Learning Academy students tour UTM-Ripley

Students from the Learning Academy after school program visited the University of Tennessee at Martin Ripley Center on Nov. 29. During their visit, students were shown the various amenities of the college campus, including the computer lab, nursing lab, animal and science lab, student lounge, and lecture hall. “This was an impactful experience for our youth participants,” Johnny Nelson said. “We took a range of students from grades K-12, and it was interesting seeing the type of questions that our students asked. These visits help promote early interest in college and keep youth curious and motivated for higher learning. The experience helps them gain exposure as to what college actually looks like and gives them a sense of connection to a tangible pathway for future careers.” The Learning Academy has extended its program until Dec. 15. If anyone has questions about the program visit www.nelsonresource.com or contact the office at 731-612-9402. Pictured with students are Xavier Lawrence Andrews, Security and Custodial Director, Johnny Nelson, Executive Director of the Nelson Resource Center, Alicia Garrison, Program Director for the Learning Academy, and Jason Holloway, Assistant Director for UT Martin Ripley Center.
Two local students attend RisingStar Leadership Summit

Two students from Lauderdale County participated in the WestStar Leadership Program's 2021 Cary Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, Nov. 4-5, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is the summit's 10th year and featured the largest class so far with 47 students from 14 counties. The summit gives high school juniors and seniors opportunities to develop their leadership skills and learn the value of community involvement. Pictured are, from left, Virginia Grimes, assistant director of WestStar Leadership; Megan Belton, My'Anna Jones and Jennifer Black, program manager of WestStar Leadership. Both students attend Halls High School. For more information about the Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, contact the WestStar office at weststar@utm.edu or 731-881-7787.
UTM's Jason Simpson, team enjoying historic playoff run

Brandon Shields  Jackson Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

UT Martin head coach Jason Simpson is in his 16th season leading the Skyhawks, and he's making sure to enjoy the ride this year. "I think 10, maybe 15 years ago that would've been more difficult for me," Simpson said. "But now that we've been here for so long and have learned first-hand how difficult it is to get to this point, we're making sure to enjoy the moment and not wait until it's over."

There's been plenty for the program to enjoy as it continues to make history. Along with the football team's second Ohio Valley Conference championship and second NCAA Football Championship Series playoff berth, the first of which came in Simpson's first year leading the program in 2006, the Skyhawks' 32-31 win at Missouri State this past Saturday was their first-ever Division I playoff win. It was also Simpson's 100th victory as a head coach, bringing his career record to 100-79.

But not only is Simpson enjoying the success of the season that includes a record of 10-2 (double-digit wins is another first for the program), he's enjoying the team as well.

"Every team is different with a different identity and a different way they go about approaching a game and practice and their business in general," Simpson said. "Some teams are loose to the point of being silly before a game, and I learned to be OK with that. This team isn't silly, but they just like each other. They like hanging out and just talking about life with each other as they warm up before a game or practice. And that's really fun to see."

See UTM, Page 8A
Savoring the moment

UT Martin head coach Jason Simpson shakes hands with Missouri State head coach Bobby Petrino, former coach at Arkansas, Louisville and the Atlanta Falcons. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY UT MARTIN SPORTS INFORMATION
Another aspect Simpson has enjoyed is watching players step up in recent weeks to fill voids created by injury.

"When our quarterback Keon Howard is the OVC Player of the Year but then goes down with an injury, that creates a big role that has to be filled," Simpson said.

And it was a local kid whom Simpson has known nearly all his life that’s stuck it out at UTM while dealing with adversities for five seasons since arriving on campus – Dresser Winn.

"Dresser came in as probably the most heralded high school recruit we’ve ever brought in," Simpson said about Winn, who started at Missouri State and went 23-for-43 for 272 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. "He’s had a couple surgeries after unfortunate injuries, but he’s come every day to the QB meetings and has been a part of every meeting, whether he’s playing or not."

