UT System requiring masks indoors at all campuses for beginning of semester

The school system said masks will be required in classrooms, laboratories, instructional spaces and any indoor events students are required to attend.

Monday, August 2nd 2021, 2:51 PM EDT

The University of Tennessee System announced Monday masks will be required indoors at all campuses for the beginning of the semester.

The school system said masks will be required in classrooms, laboratories, instructional spaces and any indoor events students are required to attend. The system's locations include UT Knoxville, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin, UT Southern and the UT Health Science Center.

Each campus will announce specific plans and guidelines in the coming days, and mask requirements will be re-evaluated continuously.

In addition to the system's mask requirements, President Randy Boyd is encouraging students, faculty and staff to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

“We are excited to have our campus communities together this fall and are planning full campus experiences across the UT System. With the Delta variant spreading in our state and communities, we want to help ensure the safest return possible,” Boyd said. “The best way to take care of each other as we return to campus is to first take care of ourselves by getting the COVID-19 vaccine.”
Large Group of UT-Martin Graduates Headed to Veterinary Schools

Seventeen members of the University of Tennessee at Martin spring graduating class have been accepted into veterinary schools.

Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and director of the Veterinary Health Technology Program, said the group is one of the largest to be accepted from the university.

Included in the accepted veterinary students is Taylor Heathcock, of South Fulton.

Heathcock will now attend the University of Missouri.

University reports said three of the 17 accepted members will study at international universities, which includes sites in London, Melbourne and the West Indies.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Marshall County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies held May 7 and May 8, 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted four in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of spring 2021’s accomplishments. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were: Joshua Flint Davis; Cole Allen Giles; Veronica Rose Kanka; and Madison Hope Taylor, all of Lewisburg.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of five primary UT campuses.
Family weekend set for UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Family Weekend event Sept. 10-12. The list of events includes food trucks, live music, the Bowtie 5K, tailgating and the UT Martin vs. Samford football game in Hardy Graham Stadium.

Family weekend packages are $25 each and include a Family Weekend T-shirt, tickets for the football game, concert and tailgate party, and vouchers for the food trucks and coffee at Vantage Coffee Roasters. UTM students will be admitted to the football game and concert with a student ID and have the opportunity to receive a free Family Weekend T-shirt, so they do not need to purchase packages. Packages can be ordered online at www.utm.edu/familyweekend.

Those wishing to participate in the Bowtie 5K can pre-register at the same link. To run the 5K will be $10, and to walk will be $5. T-shirts are also provided for participants while supplies last.

A barbecue lunch is provided from noon-1:30 p.m., Sept. 11, for $7 a person, and the closing Bowtie Brunch is provided from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sept. 12, for $12 a person. Participants must pay at the door.

A full schedule of events is as follows:
- Friday, Sept. 10
  4-6 p.m. – Family Weekend opens at the Tennessee Soybean Festival in downtown Martin. Check in at the new Martin Public Library and then enjoy dinner at one of the festival’s food trucks.
  6 p.m. – Family Weekend Concert at the Tennessee Soybean Festival.
- Saturday, Sept. 11
  7 a.m. – Bowtie 5K registration begins.
  9:30 a.m.-noon – Donuts with Deans come-and-go event, Vantage Coffee Roasters.
  Noon-4 p.m. – Concurrent events: Barbecue lunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall; Roller Skate Party; Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center; Skyhawk Bingo, Boling University Center 206ABC, Campus Feud game show, Watkins Auditorium.
  4 p.m.-5:45 p.m. – Luau Tailgate Party, Hardy Graham Stadium; the ‘Travelin’ Max show will take place during this time.
  6 p.m. – UT Martin football vs. Samford University, Hardy Graham Stadium.
  9:30 p.m. – Fireworks, Hardy Graham Stadium.
- Sunday, Sept. 12
  9:30 a.m. – Student-led non-denominational worship service, Watkins Auditorium.
  10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – Bowtie Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall.
  1 p.m. – Skyhawk Soccer vs. Western Carolina, Skyhawk Soccer Field.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/familyweekend or contact John Abel at jabel11@utm.edu or 731-881-7710.
King and Queen Bean nominees selected for the 2021 Tennessee Soybean Festival

The nominees have stepped up for an annual tradition that helps the Martin Pilot Club raise money for local causes. This year’s contestants for the eighth annual King and Queen of the Bean include local business owners and well-known faces of their community, all of whom will serve as philanthropists.

This effort is part of the 28th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival, which will take place the first week of September in Martin. Funds raised through monetary votes will be used to provide young participants of the Soybean Festival’s Bicycle Rodeo with bicycle helmets. The Pilot Club of Martin fundraiser will be used toward the organization’s philanthropy of Brain Awareness. The Bicycle Rodeo is sponsored by the Martin Pilot and Optimist clubs.

King of the Bean nominees for 2021 are:

Kameron Echols is the assistant director at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Office of Career Planning & Development. During his time at the university, he has served as an admissions counselor and student success counselor before assuming his current role. Kameron loves being involved in the Martin community and always lends a

SEE SOYBEAN PAGE 12

Blake Stoker

Kameron Echols

Kylan Mann

Hannah Alexander

Teddy Vincent

Kaylee Parker
SOYBEAN
FROM PAGE 1

helping hands wherever he can. He is currently on the board for Carl Perkins and the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce and is also involved in the Weakley County Prevention Coalition and the Martin Housing Authority Daddy Dance planning committee.

Kylan Mann is the Sr. Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Martin. He is Married to Felecia and they have four boys: Elias, Everett, Haddon, and Ripley.

Blake Stoker is a lifelong resident of Weakley County who graduated from Dresden High School in 2014, attending UT Martin and graduating Mississippi State with a degree in Ag Business. At a young age, Blake developed a passion for cooking Texas-style barbecue. The young pit master has been operating a food trailer, Blake’s BBQ, in Martin since 2018. The young entrepreneur is currently remodeling the historic Southern Milling building to house his full-service restaurant, Blake’s Southern Milling.

Nominations for Queen are:

Hannah Alexander is the UT Martin assistant director of University Relations for Marketing. She serves on the Martin Business Association Board, Weakley County Young Professionals Board and enjoys volunteering for the Martin community as often as she can.

Kaycee Parker owns Merle Norman Cosmetics in Historic Downtown Martin. Originally from Amarillo, Texas, she has lived in Weakley County for five years.

Teddy Vincent was born and raised in Martin. She graduated from UT Martin with a studio art degree and now operates Teddy Kay Studio in Martin as well as continuing to work part-time at the Color Shop.

Containers bearing a picture of each individual contestant will be placed at various locations throughout Martin and will be interchanged in other various locations through the remainder of August and the beginning of September. The contestants receiving the most votes through monetary donations will be crowned at the Mayor’s Kickoff Luncheon during the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Community members are asked to deposit their loose change and dollar bills into the containers to cast their votes in support of their candidates. The donations will not only help provide bicycle helmets for Bicycle Rodeo participants, but also help with improvements at Weldon Park in downtown Martin. The Martin Pilot Club is working to get bathrooms installed at the park.

FAMILY WEEKEND SET SEPT. 10-12 — The Bowtie 5K will be part of Family Weekend activities, set for Sept. 10-12, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The race opens the Saturday portion of the weekend events, and participants can pre-register at www.utm.edu/familyweekend. Other Family Weekend events described at the same link include food trucks, live music, tailgating and the UT Martin vs. Samford football game in Hardy Graham Stadium. Pictured is UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver participating in a past Bowtie 5K.
Weakley County students recognized during UT Martin Honors Day

Several Weakley County students received awards during the recent University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day Ceremony.

- Alex Carr of Martin received the Tennessee Historical Commission Award, which is given by the Department of History and Philosophy.
- Abby Eubank of Greenfield received the William H. Baker Scholarship Award, which is given by the College of Business and Global Affairs.
- Bentley Gordon of Greenfield received the Alpha Omicron Pi Mothers' Club Scholarship Award and the Outstanding Physics Student Award, which are given by Alpha Omicron Pi and the Department of Chemistry and Physics, respectively.
- Isaac Ivy of Martin received the Nancy Matthesen Percussion Award, which is funded by Dr. David Coffey, professor of history; Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music; and Ed Sargent, a 1982 graduate and Grammy-nominated producer.

For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
ALLEN RECEIVES AWARD FROM UTM - Benjamin Allen of Trenton received the Outstanding Biological Sciences Award on May 2 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day Ceremony. The award is given by the Department of Biological Sciences. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.

UT prepares for students, urges COVID-19 vaccinations

KNOXVILLE — As the University of Tennessee System prepares to welcome students and faculty back to its campuses across the state, UT System president Randy Boyd is urging students, faculty and staff to talk with their families and healthcare providers about the benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

“We are excited to have our campus communities together this fall and are planning full campus experiences across the UT System. With the Delta variant spreading in our state and communities, we want to help ensure the safest return possible,” Boyd said. “The best way to take care of each other as we return to campus is to first take care of ourselves by getting the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Campuses will also begin the semester with masks required in classrooms, laboratories, instructional spaces and any indoor events students are required to attend. Specific plans and guidelines will be announced at each campus location in the coming days, and mask requirements will be continuously re-evaluated. Students are encouraged to take precautions to manage their own health.

Campus locations include UT Knoxville, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin, UT Southern and the UT Health Science Center.
KOHL TO SPEAK — Dr. David Kohl will be the keynote speaker for the 23rd Annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference on Aug. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is professor emeritus of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech University and has served as keynote speaker since the conference’s inception in 1999. Conference registration, due on Wednesday, can be completed online at www.utm.edu/agconference.

UTM to host ag finance conference

MARTIN — The 23rd annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held Aug. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

The conference will run from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and will feature up-to-date information and insights on global economics, trade, agricultural markets, weather and climate change, and how these factors impact business. The conference is hosted by the university’s Horace and Sarah Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Registration is open through Wednesday. The registration fee is $200 for lenders, $100 for farmers and producers and $50 for students and spouses. To register, go to www.utm.edu/agconference.

Featured speakers include Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech University; Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock Associates; and Dr. Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist at Nutrien Ag Solutions. Kohl will serve as keynote speaker, a role he has held every year since the conference’s inception in 1999.

For more information, contact Traci Crawford, Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference program coordinator, at tcrwf19@utm.edu or 1-731-225-7350.
17 spring UT Martin graduates accepted to veterinary schools

Seventeen members of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2021 graduating class have been accepted into veterinary schools.

The group is one of the largest to be accepted from UT Martin, according to Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and director of the Veterinary Health Technology Program.

From the local area, recent graduate Taylor Heathcock of South Fulton will begin at the University of Missouri. Nicole King of Collierville, Sarah Hawk of Dandridge, Celia Gelpey of Knoxville, Emily Sutherland of Hendersonville, Erica Brown of McEwen, Matthew Katzmarek of Bruceton, Elizabeth Whitt of Murfreesboro, Jordan Wilburn of Leoma, Mary Yarbrough of Memphis and Devon Woods of Escondido, Calif., will attend the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville.

Katelynn Hacker of Atoka will be attending Mississippi State University and Marissa Parks of Tomball, Texas, will be attending the University of Florida. Kiara Nobbe of Greensburg, Ind., is enrolled at Purdue University.

Some students have been accepted to study at international universities. Becca Byrd of Germantown will be attending the Royal Veterinary College in London. Johnnie Parker of Newport will be a student at the University of Melbourne (Australia), while Gwen Bracey of Goodlettsville is enrolled at the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, in the Caribbean.

“The faculty and staff understand what it takes for these students to be successful, and they are passionate about relaying this information to students beginning in their first semester as freshmen and continuing that advising and support through graduation,” Roberts said.

