyd were all in attendance to help break ground on the first academic building to be constructed at UT Martin in over 40 years.

"Bill and Carol truly understand the vital role education plays in changing the trajectories of families, strengthening communities and developing future leaders," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"Like many of the speakers and dignitaries who are here today, they value the role the University of Tennessee at Martin plays in the economic development of West Tennessee.

"Recognizing the new ways this building will contribute to the transformational experiences of our students, Bill provided the lead gift for this building that enabled us to secure the matching funds from the state. Today, because of Bill’s incredible leadership and generosity, we are officially breaking ground on this great new facility." 

Latimer donated the 10 percent match for the $65 million, 120,000-square-foot, three-story STEM building in 2016 while Dr. Robert Smith was UT Martin interim chancellor.

"The Lord certainly granted favor to this university when he introduced the Latimers to it, or when they became as engaged in it as they have been," Lee said. "Thank you very, very much for your commitment here. It wouldn't have happened except for you. This building wouldn't be going up except for you. "The lives that are going to be changed in that facility and in this region wouldn’t be changed except for you. We are deeply grateful for that."

The Latimer Engineering and Science Building is scheduled to open in the fall of 2022.

Current construction for the Latimer Building can be viewed from the Holt Humanities Building webcam at utm.edu/webcams.
PHILANTHROPIC LATIMERS

(L to R) Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd, Union City philanthropist Bill Latimer, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum were in attendance at the Friday, September 18, 2020 groundbreaking and dedication for UT Martin’s Latimer Engineering and Science Building. Photo by Sabrina Bates/The Enterprise

UT Martin, Community Celebrate Donation for STEM Building

MARTIN (September 18) — The University of Tennessee at Martin community, along with numerous notable Tennessee officials, gathered in front of the future site of the Latimer Engineering and Science Building Friday, September 18, to honor Union City couple Bill and Carol Latimer for their $6.5 million gift to the university. The Latimers, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally and UT President Randy Boyd were all in attendance to help break ground on the first academic building to be constructed at UT Martin in more than 40 years. Joining in the celebration were Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, along with local elected officials and representatives.

“Bill and Carol truly understand the vital role education plays in changing the trajectories of families, strengthening communities and developing future leaders,” said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “Like many of the speakers and dignitaries who are here today, they value the role the University of Tennessee at Martin plays in the economic development of West Tennessee. Recognizing the new ways this building will contribute to the transformational experiences of our students, Bill provided the lead gift for this building that enabled us to secure the matching funds.

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Latimer

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from the state. Today, because of Bill's incredible leadership and generosity, we are officially breaking ground on this great new facility,” Cavalier added.

Bill donated the 10-percent match for the $65 million, 120,000-square-foot, three-story STEM building in 2016, while Dr. Robert Smith was UT Martin interim chancellor. Bill attributed Smith's diligent work to bettering the university as one of the reasons the groundbreaking ceremony was even happening. Through the hard work and dedication of many UT Martin officials, including Smith and current UT-Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, over the past four years, the Latimers' donation was realized, and construction began. It was notably one of the largest single gifts in UT Martin's history since the beginning of record-keeping of donations.

Bill said of the many reasons he and his wife decided to provide UT Martin with the match needed to fund the building, his faith in God and his faith in UT Martin were the leading factors.

"Carol and I believe that if God has blessed you, then you need to use His blessings to bless others," said Bill. "God has blessed us much more than we could ever have expected and much, much more than we deserve, and God's blessing is the reason we are up here today," he added.

Bill thanked the legislative efforts of State Representative Andy Holt and State Senator John Stevens for sponsoring a bill in 2015 reducing the 25-percent match to a 10-percent match required by state building projects at public colleges and universities to begin construction.

The Latimer Engineering and Science Building will house the departments of chemistry and physics, computer science, engineering, mathematics and statistics and the pre-professional health sciences program. It will feature classrooms, laboratories and offices, and a small observatory.

The building is estimated to have an economic impact of $56.3 million and create more than 900 jobs from initial construction through the first 10 years of graduates.

"The Lord certainly granted favor to this university when he introduced the Latimers to it, or when they became as engaged in it as they have been," said Lee.

"Thank you very, very much for your commitment here. It wouldn't have happened except for you. This building wouldn't be going up except for you. The lives that are going to be changed in that facility and in this region wouldn't be changed except for you. We are deeply grateful for that...