Winn signed with UTM after being personally recruited by Simpson for four years as he grew up in nearby Dresden and led the Lions to the 2016 Class A state championship and a perfect 15-0 record in which the Lions were rarely challenged after halftime.

He suffered a broken leg during a game against Austin Peay during the 2020 season played this past spring because of COVID-19. He’s gradually rehabsbed his way back into the quarterback depth chart after spending time as the team’s punter in previous seasons when he lost battles for the starting job at quarterback.

"He’s one of those guys that everybody on the team likes and is rooting for him when they see how hard he is working," Simpson said. "Because they know what he’s dealt with coming back from."

"When they saw him out there working in practice last week and putting it all out there at Missouri State, that pushed everybody to go all out themselves. And we had everybody putting forth a similar effort – everybody working for everybody."

This week is a trip to No. 8 Montana State, the Big Sky Conference runner-up with a 9-2 record that had a bye in the first round.

"We’re looking forward to the trip and the task ahead of us," Simpson said. "Montana State is a really good team, which is what you should expect to play at this point."

"We’re looking forward to the opportunity."

Reach Brandon Shields at bshields@jacksonsun.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorbrandon.
Santa's Village runs Dec. 9-12 at UT Martin

The city of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 37th-annual Santa's Village holiday celebration Dec. 9-12 in the university's Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex. The event is open to the public 6-9 p.m., Dec. 9-10; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 11; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 12. The event is free to attend; however, visitors are encouraged to donate $5-worth of canned foods or an unopened children's toy to benefit local families in need.

Santa's Village will include the traditional forest of lights and MTD model train display, along with a petting zoo and carnival rides provided by Pope's Amusement Rides. Santa will make his annual appearance to visit local children. An arts and crafts vendor fair will also be held during the event.

For more information, contact the city of Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.
STEVIE REYNOLDS

UTM Public Safety Initiates
Operation Blue Light

MARTIN (November 23) — The Department of Public Safety at the University of Tennessee at Martin is initiating a new program called Operation Blue Light.

Effective immediately, UT Martin officers will patrol campus with a solid blue light illuminated on top of all marked UT Martin police cars after sunset.

“We hope Operation Blue Light will bring additional patrol visibility to the campus, as well as allow students to see where we are in case any assistance is needed,” said Chief Monte Belew, UT Martin director of public safety. “When driving by campus, you do not have to yield to the UT Martin police cars when in a solid blue status. We will continue to use the standard flashing lights and sirens for emergencies and traffic stops,” Belew added.

UT Martin officers are on patrol 24/7 and available at 731-881-7777.

For more information about Operation Blue Light, contact Belew at mbelew@utm.edu.

A UT Martin police car is pictured in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building.

WHS Health Science
Seniors Offered Learning Experience at UTM

MARTIN (November 18) — The Senior Health Science students at Westview High School visited the Health and Human Performance department on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin on Thursday, November 18.

Dr. Todd Sherman, Assistant Professor, led students on a detailed tour of the department.

He explained courses offered in the HHP majors and he also stressed the importance of preservice in a student’s college career.

He explained how equipment, such as the “Bod Pod,” is used in training students.

This is a device that measures weight and volume to determine body density and calculate body fat percentage.

Sherman also talked about the training equipment students must learn to use and how hydrotherapy is utilized.

Bart Belew, Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine (football and golf), provided valuable information on the career field of athletic training.

Students toured the training facility and saw first-hand how the daily operations occur.

Students also had the opportunity to talk with Nelson Davis, Assistant Athletic Trainer (rodeo and equestrian), about his job description and first aid.

Health science is one of the largest industries in the country, with more than 11 million jobs, including the self-employed.

The health science industry includes establishments ranging from small-town, private practice physicians who employ only one medical assistant to busy, inner-city hospitals that provide thousands of diverse jobs.

Opportunities like this experience allow local students to see firsthand the educational choices available with different degrees.
Annual Santa’s Village Returns to Martin

MARTIN (November 24) — The City of Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin will host the 37th-annual Santa’s Village holiday celebration December 9-12 in the university’s Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex. The event is open to the public 6-9 p.m., December 9-10; 11 a.m.-8 p.m., December 11; and 1-5 p.m., December 12.