“We also have a large teaching and demonstration farm, which includes veterinary facilities where students can gain hands-on experience throughout their undergraduate careers. These experiential learning opportunities, in addition to multiple internship opportunities, really strengthen the applications of these aspiring veterinarians.”

McKenzie's Braulio Vega Recognized During UT Martin Honors Day

MARTIN (July 28) — Braulio Vega, of McKenzie, received the William H. Baker Scholarship Award on May 2 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day Ceremony. The award is given by the College of Business and Global Affairs. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
UT-Martin and Murray State Issue Mask Requirements

Both UT-Martin and Murray State have announced mask mandates for indoors on campus.

When classes begin in Martin on August 23rd, Chancellor Keith Carver says masks will be required in classrooms, laboratories, instructional spaces and any indoor events students are required to attend. Social distancing will be strongly encouraged where practical.

The university is not requiring vaccination, but students, staff and faculty are encouraged to get their COVID-19 shots.

Dr. Carver also says UT-Martin is committed to having in-person instruction, but the university is working to accommodate students who may have to quarantine.

Murray State has announced masks will be required indoors on campus, including in classrooms, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

Murray State has announced some indoor exemptions for masks, which includes vaccinated faculty and staff members who are safely distanced from others in their office, classroom, laboratory or work locations.

Masks are not required inside personal living spaces within residence halls, nor when students are outdoors.
UT Martin requiring masks indoors

Leanne Fuller
Aug 4, 2021

MARTIN, TN — With the fall semester set to begin on Aug. 23, the University of Tennessee at Martin is requiring masks indoors.

In a message to the campus community sent Tuesday, University Chancellor Keith Carver says masks are required in classrooms, laboratories, instructional spaces and any indoor events students are required to attend. Social distancing is "strongly encouraged where practical."

The university is not requiring vaccination, but students, staff and faculty are "highly
encouraged" to get their COVID-19 shots, Carver’s message says.

Carver also says UT Martin is committed to having in-person instruction, but the university is working to accommodate students who may have to quarantine.

"We've made significant progress compared to this time last year, but we remain vigilant and are ready to adjust as conditions warrant. Information is changing, and we're continually reevaluating so that we can make the best decisions for UT Martin. I'll be in touch later this week with more information. We won't stop communicating," Carver says in his letter. "Thank you for all you're doing to keep Skyhawk Nation safe, and I again encourage each of us to get vaccinated and help our university, community, state, and country to put COVID-19 behind us."
Huff graduates West Star class of 2021

WestStar Leadership Program class graduated June 22 during a reception and ceremony at Madison Dunn Venue in Jackson. Pictured following the graduation ceremony are (front row L to R) Shafonah Shaw, Jessi Fretwell, Jennifer Lane, Katelyn Speary, Debbie Domingay, Teresa Russell, Wendell Waring and Monica Hastings (middle row) Janney Todd, Monte Belvoir, Victor Perkins, Dakota Simpson, Dr. Chery Brown, Dr. Janie Martinez, Jessica Huff, Jocie Compton, Barry Pitcher and Jennifer Ferrymans (back row) Louie Byler, Kyle East, Andy Anderson, George Leake, Lee Mills, Wilkam Wootten, Chris Donaldson, DeShawn Tothman and Lee Black. (Not pictured are Dr. Norma Gerrell and Mike Enoch.)

Janet Rail Publisher

McNairy County Chamber Director Jessica Huff has officially graduated from the WestStar Leadership Class of 2020. The Class experienced several delays due to COVID-19 but managed to reach completion last month.

WestStar is a leadership program developed by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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

Participants learn new skills and develop strategies to assist communities with solving problems and maximizing potential. Moreover, they become part of a growing network of leaders who shape the future of West Tennessee through mutual support.

"When you go through WestStar, the major commitment is time. To get accepted, you fill out an application and you are approved by the board to enter the program. It is two days--early in the morning to late in the evening--and on the second day it ends a bit earlier," explained Huff.

Huff visited several counties and a number of facilities, tourist sites, government entities, non-profits, and businesses to expose herself to all that makes West Tennessee a valuable asset to the state.

"Due to coronavirus, our access to areas was limited, so we did not get to tour everything like we normally do. Things had to be rescheduled and spread out over a two-year period to meet the program objectives," Huff recalled.

"It was a great experience to be part of a team of people who all want to make things better for our communities," Huff added. "I made friends that will be friends for life. I truly believe this experience has enriched my life and given me a great appreciation of what it takes to be a public servant. It is not only challenging, but rewarding every day."

Huff admitted that, even though her class finished its sessions remotely, being able to bond with a team of individuals who truly care about West Tennessee is one of the highlights of her career.

Finally, Huff encouraged anyone who truly wants to make a difference in their community to consider attending the WestStar training.

"I have grown in ways I never realized," Huff emphasized. "The connections, even the alumni, reach out to get acquainted and share their knowledge and offer support. We bond in ways I never imagined. It was a great experience, and I will always have those connections the rest of my life... Everything I learned will allow me to apply that to make McNairy County better; that I know for sure. The possibilities are endless."

Applications for the West Star Class of 2021 will open in September.
2020-21 WestStar Class Works Through Pandemic to Complete Program

BY BUD GRIMES
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (July 17) — The WestStar Leadership Program’s annual graduation ceremony is a traditional event for class members who complete the program, which is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin. However, the 2020-21 WestStar class experience was anything but traditional. Class members graduated Tuesday, June 22, at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson following 18 months in a seven-month program.

The class began in-person sessions in December 2019, transitioned to virtual sessions through June 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and then resumed meeting in person in March of this year to complete the program. In addition to the first-ever virtual WestStar sessions, members also stayed connected through a new virtual WestStar series named Zoom Leadership: Looking Through Lenses. The series welcomed both current class members and WestStar alumni to hear featured presenters that included Tennessee Health Commissioner Dr. Lisa Piercey, University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd and Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett.

Class member Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of enrollment services and student engagement at UT Martin, said the pandemic caused his class “to miss the continuity and momentum of the experience that seems to occur as the program progresses.” However, he credited WestStar for providing virtual options to keep the class connected and extending the program so that the class could continue. “While the continuity was disrupted, the experience was not,” he said. “Honestly, I think there was some extra bonding time and shared experiences for our class that may not have happened without the pandemic. I like to say we took our victory lap.”

Retired physician Dr. Cheryl Browne of Brownsville, agreed that some class bonding time was lost initially because of the pandemic, but the transition to virtual content helped class members stay connected. “Once we were able to meet in person again, I strongly believe it enhanced our bonding and relationships because we missed each other and realized the blessing of being together should not be taken for granted,” Browne said. “The extended experience made us want to stay connected beyond graduation.”

She said that a class Bible study will resume monthly in August, and options for the class to meet quarterly for dinner in counties not visited during the sessions will be offered.

Dr. Charles Deal, secretary of the board for WestStar and UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement, presided over the class’s graduation event that welcomed approximately 120 attendees. He introduced UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver as the event’s keynote speaker, who focused on “lessons from adversity” that considered what class members experienced during the pandemic by focusing on the life of James “Jimmy” Braddock. The famous boxer overcame poverty, overwhelming adversity and a severe boxing injury to win a heavyweight boxing title in 1935 and later enjoy success in the military and in business. His life was the subject of the 2005 movie Cinderella Man directed by Ron Howard.

“It’s been quite a year, or two years, for our graduates who are going through the WestStar program tonight,” Carver said, adding, “And so when we look at the things that we’ve experienced, one of the great things we can do is just look back at history and look at other tough times and find individuals that we can lift up as people that have come through tough times and persevered.”

Carver told how Braddock lived through many highs and lows to achieve boxing and financial success. He said that finding ways to persevere through the valleys is a key to emerging on top in life. “Braddock was always prepared. He was always working. He was always looking to the future,” Carver said. “He was always learning so that he could succeed the next time he hit that valley, and that’s what we’ve got to do.”

He closed by telling how Braddock gave back later in life by supporting orphans so that disadvantaged children would have the opportunities he had. “And when I think about programs such as WestStar, it’s really about learning from each other but then going back to our communities here in West Tennessee and giving back and making sure every day we’re circled back and investing in those people that invested in us, but also making West Tennessee the best it can be.”

Deal followed Carver’s remarks by presenting several awards, including the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award recipient chosen by the class to Dr. Jamie Mantooth and the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award presented to 2014 program graduate Broxie Carlton, director of federal programs with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in Nashville. Gemia Bell, a UT Martin sophomore from Brownsville, received the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship. The program’s board of trustees then welcomed the 28 new graduates that included members representing 18 West Tennessee counties.

Each WestStar class is chosen annually by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on individual leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development. Class members are selected from all occupations and levels of community and regional involvement and complete eight sessions covering topics including agriculture and transportation, energy and environment, public policy issues, education and tourism. Including this class, the program has graduated 806 class members since WestStar was established in 1989.

Graduating class members were: Andy Anderson, attorney, Henderson County; Jennifer Banks, executive director, Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board, Weakley County; Monte Belew, public safety director, UT Martin; Henry County; Lowell Bell, manager, Central Distributors, Madison County; Dr. Cheryl Browne, retired physician, Fayette County; Jason Compton, director of operations, West Tennessee Healthcare Sportsplex, Madison County; Chris Donaldson, owner/operator, Tencom Services, Dyer County; Debbi Dunaway, public information officer/executive assistant, Southwest Tennessee Development District, Kyle East, financial representative, WoodmenLife & Woodmen Financial Services, Crockett County; Mike Emig, plant manager, Marvin Windows and Doors of Tennessee, Lauderdale County; Dr. Norma Gerrell, director of schools, Paris Special School District, Henry County; Monica Heath, executive director, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development, Carroll County; Jessica Huff, director of chamber and tourism, McNairy County Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce, McNairy County; Barry Hutcherson, mayor, Chester County; George Leake, supervisor of secondary instruction, Obion County Schools, Obion County; Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director, enrollment services and student engagement, UT Martin, Weakley County; Lee Mills, captain, FedEx Express, Shelby County; Victor Parkins, owner and publisher, Gibson County Publishing Newspaper Group, Gibson County; Jennifer Perryman, director, Savannah Industrial Development Corp., Hardin County; Jessi Pruett, attorney, Byrd & Byrd, Attorneys at Law, PLLC, Gibson County; Teresa Russell, assistant principal, Anderson Early Childhood Center, Haywood County Board of Education, Haywood County; Shalondria Shaw, community development and engagement liaison, City of Brownsville, Haywood County; Dakota Simpson, special projects director, Tennessee Department of Human Services, Dyer County; Ty Smithson, financial officer, Tennessee Farm Credit, Weakley County; Katelyn Spivey, marketing director, Carroll Bank & Trust, Benton County; DeLaney Timberman, executive director, Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, Hardin County; Jamey Tosh, owner and partner, Tosh Farms, Henry County; Wanda Tosh, chairperson, pro temp, Fayette County Public Schools District; Fayette County; and William Wooten, president, Wooten Law Office, LLC, Tipton County.

Information about the WestStar Leadership Program is available at www.utm.edu, or call Virginia Grimes, WestStar assistant director, at 731-981-7208.
WESTSTAR LEADERSHIP CLASS GRADUATES HONORED - Members of the 2020-21 WestStar Leadership Program class graduated June 22 during a reception and ceremony at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. Pictured following the graduation ceremony are: (Front, L to R) Shalondria Shaw, Jessi Pruett, Jennifer Bane, Katelyn Spivey, Debbie Dunaway, Teresa Russell, Wendell Wainwright and Monica Heath; (Middle, L to R) Jamey Tosh, Monte Belew, Victor Parkins, Dakota Simpson, Dr. Cheryl Browne, Dr. Jamie Mantooth, Jessica Huff, Jason Compton, Barry Hutcherson and Jennifer Perryman; (Back, L to R) Lowell Beller, Kyle East, Andy Anderson, George Leake, Lee Mills, William Wooten, Chris Donaldson, Delaney Timberman and Ty Smithson. Not pictured were Dr. Norma Gerrell and Mike Enoch.
UT Martin Family Weekend Slated in September

BY ANTONIA STEELE

MARTIN (July 27) — The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Family Weekend event September 10-12. The list of events includes food trucks, live music, the Bowtie 5K, tailgating and the UT Martin vs. Samford football game in Hardy Graham Stadium.

