UT Martin Advisory Board looks to the future

The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met Sept. 20 to discuss the university's strategic enrollment plan and updates to the campus master plan. A webcast of this meeting will be made available at utm.edu/advisory-board.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, discussed the university's strategic enrollment plan, which is currently being constructed in cooperation with Buffalo Noel Levitz. RNL has decades of experience working with higher education institutions to develop comprehensive plans for enrollment, marketing and other areas. Cavalier says this process will look at all areas of student recruitment, retention and success in order to help the university anticipate both enrollment and budget numbers at least five years in advance.

"(This plan is) comprehensive in scope. We're talking about ... marketing; we're talking about recruitment; we're talking about matriculation; we're talking about retention and persistence to graduation. We're not just talking about the front end," he said. "We're talking about 'How do we get students interested?' and 'How do we get them here and keep them here so that they graduate?'

Cavalier says the process will also involve extensive research to determine needs for both new and existing academic programs as well as other aspects of student life.

"We want to have a much clearer sense of what academic needs this area has. ... What are the co-curricular activities that would help (students) succeed while they're here? We want to look at and think about the future," he said.

UTM From Page 1

24/7 experience of students while they are here and not just the academic experience," he said.

Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, presented the board with updated information regarding the final enrollment numbers for the fall 2019 semester, which show increases in first-time freshmen and overall student headcount. Carver says the university is planning an aggressive out-of-state recruiting plan for the coming years.

Dr. Tim Nipp, director of the UT Martin Physical Plant, discussed potential campus plans to consolidate Greek life housing in the vicinity of the Sorority Village lodges on Peach Street, update available campus housing options, add outdoor pavilion and social spaces to existing buildings, and purchase additional land to expand housing and parking areas, among other improvements.

The construction of the new Latimer Engineering and Science Building on the southeast corner of the existing campus quadrangle will anchor the secondary quad, which is planned to extend west toward the Boling University Center.

The Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building will also undergo extensive renovations once academic departments currently occupying that space are moved into the new facility.

The next regular meeting of the UT Martin Advisory Board will be held Jan. 10, 2020. Agenda information will be distributed one week prior to the meeting date.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
HAVING A BALL — Captain Skyhawk joined University of Tennessee at Martin students in the ball pits Saturday afternoon during UT Martin's annual Family Weekend. The three-day event included Food Truck Night and free music in Virginia Weldon Park Friday evening; a Bowtie 5K Run Saturday morning; Donuts and Deans meet and greet Saturday; the UTM vs. Murray State football game where UTM was the victor; a fireworks show and a Sunday brunch.

Photo courtesy of UT Martin
SIMMONS BANK SUPPORTS UT MARTIN REED CENTER — Landy Fuqua, director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, and Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin director of research, outreach and economic development, accepted a check for $2,500 from the Simmons Bank Charitable Giving Program to support small business training in the northwest Tennessee area. The presentation was made Sept. 25 in front of the new REED Center facility on Lindell Street. Pictured are (from left) Linda Rinker, REED Center; Justin Stokes, community executive of Simmons Bank, Union City; Andrea Hughes, community executive of Simmons Bank, Martin; Fuqua; Deal; and Valerie Freeman, REED Center. Visit utm.edu/reed to learn more about the center’s services.
Two Gibson County teachers participate in West Teach program

MARTIN, Tenn. – Local teachers Ronny Criswell and Paul Richards are members of the second WestTeach class, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program. They are among 22 educators from across the region to participate in the 2019-20 program, which seeks to connect West Tennessee’s teachers with the region’s communities and industries and give them increased insight into the economic needs and opportunities of the area.

Criswell is a fourth-grade math teacher at Trenton Elementary School, and Richards teaches literature at Bradford High School.

The program, founded in 2018, provides professional development for participants over a five-month period. Program sessions are held across West Tennessee, and topics include West Tennessee Agriculture (held Aug. 26 in Martin), entrepreneurship in West Tennessee (held Aug. 27 in Union City), the humanity of leadership (Sept. 24 in Jackson), partnerships for economic development (Oct. 29 in Dyersburg) and industry tours (Nov. 26 in Covington and Brownsville).

All applicants were nominated by their principal and the director or superintendent of schools. Selection is based on leadership achievements and the potential to contribute to the region’s education system. One teacher per school district is selected with no more than 30 members per class.

For information, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar program coordinator, at 731-881-7298 or email vgrimes@utm.edu.

Ronny Criswell

Paul Richards
UT Martin to host one-day ACT prep class

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a one-day ACT prep class for any high school junior or senior planning to take the ACT exam. The class will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon, Oct. 5, on the UT Martin main campus. Registration is $45, and online registration is required.

Students will learn how to boost their overall scores, manage their time, create better study habits and work more efficiently. Students who have taken this class report as high as a three-point increase on their composite scores.

Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor, author and educator, will instruct the course. Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships, and he continues to work as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties.

This course will also be offered from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 17, at the UT Martin Jackson Center; from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 23, at the UT Martin Somerville Center; and from 8 a.m. to noon, Oct. 26, at the UT Martin Parsons Center. The class will return to the main campus Dec. 7.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/actprep. For more information, contact UT Martin Outreach at 731-881-7104.

ALLEN ATTENDS LEGACY LUNCHEON – Abigail Allen (center) of Trenton plans to study biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Allen and her parents, Brenda (’85) and Steve Allen (’79), are pictured August 22 at the university’s legacy luncheon, an annual event for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UT Martin. Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed students and their families as they arrived on campus. The Office of Alumni Affairs also announced two scholarship recipients during the luncheon. For more information, visit utmforever.com or contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 731-881-7610.
TO PERFORM — Lalo and Friends Salsa Band will perform at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebration Thursday at 5 p.m. in the university quadangle. The performance is free and open to the public.

Lalo & Friends to perform at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin will continue celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a live performance by the Lalo and Friends Salsa Band beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday in the university quadangle.

The performance is free and open to the public and dance lessons will be given at 4:30 p.m., prior to the concert.

Lalo Davila is currently a professor of music and director of percussion studies at Middle Tennessee State University. He has extensive experience as a composer, author and performer in addition to his years in higher education, and he was named one of Nashville’s top five percussionists of the year in 1998.

Davila established Lalo and Friends in 1992, and they have since been featured at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention and the National Association of Music Merchants. The UT Martin performance is scheduled in conjunction with the university’s first Hispanic Student Reception, which begins at 3 p.m. in the Boling University Welcome Center and is open to all Hispanic students who are considering earning a degree at UT Martin, Spanish-language interpreters will be available.

Lalo and Friends’ performance is co-sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs, Department of Music, the Student Government Association and the Coleman Family Foundation.

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

UT Martin Reports Increased Enrollment

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin reports 7,296 students enrolled this fall semester, including both undergraduate and graduate-level students. This shows a 3.2 percent total increase over the fall 2018 enrollment numbers with the largest increases appearing at the graduate level and in dual-enrollment courses.

There are 517 graduate students studying at UT Martin this fall – a 37.9 percent increase over fall 2018. This includes 113 first-time graduate students and 29 readmitted or returning students. Undergraduate enrollment stands at 6,779 – a 1.3 percent increase from last fall. Dual-enrollment courses, which offer college credit to high school students across the region, report a 17.4 percent increase over fall 2018 for a total of 1,422 students currently enrolled in at least one course.

The fall 2018 freshman cohort, which includes first-time freshmen who started classes during both the summer and fall semesters, includes 1,180 students for a 1.5 percent increase in the first-time freshman class over fall 2018. The freshman class has shown steady increases since fall 2016.

“We are excited to see these students start their journeys here at UT Martin, and we will do everything we can to make sure their time here prepares them to be productive, engaged members of their communities,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. “We are already building connections with every eligible high school student in Tennessee from sophomore year on, and we are now building an aggressive out-of-state recruitment plan as well. I believe we will continue to see these numbers rise as more and more students come to realize what a wonderful place UT Martin is to spread their wings.”

Total university enrollment has continued to grow over the past three years with an increase of 500 undergraduate students and 591 students overall since fall 2016. Freshman-to-sophomore retention rates also increased 1 percent this year, up to 74.5 percent from 73.7 percent.

The current student body represents 44 states and 21 international countries.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Van Jones headlines CTS event 'Uncomfortable Truths, Healing Impact'

Van Jones joined leaders of the Indianapolis community to discuss poverty and controversial topics in 2019. Photo courtesy of Variety.

MALACHI WHITE | CULTURE EDITOR | mrwhite1@butler.edu

"If you're happy to be here, can you say Amen," David Mellott said to the audience. His introduction set the tone for the evening reflecting on faith, social issues, and having a positive impact on the Indianapolis community.

"As people of faith we are expected to care for those who are most vulnerable," Mellott said.

On Oct. 1, the Christian Theological Seminary presented its Faith and Action Project Fall event, "Uncomfortable Truths, Healing Impact" with headliner Van Jones in Clowes Memorial Hall. Seats were filled on three levels and was broadcast to be sold out the day of the event.

Through annual public events and grants, the Faith and Action Project "seeks to ignite a collaborative, interfaith, and inclusive movement for well-being and justice in our community."

Jones, born Anthony Kapel Jones, is a social entrepreneur/CNN political commentator and host of "The Van Jones Show" on CNN. Jones received his B.S. in communication and political science from the University of Tennessee at Martin and continued his education at Yale Law School.

Jones was joined by three other panelists from the Indianapolis community, including Jeffrey A. Johnson Sr., senior pastor of Eastern Star Church, Dennis Bland, president of the Center for Leadership Development, and Betsy Delgado, vice president of mission and education initiatives at Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana.

After nearly two and a half hours of discussion, big takeaways from the night included bridging the gap between Democrats and Republicans, the gap between socioeconomic classes in America and investing in youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The discussion was led by moderator Don Knebel, founding board chair of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation and vice board chair of the Triangle Education Foundation. Knebel asked questions to Jones and the other panelists ranging from political views, the importance of faith in communities, and the current state of American and citizens living in poverty.

"I've never seen a bird fly with only a left wing, and I've never seen a bird fly with only a right wing," Jones said when asked about the political divide between Republicans and Democrats. "We need each other."

Jones talked throughout the night about criticisms he has received for being a Christian and a liberal political commentator. He explained that one of the biggest social dichotomies that confront those who identify as Christians and liberals revolves around issues including women's rights, LGBTQ+ advocacy and socioeconomic disparities between liberals and conservatives.

Jones described the conflict between the political parties as a "food fight" that is great for television and great for the ratings, but bad "for the people on the bottom."

"Maybe these parties don't care about us, and we need to start caring for each other," Jones said. "Common pain should lead to common purpose."
Johnson leads the congregation of Eastern Star Church, prioritizing service and giving back to the community. His church has three locations in the Indianapolis area with several initiatives towards improving the lives of disadvantaged members of the Indianapolis community.

"Get in where you fit in," Johnson said to the audience on the topic of purpose and giving back. "Even if you can't do everything, you can do something.

The Indianapolis area with zip code 46218 is of high priority to him, and this is evident in the $200,000 his church has raised for technology in an underfunded school and his support efforts in low-income housing.

"One public school in Arlington 46218 should not look like a school in Haiti, while another school in the same state looks like Harvard University," Johnson said, receiving applause.

Johnson emphasized that regardless of an individual's background, anyone can make an impact and change lives.

"A poor spirit is poorer than a poor person," Bland said.

Bland responds citing examples of domestic violence, substance abuse and other commonly referenced issues in impoverished areas.

"What does it mean to have a poor spirit?" Bland said one last time. "If my inside is bad, bad things will come out.

A commonality amongst the solutions proposed by the panelists involved building up and reinvesting in the youth in Indianapolis and across the country.

"They are suffering the effects of our irresponsibility," Bland said.

He references an African proverb about the relationship between a village and its youth and ends the proverb by saying, "If the young are not initiated into the village, they will burn it down just to feel its warmth."

One of Jones' biggest talking points about uplifting the youth involved a conversation he had with Prince, the artist, after the death of Trayvon Martin, an African American teenager fatally shot by a neighborhood watch volunteer.

Jones recalls Prince asking about black males in hoodies being called thugs, and saying "white kids in hoodies are called Mark Zuckerberg's."

Jones then gave his thoughts on poverty and the perception of black youth growing up in poverty.

"The way you fight poverty," Jones said, "you have to look at your communities as huge sinks of genius."

Delgado used the same idea to give her thoughts about American mindsets towards success.

"We want to get rid of the idea in America that people have to pick themselves up by their bootstraps," Delgado said. "That's not true. Everyone needs help pulling themselves up."

Jones responded by relating world issues back to the audience.

"Part of the fiction is that people need help over there, but really, there's pain in this room," Jones said. "The best thing for you to do is to chase your dreams. There are dreams in this room that could change the whole city."

By the end of the night, audiences had felt a range of emotions audible through cheers, hand claps, sighs and hums of approval. Jones had moments of prophetic wisdom, candid humor and personable approachability towards topics of race, religion and social class. All the while, he emphasized the importance of humanity and empathy towards building better futures for cities like Indianapolis and for America's youth.

"Sometimes it just takes one person," Jones said. "To reach out and tell you that you matter."
Sam Tharpe was already retired from his long career in education when he was called upon to lead a new program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"They called me to really address this issue, of trying to get more diverse students, and especially African-American males, to teach," Tharpe, a longtime employee of the Henry County School System and Paris commissioner and former mayor, said in a program he presented to the Martin Rotary Club Thursday.

With Tharpe's leadership, UT Martin's Call Me MiSSTER program accepted its first students in 2018.

The Call Me MiSSTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) teacher leadership program was begun in 2000 at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Call Me MiSSTER provides its students, Call Me MiSSTER Scholars, with the tools necessary to succeed as preservice teachers.

The idea is to increase the pool of available teachers from a more diverse background, particularly at the state's lowest performing elementary schools.

Participants are predominantly selected from under-served, educationally at-risk, and socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

UT Martin has the only CMM program in Tennessee, but the program serves students at 24 participating colleges and universities in South Carolina, and nine other institutions nationally.

The program provides tuition assistance as well as covering full housing costs and a laptop computer.

Students in the program receive 25% of the first year’s tuition, 35% of the second year’s, 50% of the third year’s, and 75% of the fourth.

Tharpe said students are encouraged to apply for the Hope Scholarship, the Harold Connor Scholarship and the Minority Teaching Scholarship as well.

Tharpe heads UT Martin’s program with codirector Austin Ferrell, but he isn’t new to education. He served as principal at Grove and Henry schools, and was assistant principal at Lakewood School during his 34-year education career in Henry County.

He said the most important responsibility of any CMM Scholar is to maintain good grades in classes.

Applicants must have a composite score of at least 22 on the ACT, a combined SAT score of 1,100 or above, and a grade-point average of at least 2.7 on a 4-point scale.

They must be Tennessee residents who are eligible for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship program.

Finally, they must agree to teach at least one year in a Tennessee public school for each year they receive assistance from CMM.

Tharpe said students must show dedication and drive from the start. The submission requirements for the program reflect that philosophy.

Students must submit their high school diploma and final transcript or GED certificate, two letters of recommendation, a signed statement certifying the student is from an underprivileged or economically disadvantaged background or area, and two essays, one on why the student wants to teach and one on how they think they will benefit from the program.

Nine students are currently enrolled in UT Martin’s CMM program.

'They give you everything you need in life to succeed. I don’t take that for granted.'

Daniel Gates

CMM scholar

Daniel Gates, a CMM Scholar from Dyersburg, said being with CMM has helped him to thrive.

"With this program, it allows me to increase my value as a black male in society," he said.

"They pay for our school, they give us a laptop, they give us a group of friends, they give us mentors, they give us advisers. They give you everything you need in life to succeed. I don’t take that for granted."

One can’t take it for granted and stay in the program. CMM scholars must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and major in elementary education, early childhood education or a K-12 certification area.

A scholar must take at least 16 hours a semester, and adhere to all attendance policies. The student will also need to qualify for UT Martin’s Educator Preparation Program by the second semester of his junior year.

"These guys are very special, and we have to go out and find them," Tharpe said of his current scholars. "... This is a very special program for this school, and for all of northwest Tennessee ... They are going to continue to grow, and believe me, they are loved by all."
Sam Tharpe describes the Call Me MiSTER program to the Martin Rotary Club during the group's Thursday meeting at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Tharpe has turned his talents for mentoring and education to the college level after years in the Henry County School System. For a related photo, see Page 4.

Members of the Call Me MiSTER program pose for a photo Thursday at The University of Tennessee at Martin. The students are, from left (front row) Daniel Gates, Logan Davis; (second row) Nicholas Dantzler, Andre' Parker, Tyrece Howard, Jonathan Utley, Lathon Ross; and (back row) Tydarius Blackwell and Justyn Johnson. The students were introduced during a presentation to the Martin Rotary Club Sam Tharpe of Paris, who's heading up the program. (Please see related story on Page 1).
UTM chancellor slated to address chamber banquet

University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver will be the guest speaker as business leaders from across Obion County gather Thursday evening at Discovery Park of America to see who is recognized as the best among the best at the Obion County Joint Economic Development Council banquet.

Carver began his duties as is the 11th chancellor of the on Jan. 3, 2017.

During his time in office, UT Martin has developed a five-year strategic plan for university growth and development; increased overall headcount by almost four percent and first-year freshman enrollment by almost nine percent (from fall 2017 to fall 2018); and developed dual-enrollment partnerships with both Jackson State Community College and Southwest Tennessee Community College.

He has worked with the UT System for 22 years and served as executive assistant to the UT president from January 2011-December 2016 before taking the post at UT Martin. Prior to his position with the UT System, Carver held various positions on the UT campuses in Knoxville, Martin and Memphis, including serving as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and as assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin.

He holds a bachelor's

Dessert and concert highlight local event

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its annual Dessert Evening concert event at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Discovery Park of America's Dinosaur Hall.

Adult tickets are $18 per person, with UT Martin students and children ages 12 and younger to be admitted for $12 per person.

Each ticket includes three dessert courses and the opportunity to enjoy solo and choral music selections ranging from popular music to musical theatre and jazz. Students from various campus ensembles will perform under the direction of Dr. Mark Simmons, professor of music.

UT Martin choirs perform regularly with the Jackson Symphony and recently finished a summer concert tour in New Zealand. Members also performed with Foreigner during the 2018 Tennessee Soybean Festival.

All proceeds support the vocal area within the Department of Music.

Tickets are available by contacting the Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
Ceramics artist to host free workshop at UTM

Ceramics artist Shawn O’Connor will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and host free workshops in Room 161 of the Fine Arts Building.

The workshops are open to university students and staff, as well as the community.

O’Connor is an assistant professor and the associate director of galleries and museums at Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Va., where he teaches ceramics and sculpture.

During O’Connor’s master’s degree studies, he designed and constructed a train-style wood kiln and then wrote and published an international journal devoted to wood firing. He travels both nationally and internationally exhibiting his utilitarian wood-fired vessels and sharing his experiences.

He will work in the Fine Arts Building clay studio during his visit to show students and community members his utilitarian pots.

For more information, contact David McBeth, professor of art, at dmcbeth@utm.edu.

UT Martin to host ACT prep course

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host a one-day ACT prep class for any high school junior or senior planning to take the ACT exam.

The class will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday on the UT Martin main campus.

Registration is $45, and online registration is required.

Students will learn how to boost their overall scores, manage their time, create better study habits and work more efficiently. Students who have taken this class report as high as a three-point increase on their composite scores.

Alex Beene, a UT Martin adjunct instructor, author and educator, will instruct the course. He has mentored more than 1,000 students who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships, and he continues to work as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties.

This course will also be offered from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Oct 17 at the UT Martin Jackson Center; from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Oct 23 at the UT Martin Somerville Center; and from 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 26 at the UT Martin Parsons Center. The class will return to the main campus Dec. 7.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/actprep.

For more information, contact UT Martin Outreach at (731) 881-7104.
UT Martin to Host First Fall Preview Day of 2019

Tennessee at Martin for their college careers are invited to attend the first Fall Preview Day of 2019 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Friday, October 19, in the UT Martin Boling University Center. Attendees have an opportunity to hear from a panel of current students and speak with representatives from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs, and various academic programs.

The schedule also includes a walking tour of the UT Martin main campus and visits to each student’s academic department of interest. Pre-registration at utm.edu/previewday will make sure students are able to visit the academic department of choice and speak with faculty members in their areas of interest. There is no charge to attend.

The Boling University Center is located at 61 Mt. Pelea Rd. in Martin. Parking is available in the lots immediately in front of the building and across the street. No parking permits will be needed on this day. A second Fall Preview Day event will be held November 16 for those unable to attend the October date.

For more information, visit utm.edu/previewday or contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.

Landy Fuqua Receives 2019 Tennessee Star Award

MARTIN — The Tennessee Small Business Development Center awarded Landy Fuqua, director of the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, the 2019 Tennessee State Star Award.

Fuqua was announced as the Tennessee winner during a national reception Sept. 3 as part of the 39th-annual America’s Small Business Development Center National Conference in Long Beach, California. The annual award recognizes a top performer from each state network who demonstrates a strong commitment to small businesses and makes significant contributions to the state’s SBDC network.

“Thank you to those who chose me as the Tennessee State Star,” said Fuqua when she accepted the award. “I want to thank my family and staff for their support and our center’s small business owners for utilizing and promoting our services. It is rewarding to be honored for the career that you love.”

Fuqua has led the UT Martin REED Center for eight years, during which time the center’s clients reported 654 jobs created and an excess of $25 million in economic impact.

“Landy pours her heart into this region and the small business owners and entrepreneurs who seek the REED Center’s assistance,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “I am proud to call her a member of the UT Martin family.”

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center is celebrating 35 years of statewide service and has headquarters on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University.

For more information, contact Fuqua at 731-587-7333 or lfuqua@utm.edu.
**UT Martin Reports Increased Enrollment**

The University of Tennessee at Martin reports 7,296 students enrolled this fall semester, including both undergraduate and graduate-level students. This shows a 3.2 percent total increase over the fall 2018 enrollment numbers with the largest increases appearing at the graduate level and in dual-enrollment courses.