The event is free to attend; however, visitors are encouraged to donate $5-worth of canned foods or an unopened children’s toy to benefit local families in need. Santa’s Village will include the traditional forest of lights and MTD model train display, along with a petting zoo and carnival rides provided by Pope’s Amusement Rides.

Santa will make his annual appearance to visit local children. An arts and crafts vendor fair will also be held during the event.

Featuring more than 25,000 square feet of holiday entertainment, from lighted displays, to a petting zoo to local vendors, the annual Santa’s Village event returns to the Ag Pavilion on the UT Martin campus December 9-12.

UT Martin Holiday Art Bazaar Is Back

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and the League of Striving Artists are once again hosting their annual Holiday Art Bazaar in the Fine Arts Gallery on the UTM Campus. The Bazaar will take place on Thursday, December 2 from 5-8 p.m.; Friday, December 3 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.; and Saturday, December 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event will feature local artists and vendors with handmade goods for purchase just in time for the holidays.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated towards the League of Striving Artists’ Scholarship Endowment. This event will be held in the Fine Arts Gallery, located at 16 Mt. Pella Rd., Martin, and is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
UT Martin in-person commencement set for December 10-11

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold fall commencement in three separate in-person ceremonies Dec. 10-11 on the Martin campus in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Commencement times are 6:00 p.m., Friday, Dec. 10, and 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11. Tickets are required to enter the Elam Center, and masks are encouraged but not required. Doors will open 45 minutes before each ceremony begins. Guests are asked to clear Skyhawk Arena for cleaning within 30-minutes after each ceremony ends.

Friday’s ceremony will feature students receiving graduate degrees; the 10:00 a.m. Saturday program will feature graduates from the colleges of education and behavioral sciences and fine arts; and the 1:00 p.m. Saturday ceremony will include graduates from the colleges of agriculture and applied sciences, business and global affairs, and engineering and natural sciences.

All three commencement ceremonies will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/utmartin and www.youtube.com/utmartin. The ceremonies will be archived for later viewing on YouTube and will also be broadcast live in Skyhawk Fieldhouse located adjacent to the Elam Center, which will allow up to 350 additional guests to view.

McNairy County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Two McNairy County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2022-2023 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement. Those students include the following:

- Reece Cosbey, of Finger, son of Rickey and Carole Cosbey, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Michael Preston, of Stantonville, son of Richard and Miranda Preston, will be a freshman. He received the Dean 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.
LOCAL STUDENTS, Megan Belton, second from left, and My'Anna Jones, second from right, students at Halls High School, participated in the WestStar Leadership Program's 2021 Cary Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, November 4th and 5th, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is the summit's 10th year and featured the largest class so far with 47 students from 14 counties. The summit gives high school juniors and seniors opportunities to develop their leadership skills and learn the value of community involvement. Pictured also are Virginia Grimes, left, assistant director of WestStar Leadership, and Jennifer Black, right, program manager of WestStar Leadership. For more information about the Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, contact the WestStar office at weststar@utm.edu or 731-881-7787.
JSCC partners with UT Martin, Carey Counseling, Inc., to receive large grant from USDA

Jackson, Tennessee – Jackson State Community College will partner with the University of Tennessee at Martin and Carey Counseling Center, Inc., on a USDA Delta Health Care Services grant. The purpose of the $547,293 De-escalation Techniques and Emergency Response Project (DETER) is to develop a public-health training facility in West, TN, which will deliver de-escalation and emergency health intervention training to reduce the injury and mortality rates of police-citizen encounters.

Jackson State will focus on connecting our criminal justice students to critical training that will prepare them for a successful long-term career in criminal justice.

Karen Perrin, Jackson State Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, explained that “DETER will help to reduce risk to law enforcement officers and the people they serve.” She also stated that “This is a great opportunity for Jackson State, UT Martin, and Carey Counseling to work together to facilitate meaningful change for our community.”