Family weekend packages are $25 each and include a Family Weekend T-shirt, tickets for the football game, concert and tailgate party, and vouchers for the food trucks and coffee at Vantage Coffee Roasters. UTM students will be admitted to the football game and concert with a student ID and have the opportunity to receive a free Family Weekend T-shirt, so they do not need to purchase packages. Packages can be ordered online at www.utm.edu/familyweekend.

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  * 9:30 a.m.-noon - Donuts with Deans come-and-go event, Vantage Coffee Roasters.
  * Noon-4 p.m. — Concurrent events: Barbecue lunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall; Roller Skate Party, Duncan Ballroom; Boling University Center, Skyhawk Bingo, Boling University Center 306, ABC. Campus Feud game show, Watkins Auditorium.
  * 4 p.m.-5:45 p.m. — Luau Tailgate Party, Hardy Graham Stadium; the Travelin’ Max show will take place during this time.
- Sunday, September 12
  * 9:30 a.m. — Student-led non-denominational worship service, Watkins Auditorium.
  * 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — Bowtie Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall.
  * 1 p.m. — Skyhawk Soccer vs. Western Carolina, Skyhawk Soccer Field.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/familyweekend or contact John Abel at jabel@utm.edu or 731-881-7710.
Huff completes WestStar

Jessica Huff, McNairy County Chamber and Tourism Director, recently graduated as a member of the WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2020-21. Huff is a McNairy County Leadership graduate and now serves as the youth and adult leadership coordinator. She was recognized as Leader of the Year and won the District Award of Merit for the Shiloh District of Boy Scouts of America. Huff also serves as vice-chair for the Southwest Tennessee Tourism Association, founder and vice-chair of the Friends of Big Hill Pond State Park, and McNairy County coordinator for the Governor's Volunteer Star Awards.

Huff joined 28 other participants from 18 counties at a series of both in-person and virtual seminars held through June that focused on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

Jessica Huff

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic, and social development of West Tennessee.
UT Prepares For Returning Students

As the University of Tennessee System prepares to welcome students and faculty back to its campuses across the state, UT System President Randy Boyd is urging students, faculty and staff to talk with their families and healthcare providers about the benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

Campuses will also begin the semester with masks required in classrooms, laboratories, instructional spaces and any indoor events students are required to attend. Specific plans and guidelines will be announced at each campus location in the coming days, and mask requirements will be continuously re-evaluated. Students are encouraged to take precautions to manage their own health.

Campus locations include UT Knoxville, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin, UT Southern and the UT Health Science Center. For more information contact, Melissa Tindell at 865-974-0741 or mtindell@tennessee.edu; or Jennifer Sicking at 865-974-5179 or jsicking@tennessee.edu.
Neighbors in the News: Libertyville girl named 2021 National American Miss Illinois Preteen

• Des Plaines resident Bailey Radnitzer received the Jim Burdette Memorial Award from the University of Tennessee-Martin.

The award is given annually to a student in law enforcement or the humanities. The recipient is recognized for sensitivity toward other people and efforts to improve the quality of life for humankind.

• Submit your 'Neighbors in the News' items to ntwohey@dailyherald.com.
UTM online ag business degree ranked 11th nationally

Bachelor programs ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin’s online agricultural business degree 11th nationally in their “15 Best Online Bachelor’s in Agriculture and Agribusiness for 2021” list.

UT Martin was the only Tennessee university included in the list.

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For more information about the UT Martin agricultural business degree, visit utm.edu/online-studies/ or contact Wilson at 731-881-7959 or awilson9@utm.edu.

CHANCELLOR’S LUNCH AND DEDICATION

Chancellor Keith Carver; Dr. Margaret N. Perry, chancellor from 1986-1997; Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor from 2001-2007; Dorothy Gillon, former public occasions coordinator; Dr. Philip W. Conk, chancellor from 1998-2000; and Dr. Robert M. Smith, chancellor from 2015-2017 (from left) gathered July 23 to commemorate Gillon’s 25 years of service to UT Martin. All of the chancellors that Gillon worked with during her time at UT Martin donated to a plaque on a lamppost in front of the Dunagan Alumni Center, which Gillon referred to as “The House.” A $1,500 donation was also made to the Charlie Gillon Memorial Loan Fund, which is named for her late husband who taught in the UT Martin International Programs Department. For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UTM programs earn academic recognition

UT Martin boasted three different athletic programs who brought home Ohio Valley Conference Team Academic Achievement Awards for the 2020-21 season. The Skyhawk beach volleyball, men's golf, and women's tennis programs each won the prestigious award, which was initiated in 2004-05. The honor is presented annually in each Conference-sponsored sport to the member institution's team with the greatest percentage of its eligible student-athletes who achieved a 3.25 Grade Point Average or higher.

Thursday's announcement marks the first OVC Team Academic Achievement Award winner for a UT Martin program since 2015-16. It is the third such award for the Skyhawk women's tennis program (also winning in 2011-12 and 2013-14), while the UT Martin's beach volleyball and men's golf programs are first-time recipients of the award.

The Skyhawk beach volleyball program was responsible for a 3.59 team GPA in 2020-21, landing 10 of their 13 players on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll (76.9 percent) under head coach Jaclynn Wilson.

Head coach Austin Swafford guided the UT Martin golf program to a 3.68 cumulative GPA last season as the 2021 OVC champions placed 77.8 percent of its student-athletes (seven of nine) on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll.

In 2020-21, the Skyhawk tennis program put all eight of their players on the OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll as head coach Caitlyn Williams oversaw a roster that collected a 3.79 GPA.

The awards cap a week of OVC announcements regarding 2020-21 academic year awards. Last Tuesday, the Skyhawks picked up a school-record 23 OVC Medal of Honor winners (4.0 GPA), while UT Martin accounted for 162 OVC Commissioner’s Honor Roll recipients (at least a 3.25 GPA) the following day.
UTM announces 2021 Hall of Fame class

A trio of legendary head coaches and three record-setting student-athletes comprise the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2021, which was announced Monday.

Donley Canary (softball head coach, 2002-19), Jerry Carpenter (golf head coach, 2002-20), Derek Carr (football, 2008-12), Lester Hudson (men’s basketball, 2007-09), Dennis Taylor (tennis head coach, 1987-2019), and Leah Taylor Eakin (softball, 2011-13) will officially be enshrined Oct. 9 at the 37th annual Letter Winner’s Breakfast.

Canary guided the Skyhawk softball program to 581 victories — fourth most in Ohio Valley Conference history, during his 18 seasons at the helm.

He led UT Martin to a pair of OVC regular season championships, two OVC Tournament titles, and three postseason appearances — including the program’s first two NCAA Tournament appearances in 2009 and 2012.

A two-time OVC Coach of the Year, the Owensboro, Kentucky, native coached two OVC Players of the Year, a pair of OVC Pitchers of the Year, two OVC Tournament Most Valuable Players, four OVC Freshmen of the Year and 99 All-OVC selections.

The second head coach in Skyhawk golf history, Carpenter lifted the program to new heights as UT Martin won the 2016 OVC championship — the first such title in school history. The two-time OVC Coach of the Year out of Newbern tutored 30 All-OVC honorees in his storied career, including two OVC Golfers of the Year, three consecutive OVC Championship medalists from 2015-17, and a trio of OVC Freshmen of the Year.

Carr was quite simply one of the most prolific quarterbacks in OVC history as he still ranks in the league’s top-10 in pass completions (665, fifth), passing touchdowns (69, fifth), passing yards (8,428, seventh), and total offense (8,484, eighth).

He was named to the All-OVC second team squad (alongside current San Francisco 49er Jimmy Garoppolo) as a senior in 2012, shattering the school’s single-season record for pass completions (264), passing yards (3,276), and touchdowns (31).

That same season, the McKenzie native set an NCAA record for passing efficiency (42-of-46, school records of 560 yards, and seven touchdowns) at OVC rival Murray State.

A two-time All-American, two-time OVC Male Athlete of the Year, and two-time OVC Player of the Year from Memphis, Hudson dazzled on the hardwood as a Skyhawk.

Hudson set the OVC record for most points in a single season (880) in 2008-09, ranking second in the nation with 27.5 points per game — trailing only eventual two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry from Davidson.

That season, he helped UT Martin to a school-record 22 wins, its first OVC regular season champion, and first Division I post-season appearance.

During his debut season, Hudson compiled the first quadruple-double in NCAA Division I history (25 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists, 10 steals against Central Baptist in 2007.

Hailing from Lawrenceburg, Taylor was bestowed with a conference Coach of the Year award a remarkable 10 times in his career, including an OVC record seven awards.

The 1973 UT Martin alum accumulated 535 wins — ranking fifth amongst active NCAA coaches before his retirement in December 2019. He directed the Skyhawks to nine conference championships during his 32-year tenure, leading the women’s squad to its first-ever NCAA Regional appearance in 2005.

Overall, he coached a pair of national champions, 11 All-Americans, five OVC Players of the Year, three OVC Freshmen of the Year, and 74 all-conference honorees.

Eakin was a three-time All-OVC honoree as she became just the second Skyhawk to be named OVC Player of the Year in 2012. The speedster also nabbed All-American accolades that same season, helping UT Martin sweep both the OVC regular season and tournament championships for the first time ever.

Despite the fact she only played three seasons, the Brownsville native remains the program leader in runs scored (162), triples (18), and stolen bases (110), while ranking in eight other major offensive categories.

A career .320 hitter in a Skyhawk uniform, she was also a two-time Capital One Academic All-American, and was one of only three females to win the 2012-13 OVC Scholar Athlete Award.
UT MARTIN ATHLETICS

HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2021

Donley Canary
Softball (2002-05)

Jerry Carpenter
Golf (2002-20)

Derek Carr
Football (2004-12)

Lester Hudson
Men's Basketball (2007-19)

Dennis Taylor
Tennis (1997-2009)

Leah Taylor Eakin
Softball (2011-13)
AWARD PRESENTED
Elizabeth Driver of Union City received the Milton Simmons Psi Chi Outstanding Psychology Major Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day Ceremony recently. The award is given by the Department of Psychology and officers of UT Martin's chapter of Psi Chi, the national psychology honor society.

TOP FRESHMAN
Will Crawford of Union City recently received the Cunningham Outstanding Freshman Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day Ceremony. The award is given by the Division of Student Affairs and is presented to students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance, leadership skills and involvement in campus activities.

EARNED AWARD
Bailey Wisener of Rives received the Langdon Unger History Upper Division Award, given by the Department of History and Philosophy, during the University of Tennessee at Martin's recent annual Honors Day Ceremony. Several students from Obion County received awards.

STUDENT HONORED
Olivia Davis of Union City received the Gary Brown Award, given by the Department of Psychology, during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day Ceremony recently. Several Obion County students received awards at the event.
Seventeen UT Martin students are accepted to veterinary school at UT Knoxville.

BY ANTONIA STEELE

MARTIN (July 30) — Seventeen members of the University of Tennessee at Martin's spring 2021 graduating class have been accepted into veterinary schools, according to Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and director of the Veterinary Health Technology Program.

The group is one of the largest to be accepted from UT Martin.

Nicole King, of Collierville; Sarah Hawk of Dandridge; Celia Gelpey of Knoxville; Emily Sutherland of Hendersonville; Erica Brown of McEwen; Matthew Katzmarek of Bruceton; Elizabeth Whitt of Murfreesboro; Jordan Wilburn of Leoma; Mary Yarbrough of Memphis; and Devon Woods of Escondido, California, will attend the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville.