UT System President Randy Boyd remarked, "It is the greatest decade for the System.

The Latimer Engineering and Science Building is scheduled to open fall 2022. Current construction for the Latimer Building can be viewed from the Holt Humanities Building webcam at utm.edu/webcams.

UT MARTIN RECREATION
FACILITIES OPEN
ONLY TO STUDENTS

The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Recreation Center, Elam Center and swimming pool reopen Monday, August 17, 2020, to registered UT Martin students, but will remain closed to the public in response to safety and health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The recreation facilities will adopt modified hours of operation and guidelines, which students will be informed of before the beginning of the semester. All UT Martin faculty, staff, retiree and family memberships will continue to be suspended until further notice. For more information, visit https://www.utm.edu/departments/campusrec/ or utm.edu/coronavirus.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Summer 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

The following local students have been named: Brittany D. Edwards of Cedar Hill, High Honors and Peyton R. Judkins of Cross Plains, Highest Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses. For more information, visit utm.edu.
The 36th Annual Santa's Village in Martin has been canceled.

With UT Martin canceling all activities in the Ned McWherter Ag Pavilion, officials from UT Martin and the City of Martin met and decided to cancel this year's event.

Martin Parks and Recreation Director Brian Moore says, "Over the four-day event last year, over 17,000 people visited Santa's Village, resulting in over $50,000 worth of food, toys, and cash donations benefitting We Care Ministries. Moore adds, "The effects of not having Santa's Village this year will be felt by many. However, we all need to understand that it's simply not safe to host an event of this scale during this pandemic time, and public safety is paramount."

A statement from the City of Martin says, "The City of Martin works well with UT Martin and is thankful to have used the Ag Complex for nearly 40 years, and the city respects and supports the decision-making regarding facility use on campus during this unprecedented time."
UTM Department of Music premiers new online performance programs

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music is premiering two new programs for the university and community to enjoy for free.

“CulturEd Online” will feature performances by UT Martin faculty, staff and students, including recitals, ensemble performances, master classes, as well as popular previously broadcast programs. The “CulturEd Online” performances will be released on the UT Martin Department of Music’s Facebook and YouTube accounts at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For the full “CulturEd Online” schedule, visit utm.edu/music.

“Live From the Tent” will host live performances from the tent located near the Pacer Pond parking lot. The concerts will be aired over FM radio so audiences can enjoy live music from inside their car.

The scheduled dates for “Live From the Tent” are subject to change depending on weather conditions and the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the full “Live From the Tent” schedule, visit utm.edu/music.

“It’s not quite what we’re used to, but we’ve made music for the first time in five months the past three weeks,” said Dr. Julie Hill, chair of the Department of Music. “We shall see how the students and all of us weather the challenges yet to come, but for three weeks, we’ve made some safe and beautiful music on our campus already, and more is yet to come.”

For more information, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402 or visit utm.edu/music/
Local universities report COVID-19 numbers on campus

September 28, 2020 by Julia Ewoldt (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/juliaewoldt/)

JACKSON, Tenn. — Every college or university is facing its own problems due to COVID-19. Some students are quarantined. Others are isolated across West Tennessee.

Lane College is reporting zero active cases.

Earlier in September, the students were either quarantined or sent home for two weeks. This is their second week back on campus.

Freed-Hardeman University had to make some changes since the beginning of the semester.

“We started out the semester meeting in person in chapel and spreading out over two different services, but now it’s online,” said Dave Clouse, vice president of community engagement.

They are reporting 11 active cases among students and staff, with 100 students in quarantine. All classes are in-person.

“Unless they’re in quarantine, and then we make arrangements for them to be able to do that online,” Clouse said.

UT Martin recently had its own public COVID scare.

Chancellor Keith Carver is officially out of quarantine after being exposed. He tweeted this picture Friday when he was released.
Currently the university has 49 active cases among students, faculty, and staff, and almost 200 people are quarantined.

Union University currently has 52 people isolated in residence halls, with 176 people quarantined. Their spokesperson was unavailable for comment.

Bethel University is reporting eight active cases. Since they've started recording, they've seen a total of 70.

A spokesperson said there were more cases at the beginning of the semester, but they've leveled off to about 10 on average.