The DETER Project aims to improve the public health of diverse and marginalized groups in the Delta Region, which includes West Tennessee and the surrounding areas, by training current and aspiring police officers in critical assessment, de-escalation tactics, and less-lethal strategies for citizen interaction. DETER will also train social workers and civilian crisis intervention teams, and educate adult, youth, and minority stakeholders in strategies that reduce public-health risks during police interaction. More information about the DETER Project is available by contacting Perrin at kperrin@jscc.edu.

The Jackson State Criminal Justice Program offers Tennessee Transfer Pathways in Associate of Science and Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, awards an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Corrections and Law Enforcement Certificates.
MARTIN, Tenn.—One local university is receiving a big grant.

The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive a $126,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The agency supports research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.

The money will support a survey of West Tennessee historical records collection. The project is called “Surveying the Impact of COVID-19 on cultural collections in West Tennessee.”
Throughout the two-hour open house and reception, Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of piano at UT Martin, played familiar Christmas music on the beautiful piano now in the Tennessee Room of Martin Public Library.

Four UT Martin music students were invited to perform Christmas arrangements for the open house and reception. Doug Owens, faculty member in the Department of Music, organized the saxophone quartet.
UT Martin students place second in Computer Science conference

Three students from the University of Tennessee at Martin won second place Nov. 12 at the Association for Computing Machinery Mid-Southeast Conference. The annual conference, which met in Gatlinburg, allows computer science students to present their undergraduate research and get to know regional professionals.

The students on the second place team are Kelsey Morris of Milan, Randy DePriest of Alamo and Mason Bearden of Lexington. All team members are seniors and won a certificate along with a $50 prize.

Their project was a game called "Mark the Mighty," which is a web-based combat role-playing game built in Google Firebase and Unity. Some features implemented into the game include traps, a high-score feature and a cave for the player to explore. To play the students' game, visit https://mark-the-mighty.firebaseapp.com/. For more information about the conference, contact Dr. Kathleen Ericson, associate professor of computer science, at kericson@utm.edu or 731-881-7587.

FACULTY SCHOLAR SPEAKS — Dr. Daniel Pigg, professor of English and the University of Tennessee at Martin's fall 2021 Featured Faculty Scholar, discussed his experiences during his decades of teaching and research in his presentation "How to Support Your Local Medievalist: Teaching and Researching Medieval Literature at UT Martin" Oct. 25. The Featured Faculty Scholar award recognizes faculty members whose research and creative works are deemed most prestigious. Among those attending the presentation were (from left) Chancellor Keith Carver, Dr. Lynn Alexander, the dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Catalyst competition. The UT Martin REED Center joined the Southern Illinois Research Park at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and the Murray State University Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Development (CEED) in applying for the $150,000 award.

As the lead applicant, the SIU Southern Illinois Research Park Corporation will split the award with UT Martin and Murray State to develop a sustainable rural partnership network and a research and development ecosystem in the north delta region.

The partnership of the three centers will focus on increasing awareness of SBIR opportunities, connecting business and industry owners with university researchers, and enhancing the success of SBIR proposals submitted by underrepresented, rural small businesses.

The project will also target STEM technology and innovation and will work to bring awareness and networks, resources and support to rural entrepreneurs for commercialization through training, workshops and other assistance. The project will also connect entrepreneurs with university researchers, industry partners and government funding sources and expertise.

This collaborative partnership was generated through the recent establishment of the North Delta Economic Alliance. This alliance of Delta Leadership Network partners in the northern area of the Delta Regional Authority footprint are working to establish regional sustainability in economic and academic growth.

"Participation in the Delta Regional Authority's Leadership Institute ultimately resulted in collaboration of the UT Martin, SIU and Murray State supported entrepreneurial centers. Through bi-weekly discussions of the recently formed North Delta Economic Alliance, it became apparent each of our rural centers are experiencing similar circumstances related to entrepreneurial growth and economic development," said Landy Fuqua, director of UT Martin's REED Center. "We are so thankful for the inclusion of our center by SIU and Murray State in this partnership to bring more awareness of the SBIR opportunities in our rural communities."