Katelynn Hacker of Atoka will be attending Mississippi State University, and Marissa Parks of Tomball, Texas, will be attending the University of Florida. Taylor Heathcock of South Fulton will begin at the University of Missouri; Kiara Noble of Greensburg, Indiana, is enrolled in Purdue University.

Some students have been accepted to study at international universities. Becca Byrd of German town will be attending the Royal Veterinary College in London. Johnnie Parker of Newport will be a student at the University of Melbourne; and Gwen Bracey of Goodlettsville is enrolled at the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

"The faculty and staff understand what it takes for these students to be successful, and they are passionate about relaying this information to students beginning in their first semester as freshman and continuing that advising and support through graduation," said Roberts. "We also have a large teaching and demonstration farm, which includes veterinary facilities where students can gain hands-on experience throughout their undergraduate careers. These experiential learning opportunities, in addition to multiple internship opportunities, really strengthen the applications of these aspiring veterinarians."

For more information about the UT Martin animal science program and pre-veterinary track, contact Roberts at jroberts@utm.edu or 731-881-7852.
UTM's Online Ag Business Degree Earns National Ranking

BY ANTONIA STEELE
UTM University Relations

MARTIN (August 4) — Bachelordegreecenter.org ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin's online agricultural business degree 11th nationally in its "15 Best Online Bachelor's in Agriculture and Agribusiness for 2021" list.

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Martin's Pham Attends Summit

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA (August 3) — Savannah Pham of Martin, recently attended the 2021 Student Vice President Leadership Summit hosted by The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most-selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

The Summit was held July 13-15 and July 20-22 as a web-based event.

As student vice president of the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, Pham was nominated to attend the Leadership Summit, which brought together nearly 60 student vice presidents from across the nation.

Participants at the six-session event learned strategies for operating and maintaining active chapters of Phi Kappa Phi and took part in a student leadership program that explored and enhanced individual strengths, interpersonal styles and the capacity to lead.

Pham will receive a special leadership certificate for participating in all six sessions of the event.

The Leadership Summit, established in 2013 and held every other year, was developed as a way to engage the Society's student vice presidents in personal and organizational development. Since its creation, more than 280 students have attended the event.

Fifty-eight students from across the United States participated in the 2021 Summit where participants learned about the history of the Society, their role as SVPs, and how to plan chapter activities, students also read two books and completed the associated inventories. Students learned about their individual top five CliftonStrengths and what capacities of the Emotionally Intelligent Leadership model they excel at and where they need to improve.
Vega Braulio of McKenzie received the William H. Baker Scholarship Award on May 2 during the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Honors Day Ceremony. The award is given by the college of Business and Global Affairs.
Former Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam sees a divide in the political discourse in America that he said has become as bad as the divide between Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East. He's written a book that he thinks gives an answer to bridge that gap and bring America back together. "It's one thing to have different beliefs and be on different sides of the political aisle," Haslam said while speaking at an event and book signing coordinated by WestStar Leadership in Jackson this week. "But we've taken that further, and now we assume the worst about anyone that disagrees with us and they're more than disagreeing with us. They're evil."
Haslam
Continued from Page 1A

The book is titled “Faithful Presence: The Promise and the Peril of Faith in the Public Square.”

In the book, Haslam discusses the impact of how Christians can shape the political and social discourse in the country if they would try to have a more Christlike approach to interactions with someone of a different political persuasion in person and on social media.

“If you think about it, we as Christians shouldn’t complain about the world and how unbelievers act toward us because when we have a negative interaction with someone, Jesus told us that the world is going to act the way the world will act,” Haslam said. “But what did He call Christians to be? Salt and light. ‘And when the meat goes bad, it’s not because the meat has failed. The salt failed. When it’s dark, it’s not because the dark won victory or anything. It’s because there’s an absence of light or the light has failed for some reason. So we’ve got to be who we’re called to be in this world if we want to see a change in it.’

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver introduced Haslam, and he said he’d read the book and bought multiple copies to give to friends.

“I have a number of books that I’ve read that I cherish as timeless, and I consider this book among them,” Carver said.

Before Haslam spoke, he discussed what life is like now for him that he’s been out of the Governor’s office for more than two-and-a-half years.

He declined to give an assessment of how his successor, Bill Lee, is doing because of the traditional respect that former governors don’t comment on the current governor. But he did comment on how he sees the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the job.

“Gov. Lee and I were talking one time not long ago, and I told him that this has really taken away the fun part of the job,” Haslam said. “Going across the state and for events and meetings and working with people on economic development and recruiting businesses to the state – that’s the fun part of the job that got shut down for him.

“So I imagine that he appreciates every time he gets to engage in that kind of stuff now.”

Reach Brandon Shields at bjshields@jacksonsun.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorbrandon.

Former Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam tells a story from his days serving in Nashville on Wednesday at the Southwest Tennessee Developmental District in Downtown Jackson. PHOTOS BY NATHAN MORGAN/COURTESY OF UT MARTIN
Former Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam autographs a copy of his book, "Faithful Presence: The Promise and the Peril of Faith in the Public Square" on Wednesday at the Southwest Tennessee Developmental District in Downtown Jackson.
University Of Tennessee At Martin Welcomes Students Back For The Fall Semester

By Mandy Faulkner  Last Updated Aug 16, 2021

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) – The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomes students for the fall semester.

The autumn course starts on Monday 23 August at 8 a.m.

All face mask coverings will be required in classrooms and laboratories, according to UTM.

Freshmen move into their dormitories on Thursday, August 19.

UTM will be running their annual move to Mania for their new freshmen at 6am on Thursday, August 19th.

This event is designed to welcome new students from their student organizations and community and help them get used to their new life.

Freshmen will attend a convocation call at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on Friday, August 20 at 10:30 am.

The convocation is a special ceremony to begin a new student's educational career and remind them that the ultimate goal is to graduate in the same arena.

The new students have the opportunity to attend a comedy show with Buzz Sutherland at the Watkins Auditorium.

Office of Housing has launched a welcome back block party.

Students can also play games in the student recreation center.

All accepted students who have not yet enrolled for Fall Courses should contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020.

A full list of the Welcome Weekend events can be found on the university's website.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will begin fall classes Monday, August 23, at 8 a.m. All face mask coverings will be required in classrooms and laboratories. Freshmen will move into their residence halls Thursday, August 19.

UTM will have their annual move in mania starting at 6 a.m. on Thursday, August 19, for their incoming freshmen's.

This event is to welcome new students from their student organizations and community and to help them adjust to their new living.

Freshmen will attend a convocation on Friday, August 20, at 10:30 a.m. at Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
UT Martin welcomes students back Thursday, classes begin August 23

UT Martin begins the fall 2021 semester August 23rd, and incoming freshmen students begin moving into campus residence halls Thursday. Face masks/coverings will be required in classrooms, laboratories and other spaces where attendance is required.

First-Year Initiative, a special program for incoming freshmen, begins with Move-In Mania Thursday morning at 6:00, when student organizations and community groups gather at the residence halls to assist students as they move into their rooms.

This annual event is the first major welcome new students receive from the community as they adjust to their new homes.

Informal sessions will occur throughout the weekend, and new students will attend convocation Friday morning at 10:30 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Convocation is a special ceremony to begin a new student’s collegiate career and remind them that the end goal is ultimately graduation in the same arena.

New students will have the opportunity to attend a comedy show featuring Buzz Sutherland in Watkins Auditorium, a Welcome Back Block Party hosted by the Office of Housing and play games at the Student Recreation Center. For a full list of Welcome Weekend events, visit utm.edu/fyi.

Upperclassmen and transfer students began moving into campus residences over the past weekend, and classes begin Monday, August 23rd at 8:00 at the main campus and five UTM regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville.

Any accepted students who have not yet registered for fall classes should contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7920.
UT MARTIN FRESHMEN TO BEGIN MOVING INTO RESIDENCE HALLS

August 17, 2021 @ 8:38 am Shannon McFarlin

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Photo: First day of fall semester 2018. UTM photo.
FFA students gain ag finance perspective

By Karen Campbell
Weakley County Schools

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-22 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Students include:
- Rosalinda Alvarado of Martin, daughter of Hector and Mariam Alvarado, will be a junior. She received the Kay Durden Scholarship and the UTAA Andy Holt Scholarship.
- Scarlett Nail of Sharon, daughter of Debra Nail and Gregory Nail, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Taylor Oliver of Greenfield, daughter of Casey and Valorie Oliver, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

plained Kyle Rogers, ag teacher and FFA adviser at Westview, "I’m glad we can take advantage of their offerings and give our students a chance to hear the behind-the-scenes realities of an ag-based career."

Chase Thrasher

Thrasher joins
UTM rodeo staff

Chase Thrasher, who recently wrapped up a remarkable career as a University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo student-athlete, has rejoined the Skyhawk program as an assistant coach under John Luthi.

“We are very blessed and fortunate to welcome Chase to our staff,” Luthi said. “He has been around the sport all of his life and experienced success in the rodeo world. His passion for the sport and knowledge of our program will be a huge asset for us moving forward.”

As a UT Martin student-athlete from 2017-21, Thrasher was a four-time qualifier for the College National Finals Rodeo. He represented the Skyhawks at the annual event in Casper, Wyoming on three different occasions, concluding his freshman season ranked fourth nationally in tie down roping after winning the short round finals.
NEW WORK SPACE — Pictured is the new Runway coworking space, located in the UT Martin REED Center in downtown Martin.

The REED Center introduces Runway

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center will open its new coworking space named The Runway with a grand-opening celebration from 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Aug. 25, at 240 Lindell Street in Martin. The Runway serves as an office space for entrepreneurs, small-business owners and remote workers to connect and collaborate on various projects. Attendees are welcome to tour the space, enjoy coffee and doughnuts, and learn about the amenities offered.

Three Runway membership levels are available. The Pilot level is $50 monthly and allows for use of the facilities from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. The Aviator level is $100 monthly and allows for 24/7 access. The Flying Ace level is $150 monthly and provides 24/7 access, as well as a designated desk with lockable storage. Runway membership for UT Martin students with a valid Skyhawk card is $25 monthly.

Runway amenities include a business address, 1GIG Wi-Fi, Sit/Stand desks, 27" Dell monitors, a copier, security cameras, multiple seating areas, scheduled use of training rooms, access to virtual conferencing technology, on-site business seminars, on-site economic development specialists and connections to subject matter experts, UT Martin faculty, staff and student interns. For non-members, access to The Runway is $20 per day, and allows for access from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

For more information or to become a member of The Runway, visit www.utm.edu/reed or contact Landy Puqua, director of the REED Center, at REED@utm.edu.
THE BUSINESS END — FFA students from Dresden and Westview got the opportunity to learn the business end of farming at last week's 23rd annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference at UT Martin. Dresden FFA members in attendance were Jason Kemp, adviser; Spencer Davis, Annika Jolley, Kendall Brewer, Adrianne Todd and Sam Laws. Westview attendees included Kyle Rogers, adviser; Weston Rowlett, Sophia Shaw, Rebecca Powers, Isabella Dawson, Abigail Colarullo and Carson Dinning.
Entertainers Rick Springfield and Bret Michaels have been announced as musical headliners for the 28th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival in Martin.

Springfield will be the Main Stage entertainment Sept. 9, with Michaels headlining Sept. 11.

Tickets are on sale now at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

Rick Springfield is an Australian-American musician and actor. He was a member of the pop rock group Zoot from 1969-71, then he began his solo career with his debut single “Speak to the Sky” reaching the top 10 in Australia in mid-1972.