There are 817 graduate students studying at UT Martin this fall—a 37.9 percent increase over fall 2018. This includes 118 first-time graduate students and 29 readmitted or returning students. Undergraduate enrollment stands at 6,778—a 1.3 percent increase from last fall. Dual-enrollment courses, which offer college credit to high school students across the region, report a 17.4 percent increase over fall 2018 for a total of 1,422 students currently enrolled in at least one course.

The fall 2018 freshman cohort, which includes first-time freshmen who started classes during both the summer and fall semesters, includes 1,160 students for a 1.6 percent increase in the first-time freshman class over fall 2018. The freshman class has shown steady increases since fall 2016.

"We are excited to see these students start their journeys here at UT Martin, and we will do everything we can to make sure their time here prepares them to be productive, engaged members of their communities," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. "We are already building connections with every eligible high school student in Tennessee from sophomore year on, and we are now building an aggressive out-of-state recruitment plan as well. I believe we will continue to see these numbers rise as more and more students come to realize what a wonderful place UT Martin is to spread their wings."

Total university enrollment has continued to grow over the past three years with an increase of 500 undergraduate students and 591 students overall since fall 2016. Freshman-to-sophomore retention rates also increased 1 percent this year, up to 74.5 percent from 73.7 percent.

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**Ten county students receive Community Foundation scholarships**

Ten recent high school graduates from Wilson County are among the 320 students who received college scholarships from scholarship funds within The Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee works to improve the quality of life in 40 Middle Tennessee and three Kentucky counties.

"The Community Foundation has helped thousands access educational opportunities they might otherwise have been unable to afford by connecting them with the generosity of others," said Ellen Lehman, president of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

A total of $715,850 is being awarded to students from 128 scholarship funds within The Community Foundation. Each year, The Community Foundation scholarship committee reviews applications on behalf of donors who entrust The Foundation with administering the annual awards.

Katelynn Hayzlett from Wilson Central High School, received the Tennessee Trucking Foundation Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.
The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music will host its annual Dessert Evening concert event at 7 p.m., Oct. 4-5, in the Discovery Park of America's Dinosaur Hall. Adult tickets (https://www.utm.edu/news/2019/09/24/ut-martin-to-host-annual-dessert-evening-concert-oct-4-5/#) are $18 per person, and UT Martin students, along with children ages 12 and under, are admitted for $12 per person.

Each ticket includes three dessert courses and the opportunity to enjoy (https://www.utm.edu/news/2019/09/24/ut-martin-to-host-annual-dessert-evening-concert-oct-4-5/#) solo and choral music selections ranging from popular music, musical theatre and jazz. Students from various campus ensembles will perform under the direction of Dr. Mark Simmons, professor of music.

UT Martin choirs perform regularly with the Jackson Symphony and recently finished a summer concert tour in New Zealand. Members also performed with Foreigner during the 2018 Tennessee Soybean Festival.

All proceeds support (https://www.utm.edu/news/2019/09/24/ut-martin-to-host-annual-dessert-evening-concert-oct-4-5/#) the vocal area within the Department of Music. Tickets are available by contacting the Department of Music at 731-881-7402. The Discovery Park of America is located at 830 Everett Blvd in Union City.

For more information or to purchase (https://www.utm.edu/news/2019/09/24/ut-martin-to-host-annual-dessert-evening-concert-oct-4-5/#) tickets, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Martin, Tenn. – Randy Boyd, interim president of the University of Tennessee System, is shown discussing higher education policy with University of Tennessee at Martin students in Dr. Anderson Starling’s public policy course. Boyd discussed his background and previous experience as a business owner and his current work in higher education. The class also discussed some of Boyd’s high-profile programs, such as Tennessee Promise, Tennessee Achieves and the Drive to 55. Political science is a major housed in the UT Martin College of Business (https://www.utm.edu/news/2019/10/02/ut-interim-president-randy-boyd-visits-with-ut-martin-students/) and Global Affairs.
Open Mic Spotlight: David Carithers

By BRANDY COCHRAN
Special to the Press

It's not very often that one can be attending an Open Mic Night at a local venue and get to exclaim, "Hey, that's my English professor up on stage!" But at AB Cheatham's Downtown Tavern every Friday over dinner and drinks from 7-10 p.m., UT Martin professors, such as David Carithers, can be found sharing a healthy mix of acoustic covers and original works.

Before moving to Martin to teach English courses in 2004, Carithers had never played publicly, even though he played his acoustic guitar at home for his own entertainment.

Part of the reason he says he never took up any gigs was because he was too busy working towards his diploma to have the time to seek out and commit to performances.

When he was asked to play at the Spring 2005 UTM Liberal Arts annual Picnic Open Mic, with veteran professor, David Coffee's blessing, he took the chance to share his musical talents with others and ran with it.

"The crowd after I finished was so supportive," Carithers shares, "the experience really inspired me to keep performing and eventually led to Dr. Coffee and I forming The House Band."

The House Band, founded in 2007, has been a side musical project for a group of professors who love performing just as much as lecturing on their favorite subjects. Some members have come and gone, but Carithers has been dedicated to the band since the beginning.

They have made some traction in the West Tennessee region, too, playing a variety of shows ranging from wedding receptions, to fundraisers, to even taking the Soybean Festival stage, which, Carithers claims, has always been the most exciting performance for him, personally.

All that showmanship aside, Carithers explains that his love for acoustic music is "perfect for an Open Mic setting," which is why he has always taken on smaller, acoustic, solo acts before Open Mic Night at AB Cheatham's arrived on the scene back in the summer.

With the friendships and experiences formed playing at regular local events, such as the Farmers Market grand opening, where he was asked to play an acoustic set by fellow Open Mic Night musician, Richard Gallagher, it was only a matter of time before he would also join the group of merry Martin musicians at AB Cheatham's Downtown Tavern.

Now that he has played at AB's regularly, he considers the weekly event as a goal to work toward during his spare time.

Lately, he has been pairing up with local writer, Jim Nance, who he considers a lyrical genius, to come up with new material.

Part of what Carithers likes the most about the attitude surrounding AB's Open Mic Night is the overwhelming warmth and support from the other players and audience that makes it easier to share one's original works, and not just the average crowd-pleasing cover songs.

Carithers says he sometimes sees his students in attendance and always makes a point to encourage his students who are musically-, poetically-, and lyrically-gifted to come out and join in on the fun because he knows how accepting the atmosphere will be.

If one is into acoustic, Americana, classic-folk singer-songwriters, such as Bob Dylan, John Denver, and Townes Van Zandt, make sure to mark your calendars to come out any Friday from 7-10 p.m. to AB Cheatham's Downtown Tavern, located in the Historic Downtown Martin District and watch David Carithers caress his acoustic guitar to melodic tunes by these artists, along with originals and other favorite covers, choice picked by Carithers himself.

Once there, stick around and enjoy the various acts, ranging in number from 8 to 12 players, writers, singers, and dreamers.

Maybe you'll get inspired and find yourself up on that stage the following Friday night — that's the beauty of Open Mic Night.
Agribusiness conference planned at UT Martin

The Northwest Tennessee Food Processing and Agri-Business Conference will be held from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Oct. 10, in the University of Tennessee at Martin Boling University Center. The conference is free, but advanced registration is required by today (Thursday).

Dr. Charlie Hatcher, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and Pete Nelson, CEO and president of AgLaunch, will both serve as keynote speakers at the event. U.S. Rep. David Kustoff, 8th Congressional District, will welcome the group.

Hatcher is a 10th-generation American farmer and founder of Rock-N-Country Veterinary Services in College Grove. Prior to becoming commissioner in January 2019, he served for 10 years as the state veterinarian for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. In that role, he promoted the marketability of animals and worked to protect their health and welfare.

Nelson has more than two decades of experience developing regional ecosystems to support new innovation in agriculture. His work has also led to more than $40 million in direct investments in research and commercialization to grow the agriculture industry and continues to assist dozens of companies.

Throughout the day, participants can attend their choice of panels on topics including agriculture and rural community, grant opportunities, sustainability, labor market, young talent, hemp production and food processing safety.

The conference includes a continental breakfast and a “Tennessee Lunch” featuring products made or produced in Tennessee. The UT Martin Department of Agriculture will also host a career fair from 9 a.m. – noon in the university ballroom for students pursuing careers in this field.

LabCanna, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Valley Authority are co-sponsors for this event.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/nondegree/ag-conference. For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director, UT Martin Outreach, at 731-881-7104.
Comuzie selected for WestTeach

Sarah Comuzie, a special education teacher at Camden Central High School, is a member of the second WestTeach class, sponsored by UTM’s WestStar Leadership Program. Comuzie is one of 22 educators from across the region to participate in the 2019-20 program, which seeks to connect West Tennessee’s teachers with the region’s communities and industries and give them increased insight into the economic needs and opportunities of the area.

Comuzie has taught in Benton County Schools for 19 years. She graduated from CHS in 1994, then attended Jackson State Community College and UTM. In 1999 she earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education K-12, then added an algebra endorsement in 2014 to teach algebra and integrated math. In 2017, Comuzie became certified as a Work-Based Learning Coordinator.

The WestTeach program provides professional development for participants over a 5-month period. Program sessions are held across West Tennessee, and topics include West Tennessee agriculture, entrepreneurship, the humanity of leadership, partnerships for economic development, and industry tours.

All applicants were nominated by their principals and directors of schools, and selected based on leadership achievements and the potential to contribute to the region’s education system. One teacher per school district may be selected each year, with no more than 30 members per class.

"I am very excited about the chance to participate in WestTeach!" Comuzie said. "With the implementation of the Work-Based Learning program at CHS this year, it is a perfect opportunity for me to gain insight about economic needs and opportunities available to our students. It gives me the chance to network with businesses throughout our region to find out what they are looking for in employees, so that I can better prepare my students for competitive employment after graduation."
The University of Tennessee at Martin held its Legacy Luncheon on Aug. 22, an annual event for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UTM. Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed students and their families as they arrived on campus.

The Office of Alumni Affairs also announced two scholarship recipients during the luncheon. There were a few legacy students in attendance from Benton County. Matthew Blow, son of William and Labriska Blow of Camden, plans to study mechanical engineering. Sarah Caruthers, daughter of Marty and Susan Caruthers of Big Sandy, will study nursing. Lauren Medlin, daughter of Chris and Amanda Medlin of Camden, plans to study chemistry.

UTM wishes these legacy students great success as they pursue their respective degrees. For more information about legacy programs at UTM, visit utmforever.com or contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 731-881-7610.

WestStar is accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the UTM WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2020. This program, the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee, boasts 856 graduates to date and will celebrate its 30th anniversary this fall.

WestStar's mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee's economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles. The program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary issues important to West Tennessee's development. These include agriculture, transportation, economic development, public policy, education, tourism, and technology.

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

Each seminar takes place over a day and a half. The program begins Dec. 10 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 25, 2020, with an evening graduation ceremony. For more information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/weststar. The application deadline is Oct. 11. Anyone can apply; nominations are accepted but not required.
Union City, Tenn.- A large and enthusiastic crowd was on hand for the Obion County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Thursday night at Discovery Park of America. The event was sold out, with some 300 in attendance.

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver was guest speaker, while the event emcees were Chamber President Donnie Walton and Art Sparks of the Joint Economic Development Council.

Annual awards were presented to:

**Business of the Year:**
Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs

**Industry of year:**
Vaughn Electric, which is celebrating 70 years in business

**Small Business:**
Twin Oaks Technology

**Ag Business of the year:**
Green Plains of Obion

**Ambassador of year:**
Rachael McKinney

**Young Professional:**
Jessica Gibson

**Board Member:**
Mary Nita Bondurant

Photo: Chancellor Carver speaks at the event. Photo by Amy Keathley
Two music events this weekend at UTM

Two special events are planned for this weekend at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Saturday, the guest artist series continues with the Lalo and Friends Salsa Band, a horn-blowing Afro-Cuban ensemble made up of award-winning Nashville session musicians led by percussionist Lalo Davila. Salsa in the Quad will also feature food trucks, a 4:30 p.m. dance lesson, and a 5 p.m. performance. Admission is free.

Then on Sunday, the State Line Saxophone Ensemble will kick off its inaugural season at 5 p.m. with Rocktoberfest in the Blankenship Recital Hall. This is a newly-formed group of exceptional high school students, college music students and area music educators.

This event will feature arrangements of tunes by Journey, The Beatles and Van Halen alongside more classical fare to celebrate this season. Admission is $5 for adults and $1 for students with an ID.

Businesses, individuals honored by economic development council

By DONNA RYDER
Associate Editor

Teamwork.

Whether it's a sports team, a community organization or a business, the unit is always going to work better as a team.

University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, who was the guest speaker at the Obion County Joint Economic Development Council banquet Thursday evening at Discovery Park of America, used the Jan. 12, 1969, American Football League (AFL) champion New York Jets' win over the National Football League (NFL) champion Baltimore Colts for the first Super Bowl victory for the AFL as an example.

He said the Jets had everything going against them, except they had a brush young superstar in Joe Namath, who just happened to "guarantee" a win for the AFL.

The Jets were also led by coach Weeb Ewbank, who had taken the Baltimore Colts to NFL championships in 1958 and 1959 before being dismissed in 1962.

Carver said Ewbank had five traits that lead to a great team. They include:

1. Show gratitude. He said Ewbank was always quick to praise the players.
2. Invest in people. He said Ewbank took the time to get to know each of the players on his team.
3. Listen. He said Ewbank listened and learned from others and was incredibly approachable. Carver said the coach actually changed the game plan of that Super Bowl matchup just three days before it was

(See Page 5, Col. 4)
Businesses....  
(Continued from Page 1)
played based on the recommendations of some of his players.

4. Celebrate achievement. He said even when the team did not win, Ewbank found the good in each game and celebrated the achievements.

5. Be someone worthy of trust. Carver said Ewbank realized every situation was different and he knew he had to build trust. He demonstrated habits to show he was worthy of trust. “When we build trust, there is no telling where we can go,” Carver said.

“Think about it for Obion County. Think about it for northwest Tennessee... Who are the Joe Namaths in Obion County who can carry the message? Who are the veteran players with great knowledge and wisdom? Who are the rookies with potential and energy needing guidance? Those people are here tonight,” he said, adding, “I can’t wait to see what the future holds for Obion County.”

Following his presentation, master of ceremonies Art Sparks and Obion County Chamber of Commerce president Donnie Walton presented the awards.

Winners included:
• Ambassador of the Year: Rachael McKinney
• Young Professional of the Year: Jessica Gibson
• Board Member of the Year: Mary Nita Bondurant
• Business of the Year: Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC

This award recognizes a community leader who donates his or her time to Obion County Chamber activities and events and is based on a point system for those activities. Ambassadors serve as the meet and greet team for events and are a front-line representative for the chamber. Ms. McKinney attended countless ribbon cuttings, Very Important Business Events and other chamber events.

This award recognizes the county's agriculture achievement.

Green Plains Obion has been in the community since 2008. It employs more than 50 people.

The business produces 340,000 gallons of ethanol, 12,000 gallons of corn oil and 850 tons of distillers grain for livestock feed per day. Ninety percent of the company's ethanol stays in the local area. Ninety percent of the corn used by the company comes from the local area and 30 percent of the feed produced is used in the local market.

This company collectively has impacted Obion County and the entire region for more than 20 years. Its economic impact includes $33,679,109 in annual payroll, $16,674,846 in annual payroll to growers, $17,795,785 in annual local grain purchases, $5,199,713 in expenditures with local vendors and $85,000 in donations to non-profit organizations, which includes $35,000 for the Obion County Public Library construction.

Tyson is currently expanding its operations. Its staff of 1,108 employees is expected to increase to 1,720 after the expansion.

Agriculture Business of the Year: Green Plains Obion

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Obion County. She is also a member of Union City J'Cettes, volunteers with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Tennessee and served as co-chair for her Adult Leadership Obion County class project to make renovations at the Boys & Girls Club.

* Business Partner of the Year: Center Point Business Solutions
This award is presented to a business or organization in Obion County which has gone above and beyond to be a community partner, be it donating time, money or resources.

The company has always taken pride in investing in the community through supporting many local nonprofits and school organizations. Most recently, it partnered with the chamber to offer soft skills training to middle schools across the northwest Tennessee region.

* You Made It Happen Award: Tyson Foods
This award recognizes a community leader who donates his or her time to Obion County Chamber activities and other community events or to a business owner/manager who best exemplifies their generosity in giving time, money, staff and/or facility for community benefit.

This award is presented to an industry which has invested large workforce efforts in Obion County to continue job creation and community prosperity.

Vaughn Electric is celebrating 70 years in 2019, having started in 1949 with three employees. It opened as Bishop & Vaughn, with co-founder Charlie Vaughn buying out his partner in 1966 to form Vaughn Electric Company Inc.

Since its opening, the company has expanded its facility five times and presently employs 48 people. In 2005, the company purchased Kagmo Electric Co. In 2008, Consolidated Crane Service was established to help the company expand into the hoist and crane industry performing inspections and repairs. In 2017, it purchased Tennessee Electric Motor in Nashville, in order to reach a larger region.

The motor shop is up-to-date with high-tech equipment that allows for the remanufacturing and testing of each component. The goal of the motor shop is to produce a product that is better than OEM standards. Its employees are highly-trained and have many years' experience.

Vaughn Electric is in the process of building a new building. It will house the electricians' service trucks and serve as the headquarters of the automation department.

Associate Editor Donna Ryder can be contacted by email at dryder@ucmessenger.com.

ANNUAL BANQUET — University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver (from right), who served as the guest speaker at the Obion County Joint Economic Development Council banquet Thursday evening, was joined by his wife, Hollianne, as they spoke with master of ceremonies Art Sparks and Tyson Foods-Union City complex manager Keith Riley prior to the start of the program. Tyson Foods was awarded the You Made It Happen Award, while Sparks' company — Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC — received the Business of the Year Award.
September was full of opportunities for our Miss Tennessee Volunteer, Kerry Arnold to S.E.R.V.E. our great state of Tennessee. She traveled over 2,200 miles, spoke to over 4,000 students and made 37 total appearances all across the state.

Kerri started September participating in the many events that surrounded the 26th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival in Martin, Tennessee. She was able to travel to schools in Martin with UTM Chancellor, Keith Carver, attend concerts, and participate in the Soybean Festival Parade in downtown Martin. Kerri wrapped up her time at the 26th Annual Soybean Festival as a guest of the Mayor during the Annual Mayor’s Luncheon.

Pageant season is also in full swing and September had no shortage of smart, outstanding and beautiful young ladies vying for a preliminary title and the chance to compete for Miss Tennessee Volunteer. During September, nine young women were crowned across the state in various Miss Tennessee Volunteer preliminaries. Kerri not only emceed, assisted with crowning the new winners, encouraged the contestants in each program, and also performed during these local competitions.

The coveted state crown also takes Kerri to local civic groups, senior groups, as well as county fairs. She continued her school visits, spreading her Character Education message to students about her Pillar of...
Miss

Continued from Page 1C

Character Education: Caring. Kerri was also able to visit Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville to spend time with patients and she also appeared on News Channel 5's Talk of the Town on behalf of Children's Hospital. Later in the month, she was also able to tour and visit with patients of St. Jude Research Hospital in Memphis.

Kerri ended September closer to home at the Benton County Fair. As a past Fairest of the Fair for Benton County, as well as a former Tennessee Association of Fairs Queen, this was a very special event for Kerri. She emcees the fair events throughout the week and loved reuniting with all of her fair family.

If you are thinking this job is no joke, you are correct. For 30 days, Kerri averaged talking to 133 students per day, made 1.2 appearances each day and traveled over 75 miles every day. Regardless of the miles, Kerri never ceases to smile and make every single person she encounters feel special. We hope you meet her along the way this year.

Kerri Arnold won Miss Tennessee Volunteer this past June. Each month, the leadership from the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Organization will submit a review of how Kerri represents the organization each month in various events across the state.
HILL, PIERCE, NUNNELLYS TO BE HONORED DURING UT MARTIN HOMECOMING 2019

HILL, PIERCE, NUNNELLYS TO BE HONORED DURING UT MARTIN HOMECOMING 2019

MARTIN, Tenn. – Mary-Katherine Hill, of Memphis; Chris Pierce, of Savannah; and Bill and Roseann Nunnelly, of Nashville, will be honored at Martin during homecoming festivities Nov. 2.

The awards will be presented during the annual Chancellor’s Brunch and Alumni Awards Program prior to the opening of Quad City, and award the homecoming football game against Jacksonville State. The game begins at 2 p.m. in Hardy Graham Stadium, and tickets are available in advance on gameday.

Hill will receive the 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni Award, which honors a university alum under 40 years of age for outstanding achievement. Hill is a UT Martin graduate with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. She currently works to provide a safe haven for foster children and others in the Arrow’s Nest.

Pierce will receive the 2019 Outstanding Alumni Award, which honors a university alum over 40 years of age for outstanding achievement. Pierce is the president of Design Sign Team Company, LLC, in Savannah, Tennessee. He earned a UT Martin bachelor’s degree in business administration and became a successful entrepreneur.

Design Sign Team Company is a one-stop-shop for corporations looking for exterior signage, branding and interior products, and the company has worked with clients such as Queen, McAllister’s Deli, Shoe Department and Applebee’s, among others.

Bill and Roseann Nunnelly will receive the 2019 Chancellor's Award for University Service, which honors an individual or individuals for exceptional service to the university. The Nunnellys announced a $22 million bequest to the university to fund the education of rural Tennessee students for generations to come.

Bill Nunnelly earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from UT Martin in 1970 and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. He participated in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the ROTC program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant following graduation. He has been active in his business interests over the years, becoming a successful entrepreneur.

A complete schedule of homecoming events is available atutmforever.edu/homecoming. For more information on university homecoming events, visit 7610.