Jackson State Community College is reporting three active COVID-19 cases. All of their classes have been moved online, except for a few health and science labs.

The University of Memphis-Lambuth has all classes online, except for a few labs. We spoke with Dr. Niles Reddick Monday morning, who said they are again pushing back the start date for in-person classes.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

‘The Return of the Living Grad’ Alumni Art Exhibit

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be hosting an exhibition of art and design work by their alumni called ‘Return of the Living Grad.’ The exhibition will be held from Sept. 29 through Oct. 24 at the Fine Arts Building Gallery located at 16 Mt. Pelia Road and will be open to the public for the duration of the show during open gallery hours, 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will feature works by Cat Hoffa, Rachel Melton, Caitlynn Dowland, Cody Smith, Chara Brown, Dave Crutchfield, Marjorie Pess, Mckayla Cunningham, Aaron Perry, Heather Wilson, Violet Durden, Tanya Chopra, Beth Bodwell, Franklin Hanks, Kaitlyn Frandsen, Olivia Laws, Haley Thames, Melanie O’Neal, Anna Lax Gatti, Rachel Roberts, Alex Stover, Clay Palmer, Chelsey Gordon, Brianna Hinton, Mentri DePriest, Nicole Church, Anna Sison, Donnie Adam Franklin, Ian Gray and Aaron Burks. The exhibition aims to highlight the work of the graduates and their creative endeavors. A virtual opening reception will be live-streamed on the Facebook page of the Visual and Theatre Arts Department Tuesday at 5 p.m. The public is invited. For more information, contact art professor Jason Stout at jstout7@utm.edu.
CHRISTMAS DIFFERENT — Martin’s popular Christmas event, Santa’s Village has been called off this year.

2020 Santa’s Village canceled

Santa’s village has been canceled. Officials from the University of Tennessee at Martin and city of Martin recently met to make a decision regarding the annual event.

The event is normally located in the Ned McWherter Ag Pavilion on the campus of UT Martin and stretches over 25,000 square feet of lights creating a Christmas-themed enchanted forest that features entertainment, amusement rides, crafts and visits from Santa.

Dean of the UT Martin School of Agriculture Dr. Todd Winters stated, “All activities in the Ag Pavilion have been canceled for the remainder of the year, which effects Santa’s Village. We simply cannot risk hosting large community activities that encourage large assemblies while not being able to ensure proper social distancing during this pandemic time.”

This year would have marked 36 years for the Christmas celebration. Martin Parks and Recreation director Brian Moore stated, “My staff and I will really miss this event. It is a lot of hard work, but the rewards are immeasurable.”

Moore went on the say that over the four-day event over 17,000 people visited Santa’s Village last year, resulting in over $50,000 worth of food, toys and cash donations benefiting We Care Ministries, a local charity organization.

“The effects of not having Santa’s Village will be felt by many. However, we all need to understand that it simply is not safe to host an event of this scale during this pandemic time, and public safety is paramount,” said Moore.
UT Martin hosts alumni art exhibit

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be hosting an exhibition of art and design work by its alumni called "Return of the Living Grad."

The exhibition opened today and will be held through Oct. 24 at the Fine Arts Building Gallery, located at 16 Mt. Pelia Road. It is open to the public. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

It will feature works by Cat Hoffa, Rachel Heyen, Caitlynn Dowlind, Cody Smith, Chara Brown, Dave Crutchfield, Marjorie Pess, Mckayla Cunningham, Aaron Perry, Heather Wilson, Violet Durden, Tanya Chopra, Beth Bodwell, Franklin Hanks, Kaitlyn Frandsen, Olivia Laws, Haley Thomason, Melanie O’Neal, Anna Lax Gatti, Rachel Roberts, Alex Stover, Clay Palmer, Chelsey Gordon, Brianna Hinton, Memori DePriest, Nicole Church, Anna Sison, Donnie Adam Franklin, Ian Gray and Aaron Burks.

"The exhibition aims to highlight the work of our graduates and their creative endeavors," a spokesman said.

A virtual opening reception will be live-streamed on the Facebook page of the Visual and Theatre Arts Department today at 5 p.m. The public is invited.

For more information, contact Jason Stout, professor of art, at jstout@utm.edu.

UT Martin earns spot among top

The University of Tennessee at Martin ranked among top universities in the South in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report in categories including best regional universities south, best colleges for veterans and best value schools.