He had a No. 1 hit with “Jessie’s Girl” in 1981, for which he received a Grammy for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance.

He followed with four more top U.S. hits: “I’ve Done Everything for You,” “Don’t Talk to Strangers,” “Affair of the Heart” and “Love Somebody.”

Springfield’s acting career consists of television series, such as “General Hospital,” “Californication,” “Lucifer,” “Supernatural” and “American Horror Story.”

Michaels is a music icon, a global entrepreneur and philanthropist. He has sold over 50 million records worldwide, and he is a reality television superstar. In addition to these accolades and his most famous role as lead singer of the rock band Poison, Michaels has created a collection for PetSmart, launched his own line of custom guitars and created a No. 1 selling beverage for the Dr Pepper/Snapple Group.

Through his Life Rocks Foundation, Michaels has helped raise millions of dollars for charity and makes donations to diabetes awareness and research organizations as well as organizations that provide research on childhood cancer.

TSF board member Brad Thompson said of Michaels, “The festival is honored to collaborate with good partners whose contributions enhance our mutual values and add to the ‘Wow’ of our festival experience ... we fully expect Bret to bring the ‘Wow’ to this event. The soybean is a very diverse crop plant and that is reflected through what we try to accomplish through the diversity of the festival — offering something for everyone, just like Bret Michaels’ unbroken spirit and music.”

Michaels, the son of a veteran, has dedicated himself to uniting our country through his music. He is an avid supporter of our troops, firefighters, first responders and other groups that work together to support our freedoms. For this reason, the TSF organizers feel, “Michaels is the best act to close our festival on what happens to also be the 20th anniversary of 9/11 — the horrific attack on our country.”

For a full schedule, ticket information and more, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

About Tennessee Soybean Festival

The Tennessee Soybean Festival is fortunate to have collaborative efforts of the University of Tennessee at Martin, local industry and businesses, leaders in agriculture, churches and community organizations, and countless other volunteers who work together to produce a prestigious festival each year. The Tennessee Soybean Festival provides an opportunity for food, fun and fellowship, all in celebration of Weakley County soybean. The event pays tribute to the soybean farmer yet includes something for everyone.

“We hope you will make plans to join us for the 28th silver anniversary Soybean Festival,” a spokesman said.
Gibson County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Gibson County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-2022 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Macey Blurton, of Humboldt, daughter of James Blurton, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.

Fisher Jones, of Milan, son of Jon and Amanda Jones, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

Blair Mercer, of Bradford, daughter of Brian and Kristy Mercer, will be a freshman. She received the University Scholar Award, the Alumni Valedictorian Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

Nolan Raines, of Milan, son of Denise Thetford, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.

Orlandis Williamson, of Milan, son of Raven Williamson, will be a freshman. He received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Excellence Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
At the college level

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Four Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-22 academic year. They include:</th>
<th>City, son of Richard and Amy Crawford, a sophomore who received the Clayton Arnold Teacher Training Scholarship.</th>
<th>incoming freshman who received the Elam Alumni Legacy Scholarship, the University Scholar Award and the Chancellor’s Scholarship.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eli Baldwin of Troy, son of Brandon Baldwin and Allison Baldwin, an incoming freshman who received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.</td>
<td>Jared Pollock of Obion, son of Richard Pollock and Kimberly Pollock, an incoming freshman who received the Dean’s Scholarship.</td>
<td>Garrett Slaughter of Union City, son of Jimmy and Kim Slaughter, an incoming freshman who received the Elam Alumni Legacy Scholarship.</td>
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<td>The University Scholar Award and the Chancellor’s Scholarship.</td>
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Online agricultural business degree earns national ranking at UT Martin

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Rick Springfield, Bret Michaels to headline 28th annual Soybean Festival next month

Entertainers Rick Springfield and Bret Michaels have been announced as musical headliners for the 28th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival.

Springfield will be the Main Stage entertainment Sept. 9, with Michaels headlining Sept. 11.

Tickets are on sale now at www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

Rick Springfield is an Australian-American musician and actor. He was a member of the pop rock group Zoot from 1969-71, then he began his solo career with his debut single “Speak to the Sky” reaching the top 10 in Australia in mid-1972.

He had a No. 1 hit with “Jessie’s Girl” in 1981, for which he received a Grammy for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance.

He followed with four more top U.S. hits: “I’ve Done Everything for You,” “Don’t Talk to Strangers,” “Affair of the Heart” and “Love Somebody.”

Springfield’s acting career consists of television series, such as General Hospital, Californication, Lucifer, Supernatural and American Horror Story.

Michaels is a music icon, a global entrepreneur and philanthropist. He has sold over 50 million records worldwide, and he is a reality television superstar. In addition to these accolades and his most famous role as lead singer of the rock band Poison, Michaels has created a collection for Pet Smart, launched his own line of custom guitars and created a No. 1 selling beverage for the Dr Pepper/Snapple Group.

Through his Life Rocks Foundation, Michaels has helped raise millions of dollars for charity and makes donations to diabetes awareness and research organizations as well as organizations that provide research on childhood cancer.

TSF board member Brad Thompson said of Michaels, “The festival is honored to collaborate with good partners whose contributions enhance our mutual values and add to the ‘Wow’ of our festival experience ... we fully expect Bret to bring the ‘Wow’ to this event. The soybean is a very diverse crop plant and that is reflected through what we try to accomplish through the diversity of the festival — offering something for everyone, just like Bret Michaels’ unbroken spirit and music.”

Michaels, the son of a veteran, has dedicated himself to uniting our country through his music. He is an avid supporter of our troops, firefighters, first responders and other groups that work together to support our freedoms. For this reason, the TSF organizers feel, “Michaels is the best act to close our festival on what happens to also be the 20th anniversary of 9/11 — the horrific attack on our country.”

For a full schedule, ticket information and more, visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

About Tennessee Soybean Festival
The Tennessee Soybean Festival is fortunate to have collaborative efforts of the University of Tennessee at Martin, local industry and businesses, leaders in agriculture, churches and community organizations, and countless other volunteers who work together to produce a prestigious festival each year.
Martin student awarded scholarship by music guild

Musician James McGregor of Martin has received the 2021 Philharmonic Music Guild Scholarship for study at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A recent graduate of Westview High School in Martin, McGregor has enrolled as a first-year student at UTM and plans to major in music education. He is the son of Casey and Misty McGregor.

For the scholarship audition, he played the trumpet solo “Fantaisie Brillante” by J.B. Arban. PMG member Mary Beard served as chairman of the scholarship selection committee.

“I have loved music my entire life,” said McGregor. “I was involved in children’s choir at church from first through fifth grade. I joined band in sixth grade and started playing in our church orchestra in seventh. I try and play any time I am given the opportunity.”

McGregor, who has been playing the trumpet for seven years, also plays in the handbell choir at his church. His most recent public performance was on Aug. 5 with the Martin Community Band for the first concert on the new Martin Public Library outdoor stage.

At UTM, he is registered this fall for marching band and concert band. He will be auditioning also for the jazz band and wind ensemble.

He said he enjoys playing music from some of his favorite movies and television shows. He also especially enjoyed playing “O Magnus Mysterium” at UTM Honor Band.

His band director at Westview was Mike Tucker. His first assistant director/jazz band director was Chris Butner followed by Jennifer Cupples. McGregor has also taken private lessons from Michael Larkin, Dr. Kurt Gorman and Dr. John Oelrich.

McGregor said, “To the band directors and private teachers I’ve had the pleasure of working with, I would like to say thank you for inspiring me to make music an important part of my life and future. I’d also like to say thanks for all the support I have received from family and friends on this journey so far.”

The $500 scholarship awarded to McGregor will help with some of his expenses as he begins his undergraduate studies at UTM. Members of the Philharmonic Guild will continue to encourage him by attending events sponsored by the Department of Music.

Trumpet player Jonah Simmons, son of Eric and Kimberly Simmons, has received a second place PMG recognition scholarship; and Hannah Williams (flute), daughter of Susan and Shane Williams of Union City, received honorable mention.

Elwood and Denise Doss are currently co-presidents the Philharmonic Music Guild, which is affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs and is a service organization dedicated to enriching the musical life of members and all in the community. For many years, the Guild has provided financial assistance to the musical community through scholarships and contributions to students, schools, and organizations in Weakley and Obion counties.
Former Governor Bill Haslam Speaks to WestStar

BY JASON R. MARTIN

JACKSON (August 11) — On Wednesday, Former Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam addressed alumni of the WestStar Leadership Program at the Southwest Development District office in Jackson, Tennessee. Haslam spoke briefly about his career and new book, “Faithful Presence: The Promise and the Peril of Faith in the Public Square,” as part of the leadership program’s “Lunch-Learn-Leadership series.”

Speaking to a room full of community leaders and government officials, Governor Haslam stated the reason for the book was in hopes to help create healing in a divided nation. He stated, “Our country is divided now more than ever in modern history. The nation has become contemptuous towards the other side.”

He added in today’s political spectrum, the two major political parties are more divided than ever. The atmosphere is charged to such a degree that there is more tension and distrust than with the religious factions in the Middle East.

“People of faith need to be the answer/solution when in positions of leadership. The works and words of Christ teach us how to rise above the fold.”

He went on to quote his political mentor, Senator Howard Baker, Jr., “You should always go through life working on the assumption that the other guy might be right.” Haslam believes the best approach to an argument is to get the right answer, not necessarily to win it. With such a great division it is even more difficult to find the right answer and make a difference.

“Government has a chance to make a difference. Leaders should work to make a difference,” said Governor Haslam. People of faith should focus on solving problems. Haslam quoted Jeremiah 29:5-7 “Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters. Take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

It was the Lord saying we have to make our society a better place so we can make it home. Thus, people of faith, especially those in leadership roles must be present, be faithful in their engagement. Haslam reminded the audience they have to hold fast to their Christian morals as he quoted Ephesians 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love.” Meaning, an individual can state their belief in what is true but it must do so in a compassionate way.

Before closing his presentation, Governor Haslam provided a few anecdotes of his time in office and on the campaign trail. One such story dealt with his feeling of vulnerability as a gubernatorial candidate. Then a friend reminded him that everything is going to be okay regardless of the outcome. He learned that candidates have to realize the story is not about them; we (the leaders or elected officials) are only part of the story. Success comes when you consider others greater than yourself.

In closing, one of his greatest successes was as governor was mentioned. In 2013, Haslam launched the Drive to 55 with Randy Boyd to increase the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary degree or credential to 55 percent by 2025. This allowed for a first-time freshman enrollment increased of 25 percent at community colleges and 20 percent at technical colleges in one year, and the college-going rate in Tennessee increased to a high of 62.5 percent in 2015.

He and his wife, Crissy, have been married for over 40 years and have three children and 10 grandchildren.
Students receive UT Martin degrees

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies held May 7 and May 8, 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted four in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of spring 2021’s accomplishments. Each commencement was live streamed for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Humboldt – Cannon O'Keefe Bauer, Alexis Rose Duncan, Kendyll Sierra Jewel Gateley, Seth D Gibson, Leah Joanna Miller, Dylon Ray Potts, Danielle Renee Price.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Humboldt – Christopher Lee Acred.
- Medina – Cindy Marie Palmer.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

Several earn UTM scholarships

Several Lauderdale County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-22 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, Executive Director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Cameron Goodwin of Ripley, son of Cheryl Goodwin and Tom Goodwin, will be a sophomore. He received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship.
- Cameron Medford of Henning, son of Anita Medford, will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.
- Savannah Pham of Halls, daughter of Quoc and Carol Pham, will be a junior. She received the William H. Baker Scholarship.
- Ellie Young of Henning, daughter of Kimberly Young and David Young, will be a sophomore. She received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Memorial Scholarship.
WESTVIEW FFA STUDENTS ATTEND AG FINANCE CONFERENCE — Westview High School attendees at this year’s Mid-South Ag Finance Conference held on the UT Martin campus included (L to R) Kyle Rogers, advisor; Weston Rowlett, Sophia Shaw, Rebeca Powers, Isabella Dawson, Abigail Colarullo, and Carson Dinning.