10/8/2019
We are pleased to award the Paul Oliver Memorial Scholarship this year because of the generous $500 donation from Alex and Kate Bynum. To earn this scholarship, a student must have participated in FFA for at least two years and must attend UTM.

Paul Oliver was a friend of education in every sense. He merited the respect and honor of his colleagues and students alike.

Paul was a true friend, a compassionate and loving father and a devoted husband. The influence of his life on the students he taught cannot be measured, but will be remembered by all who were touched by his wisdom and character.

Hart is this year’s very deserving recipient of the Paul Oliver Memorial Scholarship. Hart has been active with and involved in FFA throughout all four years in high school, even serving as President of the Gleason Chapter this year.

Hart was an integral part of the 2018 Ag Mechanics team that competed at State.

He has also been a member of the Land Judging team that has won First Place in District One for four years in a row.
Moseley named Fire Prevention Festival Grand Marshal

Each year, the annual Fire Prevention Festival in Greenfield pays homage to a community member with deep roots in the town of the Yellowjackets. This year’s honor of grand marshal of the 31st annual Fire Prevention Festival is bestowed to lifelong Greenfield resident Bob Moseley.

Moseley graduated from Greenfield High School in 1972. He furthered his education at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he earned his master’s in Electrical Engineering in 1977. Moseley returned to Greenfield as a managing partner in his family-owned business, EJ Brock & Co., a staple in the Greenfield community for 100 years. Shortly after taking on that role in the family business, Moseley ventured out to found Moseley Incorporated in Greenfield where he served as information technology consultant. The business is still in operation today.

Moseley recently retired from his post as a 17-year instructor in video conferencing technical support as well as computer science on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Throughout the years, Moseley has invested countless hours serving his local community. He spent 42 years as a Rotarian and been a judge for science fairs at the Greenfield School and other Weakley County schools. He has been a board member for more than 30 years of Greenfield Banking Co. Moseley attends First Presbyterian Church where he serves as an elder.

He is the son of Harold and Dorothy Moseley. He and his wife of 30 years, Alaine Moseley, reside in Greenfield. Moseley is the father of Elena Miller of Greenfield, Sara Miller of Murray, Kentucky, and Jennifer Arnold and husband Brian of Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He is the proud grandfather of Mary Kate Bertel Kamp and Nicolas and Will Mitchum.

As Moseley’s favorite pasttime is walking his dogs, he will help lead the annual Fire Prevention Festival Parade Saturday.

UTM to host fall preview day

High school juniors and seniors who are considering UT Martin for their college careers are invited to attend the first Fall Preview Day of 2019 from 9 a.m.-noon, Oct. 19, in the UTM Boling University Center. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from a panel of current students and speak with representatives from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs, and various academic programs. The schedule also includes a walking tour of the UT Martin main campus and visits to each student’s academic department of interest.

Pre-registration at utm.edu/previewday will make sure students are able to visit the academic department of choice and speak with faculty members in their areas of interest. There is no charge to attend.

The Boling University Center is located at 61 Mt. Pelia Rd. in Martin. Parking is available in the lots immediately in front of the building and across the street. A second Fall Preview Day will be held Nov. 16.

For information, visit utm.edu/previewday or contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
UT Martin to host Fall Preview Day

High school juniors and seniors who are considering the University of Tennessee at Martin for their college careers are invited to attend the first Fall Preview Day of 2019 from 9 a.m. to noon, Oct. 19, in the UT Martin Boling University Center. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from a panel of current students and speak with representatives from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs, and various academic programs. The schedule also includes a walking tour of the UT Martin main campus and visits to each student's academic department of interest. Pre-registration at utm.edu/previewday will make sure students are able to visit the academic department of choice and speak with faculty members in their areas of interest. There is no charge to attend.

The Boling University Center is located at 61 Mt. Peila Rd. in Martin. (Continued from page 3)

Parking is available in the lots immediately in front of the building and across the street. No parking permits will be needed on this day. A second Fall Preview Day event will be held Nov. 16 for those unable to attend the October date.

For more information, visit utm.edu/previewday or contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.

(Continued on page 4)

Deadline Approaching For Miss UTM/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant

Deadline Approaching For Miss UTM/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant

http://www.wenkwtpr.com

Photo: Amanda Mayo, of Lilburn, Georgia, served as Miss UT Martin 2019.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin / Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 26, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. The deadline to apply for the competition is Oct. 14.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 57th year, and this is the 21st year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles will be chosen in the same night. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2020 semester are eligible for either crown. Beginning this year, a UT Martin graduate currently working toward an additional degree at another Tennessee institution, is also eligible to compete for the Miss UT Martin title. All women participating as residents or full-time students in Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Potential candidates for both titles should consult the contestant packet for full eligibility requirements.

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

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no financial award for runners-up in the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will serve as the governor’s spokesperson for character education across the state and receive $25,000 in scholarship money.

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

The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wjit.org or 731-881-7561.

STATE GAZETTE | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019

Future Star Leadership Summit

DMS was proud to nominate two 8th grade students to attend the Future Star Leadership Summit. David Calderon and Zaykah Wallace were chosen to attend the Summit at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This leadership program is designed for West Tennessee’s students who are future leaders!
UTM to host Miss UTM, Miss Soybean pageants in October

October 9, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held October 26 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The pageant is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. The deadline to apply is October 14.

This year marks the 57th year for the Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant and the 21st annual Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival.

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarships. Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student, or $500 if she is not enrolled at UTM.

The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and second runner-up will receive $200.

There is no financial award for Miss Tennessee Soybean runners-up.

Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant hosted in Jackson next summer.

Tickets are available at the Boling University Center Welcome Desk or outside Watkins Auditorium. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door at 5 p.m. the night of the pageant.

Categories: Local News, News
Total enrollment increases at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin reports 7,296 students enrolled this fall semester, including both undergraduate and graduate-level students.

This shows a 3.2 percent total increase over the fall 2018 enrollment numbers with the largest increases appearing at the graduate level and in dual-enrollment courses.

There are 517 graduate students studying at UT Martin this fall — a 37.9 percent increase over fall 2018. This includes 113 first-time graduate students and 29 readmitted or returning students.

Undergraduate enrollment stands at 6,779 — a 1.3 percent increase from last fall. Dual-enrollment courses, which offer college credit to high school students across the region, report a 17.4 percent increase over fall 2018 for a total of 1,422 students currently enrolled in at least one course.

The fall 2019 freshman cohort, which includes first-time freshmen who started classes during both the summer and fall semesters, includes 1,160 students for a 1.5 percent increase in the first-time freshman class over fall 2018. The freshman class has shown steady increases since fall 2016.

"We are excited to see these students start their journeys here at UT Martin, and we will do everything we can to make sure their time here prepares them to be productive, engaged members of their communities," UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. "We are already building connections with every eligible high school student in Tennessee from sophomore year on, and we are now building an aggressive out-of-state recruitment plan as well. I believe we will continue to see these numbers rise as more and more students come to realize what a wonderful place UT Martin is to spread their wings."

Total university enrollment has continued to grow over the past three years with an increase of 500 undergraduate students and 591 students overall since fall 2016. Freshman-to-sophomore retention rates also increased 1 percent this year, up to 74.5 percent from 73.7 percent.

The current student body represents 44 states and 21 international countries.

Campus master plan discussed by board

The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met recently to discuss the university’s strategic enrollment plan and updates to the campus master plan.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, discussed the university’s strategic enrollment plan, which is currently being constructed in cooperation with Ruffalo Noel Levitz (RNL).

RNL has decades of experience working with higher education institutions to develop comprehensive plans for enrollment, marketing, and other areas. Cavalier said this process will look at all areas of student recruitment, retention and success in order to help the university anticipate both enrollment and budget numbers at least five years in advance.

"(This plan) is comprehensive in scope. We're talking about ... marketing; we're talking about recruitment; we're talking about matriculation; we're talking about retention and persistence to graduation. We're not just talking about the front end," he said. "We're talking about 'How do we get students interested?' and 'How do we get them here and keep them here so that they graduate?'"

Cavalier said the process will also involve extensive research to determine needs for new and existing academic programs and other aspects of student life.

Dr. Keith Carver, university chancellor, presented the board with updated information regarding the final enrollment numbers for the fall 2019 semester, which show increases in first-time freshmen and overall student headcount.

Carver says the university is planning an aggressive out-of-state recruiting plan for the coming years.

Dr. Tim Nipp, director of the UT Martin Physical Plant, discussed potential campus plans to consolidate Greek life housing in the vicinity of the Sorority Village lodges on Peach Street; update available campus housing options; add outdoor pavilion and social spaces to existing buildings; and purchase additional land to expand housing and parking areas.

The construction of the new Latimer Engineering and Science Building on the southeast corner of the existing campus quadrangle will anchor the secondary quad. The Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building will also undergo renovations.
UT Martin to host Fall Preview Day

High school juniors and seniors who are considering the University of Tennessee at Martin for their college careers are invited to attend the first Fall Preview Day of 2019 from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 19 at the UT Martin Boling University Center.

Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from representatives from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs, as well as various academic programs. The schedule also includes a walking tour of the UT Martin main campus and visits to each student's academic department of interest.

Pre-registration at utm.edu/previewday will make sure students are able to visit the academic department of choice and speak with faculty members in their areas of interest. There is no charge to attend.

The Boling University Center is located at 61 Mount Pelia Road in Martin. Parking is available in the lots immediately in front of the building and across the street. No parking permits will be needed on this day.

LEGACY LUNCHEON — Hayden Wilson (center) of Union City plans to study computer science at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He and his parents, Charlie and Stacy Wilson ('95) recently attended the university's legacy luncheon. The event is held annually for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UT Martin. The students and their families were greeted by Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver as they arrived on campus.
ATTEND LUNCHEON — Dayton Thompson (left) of Union City plans to study political science at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He and his friend Emily Searcy recently attended the university's legacy luncheon, an annual event for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UT Martin. Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver welcomed students and their families as they arrived on campus.

LUNCH AT UTM — Brycen Rainey (right) of Obion plans to study agricultural engineering at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He and his mother, Judy Rainey ('87), recently attended UT Martin's legacy luncheon, an annual event for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UT Martin. The students and their families were welcomed by Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver as they arrived on campus.

ATWILLS ATTEND — Austin Atwill (center) of Union City plans to study sports business at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he and his parents, Christy ('90) and Craig Atwill ('90), attended the recent legacy luncheon. The annual event is staged for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UT Martin. Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed students and their families as they arrived on campus.
WHALEYS WELCOMED — Jackson Whaley (right) of Union City plans to study computer science at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He and his father, Raphe Whaley ('89), were among those who attended the university’s recent legacy luncheon, an annual event for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UT Martin. Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver welcomed students and their families as they arrived on campus.

SUITERS INCLUDED — Will Suiter (left) of Union City plans to study computer science at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he and his father, Eddie Suiter ('92, '96), attended the recent legacy luncheon, an annual event for freshmen who have at least one parent or grandparent who graduated from UT Martin. As students and their families arrived on campus, they were welcomed by Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.
UT system leads student enrollment growth as the state's colleges see attendance jump

Jason Gonzalez, Nashville Tennessean  Published 10:55 a.m. CT Oct. 10, 2019

College enrollment across Tennessee increased slightly this fall, with the University of Tennessee system seeing the most pronounced growth.

Overall, 1,541 more students enrolled in Tennessee's colleges during the fall semester, bringing total enrollment to 225,865 — or 0.7% student population increase over fall 2018.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission executive director Mike Krause characterized the jump as a "shallow enrollment increase." He said in several states surrounding Tennessee, enrollment is down.

"A slight increase in this environment, where there is declining enrollment in other states, is a positive indicator," Krause said.

With the state increasingly focused on graduating students, Krause said to lawmakers on Thursday during a presentation that enrollment is still important for the schools the commission helps oversee.

"Our fiscal health depends on enrollment," Krause said.

**University of Tennessee system increases**

The University of Tennessee campuses in Knoxville and Martin helped lead the way for the system's 2.4% enrollment growth over last year.

The system enrolled 51,582 students this fall.

Krause attributed the three-point increase at Knoxville to the school's focus on attracting students from out of state. The school enrolls fewer students from outside of Tennessee than some of its peers, he said.

Martin's growth is a turnaround from previous years, Krause said, when the school lost its accreditation. The school's chancellor has taken enrollment "personally," Krause said.

**University of Tennessee system enrollment**

![University of Tennessee system enrollment chart](https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/759013/)

**Flat enrollment elsewhere**

Overall, locally governed institutions that include schools such as the University of Memphis and Tennessee State University saw a modest overall increase.

Enrollment increased to 86,440 among the six schools, or a 0.6% student population increase over last fall.

Both Memphis and TSU, however, saw increases. Memphis' growth is likely attributed to its focus on education offerings, Krause said. And Tennessee State University's four percentage point increase in enrollment is likely driven by the school's focus on computer coding.
The state's community colleges enrolled 87,863 students this fall, or a 0.2% dip in total enrollment. The decrease, however, can be described as flat, Krause said.

But two schools saw significant declines.

Nashville State Community College enrollment is down almost five percentage points over last year. Dyersburg Community College also experienced a 4.6% dip in enrollment.

Krause said Nashville State is operating in an incredibly tough environment where prospective students opt to work rather than go to school. He said that is usually the case in a strong economy, where students prioritize the opportunity to earn money over further schooling.
Tennessee Higher Education Increases Enrollment for the Fourth Consecutive Year

October 10, 2019

Nashville, TN – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) today released the latest student enrollment data for the fall 2019 semester, indicating an increase of 1,541 students, which is a 0.7% increase compared with 2018.

This is our fourth year of continued enrollment growth in Tennessee.

“This is our fourth year of continued enrollment growth in Tennessee. It is encouraging to see our state's continued momentum at a time when many states are experiencing a decline in higher education enrollment,” said THEC Executive Director Mike Krause.

“This indicates progress toward our goal of having 55% of Tennesseans with a degree beyond high school, and most importantly, our ability to ensure an educated workforce,” Krause stated.

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) reported that 87,863 students enrolled in community colleges this fall, with Cleveland State and Roane State Community Colleges experiencing the largest growth at 3.2% and 3.1%, respectively.

The University of Tennessee (UT) system’s enrollment is up due to increases at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the University of Tennessee, Martin. Overall, enrollment at UT institutions increased 2.4% over last fall.

Among locally governed institutions (LGIs), significant increases occurred at both the University of Memphis and Tennessee State University.

About the Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly. The Commission develops, implements, and evaluates postsecondary education policies and programs in Tennessee while coordinating the state’s systems of higher education, and is relentlessly focused on increasing the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential.

Tennessee Higher Education Enrollment Comparison, 2018-19
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tennessee Board of Regents</th>
<th>Fall 2019</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chattanooga State Community College</td>
<td>8,050</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland State Community College</td>
<td>3,370</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia State Community College</td>
<td>6,317</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyersburg State Community College</td>
<td>2,840</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson State Community College</td>
<td>4,888</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motlow State Community College</td>
<td>6,998</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville State Community College</td>
<td>7,885</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland State Community College</td>
<td>6,085</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pellissippi State Community College</td>
<td>10,700</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roane State Community College</td>
<td>5,861</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Tennessee Community College</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer State Community College</td>
<td>9,150</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walters State Community College</td>
<td>6,280</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>87,863</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LGIs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Fall 2019</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin Peay State University*</td>
<td>10,616</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Tennessee State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
<td>21,721</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee State University*</td>
<td>8,088</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee Technological University</td>
<td>10,140</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Memphis</td>
<td>21,685</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>86,440</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**UT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Fall 2019</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee, Chattanooga</td>
<td>11,590</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</td>
<td>29,460</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee, Martin</td>
<td>7,280</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tennessee Health Science Center</td>
<td>3,252</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>51,582</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRAND TOTAL** | 225,885 | 0.7% |

Note: *In this table, the fall 2018 comparison reflects APSU's Fall I count, which is comparable to their Fall 2019 data (this excludes the Fall II count at Fort Campbell).

**The increase in headcount total year over year for TSU can be partially explained by significant growth in their graduate school headcount due to a new single course offering in coding.**
Fall Preview Day  
Set At UT Martin

High school juniors and seniors who are considering the University of Tennessee at Martin for their college careers are invited to attend the first Fall Preview Day of 2019 from 9 a.m. through noon, October 19th, in the UT Martin Boling University Center.

Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from a panel of current students and speak with representatives from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life and multicultural affairs, and various academic programs. The schedule also includes a walking tour of the UT Martin main campus and visits to each student’s academic department of interest.

Pre-registration at utm.edu/previewday will make sure students are able to visit the academic department of choice and speak with faculty members in their areas of interest. There is no charge to attend.

The Boling University Center is located at 61 Mt. Pelia Rd. in Martin. Parking is available in the lots immediately in front of the building and across the street. No parking permits will be needed on this day. A second Fall Preview Day event is scheduled to be held November 16th for those unable to attend the October date.

For more information, visit utm.edu/previewday or contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
UT Martin alumni to receive awards

Mary-Katherine Hill, of Memphis; Chris Pierce, of Savannah; and Bill and Roseann Nunnelly, of Nashville, will be honored with alumni awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during homecoming festivities Nov. 2.

Hill will receive the 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni Award, which honors a university alum under 40 years of age for outstanding achievement in his or her chosen profession. Hill is a 2012 UT Martin graduate with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She currently works to provide a safe haven for foster children and others in need in the Memphis Area through her non-profit, the Arrow's Nest.

Pierce will receive the 2019 Outstanding Alumni Award, which honors a university alum over 40 years of age for outstanding achievement in his or her chosen profession. Pierce is the owner and president of Design Sign Team Company, LLC, in Savannah, Tennessee. He earned a UT Martin bachelor's degree in business administration in 1990 and formed his current business with his brother in 1993.

Bill and Roseann Nunnelly will receive the 2019 Chancellor's Award for University Service, which honors an individual or individuals for exemplary service to the university. In summer 2019, the Nunnellys announced a $22 million bequest to the university to fund the education of rural Tennessee students for generations to come. Bill Nunnelly earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from UT Martin in 1970 and later earned a Master of Education from Boston University. While enrolled at UT Martin, he participated in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the ROTC program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant following graduation. He completed his military service and pursued various business interests over the years, becoming a successful entrepreneur.

A complete schedule of homecoming events is available at utmforever.edu/homecoming.

BOYD VISITS MCWHERTER INSTITUTE — University of Tennessee System Interim President Randy Boyd visited the University of Tennessee at Martin Sept. 30 and spoke with students from the Ned Ray McWherter Institute about the tools of leadership.

BOYD SPEAKS WITH STUDENTS — Interim President of the University of Tennessee System Randy Boyd, is shown discussing higher education policy with UTM students in Dr. Anderson Starling's public policy course. Boyd discussed his background and previous experience as a business owner and his current work in higher education. The class also discussed some of Boyd's high-profile programs, such as Tennessee Promise, Tennessee Achieves and the Drive to 55.
DEDICATION OF NEW FRATERNITY HOUSE — A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Sept. 28 to dedicate the new Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house located at 308 Hannings Lane next to the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. The house features a social gathering room named for the late Jamie Duncan, a past SAE member, and the chapter hall is named for the late Dr. Ted James, a UT Martin biological sciences faculty member and the chapter’s first advisor. Approximately 700 members have been initiated since the chapter was chartered in 1972. Phase two of the project has been approved by the SAE House Corporation board and will add living quarters to the property. Pictured (from left) are: Past House Corporation President Sid McMillan of Memphis; UT-Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver; Chapter Presidents Jake Scott, a senior engineering major from Camden; Chris Gunlefinger and Rachel Stephens, who are assistant directors for student life.
Singer, songwriter Tennessee Bob

By BRANDY COCHRAN
Special to The Press

If you heard the title “Tennessee Bob,” what would be the first image to come to mind? A moonshiner in Appalachia country? A famous Memphis barbecue team? Or maybe even a new country western line dance straight out of Nashville. Whatever the image may be, retired French professor gone singer-songwriter is probably toward the bottom of that list. Nevertheless, Martin is home to the one and only “Tennessee” Bob Peckham, who has made such a large impact on the arts in Martin that has been taking place in Martin over the past years, and he wants to keep his work community-focused and celebrated as he can. Songs like “Soybean Stompin’ Grounds” that local musicians appreciate and “Let’s All Kick ASCAP,” which criticizes the music agency’s attack on up and coming musicians’ autonomy to make a living, referred to the idea that Martin is, indeed an artistic town; it’s just smaller in size than others. Speaking of which, Peckham was also involved in the Martin music project Small Town Big Sound, which produced four albums that featured local talent in the area at the time, including Keith Paluso, The Voice finalist and current lead singer for Blood, Sweat and Tears. Paluso’s time spent in Martin was a major steppingstone in his musical career path, and this trend just keeps continuing with talent coming in and out of Martin on a regular basis.

Tennessee Bob at A.B. Cheatham's open mic night

Cheatham’s Open Mic Night as a place to grow as artists. Creating connections and trying out new material to the ever-uplifting audience. Peckham describes the Friday night crowd as a “therapeutic atmosphere” that has opened his ears to new music. He believes AB Cheatham’s, though, is only a platform for the core group of performers, expressing that he believes there is much more to blossom from the magic that is happening downtown.

For now, though, you can see Tennessee Bob for yourself this Friday night at one of the many performing throughout the night from 7-10 p.m. at AB Cheatham’s Downtown Tavern. This week, Tennessee Bob will be introducing a new song to help bring in the cooler months, titled “Frost Time,” as well as a healthy mix of his originals and favorite covers. If you find yourself being a Tennessee Bob fan, make sure to contact his daughter, Suzanne Harper, for a t-shirt printed with his face and logo. That way, when you tell friends you’re a Tennessee Bob fan, they’ll know you mean the musician and not a barbecue team.