The REED Center, home to the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), was established to meet the needs of existing and potential business owners through one-on-one consultations and interactive training programs. The center serves as a hub of information for prospective entrepreneurs and owners of existing small businesses who need individual consultant services, group training services and associated technical resources.

For more information, contact Landy Fuqua at 731-587-7333 or email reed@utm.edu (mailto:reed@utm.edu).
MARTIN, Tenn. — Students wanting to prepare for the ACT will soon have a new option.

The University of Tennessee at Martin says that starting in January, a series of workshops will be held to teach high school juniors and seniors tips to use during the test.

The workshops will be held over Zoom.

There are also ACT Mastery courses, which are held for those who went through previous workshops.

You can register for the free courses [here](https://www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/actprep.php).
Local Students Participate in RisingStar Leadership Program

Five students from Fayette County participated in the WestStar Leadership Program's 2021 Cary Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, Nov. 4-5, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is the summit's 10th year and featured the largest class so far with 47 students from 14 counties. The summit gives high school juniors and seniors opportunities to develop their leadership skills and learn the value of community involvement. Pictured are Virginia Grimes, assistant director of WestStar Leadership; Jennifer Black, program manager of WestStar Leadership; Beth Anne Stein, Everette Doyle, Ella Self, Emma Self and Chayil Watkins. All five students attend Fayette-Ware Comprehensive High School. For more information about the Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, contact the WestStar office at weststar@utm.edu or 731-881-7787.
UTM In-Person Commencement Is This Weekend

MARTIN (November 29) — The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold fall commencement in three separate in-person ceremonies December 10-11 on the Martin campus in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Commencement times are 6 p.m., Friday, December 10, and 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, December 11. Tickets are required to enter the Elam Center, and masks are encouraged but not required.

Doors will open 45 minutes before each ceremony begins. Guests are asked to clear Skyhawk Arena for cleaning within 30 minutes after each ceremony ends.

Friday's ceremony will feature students receiving graduate degrees; the 10 a.m. Saturday program will feature graduates from the colleges of education and behavioral sciences and fine arts; and the 1 p.m. Saturday ceremony will include graduates from the colleges of agriculture and applied sciences, business and global affairs, and engineering and natural sciences.

All three commencement ceremonies will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/utmartin and www.youtube.com/utmartin. The ceremonies will be archived for later viewing on YouTube and will also be broadcast live in Skyhawk Fieldhouse located adjacent to the Elam Center, which will allow up to 350 additional guests to view the commencement.

While tickets are required to enter the Elam Center, additional tickets will not be required to access Skyhawk Fieldhouse. Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, will preside over the commencement ceremonies and offer the commencement address and confers degrees.

Dr. Phillip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, will recognize honors graduates. David McBeth, professor of art, will serve as the commencement mace bearer.

In addition, several speakers will appear virtually: the Rev. Sam Chambers, campus minister; UT Martin Wesley Foundation, will offer the invocation; UT President Randy Boyd will offer greetings and personal congratulations; and Student Government Association President Sidney Church, of Santa Fe, Tennessee, and UT Martin Alumni Council President Mark Joyner, of Paducah, Kentucky, will each address the graduating class.

Each ceremony will close with the Alma Mater performed by the UTM Virtual Choir, recorded and edited by 2010 UT Martin graduate Joseph Sam.

Additional information is available by calling the Office of University Relations at 731-981-7615.
UTM Receives Grant for Records Survey

MARTIN (December 6) — The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive a $126,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. The grant money will support a survey of West Tennessee historical records collections.