FFA Students Gain Financial Perspective at Conference

MARTIN (August 11) — On Wednesday, Dresden and Westview FFA members and advisors sat with lenders, producers and ag businesses as part of the 23rd Annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference.

Featured speakers included Dr. David M. Kohl, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech University; Richard Brock, Owner and President, Brock Associates; and Dr. Eric Snodgrass, Principal Atmospheric Scientist, Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Their presentations included insights and opinions on global economics, trade, agricultural markets, weather, and climate change and their impact on business strategies and actions.

The conference is a service of the University of Tennessee at Martin, Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

“We have such a great asset with UTM being so accessible and focused on providing resources for the ag community,” explained Kyle Rogers, ag teacher and FFA advisor at Westview. “I’m glad we can take advantage of their offerings and give our students a chance to hear the behind-the-scenes realities of an ag-based career.”

Dresden FFA members in attendance were Jason Kemp, advisor; Spencer Davis, Annika Jolley, Kendall Brewer, Adrienne Todd and Sam Law. Westview attendees included Kyle Rogers, advisor; Weston Rowlett, Sophia Shaw, Rebecca Powers, Isabella Dawson, Abigail Colarullo, and Carson Dinning.
Dresden FFA ATTENDS AG FINANCE CONFERENCE — Dresden FFA members in attendance at this year's Mid-South Ag Finance Conference on the UT Martin campus were (L to R) Jason Kemp, advisor; Spencer Davis, Annika Jolley, Kendall Brewer, Adrianne Todd and Sam Laws.

Local Students Earn UT Martin Scholarships

MARTIN (August 13) – Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-2022 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Rosalinda Alvarado, of Martin, daughter of Hector and Mariam Alvarado, will be a junior. She received the Kay Durden Scholarship and the UTAA Andy Holt Scholarship.

Scarlett Nail, of Sharon, daughter of Debra Nail and Gregory Nail, will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.

Taylor Oliver, of Greenfield, daughter of Casey and Valerie Oliver, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, at 731-881-7040 in the Hall-Moody admin building.
SFHS graduate awarded UT-Martin scholarship

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-2022 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Garrett Slaughter, of Union City, son of Jimmy and Kim Slaughter, will be a freshman. He received the Elam Alumni Legacy Scholarship, the University Scholar Award and the Chancellor's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
MOVE-IN MANIA ON UT MARTIN CAMPUS
August 19, 2021 @ 3:06 pm Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.

~Caroline Gurton of Paris is being pushed on the cart along with Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver as students move in to their residences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Carver said it was

“Move-In Mania” on campus. “We loved welcoming our new students and seeing returning upperclassmen. And a huge THANK YOU to the many volunteers we had helping. Many hands make light work! It’s go time...and it’s always a great day to be a Skyhawk!” UTM photo.
UTM welcomes students back with annual ‘Move-In Mania’

August 19, 2021 by Conley Grayson Norris

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is kicking off the new school year with the annual Move-In Mania.

Thursday morning, student organizations and community groups gathered at the residence halls to welcome incoming freshmen as they move into their new homes.

“It’s definitely festive and we’ve missed it,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. “It’s been two years since it’s felt like this, and so we’re just so excited, and lots of smiles and a lot of families here having a good time and reliving their own college days as they move their children.”
"We've got several things this weekend to kind of get them kicked off and prepared for their freshman year," said Assistant Director of Residence Life Ryan Martin. "And so that way, come Monday, on the first day of classes, they've been able to kind of have some fun, learn a few things and kind of get acclimated to the campus and be ready to go."

To help the freshmen get used to campus, UTM is hosting a convocation, a comedy show, a welcome back block party, as well as many other events this weekend.

UTM hopes to bring back the social aspect of college for the new students.

"I think one of the things last year we all struggled with was a lack of community and connection," Carver said. "And this year, we're looking forward to those friendships, team group projects in classes face to face instruction."

Masks will be required in classrooms, labs and other spaces where attendance is required, and staff encourage students to get vaccinated.

To help out, UTM's Student Health and Counseling Services Department hosted a vaccination clinic in the dorm during move-in.

"We're just really hoping for a great fun year for our students and just diving back into the classroom and learning and meeting folks. And we really kind of hope that they get to have that experience that maybe we haven't been able to have for a couple years," Martin said.

Classes begin at 8 a.m. Monday, August 23. For a full list of Welcome Weekend events, click here (https://www.utm.edu/departments/fyi/schedule.php).
Students Receive UT Scholarships

Several Lauderdale County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Scholarship winners include Cameron Goodwin, of Ripley, received the Elam Transfer Advance Scholarship. He is the son of Cheryl Goodwin and Tom Goodwin.

Cameron Medford, of Henning, received the Achieve Scholarship. He is the son of Anita Medford.

Savannah Pham, of Halls, received the William H. Baker Scholarship. She is the daughter of Quoc and Carol Pham.

Ellie Young, of Henning, received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of Kimberly Young and David Young.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
UTM Family Weekend set for Sept. 10-12

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Family Weekend event Sept. 10-12. The list of events includes food trucks, live music, the Bowtie 5K, tailgating, and the UTM vs. Samford football game in Hardy Graham Stadium.

Family weekend packages are $25 each and include a Family Weekend T-shirt, tickets for the football game, and vouchers for the food trucks and coffee at Vantage Coffee Roasters. Packages can be ordered online at www.utm.edu/familyweekend. UTM students will be admitted to the football game and concert with a student ID and have the opportunity to receive a free Family Weekend T-shirt, so they do not need to purchase packages.

Those wishing to participate in the Bowtie 5K can pre-register at the same link. To run the 5K will be $10, and to walk will be $5. T-shirts are also provided for participants while supplies last.

A barbecue lunch is provided from noon-1:30 p.m., Sept. 11, for $7 a person, and the closing Bowtie Brunch is provided from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sept. 12, for $12 a person. Participants must pay at the door.

A full schedule of events is as follows:

Friday, Sept. 10
4-6 p.m.: Family Weekend opens at the Tennessee Soybean Festival in downtown Martin. Check in at the new Martin Public Library and then enjoy dinner at one of the festival’s food trucks.

Saturday, Sept. 11
5:30 a.m.-10 a.m.: Donuts with Deans come-and-go event, Vantage Coffee Roasters.

Noon-4 p.m.: Concurrent events: Barbecue lunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall; Roller Skate Party, Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center; Skyhawk Bingo, Boling University Center 206ABC, Campus Feud game show, Watkins Auditorium.

4 p.m.-5:45 p.m.: Luau Tailgate Party, Hardy Graham Stadium; the Travelin’ Max show will take place during this time.

6 p.m.: UT Martin football vs. Samford University, Hardy Graham Stadium.

9:30 p.m.: Fireworks, Hardy Graham Stadium.

Sunday, Sept. 12
9:30 a.m.: Student-led non-denominational worship service, Watkins Auditorium.

10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Bowtie Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall.

1 p.m.: Skyhawk Soccer vs. Western Carolina, Skyhawk Soccer Field.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/familyweekend or contact John Abel at jabell1@utm.edu or 731-881-7710.
FAMILY WEEKEND – UTM Chancellor Keith Carver prepares to run in another Bowtie 5K at the upcoming UTM Family Weekend festivities, set for Sept. 10-12. The race opens the Saturday portion of the weekend events, and participants can pre-register at www.utm.edu/familyweekend.
Largest commitment in UT system history totals $79.5 million

University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd speaks June 24 during the Wildwood Farm commitment announcement in Germantown, Tennessee, when Melanie Smith Taylor (center) signed the letter of intent that outlines the agreement by Taylor and her family for transfer of the Germantown farm to UT Martin upon Taylor's death. Also pictured is UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver.

A commitment of Wildwood Farm in Germantown to UT Martin, valued at over $79 million, is officially the largest ever to the University of Tennessee system.

UTM Communications Chief Bud Grimes says a property appraisal announced Friday, which includes the property value and $3 million in new construction, confirmed the total commitment's value at $79,834,920.

Melanie Smith Taylor and her family announced in June that Wildwood Farm will be transferred to the university upon her death. The commitment will allow UT Martin to increase educational program offerings in veterinary health technology and other agricultural disciplines in the near future. The commitment will also provide opportunities for UT Martin to collaborate with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

UT System President Randy Boyd, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, and Taylor, a 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist in equestrian, were among those making the official June announcement. The commitment will make possible educational opportunities in animal science and horsemanship, plant and soil science, environmental management, and natural resources management. Early programming will prioritize adding a cohort for veterinary health technology.
"This transformational commitment will support our academic and research mission for generations to come," Carver said. "The extraordinary generosity of Melanie Taylor and the Taylor family will allow UT Martin programs to expand into Shelby County and will greatly enhance our ability to promote agriculture, horsemanship, and plant and soil science. We are extremely grateful."

The farm includes 350 acres of mixed pasture and mature oak woodlots surrounded by dense residential development. The Big Barn was completed in 1935 and became the hub of equestrian history in the Mid-South. Originally built as one of the top American Saddlebred show stables in the country, Wildwood transformed into the setting for many equestrian events.

The farm was originally chosen as the site for the National Steeplechase Tour and the U.S. Open Polo Championship. The property has served as a world-class training ground for polo ponies, hunters, jumpers and pleasure horses. In March 2017, Carnival Memphis presented Melanie Smith Taylor and Wildwood Farm a joint award of excellence "in recognition of outstanding achievement and service to the sports industry and the Mid South community."

The relationship between Wildwood Farm and UT Martin began in 2015 and led to the announcement and plans for the property's future. The plan meets Taylor's vision to both preserve the farm in the current state and to honor the Taylor family while providing a benefit to students studying all agriculture disciplines. The farm will be used in a similar manner to the UT Martin Teaching Farm located adjacent to the university's main campus. Wildwood Farm will remain in its current state and provide a much-needed hands-on teaching and demonstration laboratory in agricultural sciences in Shelby County.

"The Wildwood Farm and UT Martin partnership will keep the beauty of this incredible land while leveraging its multi-use property to create new opportunities to benefit faculty and students for generations to come, and also sustain Wildwood Farm – which is the ultimate goal of the Taylor family," Boyd said.

Kerry Witcher, UT Foundation Inc. president and CEO, said, "This commitment is the direct result of building lasting relationships between friends and alumni and our university. Transformational commitments of this magnitude positively impact generations to come, and the UT Foundation is excited to play a role in helping Ms. Taylor realize her dream."

In her comments at the June announcement, Melanie Taylor recalled her late husband, Lee, and this vision for Wildwood Farm. "Lee wanted to be sure the farm continued to be enjoyed by me and the Wildwood family for the duration of my lifetime," she told those present for the announcement. "But he also hoped it would be a gift that keeps on giving and growing through scholarship, horsemanship and friendship to best promote this unparalleled natural resource by an equestrian and an agrarian focus. And, so for the Taylor family and all of us at Wildwood, we welcome UT Martin to our home and shared dreams."
The camp started Sunday and finished Friday by welcoming the freshman to their first day on campus.

Dr. Julie Hill with UT Martin Department of Music says this year's camp has been a blast.

She says she can't wait to see what this school year has in store for the band members.

"A lot more people are going to go to a football game, and our band is really going to represent what our department can do for our community. Also, what music brings and athletics bring overall to the UTM campus and the northwest Tennessee community. I am very excited for the band this year," Hill said.

The band will meet every Thursday to practice for the performances.
UT Martin gives freshman a glimpse into future

August 20, 2021 by Ashley Luningham (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/aluningham/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin welcomed the freshman class with a look into their future.