UT Promise could be key to debt-free future of college-bound students

By ALYSSA HOPPER
Special to The Messenger

Paying for college isn’t an easy thing to do. Students are expected to apply to get scholarships, grants and loans to help pay the steep expenses associated with furthering their education. The scariest thing occurs when scholarships and grants don’t cover tuition and students must cover that with loans.

Student loans can add up fast and before long, college students accumulate a loan tab that can take years to pay off.

There have been very few steps taken federally to lessen the debt for college students; but with unrealistic grade point restrictions and always increasing tuition fees, those measures haven’t helped much. However, the State of Tennessee has announced it will implement a new program called UT Promise.

The UT Promise program was revealed to Obion County Central High School’s Class of 2020 by University of Tennessee interim president Randy Boyd and University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver in person on Sept. 24. The news was welcomed with many hopeful thoughts for the future.

Boyd and Carver visited OCCHS seniors to explain everything about the UT Promise program and were welcomed by a crowd of cheering students after being escorted to the school’s commons area by the OCCHS Marching Rebels Drumline.

During the 30-minute program, both men elaborated on the exciting opportunities that UT Promise holds for students. They explained the basis for UT Promise is simple: If a student’s family has a yearly income under $50,000, the student is eligible for the program which allows that student to attend any University of Tennessee school tuition-free.

Many seniors at OC have already been accepted for the UT Promise program, including senior Brilee Miles.

When asked about her feelings on the program after being accepted to UTM, Miles’ words were filled with relief. “I’m really glad that I don’t have to worry about getting scholarships to pay for school and that my parents won’t have to worry about finding that money.” This program is a promise for a brighter and possibly debt-free future.
College enrollment across Tennessee increased slightly this fall, with the University of Tennessee system seeing the most pronounced growth.

Overall, 1,541 more students enrolled in Tennessee's colleges during the fall semester, bringing total enrollment to 225,885 — or 0.7% student population increase over fall 2018.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission executive director Mike Krause characterized the jump as a "shallow enrollment increase," he said in several states surrounding Tennessee, enrollment is down.

"A slight increase in this environment, where there is declining enrollment in other states, is a positive indicator," Krause said.

With the state increasingly focused on graduating students, Krause said to lawmakers on Thursday during a presentation that enrollment is still important for the schools the commission helps oversee.

"Our fiscal health depends on enrollment," Krause said.

The University of Tennessee system increases

The University of Tennessee campuses in Knoxville and Martin helped lead the way for the system's 2.4% enrollment growth over last year.

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Krause attributed the three-point increase at Knoxville to the school's focus on attracting students from out of state. The school enrolls fewer students from outside of Tennessee than some of its peers, he said.

Martin's growth is a turnaround from previous years, Krause said, when the school was placed on accreditation probation. The school's chancellor has taken enrollment "personally," Krause said.

Flat enrollment elsewhere

Overall, locally governed institutions that include schools such as the University of Memphis and Tennessee State University saw a modest overall increase.

Enrollment increased to 86,440 among the six schools, or a 0.6% student population increase over last fall.

Both Memphis and TSU, however, saw increases. Memphis' growth is likely attributed to its focus on education offerings, Krause said. And Tennessee State University's four percentage point increase in enrollment is likely driven by the school's focus on computer coding.

Community college student population dips

The state's community colleges enrolled 87,863 students this fall, or a 0.2% dip in total enrollment. The decrease, however, can be described as flat, Krause said.

But two schools saw significant declines.

Nashville State Community College enrollment is down almost five percentage points over last year. Dyersburg Community College also experienced a 4.6% dip in enrollment.

Krause said Nashville State is operating in an incredibly tough environment where prospective students opt to work rather than go to school. He said that is usually the case in a strong economy, where students prioritize the opportunity to earn money over further schooling.

Reach Jason Gonzales at jagonzales@tennessean.com and on Twitter @ByJasonGonzales.
Combined pageant slated for UT Martin on Oct. 26

MARTIN — The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 26 in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

The deadline to apply for the competition is today.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 57th year, and this is the 21st year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles will be chosen in the same night. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2020 semester are eligible for either crown. Beginning this year, a UT Martin graduate currently working toward an additional degree at another Tennessee institution, is also eligible to compete for the Miss UT Martin title. All women participating as residents or full-time students in Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Potential candidates for both titles should consult the contestant packet for full eligibility requirements.

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

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no financial award for runners-up in the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will serve as the governor’s spokesman for character education across the state and receive $25,000 in scholarship money.

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

The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director: kcobb@wljt.org or (731) 881-7561.

TO CROWN QUEEN — Miss University of Tennessee at Martin 2019 Amanda Mayo of Lilburn, Ga., will crown a new queen on Oct. 26.
UTM named among best buys

Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc. has included the University of Tennessee at Martin among "America's 100 Best College Buys" for the 14th consecutive year.

UT Martin is one of three Tennessee institutions included on this list, which also mentions the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Tennessee Technological University.

"For 14 consecutive years, UT Martin has maintained its position among 'America's 100 Best College Buys,' a select group of some of the most highly competitive institutions in American higher education. It has done so by focusing on providing a quality education at an exceptionally affordable cost, which very few colleges and universities can match," said Lewis Lindsey Jr., president of Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc.

To be considered for this listing, institutions must be accredited and offer four-year bachelor's degrees; offer full residential facilities including both residence halls and dining services; have had an entering freshman class in fall 2018 with an average high school grade point average of 3.54 and an average ACT score of 24. Both exceeded the national averages at 3.46 and 23, respectively.

When institutions on this list are ranked by the 2019-2020 cost of attendance — which includes tuition, fees, on-campus housing at double occupancy and the most common meal plan option — UT Martin comes in fourth in the nation for in-state students (total of $16,144) and second for out-of-state students (total of $22,184).

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

SEE UTM PAGE 6
SAE House Officially Opens

MARTIN (September 28) — A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Saturday to dedicate the new Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house located at 308 Hannings Lane, next to the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. The house features a social gathering room named for the late Jamie Duncan, a past SAE member, and the chapter hall is named for the late Dr. Ted James, a UT Martin biological sciences faculty member and the chapter's first advisor. Approximately 700 members have been initiated since the chapter was chartered in 1972. Phase two of the project has been approved by the SAE House Corporation board and will add living quarters to the property. Pictured (L to R) are Sid McMillan of Memphis, past house corporation president; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Jake Scott, a senior engineering major from Camden, chapter president; Chris Gunlefinger, assistant director for student life; and Rachel Stephens, assistant director for student life. Photo courtesy UT Martin
Medina hoops star Heather Butler inducted into UTM Hall of Fame

By Steve Short

Former Gibson Co. High School and UTM basketball star Heather Butler will be honored for her college career with induction in the Univ. of Tenn. Martin Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Nov. 2.

Ms. Butler, a Medina native, will be among six inductees enshrined at the 36th annual Letter Winner's Breakfast at the Russell Duncan Ballroom at the UTM Boling University Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

"Making the decision to go to UTM was one of the best decisions I've ever made, which is why it's such an honor to be inducted into UTM's Hall of Fame," said Butler, now an assistant coach at Smyrna High School.

"I can't tell you how blessed I am, to have been able to go and grow at a place where people supported you no matter what," she added. "Not only did I gain some of the best moments and memories of my life, I gained loved ones who I now call family and life lessons I'll take with me for the rest of my life."

"Some of my proudest moments at UTM were winning four straight OVC titles," she said. "During those four years, it was amazing to play against the toughest teams, and prove to so many, that even though we might be a mid-major D1 school, we could still show you what UTM women's basketball was all about - grit, determination, relentlessness, and family who fights together and never gives up."

She remembers "like it was yesterday" the OVC tournament her junior year. "Each game was tough, and it looked like we were going to lose, but somehow we dug down and came together as a team and pulled through to win the championship! Every game was a nail biter, but that's who we were. We played until the clock struck zero. Day in and day out, we poured so much into growing as a team both on and off the court, and it paid off in the end."

"Sometimes I sit back and think about all the times I shared wearing that UTM jersey, and I get overwhelmed with how thankful and proud I am to have been able to help make history with some of the best girls and coaches," Butler said. "If it wasn't for playing at UTM and being coached by Coach (Kevin) McMillan and Coach (David) Russell, I wouldn't have had the professional career I did, being able to have my dreams come true, playing for San Antonio in the WNBA, or playing in Poland, Sweden or Iceland. It's just surreal. They pushed me to limits I didn't even know I had and for that I'm grateful."

"Now, being the new assistant coach at Smyrna High School, I've made a transition, to be able to take what I've learned and help mold and push other girls to see their own potential," Butler added. "It's definitely different being on the other side of things, but I'm enjoying the ride and every step of the way, to see where God takes me."

At Gibson Co. High School (2006-10), Butler played on three state tournament teams, leading the Lady Pioneers to two state titles (2009-10) and a 70-1 record. She was the 2010 Class AA state tournament MVP, TSSAA Class AA Miss Basketball finalist, and Jackson Sun 2010 West Tenn. Player of the Year. She set a state tournament scoring record with 93 points in three games and is Gibson Co. High School's all-time leading scorer with 2,289 points.


Reservations for the Hall of Fame ceremony can be made until Oct. 28 for $15 per person, which includes breakfast. Contact Trudy Henderson at (731) 881-7630 or trudyh@utm.edu.
UTM HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT BUTLER - Former Gibson Co. High School and UTM basketball star Heather Butler will be honored for her college career with induction in the Univ. of Tenn. Martin Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Nov. 2. Butler led UTM to four straight OVC conference titles, was 2014 OVC Player of the Year and is the leading scorer in OVC history with 2,865 career points. She led Gibson Co. High School to back-to-back state titles.

www.thunderboltradio.com

UT Martin students return from fall break

Posted on October 16, 2019 by Steve James
(https://www.thunderboltradio.com/author/stevejames/) in Local News
(https://www.thunderboltradio.com/category/local-news/)

UT Martin students return to campus and classes today after a short fall break.

UTM students now begin the second half of the fall semester, with the next break coming at Thanksgiving and classes ending on December 6th.

Finals will be the week of December 9th with fall commencement set for December 14th.

Students will get month-long break before UTM's spring semester begins on January 9th.
UT-Martin listed among America’s best universities

Institutional Research and Evaluation Inc. has included the University of Tennessee at Martin among “America’s 100 Best College Buys” for the 14th consecutive year. UT Martin is one of three Tennessee institutions included on this list, which also mentions the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Tennessee Technological University.

“For 14 consecutive years, UT Martin has maintained its position among ‘America’s 100 Best College Buys,’ a select group of some of the most highly competitive institutions in American higher education. It has done so by focusing on providing a quality education at an exceptionally affordable cost, which very few colleges and universities can match,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., president of Institutional Research and Evaluation Inc.

To be considered for this listing, institutions must be accredited and offer four-year bachelor’s degrees; offer full residential facilities including both residence halls and dining services; have had an entering freshman class in fall 2018 with an average high school grade point average and SAT or ACT score at or above the national average; and have an out-of-state cost of attendance below the national average cost of attendance for at least two semesters. UT Martin’s entering freshman class in fall 2018 had an average high school grade point average of 3.54 and an average ACT score of 24. Both exceeded the national averages at 3.46 and 23, respectively.

When institutions on this list are ranked by the 2019-2020 cost of attendance, which includes tuition, fees, on-campus housing at double occupancy and the most common meal plan option, UT Martin comes in fourth in the nation for in-state students (total of $16,144) and second for out-of-state students (total of $22,184).

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UTM holds joint beauty pageant

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 26, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. The deadline to apply for the competition is Oct. 14.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 57th year, and this is the 21st year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles will be chosen in the same night. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2020 semester are eligible for either crown. Beginning this year, a UT Martin graduate currently working toward an additional degree at another Tennessee institution, is also eligible to compete for the Miss UT Martin title. All women participating as residents or full-time students in Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Potential candidates for both titles should consult the contestant packet for full eligibility requirements.

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

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money.
UT Martin to celebrate homecoming with circus theme

By Steve Pobst | October 16, 2019 at 11:37 AM CDT - Updated October 16 at 11:37 AM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host homecoming week Oct. 28 through Nov. 3.

This year's theme is "Under the Big Top."

The circus-themed festivities will include the traditional rope pull, lip sync, pyramid and step show competitions for campus Greek Life organizations as well as a variety of new events.

Additions to this year's schedule include the following: a comedy show featuring Desi Banks and Darren Brand on Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium, a costume party on Oct. 31 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom and a dinner theatre, "Murder Under the Big Top," on Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. at the Boling University Center. Ticket information is available here.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, the university quadrangle will be filled with tents and activities for Quad City. The event opens at 10:30 a.m. The Skyhawk football team will take their traditional walk through Quad City at 11 a.m., and Quad City will remain open until the football game at 2 p.m. UT Martin will be facing Jacksonville State.

Also on Saturday, two dedication ceremonies will take place on campus.

The Boling University Welcome Center will be officially dedicated the Nunnelly Welcome Center in honor of university donors Bill and Roseann Nunnelly. The dedication will begin at 10:45 a.m. following the Chancellor's Brunch and Alumni Awards Program. During the ceremony, the Nunnellys, Mary-Katherine Hill and Chris Pierce will be presented with the 2019 UT Martin Alumni Awards.

The second dedication ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. in Unity Circle, north of Clement Hall. The NPHC Greek Garden and Unity Circle will be dedicated to honor members of the "Divine Nine" traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which have active chapters on the UT Martin main campus.

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Martin, Tenn. – Chris Stachewicz, director of campus recreation at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Ami Galindo, coordinator of facilities and activities, play a part in preparing the Chicago Blackhawks – a member of the National Hockey League – for the ice each season. While Galindo’s participation is relatively recent, Stachewicz has worked with the team for the past 10 years.

“When I started my (previous) job at the University of Illinois at Chicago, my boss at the time was in charge of the team’s pre-season testing,” he said. Stachewicz was asked to help run a battery of fitness and agility tests for each player, and he soon mastered administration of the wingate test – a 30-second maximum output test performed on a stationary bicycle.
"(The wingate test) shows how quickly you can get to peak power and how long you can sustain it against a load. ... Sometimes for this team it was against nine percent of their body weight," he explained. "I currently do another test, which is a vertical jump test. ... They look at a lot of different things; it's not just how high (you can jump). It's your maximum take-off velocity, ... and average peak power."

Stachewicz says the pre-season tests measure more than just physical fitness. They can also evaluate the potential for player injuries, decide who makes the team and help injured players return to pre-injury capabilities.

"(This vertical jump test) has a video that goes with it that shows how (the player) stands (and) what they look like when they're taking off or landing, so you can find abnormalities that can maybe lead toward injuries. So, there's injury prevention that goes with it. There's so much more. It really has evolved into a critical science," he said. "What I do is administer the test, go over the results and make sure it is now uploaded into an app that they have so they can compile all their data."

UT Martin students, faculty, staff and community members can now benefit from the Blackhawks' work through an online platform developed by a Blackhawks coach. Referred to locally as "Skyhawk Strong," this platform provides customizable daily workouts for users that go beyond lifting heavy weights.

"I get a link text messaged to me every day, and then I fill out the survey. ... It wants to know your energy level, how do your muscles feel, how did you sleep last night and how motivated you are to workout. It'll ask you how long of a workout you would like, but then it will also ask if you have a full gym (or) a hotel gym or if you want a body workout," he said.

"You put all that information in, and it spits out your workout. So, it's all based on you. It's not just 'I feel like lifting upper body today.' It gives you a full-body workout, and most of it is not about lifting heavy weights. It's more about mobility, strength, core."

For $30 per month (half the cost of a professional subscription), Stachewicz says the use of this technology is a way to make daily workouts more accessible and approachable for everyone, even those without access to a full traditional gym.

"I used to think you had to bring (students) in here (at the Student Recreation Center) to work out, but when you go on vacation (between semesters), you don't want to come to the rec center. You want to work out at home. We can help facilitate all that and help that healthier lifestyle," he said. "I work with one of the coaches from the Blackhawks, who made (this platform), and was able to bring it to UTM."

To sign up for the Skyhawk Strong platform, visit traintoadapt.net/sign-up-introductory-form-sky-hawk-strong.
UTM hosting first Fall Preview Day Saturday

Posted on October 17, 2019 by Steve James
(https://www.thunderboltradio.com/author/stevejames/) in Local News
(https://www.thunderboltradio.com/category/local-news/)

High school juniors and seniors considering UT Martin for their college careers are invited to attend the first Fall Preview Day of 2019 Saturday from 9:00 to noon in the UT Martin Boling University Center.

Attendees will hear from a panel of current students and speak with representatives from the offices of financial aid and scholarships, housing, student life, and multicultural affairs, and various academic programs.

The schedule also includes a walking tour of the UT Martin main campus and visits to each student's academic department of interest.

There is no charge to attend.

Parking is available in the lots immediately in front of the building and across the street. No parking permits will be needed Saturday.

A second Fall Preview Day will be November 16 for those unable to attend Saturday.

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SCHOLARSHIP TO HONOR COUNTY TEACHER ESTABLISHED

Chuck Latham, formerly from Hardeman County, has established the Huey P. Mott Scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Martin in honor of his former agriculture teacher at Middletown High School.

Latham, now living in Centennial, Colorado, is president and CEO of Chuck Latham Associates Inc., which specializes in sales and marketing for pet-related brands.

Latham graduated from UT Martin in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture, and the scholarship is designated for a Hardeman County High School student who attends UT Martin to major in an agriculture-related field. Majors qualifying for this scholarship include general agriculture, agricultural business and natural resources management, among others.

Mott, for whom the award is named, grew up on a family farm and graduated from college in 1960. He served in the Army National Guard before ultimately beginning a teaching career in Hardeman County that would span more than three decades.

For more information on this scholarship and how to apply, contact the UT Martin Division of University Advancement at 731-881-7620.
Larry Holder to lead worship at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, located at 562 Old Troy Rd., Martin, would like to welcome the public on Sunday to join in worship as Larry Holder leads the 6 p.m. worship service.

He is a Christian songwriter from Martin and has published his songs at larryholdermusic.org for more than 20 years, with the website receiving more than a million visits since its beginning.

His Christmas song, "More Than a Child," has been performed and recorded around the world, including a 2003 recording by Hunter Hayes. Holder also co-wrote the Soybean Festival theme song, "There's Nothing Like the Bean" with Dr. Jim Byford.

Primarily a guitarist, Holder enjoys playing bass in the praise band at First Baptist of Martin, as well as in a bluegrass group, the Ryman Shadows. By day, he is a computer programmer and adjunct instructor for UT Martin, where he has worked for 32 years, with six years of programming for Wal-Mart prior to that.

Holder is married to Rebecca, and they have two adult daughters, Heather and Lindsay.
Combined Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant to be held Oct. 26

The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 26, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 57th year, and this is the 21st year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles will be chosen in the same night. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2020 semester are eligible for either crown. Beginning this year, a UT Martin graduate currently working toward an additional degree at another Tennessee institution, is also eligible to compete for the Miss UT Martin title. All women participating as residents or full-time students in Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title. Potential candidates for both titles should consult the contestant packet for full eligibility requirements.

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

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not. The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no financial award for runners-up in the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will serve as the governor’s spokesperson for character education across the state and receive $25,000 in scholarship money.

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

The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID. For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org or 731-881-7561.

Amanda Mayo, of Lilburn, Georgia, served as Miss UT Martin 2019.
A trip to Italy: what they don’t prepare people for

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

By AUDREY ADAMS
Special to The Press

When planning a trip abroad, especially an elongated trip abroad, you can spend months, even years, in preparation. You can research the best walking shoes, the best packing tips, the typical weather. You can purchase practical purses or backpacks, language phrase books, novels to keep you occupied.

You may even learn quick and easy phrases — like “hello,” “goodbye,” “How are you?” or “Do you speak English?” — ahead of time to help you hold simple conversations.

But, regardless of the hours of preparation you may undergo while abroad, there are some things that catch you by surprise. There are some things that travel blogs overlook, that articles avoid, and that fellow travelers fail to mention. One of these things is grocery shopping.

This semester, I am participating in a study abroad program in Siena, Italy, with nine other students from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

I had agreed to come on this trip the semester before, so I had roughly six months to prepare. Before leaving in early September, I spent some time on Duolingo, trying to learn a few phrases in Italian. After reading Pinterest articles and travel blogs, I purchased new luggage and packing squares, small pouches that are designed to help practically organize your suitcase, to make my journey to Italy as painless as possible.

After Googling “best cute and comfy walking shoes” and clicking on multiple hits, I bought a pair of gray Superga shoes to alleviate my several-miles-a-day-for-three-months feet.

I watched videos about Siena, learning about the history of the city and the renowned Palio horse race that takes place annually in the town’s square. By the time we left for our semester abroad, I felt prepared.

For our first full day in Siena, our group decided to go grocery shopping because we needed snacks, meals, and other miscellaneous items that we either forgot to pack or simply were not able to pack.

In Siena, we walk everywhere. The crowds of tourists and locals combined on the streets ensure that a taxi ride is both impractical and inconvenient.

After a mile-long trek up and down hilly cobblestone streets, we arrived at the grocery store. Because we had to walk to the store, we immediately gathered that it would not make sense to purchase copious amounts of groceries because, naturally, we would have to carry them all back.

As we rode the escalator down to

SEE ITALY
Page 5
the front doors of the store, we were immediately overwhelmed. It must have been rush hour. It was 6:30 p.m. on a Monday evening, and it was like everyone in Siena needed to purchase his or her weekly groceries.

Not only was the store packed to the brim, but also the shopping carts were unusual. They had different-sized baskets that could either be held or rolled like rolling backpacks. I picked up a large rolling basket, because that was the only one left, and began carrying it like a basket, not immediately noticing the wheels at the bottom.

As I walked through the automatic doors to the inside of the store, I noticed everyone pushing their baskets, large and small, like strollers.

So, to try and hide my ignorance as much as possible, I, too, began rolling my unusually large basket-cart, trying to avoid the chaotic cart traffic.

Likewise, the aisles were roughly two feet apart, as if the architect designed the store to fit as many items in it with as little room as possible. No one prepared us to steer rolling-backpack shopping carts down shoulder-to-shoulder grocery store aisles. No one. It felt like a game show.