UT Martin ranked 13th in the South as a top regional public institution; 30th out of all regional southern universities, 49th as a best value school in the South and tied in 52nd place as a top performer in social mobility.

The university was also designated a veteran-friendly campus with a 17th place ranking for best colleges for veterans in the South.

The Princeton Review also recognized UT Martin as a university among the best in the southeast in the 2021 Best Colleges: Region by Region list for the 18th consecutive year.

"UT Martin continues to provide our students with a high-quality, cost-effective education in numerous programs, and the rankings we’ve received from the U.S. News & World Report and designation by The Princeton Review are proof of our long-term commitment to helping students achieve their goals," chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said.
While spaces in each of Tennessee's 95 counties are being donated to further the message of the University of Tennessee's reach, one mural in Greene County, more than 380 miles away from the University of Tennessee at Martin, reminds one student of the impact the university has had on her life.

Soon, according to a press release from the university, every county in Tennessee will be painted with an "Everywhere You Look, UT" mural created through a campaign by the university.

Sarah Douthat, a senior health and human performance major from Mohawk, says her family didn't hesitate to offer up their barn facing Tennessee State Route 348 for a UT mural and encourages others to do the same. As a multigenerational family of Vols and now a Skyhawk, the Douthats say they are proud to represent UT and the opportunities made available through its mission.
“It’s an honor, really,” said Douthat. “I am so proud that we get to help further the message that UT is everywhere.”

While Douthat hails from a family of Volunteers, she said she knew UT Martin was for her as soon as she visited campus. She says her studies in public health and her connection to the Baptist College Ministry helped her find her home and purpose in life, just like her parents and grandparents did at UT Knoxville.

“Every time I step on the campus, it feels like I’m meant to be there,” said Douthat. “The whole campus feels like a family.”

For Douthat, having a piece of UT Martin and her family’s alma mater on their farm is just proof of the impact the universities have had on their lives. She hopes others who see the murals and are interested in the University of Tennessee will pursue an education and enjoy the experience just as her family has.

“We just want everyone to know that UT is everywhere,” Douthat said.

For more information regarding the “Everywhere You Look, UT” campaign, visit everywhere.tennessee.edu.
Annual Santa’s Village Event Canceled

MARTIN (September 24) — Santa’s Village is canceled. Officials from the University of Tennessee at Martin and the City of Martin recently met to make a decision regarding the annual event.

The event is usually located in the Ned McWherter Ag Pavilion on the campus of UT Martin and stretches more than 25,000 square feet of lights creating a Christmas-themed enchanted forest that features entertainment, amusement rides, crafts and visits by Santa.

Dean of the UT Martin School of Agriculture Dr. Todd Winters added, "This year would have marked 36 years for the Christmas celebration. Martin Parks and Recreation Director Brian Moore stated, "My staff and I will really miss this event. It is a lot of hard work, but the rewards are immeasurable." Director Moore added that over the four-day event more than 17,000 people visited Santa’s Village last year, resulting in more than $50,000 worth of food, toys, and cash donations benefiting WE CARE Ministries, a local charity organization."

"The effects of not having Santa’s Village will be felt by many. However, we all need to understand that it simply is not safe to host an event of this scale during this pandemic time, and public safety is paramount," said Moore.

"WE CARE would like to thank UTM and Martin Parks & Rec for their faithful support from this great community event of Santa's Village. 2020, however, has brought many changes and we have all learned to adapt the best that we possibly can to the challenges. While this cancellation does indeed greatly affect our ministry, the decision was made for the best interest in containing COVID for the community and we definitely support health safety. WE CARE will continue to meet the needs of those in our community."

This year filled with changes, our God has not changed. It is in times like this when our faith must give evidence to our belief that God will provide. Thank you UTM and Martin Parks and Rec and we look forward to a great event in 2021," WE CARE Ministries Director Betty Baker noted.

The City of Martin works well with UT Martin and is thankful to have used the Ag Complex for nearly 40 years. The city respects and supports the decision-making regarding facility use on campus during this unprecedented time, according to a press release issued last week.

The City of Martin is currently exploring a holiday event for families, but no details have been decided due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

For any questions regarding Santa’s Village, contact the Martin Parks and Recreation office at 731-587-6784.