UT Martin freshman began their college career in the place same place it will end at graduation.

The university holds a freshman convocation for new students during their first full day being on campus.

Professors spoke to freshman about what to expect during their time at UT Martin and what it means to be a Skyhawk.

Freshman Madisyn Phillips says that her experience so far has made her feel welcome.

"It has been great. The hospitality here has been helpful moving me in. It has an open atmosphere that is very open and welcoming to you that is perfect," Phillips said.

With classes starting Monday, freshman Brayden Pyburn says he has the first day jitters.
"I'm really excited, but there is definitely some nervousness going on. It should go away sooner or later. I feel really at home," Pyburn said.

UT Martin senior and pep leader Sydney Roney says being able to have commencement in person was great.

"I pulled up and I actually had a tear. It was an amazing feeling. All of the faculty and staff are excited because it was kind of a ghost town last year. This has been really awesome," Roney said.

She says she can't wait to see the new freshmen start their journey, just like she did four years ago.

"I just love this campus. It has been my home for four years. My two sisters and I have gone here, and I am so pumped for people to be back. It's going to be great," Roney said.

Festivities will continue for freshman with a comedy show Monday evening.
MARTIN, Tennessee – Officials with the University of Tennessee System and the University of Tennessee at Martin knew that the Wildwood Farm commitment to UT Martin announced June 24 in Germantown was the largest in university history. A property appraisal announced today, which includes the property value and $3 million in new construction, confirmed the total commitment’s value at $79,534,920 – the largest ever to the UT System.

Melanie Smith Taylor and her family announced in June that Wildwood Farm will be transferred to the university upon her death. The commitment will allow UT Martin to increase educational program offerings in veterinary health technology and other agricultural disciplines in the near future. The commitment will also provide opportunities for UT Martin to collaborate with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

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(PHOTO: University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd speaks June 24 during the Wildwood Farm commitment announcement in Germantown, Tennessee, when Melanie Smith Taylor (center) signed the letter of intent that outlines the agreement by Taylor and her family for transfer of the Germantown farm to UT Martin upon Taylor’s death. The commitment is the largest in UT System and UT Martin history and will allow the university to increase educational program offerings in veterinary health technology and other agricultural disciplines. Also pictured is Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor)
Farm gift pledge to UT-Martin worth a system record $79.5M

University officials say a former equestrian Olympic gold medalist's commitment to donate her family farm to the University of Tennessee at Martin after her death is valued at a record-breaking $79.5 million.

Monday, August 23rd 2021, 8:51 AM EDT

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — University officials say a former equestrian Olympic gold medalist's commitment to donate her family farm to the University of Tennessee at Martin after her death is valued at a record-breaking $79.5 million.

A news release Friday from the Martin campus announced the property appraisal amount of the pledged gift of Wildwood Farm by Melanie Smith Taylor.

Officials say the 350-acre Germantown farm is the largest commitment ever across the University of Tennessee system, not just the Martin campus. Taylor, a 1984 Olympic gold medal winner in equestrian, joined university officials to announce the plan in June.

The property will let the university increase programs in veterinary health technology and other agricultural disciplines.
MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — University officials say a former equestrian Olympic gold medalist’s commitment to donate her family farm to the University of Tennessee at Martin after her death is valued at a record-breaking $79.5 million.

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The property will let the university increase programs in veterinary health technology and other agricultural disciplines.
As the COVID-19 delta variant continues to spread and is driving up hospitalizations in local communities, UT Martin's main campus and five regional centers are joining the UT System to adjust mask requirements for at least the next two weeks.

UT Martin Communications Chief Bud Grimes tells Thunderbolt Radio News:

(AUDIO)

Grimes adds that masks are not required in private offices and residence hall rooms and while individuals are actively eating, drinking, or engaging in fitness activities.
UT MARTIN AMONG STATE UNIVERSITIES HOLDING VOTER DRIVE TAILGATES

August 24, 2021 @ 9:11 am Shannon McFarlin

TENNESSEE VOTER REGISTRATION TAILGATES

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – As Tennessee's nine Division I Public Universities gear up for football season, they are also working with the Secretary of State's office to hold a voter registration drive during the tailgate before a home game at each school.

"Like most Tennesseans, we love college football and the excitement of game day," said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. "These Voter Registration Tailgates are the perfect opportunity for us to show students and fans how easy it is to register to vote in Tennessee so that they can get in the game and make their voice heard on Election Day."

The Voter Registration Tailgates will kick off on Saturday, Sept. 11, at Tennessee Tech University, East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee at Martin. Voter Registration Tailgates will continue at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Tennessee State University on Saturday, Sept. 18, the University of Memphis on Saturday, Sept. 25 and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Middle Tennessee State University and Austin Peay State University on Saturday, Oct. 2.
At each tailgate, students and football fans will be guided through the registration process in minutes using the Secretary of State’s fast, easy and secure online voter registration system, GoVoteTN.gov. They will also be able to get their questions about Tennessee’s easy voting process answered by local election officials.

The Secretary of State’s office is working with students, university leadership and staff, athletic departments, student government associations, campus civic engagement organizations and local county election commissions to host the Voter Registration Tailgates.

"With the county election commission staff, everyone from the universities and student volunteers, we know we have a winning team to promote voter registration across our state," said Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins.

The Voter Registration Tailgates are part of the Secretary of State’s ongoing efforts to help all eligible Tennesseans register to vote and are one of the many initiatives the office is carrying out in celebration of National Voter Registration Month.

For the latest details about the Voter Registration Tailgates, follow the Secretary of State’s social media channels Twitter: @SecTreHargett, Facebook: Tennessee Secretary of State and Instagram: @tnsecofstate.

For more information about registering to vote in Tennessee, go to GoVoteTN.gov or call the Division of Elections toll-free at 1-877-850-4959.
Germantown Olympian to donate $79.5M property to UT Martin in university's largest donation

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin received its largest donation in the school's history. A former gold medal Olympic equestrian, Melanie Smith Taylor agreed to donate the 350 acres of mixed pasture to UT upon her death.

Taylor and school officials announced in June that she would donate the property.

The property is valued at a record-shattering $79.5 million. This Germantown farm is the largest commitment ever for the University of Tennessee.

With the large amount of space, the university plans to expand programs in the fields of veterinary health technology and several agricultural disciplines.

Largest commitment in UT System history totals $79.5 million! Read more at https://t.co/GjM9HE9WUU. #heutmiproud.pic.twitter.com/ngFPVRIPOV
UT adjusts COVID-19 protocols

Based on the rise in COVID-19 Delta variant numbers across the state, campuses throughout the University of Tennessee System will adjust mask requirements for at least the next two weeks.

On Aug. 2, the UT System began a temporary requirement to wear face coverings in classrooms, laboratories, and at indoor academic events required for students. With the Delta variant fueling rising case counts and straining hospital capacity, the mask requirement is being extended to all indoor public spaces, except in private offices, residence hall rooms, while engaging in fitness activities, and while actively eating and drinking. Campus athletics departments will make decisions regarding requirements at indoor athletic facilities.

The university will reevaluate the need for the expanded face-covering requirement by Sept. 7.

“We are committed to making the necessary adjustments to help ensure the health and safety of those who work, study and visit our campuses,” UT System President Randy Boyd said. “While we are trying to do our part to keep our campuses healthy, we continue to stress the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Campus locations include UT Knoxville, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin, UT Southern and the UT Health Science Center.
BEAN UPDATE

We at The Weakley County Press are proud to present the 2021 Tennessee Soybean Festival Book full of information on upcoming events for the 28th Annual Award Winning Tennessee Soybean Festival. The book is included in today's edition of the Press and will be available at the office.

Due to the recent COVID-19 related health and safety guidelines and recommendations, certain events and activities have been either cancelled or relocated after the print deadline. For the most up-to-date scheduling information, please visit www.tnsoybeanfestival.org.

Executive Director Statement:
Given the more recent health and safety developments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the leadership of the Tennessee Soybean Festival regrets having to take steps to cancel certain festival events for the 2021 festival. Special events involving large numbers of children as the targeted audience, and certain festival sponsored events that are hosted in indoor settings will be subject to cancellation for this year. Every effort will be made to move our scheduled indoor events to other outdoor venues if possible.

At this time all other activities and events will go on as scheduled including the tractor pull, rodeo, street fair, the parade, the midway, all novelty attractions, the barbecue cookoff, and all mainstage music events at the WK&T Amphitheatre (Festival Park).

For updated information on the festival and potential event cancellations or relocations, please visit the Tennessee Soybean website at tnsoybeanfestival.org.
BEING HIM ‘SELFIE’ — University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver (left) snapped a selfie as he was joined by (continuing from left) Dr. Margaret N. Perry, chancellor from 1986-1997; Dr. Nick Dunagan (partially hidden), chancellor from 2001-07; Dorothy Gillon, former public occasions coordinator; Dr. Philip W. Conn, chancellor from 1998-2000; and Dr. Robert M. Smith, chancellor from 2015-17, during a recent gathering to commemorate Mrs. Gillon’s 25 years of service to UT Martin. All of the chancellors Mrs. Gillon worked with during her time at UT Martin donated to a plaque on a lamp post in front of the Dunagan Alumni Center, which Mrs. Gillon referred to as “The House.” A $1,500 donation was also made to the Charlie Gillon Memorial Loan Fund, which is named for her late husband, who taught in the UT Martin International Programs Department.
Family Weekend at UT Martin offers food, 5K, football and more

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its annual Family Weekend event Sept. 10-12.

The list of events includes food trucks, live music, the Bowtie 5K, tailgating and the UT Martin vs. Samford football game in Hardy Graham Stadium.

Family weekend packages are $25 each and include a Family Weekend T-shirt, tickets for the football game, concert and tailgate party, and vouchers for the food trucks and coffee at Vantage Coffee Roasters. Packages can be ordered online at www.utm.edu/familyweekend.

UTM students will be admitted to the football game and concert with a student ID and have the opportunity to receive a free Family Weekend T-shirt, so they do not need to purchase packages.

Those wishing to participate in the 5K can pre-register at the same link where packages are purchased. To run the 5K will be $10, and to walk will be $5. T-shirts are also provided for participants while supplies last.

A barbecue lunch will be provided from noon-1:30 p.m. Sept. 11 for $7 a person, and the closing Bowtie Brunch is set for 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sept. 12 for $12 per person. Participants must pay at the door.

The full schedule of events includes:

**Sept. 10**
- 4-6 p.m. — Family Weekend opens at the Tennessee Soybean Festival in downtown Martin. Check in at the new Martin Public Library and then enjoy dinner at one of the festival’s food trucks.
- 6 p.m. — Family Weekend Concert at the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

**Sept. 11**
- 7 a.m. — Bowtie 5K registration begins.
- 9:30 a.m.-noon — Donuts with Deans come-and-go event, Vantage Coffee Roasters.
- Noon-4 p.m. — Concurrent events: Barbecue lunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall; roller skate party, Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center; Skyhawk Bingo, Boling University Center 206ABC; and Campus Feud game show, Watkins Auditorium.

**Sept. 12**
- 9:30 a.m. — Student-led non-denominational worship service, Watkins Auditorium.
- 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — Bowtie Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall.
- 1 p.m. — Skyhawk Soccer vs. Western Carolina, Skyhawk Soccer Field.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/familyweekend or contact John Abel at jabell@utm.edu or 731-881-7710.
MARTIN – University officials say a former equestrian Olympic gold medalist's commitment to donate her family farm to the University of Tennessee at Martin after her death is valued at a record-breaking $79.5 million. A news release Friday from the Martin campus announced the property appraisal amount of the pledged gift of Wildwood Farm by Melanie Smith Taylor.