Focusing on navigating the narrow aisles of an Italian grocery store while pushing a baby stroller cart was only one of the many stresses of this grocery shopping experience.

I suppose it should have been common knowledge that all of the products sold at this grocery store in Italy would be labeled in Italian, but, for some reason, as I was deciding what to pack and what to leave at home just a week prior, and listening to my family say "you can just buy that when you get there," I envisioned a Walmart — much like the Walmart at my home in rural Tennessee — selling the exact same American products I was choosing to leave at home.

However, as I stepped into that crowded Italian grocery store at 6:30 p.m. on this Monday evening, and as I began wandering down the narrow aisles while pushing my baby-stroller cart, I realized I could not distinguish the milk from the floor cleaner, the egg cartons from candy, the juice from the laundry detergent.

I stared at the milk for 13 minutes while Michelle, another UT student, went to find juice. The milk bottles stared back at me like the Terracotta Army. The milks' labels were written in Italian, and each container looked like bottles of Clorox bleach with different-colored lids. Why did all of the juice look like cleaning products? Were they actually cleaning products?

Some of the milk was placed on refrigerated shelves, while other milks rested on room-temperature shelves. Never before had I seen milk unrefrigerated. It was as if the unrefrigerated milks' sole purpose was to only be used during a zombie apocalypse or some other mass crisis.

After 13 minutes of contemplating, of pacing so no one knew I was truly staring at milk for 13 minutes of hoping that this was indeed milk and not a cleaning product, I picked up the refrigerated bottle with the dark blue lid, because that is the same colored lid I got back home (as it turned out, I correctly purchased whole milk).

Michelle, who had originally attempted to find juice, came back for me 13 minutes later just as perplexed as I. I followed her to the juice aisle, which was not-so-practically placed directly in front of the toiletry aisle.

The lemon juice resembled Pine-Sol; the fruit juice resembled glass cleaner. Such juices, located directly across from the paper towels and toilet paper, validated our already-present anxieties.

Placed next to an off-brand Coca-Cola drink was a drink called "Sanpellegrino Chinotto," which is supposedly a bitter sparkling fruit beverage that comes from the fruit called chinotto.

The Sanpellegrino Chinotto had the exact same bubbly texture and brown tint as the off-brand Coca-Cola placed next to it, and, had I not been aware of the Sanpellegrino Chinotto thanks to Dr. Ostenson who had tried the drink before, I would have easily mistaken it for a typical American soda.

Rather than end up with some bitter drink such as the Sanpellegrino Chinotto, my roommate and I settled for a bottle of orange Fanta, which was the only drink in that aisle we were confident enough to purchase.

Once concocting our trial-run groceries, we entered the check-out line. I knew I would be handling foreign money, and I had been warned to bring my own grocery bags, but I had not been warned of the overwhelming, anxiety-ridden rush that awaited me.

The store checkout person behind the counter muttered something in Italian. All I understood was "Ciao," to which I timidly replied, "Ciao."

The reason I deemed this person the "store checkout person" rather than the "bagger" is because after the store checkout person scanned my mystery items, she threw them down on the counter. I looked around at the other customers checking out in the aisles in front of me.

They were hurriedly bagging their own groceries, as if bagging their groceries was an intense game of minute-to-win-it. I began bagging my groceries, completely apathetic to the fact that the bread was at the bottom of the bag and the bottle of Fanta was at the top, crushing the rest of my mystery groceries.

The checkout lady mumbled my total in Italian; I looked at the screen because I did not yet know my numbers in Italian, and I handed her my change. Whatever groceries I had not yet bagged by the time I paid, I threw back into my baby-stroller cart, and I readjusted my mystery groceries once I had exited the store.

It only took two days before I entered that grocery store again to purchase the items that I had originally intended to get the first time. This time, I went at 4 in the afternoon. This time, I made a list. This time, I researched the Italian word for "juice" (it's succo). And this time, I immediately grabbed my baby-stroller cart, and pushed it.

Whatever anxieties I had in that exact same grocery store two days prior had disappeared. "Mi scusi," I said to other customers as I inched by them in the narrow aisles, not stopping to study the milk, the eggs, or the juice. I quickly retrieved my groceries and went to check out. "Buongiorno," said the checkout person, as she scanned my items and threw them to the side.

"Buongiorno," I replied as I began hurriedly bagging my groceries.
UTM Parsons to offer ACT prep course

UTM will host a one-day ACT prep class for any high school junior or senior planning to take the ACT exam. The class will be offered from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the UTM Parsons Center. The fee is $45, and online registration is required.

In the course, students will learn how to boost their overall scores, manage their time, create better study habits, and work more efficiently. Students who have taken this class in the past report as high as 3-point increases in their overall ACT composite scores.

UTM adjunct instructor Alex Beene, an author and educator, will teach the course. Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students who have been awarded a combined total of $4.2 million in scholarships, and he continues to work as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties.

Registration is available online at utm.edu/actprep. For more information, contact UTM Outreach at 731-881-7104.
Former UTM chancellor to speak at Ned Ray Day

Former Tennessee governor Ned Ray McWherter contributed much to his native Weakley County and to the people of Tennessee.

He represented his county in the Tennessee House of Representatives for nine terms, 1969-87, serving as speaker from 1973-87.

He was twice elected governor of the state, serving from 1987-95. He instituted a policy of open government and emphasized advances in education, highways, health care, infrastructure, environment and economic development. He was widely recognized as one of the nation's leading governors, interacting effectively with presidents of both parties.

Each year the Weakley County Democratic Party holds its Ned Ray Day dinner to honor its favorite son. This year's dinner — with the theme "Rural Roots" — will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and will bring prominent members of the Democratic Party to Dresden to join in celebration along with everyday people from counties across northwest Tennessee.

The keynote speaker is traditionally someone who worked with Gov. McWherter and who can relate fascinating accounts of that experience. This year this will be Dr. Charles E. Smith, who was McWherter's commissioner of education, and who also served as chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He additionally provided leadership in several senior positions of the University of Tennessee and as an editor on commercial newspapers. Dr. Smith is the author of the book, "Journal of a Fast Track Life," which provides examples of life lessons learned from a wide range of people. He also is well-known as a speaker and a valued friend of Weakley County.

James Mackler — a 2020 Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Sen. Lamar Alexander — will also speak. Born in Tennessee, Mackler dropped his Nashville law practice following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Serving in the 101st Airborne Division, Mackler was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and 2006, flying Black Hawk helicopters. He has pledged to use the values that he learned while serving the country to represent, protect and work for the benefit of Tennesseans, and to be dedicated to the best of our American ideals in both word and deed.

A third speaker will be Gloria Johnson, a retired Knox County school teacher with 27 years of experience in educating special needs students. She is currently the Democratic representative for District 13 in the Tennessee House of Representatives. She credits her advocacy work with health care and education as what led her to run for her office, to give a needed voice for students, teachers and working families in Tennessee.

Prior to the dinner, at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, there will be a free reception at the Ned Ray McWherter Library and Museum, located at 341 Linden St. in Dresden. This event provides an opportunity for all area residents and those coming from other counties to see this outstanding museum exhibiting the life of the late governor, and to meet and visit with dignitaries and everyday citizens of northwest Tennessee.

The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. at the McWherter Civic Center, located at 589 Evergreen St. in Dresden. Basic tickets for the dinner are $25 and may be obtained by contacting county chairman Deane Arganbright at (731) 588-0681 or from any member of the county party. Various options are also available online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/6th-annual-ned-ray-day-rural-roots-registration-72894554575.
Student explains trip for groceries in Italy

A partnership between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Dante Alighieri Society in Siena, Italy, has made it possible for UTM students to participate in an ongoing study abroad program. Six students through Dr. Jeff Longacre's "Creative Non-Fiction: Travel Writing" class are a part of this unique program. Among them is 2017 Union City High School graduate Audrey Adams.

BY AUDREY ADAMS
Special to The Messenger

When planning a trip abroad, especially an elongated trip abroad, you can spend months, even years, in preparation. You can research the best walking shoes, the best packing tips, the typical weather. You can purchase practical purses or backpacks, language phrase books, novels to keep you occupied. You may even learn quick and easy phrases — like "hello," "goodbye," "How are you?" or "Do you speak English?" — ahead of time to help you hold simple conversations.

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A typical day in Siena starts with a "Colazione" — an Italian breakfast, roughly the equivalent to the American version. It consists of some coffee or tea, along with a pastry or a typical Italian croissant. It is usually the time to catch up with old friends or make new friends. From there, the students head off to class. The classes I have taken so far have focused on Dante Alighieri, the Italian poet and philosopher who wrote the Divine Comedy and consisted of many discussions about the literature and the culture of Italy.

After class, it is time to do some shopping or some sightseeing. One of the things I have discovered about grocery shopping in Siena is that it is not as easy as it may seem. The stores are small, and the aisles are narrow. The employees of the store are very helpful, and they can help you find whatever you need.

As I walked through the store, I noticed everyone pushing their baskets, large and small, like strollers. I, too, began rolling my unusually large basket-cart, trying to avoid the chaotic cart traffic. Likewise, I noticed the aisles were roughly two feet apart, as if the architect designed the store to fit as many items in it as possible. No one prepared us to steer rolling-backpack shopping carts down shoulderto-shoulder grocery store aisles. No one. It felt like a game show.

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I watched videos about Siena, learning about the history of the city and the renowned Palio horse race that takes place annually in the town's square. By the time we left for our semester abroad, I felt prepared.

For our first full day in Siena, our group decided to go grocery shopping because we needed snacks, meals and other miscellaneous items that we either forgot to pack or simply were not able to pack. In Siena, we walk everywhere. The crowds of tourists and locals combined on the streets ensure that a taxi ride is both impractical and inconvenient.

After a mile-long trek up and down hilly cobblestone streets, we arrived at the grocery store. Because we had to walk to the store, we immediately gathered that it would not make sense to purchase copious amounts of groceries because, naturally, we would have to carry them all back.

As we rode the elevator down to the front doors of the store, we were immediately overwhelmed. It must have been rush hour. It was 6:30 p.m. on a Monday night, and it was like everyone in Siena needed to purchase their weekly groceries.

Not only was the store packed to the brim, but also the shopping carts were unusual. They had different-sized baskets that could either be held or rolled like rolling backpacks. I picked up a large rolling basket, because that was the only one left, and began carrying it like a basket, not immediately noticing the wheels at the bottom.

I walked through the store, I noticed everyone pushing their baskets, large and small, like strollers. So, to try and hide my ignorance as much as possible, I, too, began rolling my unusually large basket-cart, trying to avoid the chaotic cart traffic.

Likewise, the aisles were roughly two feet apart, as if the architect designed the store to fit as many items in it as possible. No one prepared us to steer rolling-backpack shopping carts down shoulder-to-shoulder grocery store aisles. No one. It felt like a game show.

Focusing on navigating the narrow aisles of an Italian grocery store while pushing a baby stroller cart was only one of the many stresses of this grocery shopping experience.

I suppose it should have been common knowledge that all of the products sold at this grocery store in Italy would be labeled in Italian, but, for some reason, as I was deciding what to pack and what to leave at home just a week prior, and listening to my family say "you can just buy that when you get there," I envisioned a Walmart — much like the Walmart at my home in rural Tennessee — selling the exact same American products I was choosing to leave at home.

However, as I stepped into that crowded Italian grocery store at 6:30 on this Monday evening, and as I began wandering down the narrow aisles while pushing my baby stroller cart, I realized I could not distinguish the milk from the floor cleaner, the egg cartons from candy, the juice from the laundry detergent. I stared at the milk for 13 minutes while Michelle, another UTM student, went to find juice. The milk bottles stared back at me like the Terracotta Army. The milk's labels were written in Italian, and each container looked like bottles of Clorox bleach with different-colored lids. Why did...
all of the juice look like cleaning products? Were they actually cleaning products?

Some of the milk was placed on refrigerated shelves, while other milks rested on room-temperature shelves. Never before had I seen milk unrefrigerated. It was as if the unrefrigerated milks’ sole purpose was to only be used during a zombie apocalypse or some other mass crisis.

After 13 minutes of contemplating, of pacing so no one knew I was truly staring at milk for 13 minutes, of hoping that this was indeed milk and not a cleaning product, I picked up the refrigerated bottle with the dark blue lid, because that is the same colored lid I got back home (as it turned out, I correctly purchased whole milk).

Michelle, who had originally attempted to find juice, came back for me 13 minutes later just as perplexed as I. I followed her to the juice aisle, which was not so practically placed directly in front of the toiletry aisle. The lemon juice resembled Pine-Sol; the fruit juice resembled glass cleaner. Such juices, located directly across from the paper towels and toilet paper, validated our already-present anxieties.

Placed next to an off-brand Coca-Cola drink was a drink called “Sanpellegrino Chinotto,” which is supposedly a bitter sparkling fruit beverage that comes from the fruit called chinotto.

The Sanpellegrino Chinotto had the exact same bubbly texture and brown tint as the off-brand Coca-Cola placed next to it, and, had I not been aware of the Sanpellegrino Chinotto thanks to Dr. Ostenson who had tried the drink before, I would have easily mistaken it for a typical American soda.

Rather than end up with some bitter drink such as the Sanpellegrino Chinotto, my roommate and I settled for a bottle of orange Fanta, which was the only drink in that aisle we were confident enough to purchase.

Once concocting our trial-run groceries, we entered the checkout line. I knew I would be handling foreign money, and I had been warned to bring my own grocery bags, but I had not been warned of the overwhelming, anxiety-ridden rush that awaited me.

The store checkout person behind the counter muttered something in Italian. All I understood was “Ciao,” to which I timidly replied, “Ciao.”

The reason I deemed this person the “store checkout person” rather than the “bagger” is because after the store checkout person scanned my mystery items, she threw them down on the counter. I looked around at the other customers checking out in the aisles in front of me.

They were hurriedly bagging their own groceries, as if bagging their groceries was an intense game of minute-to-win-it. I began bagging my groceries, completely apathetic to the fact that the bread was at the top of the bag and the bottle of Fanta was at the top, crushing the rest of my mystery groceries.

The checkout lady mumbled my total in Italian; I looked at the screen because I did not yet know my numbers in Italian, and I handed her my change. Whatever groceries I had not yet bagged by the time I paid, I threw back into my baby-stroller cart, and I readjusted my mystery groceries once I had exited the store.

It only took two days before I entered that grocery store again to purchase the items that I had originally intended to get the first time. This time, I went at 4 in the afternoon. This time, I made a list. This time, I researched the Italian word for “juice” (it’s succo). And this time, I immediately grabbed my baby-stroller cart, and pushed it.

Whatever anxieties I had in that exact same grocery store two days prior had disappeared. “Mi scusi,” I said to other customers as I inched them in the narrow aisles, not stopping to study the milk, the eggs or the juice. I quickly retrieved my groceries and went to check out. “Buongiorno,” said the checkout person, as she scanned my items and threw them to the side.

“Buongiorno,” I replied as I began hurriedly bagging my groceries.

TRAVELING ABROAD – University of Tennessee at Martin creative fiction writing student Audrey Adams had a unique opportunity to study abroad in Siena, Italy, through the university’s partnership with the Dante Alighieri Society in Italy.
Former Lady Trojan standout Henderson named UT-Martin track and field head coach

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin athletics director Kurt McGuffin has announced the hiring of Jolyta Henderson as the fifth head track and field coach in the program's Division I history.

Henderson was elevated to head coach after spending three seasons as an assistant coach with the UT Martin track and field programs. Henderson, 25, is the youngest female African American head coach in UT Martin and Ohio Valley Conference history while ranking amongst the nation's youngest head coaches.

“We are happy to promote Jolyta to the position of head coach,” McGuffin said. “Jolyta will bring her energy to a program on the rise. Having been here through the reintroduction phase and seen the growth of the program, I feel confident that she will do what is best for her student-athletes.”

During her time at UT Martin, Henderson has been critical in the development of a reintroduced program after over a decade hiatus. Over the course of the last three seasons, UT Martin has seen the roster grow to over 50 members while recording numerous school records.

During the 2019 track season, UT Martin took its program to another level of competition at the OVC Championships. At the OVC Indoor Championship the Skyhawks posted four event titles overall including the men's DMR which recorded the fourth-fastest time in OVC history. Individually, freshman Tyreke Sapp ranked as the highest point scorer at the championship after contributing on the DMR while winning individual titles in the 60m and 200m events. Meanwhile, another freshman Brady Fry set a new program record with a title in the 60m hurdles. A total of seven school records were broken during the 2019 indoor season, including the 60m, 60m hurdles, 200m, 400m, mile, 3k and DMR. Along with competitive success, the Skyhawk men's squad earned the OVC Team Sportsmanship Award.

In the outdoor track season, the Skyhawks tallied three school records in the men's 110m hurdles and 4x100m while posting a school mark in the women's high jump. At the OVC Outdoor Championship, Oisin O'Gailin posted a pair of top-five finishes in the 5k (second) and 1500m (fifth) while Fry finished runner-up in the 110m hurdle. Junior Leonel Perez (800m) and freshman Alexis Grandys (5k) also recorded top-five times. "I am eternally grateful for such an amazing opportunity; I truly thank God for this blessing," Henderson said. "It is an amazing feeling to make history not only at UT Martin but as well at the OVC level. To be named the youngest female African American head coach is an honor. Having been at UT Martin since the rebirth of the track and field program, I look forward to the upcoming seasons. Our goal as a staff is leading our program to the next level while supporting our student-athletes to reach their top potential on and off the track.”

A former collegiate athlete herself, Henderson competed in sprints, jumps and hurdles at Murray State University. During her time at Murray State, she achieved many personal records in sprints and hurdles. Along with her athletic ability, she was voted to the team's Leadership Council.

Prior to her collegiate career, Henderson was a five-time Tennessee state champion at Dyersburg High School. Henderson competed in sprints, jumps, hurdles and the pentathlon. She qualified for the Tennessee State Track and Field Championships in the 4x100, 4x200, 400m, long jump and triple jump where she held several school records. Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science and wellness from Murray State in 2016. She later completed her Master's in family and consumer science from UT Martin in 2018.
Newsome to enter UT Martin Hall of Fame

Chris Van Tuyl
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Jasmine Newsome is quickly becoming a pro at induction ceremonies.

It was 2017 when the former Millington Central High basketball standout was welcomed into the Trojan Athletic Hall of Fame.

Now, two years later, Newsome will be entering the University of Tennessee at Martin Athletics Hall of Fame. She's one of six Class of 2019 inductees who'll be enshrined Nov. 2 during the school's 36th annual Letter Winner's Breakfast.

"I don't really think it's about me. I think this honor is about my family, especially my parents and my brothers," said Newsome, "because they've supported me the whole way. Honestly, I wouldn't be here without that support, from my dad (Vincent) first putting the ball in my hand, to my mom (Trina), who never missed a game."

Newsome, entering her fifth season as an assistant women's basketball coach at UT Martin, will be honored along with Heather Butler, Tymikia Gunn-Glenn, Jay Johnson, DeWayne "Pooh" Powell and Tawreen Stephens. Both Newsome and Butler played the same number of seasons (2010-14) under current UT Martin head coach Kevin McMillan.

"From not really having any (college) offers to getting an offer from him, he believed in me and kind of got me where I wanted to go," Newsome said. "He told me I was going to be an All-American when I was a freshman."

She finished her playing career with 2,566 points, which is second all-time at both UT Martin and in the Ohio Valley Conference. The current leader on that list is Butler (2,865).

"Us going in at the same time is huge, because I wouldn't want to go in without her," said Newsome, who was chosen as the Skyhawks' first Associated Press All-American as a junior. "We put in a lot of work, and I never did it for the individual recognition — I wasn't about that. I was always trying to be a team player."

With Newsome and Butler leading the way, the Skyhawks won four OVC Tournament championships, which equated to four straight trips to the NCAA Tournament.

At Millington, Newsome also soared past the 2,000-point plateau. Among her most memorable moments included a 41-point effort at Briarcrest and showdowns with Bartlett and future Georgia Bulldog Jasmine James.

"Our biggest rival back then was the Lady Panthers," Newsome said. "Those were the best games. We would pack it out."

On the recruiting trail, the Bluff City is still a hot spot for Newsome and the rest of the UT Martin coaching staff. Going into the 2019-20 season, the Skyhawks have four Memphians on the roster: Trezevant's Sade Hudson and a trio from White Station, Zaire Hicks, Brittni Moore and Damiah Griffin.
SMHS, CCHS students attend summer Governor’s School

• By Samantha Bunch
• Oct 21, 2019

Students from Stone Memorial and Cumberland County High School attended Governor’s School, a summer learning program. There are various study programs to apply to and learn from. These students spent a month learning about their focus of study.

Agriculture Governor’s School
Katelyn Wattenbarger, Stone Memorial High School, and Samantha Essex, Cumberland County High School, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin. Both are leaders in their high school FFA, Future Farmers of America. While at Martin, they studied different fields of agriculture to advance their education and careers. Essex studied agricultural business and veterinary science, and Wattenbarger studied agricultural sciences.

"I, along with 33 other scholars, had the opportunity to partake in many hands-on learning experiences," Wattenbarger said about her experience at Governor’s School.

Essex and Wattenbarger participated in different activities for their studies to better understand their desired career choice. It also helped both of them understand how college curriculum works.

“The most important lesson I learned is that in order to do well on college-level classes you need at least two things: a lot of study time and people you can count on to be accountability partners. By being with students taking the same courses, we were able to have study groups and helpful reminders for tests and due dates," Essex said about her studies at Martin.

Stone Memorial’s Spencer Moore, also, participated in Governor’s School for Agriculture.
University of Tennessee Interim President Randy Boyd visited Daniel Boone High School in Gray Monday morning as part of a statewide tour talking to Tennessee high school students about the new UT Promise scholarship program.

The program, which was launched on Sept. 23, guarantees free tuition for new undergraduate students with a family household income of under $50,000 after financial aid is received. Through the scholarship, qualifying students can attend UT-Knoxville, UT-Chattanooga, UT-Martin and the UT Health Science Center free of charge.

"In the state of Tennessee, the median household income is $48,000, so more than half of the population of the state could qualify," Boyd said, adding that students must maintain good grades and complete a day’s worth of community service each semester to qualify.

Boyd, a first-generation college graduate who went to the University of Tennessee as an undergraduate, said he wants to expand educational opportunities for students who otherwise couldn’t afford college. He also wants to see an increase in the number of first-generation college students in Tennessee.

Boyd said the UT Promise program will help bolster the state’s Drive to 55 workforce development initiative, which aims to get 55% of Tennesseans equipped with a college degree or certificate by 2025.

In 2013, Boyd joined former Gov. Bill Haslam’s administration as a special adviser on higher education to promote Drive to 55 and other state education programs. As a Republican gubernatorial candidate in 2018, he said that initiative was “something I want to see finished.”
"I had the opportunity to come to college and good fortune to get a job to pay my way through. Not everybody will have that opportunity, and college has got a lot more expensive since I was there," he said. "We want to make sure other young people have the same opportunity I did. The University of Tennessee changed my life, and I want to give that same opportunity to others.

"It can change not only their lives but everyone around them," he continued. "So this is something very personal, and it's something I'm very passionate about."

On Monday, Boyd also visited Bristol's Tennessee High School, Kingsport's Dobbins-Bennett High School, Jonesborough's David Crockett High School and Unicoi County High School. Earlier this month, Boyd also visited schools in Memphis, Martin, Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville to talk to students about the program.

Boyd was joined by Kloee King, a Scott County, Tennessee, native and junior studying marketing, who spoke to students about what she's enjoyed most about UT.

"I get to kind of show my perspective on UT and everything that it's done for me and why I love this school so much," she said of speaking to local students.

For more information on the UT Promise scholarship program, visit tennessee.edu/ut-promise.

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The Messenger, Union City Tennessee, Monday, October 21, 2019

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Commercialization workshop set at UTM

A statewide entrepreneur resource network called "Launch Tennessee" will host a commercialization workshop from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Oct. 29 at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center.

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

LaunchTN uses the Small Business and Innovation Research grant to provide funding for research and development to commercialize new technology. This grant is a highly competitive federal program to help small businesses profit from the development of new products. LaunchTN also connects entrepreneurs with a mentor network and assists with grant writing.

Allie Mikels and Morgan Dent, both members of LaunchTN, will serve as speakers during the event. Mikels joined the LaunchTN team in 2019 and manages their commercialization program portfolio.

She earned her undergraduate degree in economics and public policy at Vanderbilt University and continued there for her graduate degree in community development and action. She spent almost five years in workforce development at Project Return, where she managed the operations of their two social enterprises.

Dent took over talent portfolio initiatives when she joined LaunchTN in 2018 and currently helps build a pipeline for future entrepreneurs and addresses current talent needs for growing businesses. Dent earned her degree in political science and economics from the University of Vermont. She spent three years in local economic development prior to joining LaunchTN.

Lunch will be provided for those attending the workshop. The workshop is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For more information, contact Allie Mikels at allie@launchtn.org.
UT Promise: Four free years of college tuition, mandatory fees

KINGSPORT — Anybody want up to four free years of college tuition?

More than 50 Dobyns-Bennett High School students and others from four other Northeast Tennessee schools got visits offering that from University of Tennessee Interim President Randy Boyd on Monday as he touted the UT Promise scholarship.

In a nutshell, the program launching this fall will pay tuition and mandatory fees for students who qualify academically and financially, the latter requiring a family income of less than $50,000 a year, to get four-year degrees at four UT campuses, including the flagship UT Knoxville. The goal is to award 2,000 scholarships for the fall semester, 1,300 to existing students and 700 to incoming freshmen. Transfers from other schools, existing UT students and non-traditional students are eligible.

"The most important thing is to go to a college where you feel welcome," Boyd, a UT Knoxville graduate, told the group. Students also heard from UT student Kloe King from Oneida in Scott County, Tennessee. She is a UT Knoxville junior in marketing and business analysis.

"Look for a place where you can make that big campus feel small," she told the group, adding that college is 10 percent which school you attend and 90 percent what you make of it.

Boyd said 1,300 already have applied online at https://tennessee.edu/ut-promise. Monday's tour also included Tennessee High in Bristol, David Crockett and Daniel Boone high schools in Washington County and Unicoi County High.

D-B Principal Chris Hampton said D-B was chosen for the visit because of the number of D-B students who already have applied.

DEADLINES, QUALIFICATIONS?

The deadlines include meeting the Tennessee Promise application deadline on Nov. 1, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Dec. 1 and the UT Promise deadline on Dec. 15. At least a 21 on the ACT college entrance exam is required to get the HOPE (Helping Others Pursue Education) scholarship, which is required to get the UT Promise. The individual UT schools have different ACT requirements.

UT Promise is a "last-dollar" award, meaning that students must apply for all grants and scholarships. So it kicks in after other financial aid is received, such as Pell Grants, HOPE or other institutional scholarships. It is for UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin and UT Health Science Center in Memphis.

The system so far has raised $17.5 million in donations toward a goal of $100 million for an endowment to fund the program.

"We want everybody to have the same opportunity I had," Boyd told the group, recalling that he was the first in his south Knoxville family to go to college and he worked his way through on weekend night shifts at an injection molding machine. He went on to found a business that failed but now owns a business that, among other things, makes the Invisible Fence for pets and sells it worldwide.

Those accepted will get a mentor to help them enroll at UT, a second mentor once they are enrolled and a third mentor the last two years to help them graduate and transfer to the work force. In exchange, Boyd said, those in the program will be required to do one day of community service each semester.

More information about UT Promise is available online at https://tennessee.edu/ut-promise/.
UTM staff members help NHL team prepare for the ice

Chris Stachewicz, director of campus recreation at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Amy Galindo, coordinator of facilities and activities, play a part in preparing the Chicago Blackhawks, which is a member of the National Hockey League, or the ice each season. While Galindo’s participation is relatively recent, Stachewicz has worked with the team for the past 10 years.

“When I started my (previous) job at the University of Illinois at Chicago, my boss at the time was in charge of the team’s pre-season testing,” Stachewicz said. Stachewicz was asked to help run a battery of fitness and agility tests for each player, and he soon mastered administration of the wingate test—a 30-second maximum output test performed on a stationary bicycle.

“(The wingate test) shows how quickly you can get to peak power and how long you can sustain it against a load,” Stachewicz said. “Sometimes for this team it was against nine percent of their body weight. I currently do another test, which is a vertical jump test. They look at a lot of different things; it’s not just how high (you can jump). It’s your maximum take-off velocity, and average peak power.”

Stachewicz says the pre-season tests measure more than just physical fitness. They can also evaluate the potential for player injuries, decide who makes the team and help injured players return to pre-injury capabilities.

“(This vertical jump test) has a video that goes with it that shows how (the player) stands (and) what they look like when they’re taking off or landing, so you can find abnormalities that can maybe lead towards injuries,” Stachewicz said. “So, there’s injury prevention that goes with it. There’s so much more. It really has evolved into a critical science.

“What I do is administer the test, go over the results and make sure it is now uploaded into an app that they have so they can compile all their data.”

UT Martin students, faculty, staff and community members can now benefit from the Blackhawks’ work through an online platform developed by a Blackhawks coach.

Referred to locally as “Skyhawk Strong,” this platform provides customizable daily workouts for users that go beyond lifting heavy weights.

“I get a link text messaged to me every day, and then I fill out the survey,” Stachewicz said. “It wants to know your energy level, how do your muscles feel, how did you sleep last night and how motivated you are to workout. It’ll ask you how long of a workout you would like, but then it will also ask if you have a full gym (or) a hotel gym or if you want a body workout.

“You put all that information in, and it spits out your workout. So, it’s all based on you. It’s not just ‘I feel like lifting upper body today.’ It gives you a full-body workout, and most of it is not about lifting heavy weights. It’s more about mobility, strength, core.”

For $30 per month (half the cost of a professional subscription), Stachewicz says the use of this technology is a way to make daily workouts more accessible and approachable for everyone, even those without access to a full traditional gym.

“I used to think you had to bring (students) in here (at the Student Recreation Center) to work out, but when you go on vacation (between semesters), you don’t want to come to the rec center,” Stachewicz said. “You want to work out at home. We can help facilitate all that and help that healthier lifestyle. I work with one of the coaches from the Blackhawks, who made (this platform), and was able to bring it to UTM.”

To sign up for the Skyhawk Strong platform, visit trainadapt.net/sign-up-introductory-form-skyhawk-strong.
Chris Stachewicz, director of campus recreation at UT Martin
UT Martin REED Center to host commercialization workshop

A statewide entrepreneur resource network called "Launch Tennessee" will host a commercialization workshop from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Oct. 29, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Registration is available online at tsbdc.org/utm or by calling 731-587-7333.

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Allie Mikels and Morgan Dent, both members of LaunchTN, will serve as speakers during the event. Mikels joined the LaunchTN team in 2019 and manages their commercialization program portfolio. She earned her undergraduate degree in economics and public policy at Vanderbilt University and continued there for her graduate degree in community development and action. She spent almost five years in workforce development at Project Return, where she managed the operations of their two social enterprises.

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Lunch will be provided for those attending the workshop. The workshop is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For more information, contact Allie Mikels at allie@launchtn.org.
UT Martin Sports Hall of Fame to induct Butler

By Steve Short

Former Gibson County High School and UT Martin basketball star Heather Butler will be honored for her college career with induction in the University of Tennessee Martin Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Nov. 2.

Butler will be among six inductees enshrined at the 36th annual Letter Winners’ Breakfast at the Russell Duncan Ballroom at the UTM Boling University Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

"Making the decision to go to UTM was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made, which is why it’s such an honor to be inducted into UTM’s Hall of Fame," said Butler, now an assistant coach at Smyrna High School.

"I can’t tell you how blessed I am, to have been able to go and grow at a place where people supported you no matter what," she added. "Not only did I gain some of the best moments and memories of my life, I gained loved ones who I now call family and life lessons I’ll take with me for the rest of my life."

"Some of my proudest moments at UTM were winning four straight OVC titles," she said. "During those four years, it was amazing to play against the toughest teams and prove to so many, that even though we might be a mid-major DI school, we could still show you what UTM women’s basketball was all about - grit, determination, relentlessness, and family who fights together and never gives up."

She remembers "like it was yesterday," the OVC tournament her junior year. "Each game was tough, and it looked like we were going to lose, but somehow we dug down and came together as a team and pulled through to win the championship! Every game was a nail biter, but that’s who we were. We played until the clock struck zero. Day in and day out, we poured so much into growing as a team both on and off the court, and it paid off in the end."

"Sometimes I sit back and think about all the times I shared wearing that UTM jersey, and I got overwhelmed with how thankful and proud I am to have been able to help make history with some of the best girls and coaches," Butler said. "If it wasn’t for playing at UTM and being coached by Coach (Kevin McMillan and Coach (David) Russell, I wouldn’t have had the professional career I did, being able to have my dreams come true, playing for San Antonio in the WNBA, or playing in Poland, Sweden or Iceland. It’s just surreal. They pushed me to limits I didn’t even know I had and for that I’m grateful."

"Now, being the new assistant coach at Smyrna High School, I’ve made a transition, to be able to"
UT MARTIN HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT BUTLER - Former Gibson County High School and UT Martin basketball star Heather Butler will be honored for her college career with induction in the University of Tennessee Martin Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Nov. 2. Butler led UT Martin to four straight OVC conference titles, was 2014 OVC Player of the Year and is the leading scorer in OVC history with 2,865 career points. She led Gibson County High School to back-to-back state titles.

take what I've learned and help mold and push other girls to see their own potential," Butler added. "It's definitely different being on the other side of things, but I'm enjoying the ride and every step of the way, to see where God takes me."

At Gibson Co. High School (2006-10), Butler played on three state tournament teams, leading the Lady Pioneers to two state titles (2009-10) and a 70-1 record. She was the 2010 Class AA state tournament MVP, TSSAA Class AA Miss Basketball finalist, and Jackson Sun 2010 West Tennessee Player of the Year. She set a state tournament scoring record with 93 points in three games and is Gibson County High School's all-time leading scorer with 2,289 points.


Reservations for the Hall of Fame ceremony can be made until Oct. 28 for $15 per person, which includes breakfast. Contact Trudy Henderson at (731) 881-7830 or trudyh@utm.edu.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host homecoming week Oct. 28-Nov. 3, culminating with the football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m., Nov. 2, at Hardy Graham Stadium.

The circus-themed festivities will include the traditional rope pull, lip sync, pyramid and step show competitions for campus Greek Life organizations as well as a variety of new events. Additions to this year's schedule include a comedy show featuring Desi Banks and Darren Brand at 7 p.m., Oct. 30, in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium; a costume party from 6-9:30 p.m., Oct. 31, in the Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; and "Murder Under the Big Top," a dinner theatre hosted by the Public Relations Student Society of America at 7 p.m., Oct. 31, in room 206ABC of the Boling University Center. Ticket information is available at utmforever.com/homecoming.

The Saturday of homecoming week will see the university quadrangle filled with tents and activities for Quad City, which officially opens at 10:30 a.m. The Skyhawk football team will take their traditional walk through Quad City at 11 a.m., and Quad City will remain open until the football game at 2 p.m.

The Boling University Welcome Center will be officially dedicated the Nunnelly Welcome Center in honor of university donors Bill and Roseann Nunnelly at 10:45 a.m. following the Chancellor's Brunch and Alumni Awards Program, during which the Nunnellys — along with Mary-Katherine Hill and Chris Pierce — will be presented with the 2019 UT Martin Alumni Awards.

The NPHC Greek Garden and Unity Circle will also be dedicated at 11:30 a.m. in Unity Circle north of Clement Hall. This new outdoor fixture is intended to honor members of the "Divine Nine" traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which have active chapters on the UT Martin main campus.

For a complete list of scheduled events, visit utmforever.com/homecoming. Tickets for the Quad City food tent ($10 each) and football game ($15 each) as well as homecoming T-shirts are available for purchase at this link.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will host homecoming week Monday through Nov. 3, culminating with the football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. Nov. 2 at Hardy Graham Stadium.

The circus-themed festivities will include the traditional rope pull, lip sync, pyramid and step show competitions for campus Greek life organizations, as well as a variety of new events.

Additions to this year’s schedule include a comedy show featuring Desi Banks and Darren Brand at 7 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Boling University Center Watkins Auditorium; a costume party from 6-9:30 p.m. Oct. 31 in the Boling University Center Duncan Ballroom; and “Murder Under the Big Top,” a dinner theater hosted by the Public Relations Student Society of America, at 7 p.m. Oct. 31 in room 206ABC of the Boling University Center. Ticket information is available at utmforever.com/homecoming.

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The Boling University Welcome Center will be officially dedicated the Nunnelly Welcome Center in honor of university donors Bill and Roseann Nunnelly at 10:45 a.m. following the Chancellor’s Brunch and Alumni Awards Program, during which the Nunnellys — along with Mary-Katherine Hill and Chris Pierce — will be presented with the 2019 UT Martin Alumni Awards.

The NPHC Greek Garden and Unity Circle will also be dedicated at 11:30 a.m. in Unity Circle north of Clement Hall. This new outdoor fixture is intended to honor members of the “Divine Nine” traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which have active chapters on the UT Martin main campus.

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UT Martin fall concert options provide entertainment, culture

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music's fall concert schedule has offered a variety of options for differing musical tastes.

Recently, the department offered a live salsa band, an evening of choir music and a marching band exhibition in the same afternoon.

The department partnered with the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs and others to bring Lalo and Friends, a Nashville-based salsa band, to campus Oct. 4 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The ensemble performed in the university quadrangle as part of the Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series following basic salsa dance lessons for those in attendance.

"Many people find it hard to believe that rural Tennessee provides access to amazing cultural options. Yet, UTM ensures that offerings like Lalo Davila and Friends and Salsa in the Quad are available," said Karen Campbell, communications director for the Weakley County School System.

Cultural diversity among student and community programs is increasing at UT Martin, and students in attendance appreciated the new event.

For those who may not enjoy salsa music, the afternoon of Oct. 4 also offered opportunities to hear the Aviators Marching Band perform their field show for Tennessee high school students during the Huntingdon Marching Contest at Huntingdon High School.

Later that same evening, UT Martin choir students performed in the annual Dessert Evening concert at Discovery Park of America. This event is a fundraiser to support choir members who participate in various departmental activities, including an international summer concert tour in New Zealand.

"This year's Dessert Evening was truly outstanding," said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the UT Martin College of Humanities and Fine Arts. "The performances ranged from pop to classical, ... and all were wonderful. I also liked the new venue. Being at Discovery Park of America's Dinosaur Hall made it truly special."

The upcoming music schedule includes small jazz (Oct. 29), piano (Nov. 12), contemporary music (Nov. 19) and percussion (Nov. 24).

The Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series will continue Nov. 18 with a performance by Latitude 49, an international mixed-chamber ensemble. Tickets for this performance are available online at utm.edu/musicevents.

University makes list of 'Best College Buys'

Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc. has included the University of Tennessee at Martin among "America's 100 Best College Buys" for the 14th consecutive year.

UT Martin is one of three Tennessee institutions included on this list, which also mentions the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

"For 14 consecutive years, UT Martin has maintained its position among 'America's 100 Best College Buys,' a select group of some of the most highly competitive institutions in American higher education. It has done so by focusing on providing a quality education at an exceptionally affordable cost, which very few colleges and universities can match," said Lewis Lindsey Jr., president of Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc.

To be considered for this listing, institutions must be accredited and offer four-year bachelor's degrees; offer full residential facilities including both residence halls and dining services; have had an entering freshman class in fall 2018 with an average high school grade point average and SAT or ACT score at or above the national average; and have an out-of-state cost of attendance below the national average cost of attendance for at least two semesters.

UT Martin's entering freshman class in fall 2018 had an average high school grade point average of 3.54 and an average ACT score of 24. Both exceeded the national averages at 3.46 and 23, respectively.

When institutions on this list are ranked by the 2019-20 cost of attendance — which includes tuition, fees, on-campus housing at double occupancy and the most common meal plan option — UT Martin comes in fourth in the nation for in-state students (total of $16,144) and second for out-of-state students (total of $22,184).
Miss UT Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Pageants October 26

MARTIN — The annual Miss University of Tennessee at Martin/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant is 7 p.m., October 26, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the campus of UT-Martin. The deadline to apply for the competition is Oct. 14.

The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is celebrating its 57th year, and this is the 21st year for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titles are chosen the same night. Students enrolled full-time at UT Martin through the spring 2020 semester are eligible for either crown.

Beginning this year, a UT Martin graduate currently working toward an additional degree at another Tennessee institution, is also eligible to compete for the Miss UT Martin title.

All women participating as residents of Tennessee or full-time students in Tennessee are eligible for the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Potential candidates for both titles should consult the contestant packet for full eligibility requirements.

The pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions.

Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category. Interviews will take place on the morning of the pageant and mandatory practice will occur in the afternoon.

The contestant crowned Miss UT Martin will receive $1,500 in scholarship money, and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will receive $1,500 if she is a UT Martin student or $500 if not.

The first runner-up for Miss UT Martin will receive $500 and the second runner-up will receive $200. There is no financial award for runners-up in the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title.

Both titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant in Jackson next summer, and the winner of that crown will serve as the governor’s spokesperson for character education across the state and receive $25,000 in scholarship money.

Tickets are available now at the Boling University Center Welcome Desk outside Watkins Auditorium.

A limited number of tickets can also be purchased at the door beginning at 5 p.m. the night of the competition. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

The admission charge is $15 for the general public and $10 for UT Martin students with their university ID. Only one ticket can be purchased with each student ID.

For more information, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wiljt.org or 731-881-7561.

Amanda Mayo, of Lilburn, Georgia, served as Miss UT Martin 2019.

Four take part in UTM program

Four Lauderdale County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s FutureStar Leadership Summit on Oct. 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. FutureStar is a youth program for middle school students designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured are, from left, Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar Executive Director, Billy Currie, Farrell Gooch, Katelyn Williams and Morgan Simpson.
Discovery Park’s photo collection features ‘Innovations in Agriculture’

At the Northwest Tennessee Food Processing & Agri-Business Conference held recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Discovery Park of America captured the photos of more than 85 farmers, agriculture students and others who work in the agriculture industry. The photos will be used as part of an upcoming exhibit dedicated to telling the story of innovation in agriculture. Opening Oct. 22, 2020, “AgriCulture: Innovating for Our Survival” will be located in the 8,900-square-foot red barn building that currently houses the museum and heritage park’s antique tractor collection.

“Through focus groups and other research we’ve done to create the content for our new Ag exhibit, we’re finding that people in general have an image of farmers today that is just not accurate,” said Scott Williams, president and CEO of Discovery Park. “We’re calling this a ‘mind-blowing, myth-busting farming exhibit that will change the world’ and exposing our guests to some of the real faces of farming today is just one of the ways we’re going to accomplish that.”

Those whose photos were captured at the booth and who will be included as one of the “Faces of Farming” include Dr. Charlie Hatcher, Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin Chancellor; David Kustoff, US Congressman; Dr. Molly Warren and Roger Williams from Williams Sausage Company and others.

Louisville, KY-based Solid Light, a leader in the exhibit design and fabrication field, has been selected to head the project and is currently finalizing the initial script and design.

Research shows that consumers are unaware of even the basic innovations and applications of technology used by farmers today. That absence of knowledge has contributed to a world in which innovation in agriculture is often misunderstood and even feared. Among other topics, the exhibit, when it opens, will include sections on innovation relating to row crops, animals, precision agriculture, the truth about GMOs, sustainability, tools and technology, and agri-business.