Officials say the 350-acre Germantown farm is the largest commitment ever across the University of Tennessee system, not just the Martin campus. Taylor, a 1984 Olympic gold medal winner in equestrian, joined university officials to announce the plan in June.

The farm includes 350 acres of pasture and oak woodlots surrounded by residential development. The farm, including its signature "Big Barn," has become a hub for equestrian history in the south, according to a release from the school.

The gift will be used to create educational opportunities in animal science, horsemanship, plant and soil science, environmental management and natural resources management, officials said.

The plan will allow the farm to be preserved in its present state, something Taylor envisioned.
The University of Tennessee System has announced increased face-covering requirements at university campuses based on the rise in COVID-19 Delta variant numbers across the state. UT Martin’s main campus and five regional centers will join the UT System to adjust mask requirements for at least the next two weeks.

Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver announced in his Chancellor’s Corner, “With today’s UT System guidance, the mask requirement is being extended starting today, Aug. 23, to all UT Martin indoor public spaces, except in private offices, residence hall rooms, while engaging in fitness activities, and while actively eating and drinking. More details about face coverings in classrooms were outlined in an Aug. 20 email from Academic Affairs to faculty members. Athletics will make decisions about masking at indoor athletic facilities.
"As announced by the UT System, we’ll re-evaluate the need for the expanded face-covering requirement by Sept. 7. I also remind students to continue reporting COVID-19 symptoms to Student Health and Counseling, employees to the Office of Human Resources, and isolate yourself when necessary. As noted on the UT Martin coronavirus website, all members of the university community are expected to consistently report symptoms and follow isolation and/or quarantine guidance from university medical officials.

“The goal to open in-person this fall semester is accomplished, but we have much more work to do. We’ll regularly monitor conditions and adjust as needed to keep the UT Martin community safe, and we’ll continue to communicate with you. If you haven’t been vaccinated, please protect yourself and others by getting the vaccine, and help yourself and your fellow Skyhawks by following current face-covering requirements.

“We value each of you as part of the UT Martin family, and I thank you in advance for helping us to keep our university community safe for everyone.”
Ribbon Cutting UT Martin McNairy Center

Janet Rail
Publisher

UT Martin McNairy Center just got a little bit healthier with the opening of a walking track.

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver attended the Ribbon Cutting of a new walking track on campus with Patty Kiddy, director McNairy County Health Department, Allen Younger, director UT Martin McNairy, Jessica Huff, McNairy County Chamber, County Mayor Larry Smith with other dignitaries, campus staff and students August 23. Community members can now enjoy the track and improve their health too.

Since 2018, the McNairy County Health Department has been partnering with the University of Tennessee Martin, McNairy campus to implement the Healthy Hawks/Healthy Campus Initiative.

The mission of the initiative is to develop a culture of health on the campus by implementing strategies that promote healthy behaviors in staff, students and the general public. The walking track is open to anyone and connects sidewalks and the parking lot within the track.

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CAMPUS

FROM PAGE 1

Four laps around is one mile.

The track is located at the UT Martin McNairy campus at 1269 Tennesse Avenue, Selmer and is open 24/7. McNairy County's adult obesity rate is 36% compared to 32% in the state. “This grant came out four years ago from the Department of Health and each county was getting so much money to come up with a project in the county that could increase physical activity. Part of the grant was the additional of exercise equipment in the Selmer City Park. Beth Hamilton, our health educator, met with community partners and they came up with this idea because there were people in the area around in and around campus that could benefit and increase physical activity,” said Patty Kiddy.

“If this is successful, we hope to move this project out into the smaller cities in the county,” said Kiddy.
The McNairy Health Department and the staff of UT Martin Selmer along with local citizens gathered to celebrate the opening of the track.
Haslam Says People of Faith Can Make a Difference

BY BUD GRIMES
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (August 11) — Two-term Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam sees an almost equal political divide in America, but his hope is that people of faith can help to solve problems and restore unity.

His comments came as he talked about his new book, “Faithful Presence: The Promise and Peril of Faith in the Public Square,” during an August 11 program sponsored by UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program.

The noon event was held at the Southwest Tennessee Development District in Jackson. The program was part of the “Lunch Learn Leadership” series sponsored by UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program and offered to WestStar alumni throughout the year. The former governor signed copies of his book following lunch and his comments to more than 90 invited guests from around West Tennessee. According to an Amazon.com review, the book examines Haslam’s vision “for the redemptive role of faith in politics while examining some of the most complex issues of our time.”

“Let’s say you wake up one day and you see that the country is really divided, right? If I took a show of hands, everybody would be there,” Haslam said, noting that the last two presidential elections were decided by single digits, the U.S. Senate is split 50-50, and the U.S.

House of Representatives is separated by only four votes, but a deeper issue exists.

“We’re not just divided, but we’re really mad at the other side, and we’ve become contemptuous of the other side,” he said. “In other words, the other side is not just wrong, they’re wrong for bad motives.” It’s a concept known as motivation attribution asymmetry, and he added, “Today in the United States, the motivation attribution asymmetry between Republicans and Democrats is more than between Israelis and Palestinians.”

With these points in mind, Haslam said that he wrote the book for people of faith but hopes others will benefit by reading it and using the ideas to solve problems. “Remember Jesus saying, ‘You have a speck in your own eye before you see the speck out of someone else’s eye,’” he said. “What I’m saying is maybe in this country that’s evenly divided and mad and contemptuous of the other side, maybe people of faith can be part of the answer.” Haslam highlighted three main points covered in the book, starting with something he learned from his political mentor, the late Tennessee senator and statesman Howard Baker Jr. The one-time majority leader of the Senate and President Ronald Reagan’s chief of staff said, “Always remember, the other fellow might be right.” Applying Baker’s advice, Haslam said “we should approach the public square with humility, meaning I don’t always get this right. I’m here to learn."

“The second thing we should do is say, ‘We’re going to approach this not to win the argument but to get the best answer.’” Haslam said that trying not to win the argument is hard for many people, but in the end, elected officials at all levels should seek to arrive at the best answers to problems, which led to his final point about elected officials making a difference.

“It’s really easy in today’s political world to make a point,” he said, referencing the use of social media. “... But the thing I always say is it’s much easier to make a point than it is to make a difference.” He referenced his own experiences as governor by adding, “And when you’re in office, and I don’t care what office it is, the chances to make a difference are way greater than you think they are. The decisions made can either help more people or not to a greater extent than I ever dreamed possible.”

He closed by saying that people of faith can solve problems right where they are, and Haslam cited the advice given to the captive people of Israel by the biblical prophet Jeremiah who said, “Seek the welfare of the places where you were called, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” His book’s title “Faithful Presence” was inspired by these words.

“I think that’s what we’re supposed to be doing,” Haslam said. “And whether you’re in a school, in a hospital, in a government job, you’re working on a farm, whatever it is, what we’re supposed to do is seek the welfare of that place we’re called to, and have a faithful presence in those places where God has called us to.”
Haslam: People of faith can make a difference

Two-term Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam sees an almost equal political divide in America, but his hope is that people of faith can help to solve problems and restore unity.

His comments came as he talked about his new book, “Faithful Presence: The Promise and Peril of Faith in the Public Square,” during a recent program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program at the Southwest Tennessee Development District in Jackson.

The program was part of the “Lunch Learn Leadership” series sponsored by UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program and offered to WestStar alumni throughout the year.

The former governor signed copies of his book following lunch and his comments to more than 90 invited guests from around West Tennessee.

According to an amazon.com review, the book examines Haslam’s vision “for the redemptive role of faith in politics while examining some of the most complex issues of our time.”

“It’s no secret to anybody, regardless of what your politics are, that the country is really divided, right? If I took a show of hands, everybody would be there,” Haslam said, noting that the last nine presidential elections were decided by single digits, the U.S. Senate is split 50-50 and the U.S. House of Representatives is separated by only four votes, but a deeper issue exists.

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DISCUSSES BOOK — Two-term Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam talked about his new book, "Faithful Presence: The Promise and Peril of Faith in the Public Square," during a recent "Lunch Learn Leadership" program sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program. The midday event was held at the Southwest Tennessee Development District in Jackson. He was joined during the presentation by Dr. Keith Carver (background), UT Martin chancellor.
Local officials joined with University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, UT Martin McNairy/Selmer Center Director Allen Youngerman, campus staff and students, McNairy County Health Department County Director Patty Kiddy and health department staff, to celebrate the opening of a new walking trail at the local campus. The walking track is possible due to collaboration between McNairy County, UT Martin, the McNairy County Health Department and the McNairy County Highway Department.

“This is the result of a contract between us and McNairy County government,” said McNairy County Health Department County Director Patty Kiddy. “There is

See TRACK, Pg. 2A

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, McNairy/Selmer Center Director Allen Youngerman, and McNairy County Health Department County Director Patty Kiddy joined with students for a stroll around the new track.
Local officials joined with UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, McNairy/Selmer Center Director Allen Youngerman, McNairy County Health Department County Director Patty Kiddy and health department staff, to celebrate the opening of a new walking trail at the local campus.

"Thank you to the McNairy County Health Department - Healthy Active Built Environments Grant Program," said Chancellor Carver. We believe the walking track will be a welcomed addition to the campus. The walking track is available for use by students, staff and community members."

County Mayor Larry Smith added, "I want to thank McNairy County Highway Department Supervisor, Harvey Neal Smith and his department for completing the project. If the McNairy County Highway Department had not been willing to complete the work there would not have been enough money with the grant to complete the project. Harvey is always willing to help with anything we ask his department to do to allow our ability to accomplish more for the citizens of McNairy County than usual possible."

After a ribbon cutting, Chancellor Carver was joined by several local students and officials for a stroll around the track.
COVID Protocols Adjusted At UT

The University of Tennessee System, including UT Martin, UT Knoxville, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Chattanooga, UT Southern and the UT Health Science Center, will adjust mask requirements for at least the next two weeks. The UT System began a temporary requirement to wear face coverings in classrooms, laboratories, and at indoor academic events required for students August 2nd. With the Delta variant fueling rising case counts and straining hospital capacity, the mask requirement is being extended to all indoor public spaces, except in private offices, residence hall rooms, while engaging in fitness activities, and while actively eating and drinking. Campus athletics departments will make decisions regarding requirements at indoor athletic facilities. The university will re-evaluate the need for the expanded face-covering requirement by September 7th.
Record number of UTM grads accepted to Vet School

Seventeen members of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s spring 2021 graduating class have been accepted into veterinary schools, according to Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and director of the Veterinary Health Technology Program. The group is one of the largest ever to be accepted from UTM.

Matthew Katzmarek, of Bruceon, and Erica Brown, of McEwen, along with classmates from Collierville, Dandridge, Knoxville, Hendersonville, Murfreesboro, Leoma, Memphis, and Escondido, Calif., will attend the UT College of Veterinary Medicine in Knoxville.

Other graduates will be attending Mississippi State University, the University of Florida, the University of Missouri, and Purdue University. Some graduates have been accepted to study at international universities, such as the Royal Veterinary College in London, England; the University of Melbourne in Australia; and the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

“The faculty and staff understand what it takes for these students to be successful, and they are passionate about relaying this information to students beginning in their first semester as freshman and continuing that advising and support through graduation,” said Roberts.

The program also has a large teaching and demonstration farm, which includes veterinary facilities where students can gain hands-on experience throughout their undergraduate careers. These experiential learning opportunities, in addition to multiple internship opportunities, really strengthen the applications of these aspiring veterinarians.

For more information about the UTM animal science program and pre-veterinary track, contact Roberts at jrober29@utm.edu or 731-881-7952.
Boulton receives degree from UT Martin

Posted Monday, August 30, 2021 6:13 am

A White County resident was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies, in May. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted four in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of spring 2021’s accomplishments.

The student receiving an undergraduate degree was:

Sparta ~ Andrea Marie Boulton