“AgriCulture: Innovating for Our Survival” is made possible by The Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council, The Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation and The University of Tennessee at Martin.

For more information on “AgriCulture: Innovating for Our Survival,” visit DiscoveryParkofAmerica.com/Agriculture.
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MARTIN — Chris Stachewicz, director of campus recreation at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Ami Galindo, coordinator of facilities and activities, play a part in preparing the Chicago Blackhawks, a member of the National Hockey League — for the ice each season.

While Gallindo's participation is relatively recent, Stachewicz has worked with the team for the past ten years.

"When I started my [previous] job at the University of Illinois at Chicago, my boss at the time was in charge of the team's pre-season testing," he said. Stachewicz was asked to help run a battery of fitness and agility tests for each player, and he soon mastered administration of the wingate test, a 30-second maximum output test performed on a stationary bicycle.

"[The wingate test] shows how quickly you can get to peak power and how long you can sustain it against a load... Sometimes for this team it was against nine percent of their body weight," he explained. "I currently do another test, which is a vertical jump test... They look at a lot of different things; it's not just how high [you can jump]. It's your maximum take-off velocity... and average peak power."

Stachewicz says the pre-season tests measure more than just physical fitness. They can also evaluate the potential for player injuries, decide who makes the team and help injured players return to pre-injury capabilities.

"[This vertical jump test] has a video that goes with it that shows how [the player] stands [and] what they look like when they're taking off or landing, so you can find abnormalities that can maybe lead toward injuries. So, there's injury prevention that goes with it. There's so much more. It really has evolved into a critical science."

Chris Stachewicz, director of campus recreation at UT Martin.

he said. "What I do is administer the test, go over the results and make sure it is now uploaded into an app that they have so they can compile all their data."

UT Martin students, faculty, staff and community members can now benefit from the Blackhawks' work through an online platform developed by a Blackhawks coach. Referred to locally as "Skyhawk Strong," this platform provides customizable daily workouts for users that go beyond lifting heavy weights.

"I get a link text-messaged to me every day, and then I fill out the survey... It wants to know your energy level, how do your muscles feel, how did you sleep last night and how motivated you are to work out. It'll ask you how long of a workout you would like, but then it will also ask if you have a full gym or a hotel gym or if you want a body workout," he said.

"You put all that information in, and it splits out your workout. So, it's all based on you. It's not just 'I feel like lifting upper body today.' It gives you a full-body workout, and most of it is not about lifting heavy weights.

"It's more about mobility, strength, core." For $30 per month (half the cost of a professional subscription), Stachewicz says the use of this technology is a way to make daily workouts more accessible and approachable for everyone, even those without access to a full traditional gym.

"I used to think you had to bring [students] in here [at the Student Recreation Center] to work out, but when you go on vacation [between semesters], you don't want to come to the rec center.

You want to work out at home. We can help facilitate all that and help that healthier lifestyle," he said. "I work with one of the coaches from the Blackhawks, who made this platform, and was able to bring it to UT Martin."

To sign up for the Skyhawk Strong platform, visit traintoadapt.net/sign-up-introductory-form-skyhawk-strong.

MARTIN — ArtsEd Tennessee and Americans for the Arts will host a day-long workshop 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 25, in the University of Tennessee at Martin's Boling University Center. This event is free and open to the public, although pre-registration is required to reserve a seat. Breakfast, lunch and materials will be provided for all attendees.

Please visit utm.edu/artes-workshop to register by Oct. 17.

This event is designed to gather input from arts educators and community stakeholders from across the state and develop an advocacy plan to ensure equal access to music and arts education for every Tennessee student.

The workshop, supported by the Country Music Association Foundation, will help develop a statewide network to improve arts advocacy and create policy changes at the state level.

ArtsEd Tennessee is a new statewide arts advocacy coalition that represents and supports all areas of K-12 public education. Americans for the Arts is the largest national arts advocacy network in the country.

For more information on the conference schedule, contact artsedtn@gmail.com.

For help registering for the event, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402 or music@utm.edu.
Jolyta Henderson Named UT Martin Track, Field Head Coach

COURTESY UT MARTIN

The University of Tennessee at Martin athletics director Kurt McGuffin has announced the hiring of Jolyta Henderson as the fifth head track and field coach in the program’s Division I history.

Henderson was elevated to head coach after spending three seasons as an assistant coach with the UT Martin track and field programs. Henderson, 25, is the youngest female African American head coach in UT Martin and Ohio Valley Conference history while ranking amongst the nation’s youngest head coaches.

“We are happy to promote Jolyta to the position of head coach,” McGuffin said. “Jolyta will bring her energy to a program on the rise. Having been here through the reintroduction phase and seen the growth of the program, I feel confident that she will do what is best for her student-athletes.”

During her time at UT Martin, Henderson has been critical in the development of a reintroduced program after over a decade hiatus. Over the course of the last three seasons, UT Martin has seen the roster grow to over 50 members while recording numerous school records. During the 2019 track season, UT Martin took its program to another level of competition at the OVC Championships. At the OVC Indoor Championship the Skyhawks posted four event titles overall including the men’s DMR which recorded the fourth-fastest time in OVC history. Individually, freshman Tyreek Sapp ranked as the highest point scorer at the championship after contributing on the DMR while winning individual titles in the 60m and 200m events. Meanwhile, another freshman Brady Fry set a new program record with a title in the 60m hurdles. A total of seven school records were broken during the 2019 indoor season, including the 60m, 60m hurdles, 200m, 400m, mile, 3k and DMR. Along with competitive success, the Skyhawk men’s squad earned the OVC Team Sportsmanship Award.

In the outdoor track season, the Skyhawks tallied three school records in the men’s 110m hurdles and 4x100m while posting a school mark in the women’s high jump. At the OVC Outdoor Championship, Oisin O’Gallin posted a pair of top-five finishes in the 5k (second) and 1500m (fifth) while Fry finished runner-up in the 110m hurdles. Junior Leonel Perez (900m) and freshman Alexis Grandys (5k) also recorded top-five times.

“I am eternally grateful for such an amazing opportunity; I truly thank God for this blessing,” Henderson said. “It is an amazing feeling to make history not only at UT Martin but as well at the OVC level. To be named the youngest female African American head coach is an honor. Having been at UT Martin since the rebirth of the track and field program, I look forward to the upcoming seasons. Our goal as a staff is leading our program to the next level while supporting our student-athletes to reach their top potential on and off the track.”

A former collegiate athlete herself, Henderson competed in sprints, jumps and hurdles at Murray State University. During her time at Murray State, she achieved many personal records in sprints and hurdles. Along with her athletic ability, she was voted to the team’s Leadership Council.

Prior to her collegiate career, Henderson was a five-time Tennessee state champion at Dyersburg High School. Henderson competed in sprints, jumps, hurdles and the pentathlon. She qualified for the Tennessee State Track and Field Championships in the 4x100, 4x200, 400m, long jump and triple jump where she held several school records.

Henderson earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science and wellness from Murray State in 2016. She later completed her Master’s in family and consumer science from UT Martin in 2018.

UT Martin Reed Center to Host Commercialization Workshop

MARTIN — A statewide entrepreneur resource network called “Launch Tennessee” will host a commercialization workshop from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., October 29, at the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center. Registration is available online at tsbdc.org/utm or by calling 731-587-7395.

LaunchTN uses the Small Business and Innovation Research grant to provide funding for research and development to commercialize new technology. This grant is a highly competitive federal program to help small businesses profit from the development of new products. LaunchTN also connects entrepreneurs with a mentor network and assists with grant writing.

Allie Mikels and Morgan Dent, both members of LaunchTN, will serve as speakers during the event. Lunch will be provided for those attending the workshop. The workshop is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. For more information, contact Allie Mikels at allie@launchtn.org.
A trip to Italy: a sunrise in Siena

A partnership between the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Dante Alighieri Society in Siena, Italy, has made it possible for UTM students to take part in an ongoing study abroad program. Six students through Dr. Jeff Longacre’s “Creative Non-Fiction: Travel Writing” class are a part of this unique program and plan to tell about their experiences living, traveling and studying in Italy for a series in The Press. The second segment comes from UTM student Michelle Fieser, who recounts fog blanketing a historic landmark in the foreign country.

By MICHELLE FIESER
Special to The Press

There was no sunrise that Friday morning. The sky was filled with a dense fog that blocked out the sun. It wasn’t the kind that rolls gently over the mountains in the distance, but it was the kind of fog that just sits and stays. Upon waking that morning and looking out the window, it appeared that the city of Siena, Italy, had risen into the sky and was now floating with the clouds. The scenery was gone and it looked like the only things left were the streets immediately adjacent to the apartment I live in. The fog weaved in-between and around buildings, sometimes completely obscuring them, while at other times suddenly revealing new houses that I’d never noticed before. Even though Siena is never quiet, the fog seemed to visually express the idea of silence. This would make the tone of that morning’s activities quite different than planned.

To check off the first item on that morning’s itinerary, my sister Emma and Sarah Katherine — two other students on this study abroad program — and I were going to, reportedly, the best bakery in Siena.

Emma had the directions, so she guided us towards our destination. It was in the Torre (or Tower) Contrada, which is one of 17 contrade, or neighborhoods, that compete with each other in a dramatic horse race twice a year, called the Palio. I’d only been to this contrada once, so it was neat to visit a part of the city with which I wasn’t as familiar. The roads wound down a hill, getting progressively qui-
The bakery materialized suddenly on the corner of a group of houses. It peered out of the stone walls, as if glancing sheepishly out at Siena.

The entrance of the bakery was a small door, surrounded by baked goods as if it were a Christmas garland. The inside of the shop was small, but not uninviting. Half of it was devoted to their breads and pastries, and the other half was essentially a small grocery store, containing items from wine to microwaveable foods.

We felt a little awkward immediately ordering pastries, since there was more to the store than that, but after putting around for a few minutes, we decided that we needed to get a move on with ordering.

There were breads there in shapes I’d never seen. There were small loaves in the shapes of smiley faces, and what looked like several croissants all connected together to form a wreath. I got a shortbread cookie with blackberry marmalade spread on the inside. The texture of the cookie was light, crumbly, buttery, and evenly-flavored throughout its entirety.

It was definitely the best shortbread I had had in a long time. The three of us sat on a stone wall outside the shop and ate quietly, the fog drifting slowly down the street in front of us. When we were finished it was time for the next leg of our morning activities.

Every Friday morning there is a produce market outside la fortezza (the fortress), which is a very old fort built in the mid-16th century after Siena was defeated by Florence that has since been repurposed into a beautiful public space. Our plan was to walk there to see what it was like, and, if we were interested, to buy some fruits or vegetables.

It was about a 10-minute walk from the bakery to the fortress, and it was very much a reverse of the walk to the bakery. It was all uphill, and, as we approached the area of town near the market, the streets grew more crowded. It was past 9 in the morning at this point and the fact that the people filling the streets were dominantly children was unusual.

When we reached the market, the park it was in was packed with hundreds of kids. It was at this point that we noticed the signs, and that’s when we realized that this was a march against climate change. I had not heard anything about the protest happening on that particular foggy Friday morning. For me, this automatically took precedence over our planned trip to the market because it gave me a sort of chilling sensation to see so many children protesting.

Since I started studying history about three and a half years ago, there have been occasions where I have become acutely aware of the historical significance of a current event. This was one of those moments. This specific event was special because I knew that the same thing was happening all over the world. I had seen footage online of other protests against climate change in the United States as well as in places like Paris and New Delhi, but it hadn’t occurred to me that there would be one in Siena.

While watching as the children meandered around the park waiting for the march to start, I imagined myself in the future as a professor in some university classroom pulling up a PowerPoint slide and talking about how issues since the world wars had become global, and that, with the proliferation of mass and new media, the world has only grown smaller.

In that talk, I would use the climate change protests as an example of how local political issues become international issues. I would emphasize that there was something other than people’s national identities that bound them to each other, and that thing was our humanity.

Now, as far as Siena goes, I would go on to witness several more protests after this one. The people here are apparently very engaged politically.

After watching and contemplating the meaning of the protest, we decided to head back to our apartments, going the long way to avoid the crowd. We hadn’t gotten anything from the market. Not because of the protest’s distraction, but because we simply didn’t feel like we needed anything.

In fact, the market was a
It is a massive brick structure on the edge of a cliff. The inside of the building was sparsely decorated compared to the decadent artworks and overwhelmingly elaborate decorations of places. I'd been to recently like the Vatican and the Pantheon in Rome. It was an open space with large paintings on the walls and strange modern-looking stained glass. It looked as though it was the victim of many violent attacks throughout its past and an odd patchwork of architectural styles was all that remained.

As soon as I entered the church, I began looking for the relic of Saint Catherine of Siena, one of the patron saints of Europe as well as the United States. I was surprised to find her chapel somewhat randomly placed in the side of a wall. I had expected a large, extravagantly decorated and roped-off chapel, but in reality it was small and unimpressively unimpressive, except its large size.

lot more peaceful than I had thought it would be. There was also more variety of produce than I had anticipated. It was sort of like the Martin Farmer’s Market, but with the addition of foods like homemade cheeses and wines. Even though I didn’t get anything, it was good to know what they had so that I could buy something in the future. The walk back was mostly quiet.

Normally, there would be outlook areas where you could see the skyline of Sienna, or the beautiful mountains in the distance. Today, there were only walls of impenetrable fog. The narrow, medieval, gray-stone streets felt more closed off than ever before.

One last stop, before we were back home at our apartments, was the church that contains the head of St. Catherine of Siena: San Domenico. It was not a planned stop, but we were there, so we decided to take a look. The church itself is unimpressive, except its large size.

been through in her youth. She was born during the outset of the plague, and was the 25th child of her aging parents. The experience of seeing such an important saint in a vast room almost completely devoid of life was unsettling.

Where was everyone? Had the fog driven the tour groups away? It didn’t make sense to me that I had to wait in long lines to enter churches with moderately famous art, when I had just strolled right in to see the most famous saints in history. As there wasn’t much else to see in San Domenico, we left after only around 10 minutes. I decided to lay the clouded and confusing atmosphere of the church to rest, or at least be content with assuming it was just timing.

The remainder of the walk back home was filled with cats and snails. The fog had not lifted.
Attends Leadership Summit

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS from Lauderdale County, including Billy Currie, Farrell Gooch, Katelyn Williams and Morgan Simpson, pictured with Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2019 FutureStar Leadership Summit October 1st at the University of Tennessee at Martin. FutureStar is a youth program for middle school students designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or FutureStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program director, at 731-881-7198.

The Camden Chronicle Thursday; October 24, 2019

UTM Homecoming is Nov. 2

UTM will host homecoming week Oct. 28-Nov. 3, culminating with the football game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m., Nov. 2, at Hardy Graham Stadium.

The circus-themed festivities will include the traditional rope pull, lip sync, pyramid and step show competitions for campus Greek Life organizations as well as a variety of new events. Additions to this year’s schedule include a comedy show featuring Desi Banks and Darren Brand at 7 p.m., Oct. 30; a costume party from 6-9:30 p.m., Oct. 31; and “Murder Under the Big Top,” a dinner theatre hosted by the Public Relations Student Society of America at 7 p.m., Oct. 31. Ticket information is available at utmforever.com/homecoming.

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Tennessee colleges

to boost security efforts

Monica Kast
Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

At most technical colleges in Tennessee, there’s less security presence than at the average high school, said Mike Krause, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission is looking to change that.

While most states leave decisions about security and training officers to each individual campus, Tennessee will now undertake a statewide initiative to make sure every location is secure. Security officers will be hired for each technical college, and every college and university in the state will undergo a security assessment.

“This is just the most important thing we can be doing right now, is making sure our campuses are a safe place for students,” Krause said.

Over the next three months, the Higher Education Commission will implement statewide training for all campus police, to be conducted by law enforcement. Security assessments will also be done at each location to see what improvements are needed.

Statewide training

Earlier this month, the Higher Education Commission hosted a statewide security conference with campus police chiefs, presidents and law enforcement, including the FBI. The conference helped officials figure out the next step in securing campuses, Krause said.

In December, there will be training for all campus police on handling mass shootings. Krause declined to go into detail about what the training covers because of safety concerns, but said it will be taught by law enforcement. The training offered “has not previously been available to campus police,” he said.

“I think it’s the reality of our times,” Krause said. “We’ve seen incidents that have taken place around the country and we want to make sure that we’re being proactive rather than reactive.”

Ensuring students have a safe campus environment is “about learning,” he added.

“If someone doesn’t feel safe, they’re not going to be able to learn,” Krause said.

Campuses will take “a hard look at your facilities that were constructed with other objectives in mind,” and begin thinking about improving safety.

“We’ve got to be thinking about a building that offers the maximum possible deterrent to anyone that would wish to harm our students,” Krause said.

Needs at technical colleges

Most technical colleges in Tennessee do not have a dedicated security officer, in contrast to high schools, which typically have police on site, Krause said.

At technical colleges, especially in rural areas, it often falls to the local police department to act as security.

“They might be miles away,” Krause said.

The Higher Education Commission will be asking for 27 officers — one for each technical college — and an additional position at the state level to help coordinate security. The officers at the technical colleges will be full-time sworn officers. Krause estimated it will cost $2.7 million.

The Higher Education Commission will ask for an additional $2 million this year to continue improving physical security on campuses, including items like cameras and lighting. The final cost will be known after the campus assessments are complete.

University of Tennessee

This year, the University of Tennessee System was given $10 million specifically for security enhancements.

“They’d already had some (improvements) underway, but there’s no doubt this will be a bit of a shot in the arm in terms of funding,” Krause said.

The $10 million has helped “make a significant dent in our security needs,” said UT System interim President Randy Boyd.

“It’s the number one priority for the University of Tennessee to make sure our students are safe,” Boyd said.

Across the UT System, there are close to 1,200 buildings, which Boyd said is “an incredibly large campus” to secure.

The money will go to each of the three campuses based on their needs and priorities, and “wasn’t one size fits all,” Boyd said.

Most of the funding will go toward making sure campuses are protected in the event of an active shooter, which includes more physical security, like door locks, cameras and barricades, and also training for officers.

When the campus assessments are complete across the state, there will be similar improvements made at other locations, Krause said.

“We think a proactive security approach is essential,” Krause said.
Combined Miss UT Martin/Miss TN Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant Saturday night

Two crowns will be awarded Saturday night at the annual Miss UT Martin – Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Scholarship Pageant.

The pageant begins at 7:00 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

Pageant Executive Director Katrina Cobb explains how two titles are awarded in one pageant.

Miss Cobb says scholarship money is one of the most important areas of the pageant.

Both titleholders will compete next summer in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant in Jackson.

Tickets are available now at the Boling University Center Welcome Desk outside Watkins Auditorium with a limited number of tickets available at the door beginning at 5:00 Saturday night.

(2019 Miss UT Martin Amanda Mayo)
Weather-related school closings for Monday (Oct. 28), Tuesday (Oct. 29)

October 27, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

Below is a list of weather-related school closings:

University of Tennessee at Martin Parsons Center – Closed Monday (October 28) and Tuesday (October 29)

UT Martin Parsons Center To Be Closed

The UT Martin Parsons Center will be closed Oct. 28-29 because of extensive storm damage in Decatur County. Updates will be offered as information becomes available.
UTM Parsons Center closed Mon. and Tue. due to storm damage

Posted on October 27, 2019 by Steve James in Local News

Extensive damage from strong storms that move through the Decatur County area Saturday has caused the closure of the UT Martin Parsons Center Monday and Tuesday.

School closings, Oct. 29

October 28, 2019 by WBBJ-7 Eyewitness News Staff

Due to weather-related damage, several schools in West Tennessee have cancelled school for Tuesday, Oct. 29

University of Tennessee at Martin – Parsons Center

New Miss UT Martin, Miss TN Soybean Festival winners crowned

Posted on October 28, 2019 by Steve James in Local News

A new Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival will represent the local area for 2020 after being crowned Saturday night at UTM. University Relations Staff Writer Erin Chesnut says Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major at the UTM, became Miss UT Martin 2020, and Miura Rempis, a student from Middle Tennessee State University, became Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2020 during the combined scholarship pageant.

Duffy, from Holladay, attends classes at the UT Martin Parsons Center and wore the Miss Greater Weakley County crown this past year. Her platform, "U Fit N," is about her personal adoption story and a drive to help people of all backgrounds find a sense of belonging.

Meanwhile, Rempis, an Antioch resident, is a political science major at MTSU studying pre-law. Her platform is "The Power of Civic Engagement," which encourages citizens of all ages to become educated about the roles they play in their communities.

Both winners will compete in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant next June in Jackson.

(photo: Miura Rempis (left), Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2020, and Kailey Duffy (right), Miss UT Martin 2020, are pictured with the current Miss Tennessee Volunteer Kerri Arnold, who is junior interdisciplinary studies major at UT Martin.)
School closings, Oct. 30

October 29, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff
(https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbyewitnessnews/)

Due to weather-related damage, several schools in West Tennessee have cancelled school for Wednesday, Oct. 30.

University of Tennessee at Martin – Parsons Center will be closed through Nov. 1

UT Martin Parsons Center closed rest of week

Posted on October 29, 2019 by Steve James
(https://www.thunderboltradio.com/author/stevejames) in Local News
(https://www.thunderboltradio.com/category/local-news/)

The UT Martin Parsons Center will remain closed the rest of this week as Decatur County and other areas recover from the weekend storms.

Strong straight-line winds toppled trees and knocked out power to many in the southern portion of West Tennessee Saturday.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver tells Thunderbolt Radio News about the decision to close the Parsons campus.

Dr. Carver says he's in contact with the center director and that the building is being inspected during this time.

Along with the UTM Parsons Center, Decatur County Schools are closed the remainder of this week, and a boil water order has been issued for county's residents.
UTM Greek Garden To Be Dedicated Saturday

OCTOBER 29, 2019 AT 8:25 AM  POSTED BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Martin, Tenn. - The University of Tennessee at Martin will officially dedicate the new National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Garden at Unity Circle at 11:30 a.m., Nov. 2, north of Clement Hall on the UT Martin main campus.

The new garden features individual plaques with information on the founding and purpose of each of the NPHC chapters. This tribute was created to honor the "Divine Nine" traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin.

"The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed its first black Greek-letter organization way back in 1970 with the arrival of Delta Sigma Theta. Many more would follow, and collectively they would leave a legacy that continues to impact our campus and community even to this very day," said John Abel, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, said during the groundbreaking ceremony in April.
The nine National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations represented at UT Martin are Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Phi Sorority Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.

The public is invited to attend this ceremony as part of homecoming festivities.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs at 731-881-7525

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LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND WESTSTAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – Seven Weakley County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2019 FutureStar Leadership Summit on Oct. 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. FutureStar is a youth program for middle school students designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured (front row, from left) are: Michael Canady, Ethan Foley, Charlie Gribble, (back row) WestStar Executive Director Dr. Charley Deal, Kobi Scarborough, Noah Duncan, Amayiah Reed and Hailey Walters. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or FutureStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program director, at 731-881-7198.
Chilean student returns to father’s Alma Mater for English program

Catalina Cubillos came a long way to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. The native Chilean is spending the semester as part of the Tennessee Intensive English Program, an English curriculum hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin for international students and other non-native English speakers.

“I always told my father that I was interested in studying English, and it is not easy to study English in Chile,” Catalina said, speaking through Ken Fackler, a TIEP faculty member who served as translator for her interview. “Here there is no choice but to actually use English and to speak it with other people. It is much better for me, and it stimulates me to do that much more here than it would at home.”

But while this is Catalina’s first visit to the United States, she has heard about UT Martin all her life. Her father, Hector Cubillos, graduated from UT Martin in 1983 and later spent 10 years working in the U.S. before returning home to his native Chile. When the time came to consider a foreign program for his daughter, Hector wouldn’t consider anywhere else.

“Her father was actually afraid to have her study somewhere they wouldn’t be together. He was afraid something could happen to her elsewhere. Because her father knows this area quite well and he studied here, he felt that this was a safe place for her,” said Fackler, paraphrasing Catalina’s response.

“I brought Catalina to UT Martin first because this is my university and I am proud to be an alum of this university,” said Hector in an email interview. “The second point is that Martin is a small, safe town for a foreign student, and third is that she will be exposed to English entirely and completely; nobody speaks Spanish there.”

Catalina has grown up in Santiago, Chile, which she describes as a sprawling city with an extensive metro system. She says the two biggest challenges for her have been adjusting to life where a personal vehicle is necessary and finding groceries similar to what she would eat at home.

“The law (in Chile) specifies that there must be a label on all the food listing the amount of sugar and other ingredients, salt for example, that makes it clear what people are consuming. Here, everything is so sweet that it’s difficult for her to consume it,” translated Fackler. However, she has been pleasantly surprised by the friendliness of local residents.

“I suppose the people are very friendly. In Chile, it’s not like that. If you don’t know someone, they aren’t going to say hello to you... It is much safer here,” she said. “You can see someone maybe four times in the same day, and that would be unusual (in Santiago).”

“I hope she learns and experiences the American way of life and hopefully learns the language, at least to be able to carry out a basic conversation in English, and there is nothing like being there and (living) the English experience firsthand,” wrote Hector.

Catalina plans to return to Chile at the end of the TIEP program and pursue a career similar to a dental hygienist.
Managing employees seminar to be held at the UT Martin Reed Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center will host a presentation titled “Quit Hiring Employees and Start Selecting a Mate” from 6-8 p.m. Nov. 5 at the center. Registration is available online at tsbdc.org/utm or by calling 587-7333.

Dr. Sean Walker, UT Martin associate professor of management, will speak during the event. Walker obtained both his MBA and his doctoral degree at Southern Illinois University. He currently serves in the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems in the College of Business and Global Affairs. His research interests and teaching areas assess the impact of psychological phenomena on human resources and organizational behavior.

The two-hour presentation will focus on finding the right employee and recognizing the cultural shift in the employment relationship. The presentation will cover key topics including the dynamic shift from hiring an employee to selecting a “mate” for any organization, advice for how to increase the likelihood of success, and potential pitfalls and moving forward.

For more information, visit tsbdc.org/utm.

UTM to dedicate Greek Garden

The University of Tennessee at Martin will officially dedicate the new National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Garden at Unity Circle at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, north of Clement Hall on the UT Martin main campus.

The new garden features individual plaques with information on the founding and purpose of each of the NPHC chapters. This tribute was created to honor the “Divine Nine” traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin.

“The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed its first black Greek-letter organization way back in 1970 with the arrival of Delta Sigma Theta. Many more would follow, and collectively they would leave a legacy that continues to impact our campus and community even to this very day,” said John Abel, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, said during the groundbreaking ceremony in April.

The nine National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations represented at UT Martin are Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Phi Sorority Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.

The public is invited to attend this ceremony as part of homecoming festivities.
LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND WESTSTAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – Twelve Gibson County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program's 2019 FutureStar Leadership Summit on Oct. 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. FutureStar is a youth program for middle school students designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Kasha Whitworth, Joshua Clark, Timberly Mayberry, Tiphany Lawrence, Karli Thompson, Roselyn Hernandez; (back row) Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, Cary Allen, Anthony Devine, Dalton Moody, J'Vionne Johnson, Lucas Meadows and Mason Graves. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or FutureStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program director, at 781-881-7198.
Local Students Attend Leadership Summit

MARTIN (October 1) — Eight Carroll County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2019 FutureStar Leadership Summit Tuesday at the University of Tennessee at Martin. FutureStar is a youth program for middle school students designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured are (L to R): Front Row — Kamrie High, Caidenz Nunnery, Adreanna Gulledge, Morgan Reynolds and Luke Gibson; Back Row — Da'Shaun Kinght, Christopher Beck, Dr. Charley Deal, WestStar executive director, and Onuix Butler. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or FutureStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program director, at 731-881-7288. Photo courtesy UT Martin

www.thunderboltradio.com/

Homecoming Activities at UT-Martin

Posted on October 30, 2019 by Charles Choate in Local News

From 10:00 until 6:00, Homecoming King and Queen elections are being held online at utm.edu/election.

At 4:00 this afternoon, Rope Pull will be held behind the Student Recreation Complex.

And at 7:00 tonight, the Comedy Show featuring Desi Banks and Darren Brand will take place at Watkins Auditorium.

UT-Martin ‘Homecoming Week’ has taken on a circus theme of ‘Come One Come All to the Greatest University of All.’

Activities continue through Sunday morning.
Broadway musical comedy coming to UTM next month

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" Broadway musical comedy will be performed at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Performances are set for 8 p.m. Nov. 7-9 and 3 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Harriet Fulton Theater in the Fine Arts Building. Admission is $15 for adults and $10 for students.

The UT Martin departments of music and visual and theater arts are partnering to host the production, which tells the story of several Putnam Valley Middle School students who don't fit in but who eventually find purpose when they compete in the regional spelling bee. Tickets can be purchased or reserved from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily through the Department of Visual and Theater Arts main office in room 201 of the Fine Arts Building the week of the performance. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (731) 881-7090 or (731) 881-7400.

Songwriter to present 'Behind the Hits' at FHU

Mark Alan Springer, BMI Country Songwriter of the Year in 1998, will present "Behind the Hits" Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Freed-Hardeman University’s Ayers Auditorium in Henderson. Springer has written or published 20 Top 20 songs in his career. He is perhaps best known for having written "Two Sparrows in a Hurricane," recorded by Tanya Tucker and "Where Corn Don’t Grow," recorded by Waylon Jennings and Travis Tritt. He also penned several songs recorded by Kenny Chesney, including "When I Close My Eyes," "That's Why I'm Here," "All I Need to Know" and "Grandpa Told Me So."

Additional artists who have recorded Springer's songs include Diamond Rio, Alabama, Marie Osmond, Charlie Daniels, Steve Wariner, Tracy Lawrence, Joe Diffie and Larry Stewart. As president of the Nashville Songwriters Association International, Springer led a group of songwriters to meet with members of the U.S. House and Senate on behalf of songwriters’ rights. In addition to his business interests, Springer continues to tell the stories and perform the hits at house concerts, benefits and private functions. The "bare bones" acoustic show has proven to be a memorable experience for audiences young and old.

Springer's wife, the former Stacey Montgomery, is being inducted into the FHU Sports Hall of Fame Saturday evening. Tickets to the concert are available for $10 each online at fhutickets.com.

Garden dedication scheduled on campus

The University of Tennessee at Martin will officially dedicate the new National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek Garden at Unity Circle at 11:30 a.m. Saturday north of Clement Hall on the UT Martin main campus. The new garden features individual plaques with information on the founding and purpose of each of the NPHC chapters.

This tribute was created to honor the "Divine Nine" traditionally African-American fraternities and sororities, all of which are represented at UT Martin. The nine National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations represented at UT Martin are Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Phi Sorority Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.

The public is invited to attend this ceremony as part of homecoming festivities.
Miura Rempis (left), Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2020, and Kailey Duffy (right), Miss UT Martin 2020, are pictured with the current Miss Tennessee Volunteer Kerri Arnold, who is a junior interdisciplinary studies major at UT Martin.

Duff, Rempis Claim Miss UT Martin, Miss Tenn. Soybean Festival Titles

MARTIN — Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, became Miss UT Martin 2020, and Miura Rempis, a student from Middle Tennessee State University, became Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2020 during the combined scholarship pageant held October 26 in the UT Martin Russell Duncan Ballroom. The pageant is co-sponsored by the university and the city of Martin.

Duffy, from Holladay, attends classes at the UT Martin Parsons Center and wore the Miss Greater Weakley County crown this past year. Her platform, "U Fit N," is about her personal adoption story and a drive to help people of all backgrounds find a sense of belonging. Rempis, an Antioch resident, is a political science major at MTSU studying pre-law. Her platform is "The Power of Civic Engagement," which encourages citizens of all ages to become educated about the roles they play in their communities.

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Queens

...From Front Page

The Miss UT Martin titleholder must be either a current full-time UT Martin student or a UT Martin graduate currently earning an additional degree at another Tennessee institution. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival titleholder must either be a Tennessee resident or a full-time student at a Tennessee institution. Both winners will compete in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant next June in Jackson. The winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer title will serve as the governor’s spokesperson for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee’s Children’s Miracle Network hospitals.

Amanda Mayo, a junior from Lilburn, Georgia, and Tera Townsend, a student from SAE Institute Nashville, served as Miss UT Martin 2019 and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2019, respectively.

For more information on either title, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org or 731-881-7561.
UT Martin highly rated among state for educator prep

October 31, 2019 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj7eyewitnessnewsstaff/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — University of Tennessee Martin announced their Educator Preparation program is the most improved across the state.

The Tennessee State Board of Education released the report, highlighting UT Martin's program, according to a news release from UTM.

The release says UTM received a $3.3 million grant to fund a survey, which identified the greatest needs for teachers in the 32 partner school districts.

The release says that lead to the start of a new teacher induction program, a series of STEM-based professional development workshops, and COMP-certification, or classroom organization management program, for all UT Martin graduates.

The teacher induction program is a factor in UT Martin's increased scores, and program leaders hope this will help boots confidence and teaching strategies for new teachers.
The Jackson Purchase Historical Society (JPHS) concludes its 2019 series of public programs with a presentation by Professor Alice-Catherine Carls on “West Tennessee Returns to Peace – 1919.”

A brief business meeting will precede the program at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the C.E. Weldon Public Library at 100 Main St., Martin.

“We are excited to have Dr. Carls share her extensive research on the First World War in Jackson, especially the involvement of white and black women on the home front. There remains so much to be uncovered about the history of our region. Too often, the work and sacrifices of those who remained behind on the home front when the nation went to war have been neglected when we study and write about warfare. Dr. Carls’ work helps redress that imbalance,” said JPHS President Bill Mulligan.

Dr. Carls is Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Tennessee-Martin. She has her doctorate from Université de Paris I - Sorbonne and has published extensively and translated a number of books in a broad range of areas. Her book, ‘Europe from War to War, 1914-1945,’ co-authored with her husband Steven Carls, University Professor at Union University, appeared in 2018 from Routledge. She was a member of the Tennessee Great War Commission from 2014-18, among a large number of professional and community activities.

According to West Tennessee reporter and local historian, Shannon McFarlin, Dr. Carls has also been doing research to support the restoration of Jackson’s World War I Memorial Fountain in Jackson. The Surgical Dressings Workers of Jackson built it after the end of the War. The American Red Cross trained the women to sew surgical dressings and other medical bandages. According to Carls’ research, the Jackson chapter may have been alone in training an entire class of African American women to make surgical dressings. Almost 13,000 surgical dressings were produced in Jackson during the war.

“The purpose of this restoration is remember all parts of that story and to honor every one of whom we are aware and who deserve to be named or mentioned,” said Carls. She continues to research local Jackson people’s involvement in the First World War. Currently, she is working on an article on Pvt. William Rushing, who served “over there” in 1918, suffered sneezing gas attacks, and was part of the Battle of St. Quentin Canal in early October. His diary of his time in France is very dramatic. Rushing operated the presses for the Jackson Sun for fifty-one years after his return to Jackson.

In 1958, a group of people from western Kentucky and west Tennessee, who were interested in local and regional history, met in Murray, Kentucky and formed the Jackson Purchase Historical Society to promote interest, study, and preservation of the regional history of the territory included in the Chickasaw Purchase of 1818-19. Andrew Jackson, before he was president, and Isaac Shelby negotiated the treaty with the Chickasaw Nation represented by Levi Colbert and family. Jackson played the leading role in the negotiations. The Treaty was ratified in 1819 and opened the region to full settlement. The area of primary interest to the Jackson Purchase Historical Society includes the Kentucky counties of Ballard, Carlisle, Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall, and McCracken and Henry, Lake, Obion, and Weakley in Tennessee. We have an interest in, and welcome, members from all of West Tennessee, as well as all those who trace their roots to the Jackson Purchase and want to stay in touch with home. The Society’s interest in the general heritage of this region extends to bordering counties and larger national issues that have affected the region and the lives of its people.

In 2018, we celebrated our sixtieth anniversary of service to the region.

Membership is open to all who are interested for $15 per year and includes a copy of our annual journal.

Dr. Carls to speak at Jackson Purchase Historical Society
A trip to Italy: lost in Florence

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

By ETHAN TESTER
Special to The Press

I knew something was wrong because, as I lay in my bed that morning, light was coming in through the window at an unusually early hour. I reached across my nightstand to grab my phone and, to my horror, it was 9 a.m. I knew that I had set my phone’s alarm to 6:30 a.m., but I had heard nothing. I leapt out of bed in a panic, but knew there was no way I could make it to the bus stop in time to meet up with my classmates. By now they had already boarded the bus to Florence.

ENJOYING THE VIEW — UT Martin student Ethan Tester is spending time in Italy as part of a travel-study program offered through the university’s partnership with the Dante Alighieri Society

My plan was to take the 11 a.m. bus for Florence, then meet up with Rebecca and the group at 12:30. I checked my phone for the first time as I left my apartment — 10:50. With 10 minutes to spare, I was swinging my legs in a fast-walking motion, dodging in and out of oncoming pedestrian traffic, always looking over my shoulder for the next moped or electric car. I know how to get to the bus stop. I’ve known for some time. It was the first place I ever stepped foot in the Siena. But, with less than 10 minutes to make it to my location, constantly passing street after street that all looked the same, I began to doubt. Luckily, I managed to regain my bearings as I felt my way around the city using familiar Sienese landmarks. Soon enough, I was at the bus stop. But my mission was far from over — I needed a ticket.

I quickly scrolled through my contacts in WhatsApp and made a call to Dr. Longacre. After coming to my senses, and realizing there was no way he would re-

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ITALY
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ceive my call without Wi-Fi (a necessity for WhatsApp), I called my friend, T. He just so happened to be at the school’s office and acted as a medium between me and the secretaries, who got me in touch with my Art Appreciation professor, Rebecca, who was leading the trip to Florence. I made contact and she proceeded to send me step-by-step instructions on how to buy a bus ticket to Florence, board the bus, get off at the right stop, and walk to a meeting place. After receiving more information than I ever needed, I rushed to get ready before heading out the door.

I ran past restaurants, their outdoor tables full of people having pleasant days despite my personal tragedy, and made my way into a Tabaccheria (tobacco shop) — a catch-all convenience store that also sells bus tickets. “Mi scusi. Can I, uh, buy a bus ticket to Florence ... for 11?” The man across the counter studied my face for a second. He must have thought I had shot someone and was fleeing the city before the police appeared.

“Yes, tickets are always
the air around that bus stop was tainted with sulfur. As I stepped into sunlight and breathable air, I quickly realized I had no idea where to go.

I pulled out my phone and scrolled through Rebecca’s instructions. My best bet,

I thought foolishly, was following the map she had sent, comprised of a satellite photo of Florence and a blue line tracing a path through the city. I looked at the map, then at my surroundings, and resolved to go straight, past the bus stop and down the street, in the direction of one of the many cathedrals. Before I made my way toward what I hoped was my destination, out of the door in front of me came a barrage of older American tourists. I knew they were American because they not only spoke English, but also had seemingly no regard for anyone else on the sidewalk. I followed closely behind them, only because they were going in the same general direction as me. It didn’t take long for me to realize I was lost.

I approached one of the women in the back of the group, “Excuse me. Hi. I couldn’t help but notice you all spoke English, and I was wondering where you guys were from.”

“America.”

Thanks; couldn’t tell. “Cool, could I actually ask where you guys are going? I’m kind of lost, to be honest.”

“I don’t know where we’re going.”

“Oh, okay, thanks anyway!”

If I smiled at her, it was insincere.

I was surrounded by buildings and things, but they all looked the same to me. I couldn’t make out where Rebecca’s map was taking me. I was hopeless.

A man randomly walked up to me and began speaking in Italian. “No italiano,” I said.

“Ah, English. Where are you from?” I could tell from his accent he was African.

“America.”

“Ah, I have a friend in America!”

“Really?” It was at this point in the conversation that I realized he was probably going to try to sell me something.

“Yeah, he lives in Los Angeles. Here! Take this!” Before I knew it, I was wearing a black, leather bracelet with an emblem of an elephant in the middle.

Since he was being so generous, I figured I might as well ask him for help.

“Do you know how to get to this art gallery?” I pointed at the map.

“Yeah, yeah, you just go along this street here! Do you have friends in America?” Do I have friends in America? Did this guy think I just sat around all day and did nothing?

“Oh, yeah.”

“Then here, you can give them these!” That was when he started handing me bracelet after bracelet. How many friends did he think I had?

“Oh no, I can’t pay for these. I don’t have any money.” As soon as I said that, he was gone, and his bracelets with him. Although I did get to keep the one I was wearing. I guess he had forgotten about that.

I trekked through street after street, until I finally made it to the Florence Cathedral. I was immediately taken aback by how incredibly tall and bright the building appeared in the midday sun, but I had no time for sight-seeing. Still lost, I figured my best bet was to enter into one of the nearby cafes for their Wi-Fi.

“I’ve got kind of an emergency, and I was wondering if I could use your Wi-Fi,” I told the young man at the cash register, hoping he knew some English.

“You have to buy something, of course.”
Local students attend WestStar Leadership Summit

Six Dyer County students attended the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2019 FutureStar Leadership Summit on Oct. 1 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. FutureStar is a youth program for middle school students designed to build leadership skills and personal confidence for students in West Tennessee. Pictured are (l-r) Zackyah Wallace, Laura Brimm, Robert Hunt, Remmie McElrath, Dylan Coleman, Calderon David and Dr. Charlie Deal, WestStar executive director. For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program or FutureStar, contact Virginia Grimes, program director, at 731-881-7198.
QUEENS — Miss Tennessee Volunteer
Kerri Arnold (center), who is junior interdisciplinary studies major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, joined newly-crowned queens Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2020 Miura Rempis (left) and Miss UT Martin 2020 Kailey Duffy following their recent pageants on the UTM campus.

Miss UTM, Miss Soybean crowned

MARTIN — Kailey Duffy, a junior nursing major at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was crowned Miss UT Martin 2020, and Miura Rempis, a student from Middle Tennessee State University, became Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2020 during the combined scholarship pageant held recently in the UT Martin Russell Duncan Ballroom.

The pageant is co-sponsored by the university and the City of Martin.

Miss Duffy of Holladay attends classes at the UT Martin Parsons Center and wore the Miss Greater Weakley County crown this past year. Her platform, “U Fit N,” is about her personal adoption story and a drive to help people of all backgrounds find a sense of belonging.

Miss Rempis of Antioch is a political science major at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, where she is studying pre-law. Her platform is “The Power of Civic Engagement,” which encourages citizens of all ages to become educated about the roles they play in their communities.

The Miss UT Martin titleholder must be either a current full-time UT Martin student or a UT Martin graduate currently earning an additional degree at another Tennessee institution. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival titleholder must either be a Tennessee resident or a full-time student at a Tennessee institution.

Both winners will compete in the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant in June 2020 in Jackson. The winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer title will serve as the governor’s spokesman for character education and as an ambassador for Tennessee’s Children’s Miracle Network hospitals.

Amanda Mayo, a junior from Lilburn, Ga., and Tera Townsend, a student from SAE Institute Nashville, served as Miss UT Martin 2019 and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival 2019, respectively.

For more information on either title, contact Katrina Cobb, pageant director, at kcobb@wljt.org or (731) 881-7561.
BEAUTY QUEEN - Kailey Duffy received the crown and sash in the 2020 Miss UT Martin beauty competition on Saturday evening, October 26. The pageant was held at the University Center on the college campus. Duffy, who is a junior at UT Parsons, said she was elated with the win and will now begin preparations for the 2020 Miss Tennessee Volunteer pageant in Jackson next year. "I just want to thank all of those who made it possible. I have the best support team and I cannot wait to compete in the state pageant," Duffy said.