The project, titled “Surveying the Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Collections in Western Tennessee,” will be led by Sam Richardson, chief archivist and curator of the J. Houston Gordon Museum, as well as numerous other UT Martin faculty and staff members. Work for the survey, which will begin in January, will continue through the year. The project assesses the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on heritage collections in 21 counties across the historic Western Grand Division of the state, a geographic area stretching from the Mississippi River to the Tennessee River and from the Kentucky border south to the state of Mississippi.

Often overlooked as a rural and agricultural region with little cultural significance, West Tennessee is rooted in key aspects of American history, including Native American pre-settlement activity; the colonial and early settlement period; tobacco and cotton production during the antebellum, Civil War, and post-war periods; significant clay mining; river and rail transportation; and important pathways in the country, rockabilly, and R&B music industries. Large portions of the region’s cultural collections are held by smaller nonprofit organizations with minimal budgets, volunteer staff, and aging structures. The coronavirus pandemic has adversely impacted this sector, and it is unclear which agencies will emerge from a sustained period of closure and lost revenue.

In support of the survey work, a workshop on basic preservation techniques and disaster preparedness will be repeated in three UT Martin regional centers in spring 2022. A concluding one-day conference in fall 2022 will share results of the survey project and highlight the rich heritage of West Tennessee. These events will assist in identifying and engaging with survey respondents and provide learning and networking opportunities for employees and volunteers at these institutions.

“We want to thank the NEH for supporting this project. It will allow us to build a directory of local historical associations, their contact information, and a list of their collections for use by historians, genealogists, and other interested users,” Richardson said. “This project will highlight the important work done by many agencies to preserve local records. These organizations continue to protect these vital parts of our heritage.”

For more information, contact Richardson at sricha12@utm.edu or 731-981-7094.
https://www.dailycorinthian.com/

Alcorn County residents get UTM waiver

By Jeff York For the Daily Corinthian
Dec 11, 2021

SELMER, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee – Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer is providing an early Christmas gift to college students in Alcorn County with the waiving of out-of-state tuition.

This U.T. – Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center Border State Kickstart Scholarship begins in the spring semester at the UTM Selmer-based campus. Both traditional and non-traditional students are eligible for this new scholarship to encourage potential Alcorn County students to take advantage of the resources with the University of Tennessee statewide system less than a 20-minute drive from Corinth.
JSCC, UTM, Carey Counseling, Inc to receive large grant from USDA

Jackson State Community College will partner with the University of Tennessee at Martin and Carey Counseling Center, Inc., on a USDA Delta Health Care Services grant. The purpose of the $547,293 De-escalation Techniques and Emergency Response Project (DETER) is to develop a public-health training facility in West Tennessee, which will deliver de-escalation and emergency health intervention training to reduce the injury and mortality rates of police-citizen encounters.

Jackson State will focus on connecting our criminal justice students to critical training that will prepare them for a successful long-term career in criminal justice.

The DETER Project aims to improve the public health of diverse and marginalized groups in the Delta Region, which includes West Tennessee and the surrounding areas, by training current and aspiring police officers in critical assessment, de-escalation tactics, and less-lethal strategies for citizen interaction. DETER will also train social workers and civilian crisis intervention teams, and educate adult, youth, and minority stakeholders in strategies that reduce public-health risks during police interaction.

More information about the DETER Project is available by contacting Karen Perrin at kperrin@jscc.edu.

The Jackson State Criminal Justice Program offers Tennessee Transfer Pathways in Associate of Science and Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, awards an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Corrections and Law Enforcement Certificates.
LIBRARY COLLABORATION — Dr. Danny Walker (center) discussed the evolving work of veterinarians in caring for companion animals when he gave a presentation at Martin Public Library Dec. 7. In order to bring this presentation to the community, Dr. Erik Nordberg (right), dean of the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin, collaborated with Jenny Claiborne (left) and other staff members at Martin Public Library.

Area libraries collaborate

Dr. Danny Walker, associate professor of animal science in the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, discussed recent research in UT Martin’s veterinary science and veterinary health technology programs Dec. 7, at the Martin Public Library. His presentation, part of the UT Martin Research Series sponsored by the Paul Meek Library, was a collaborative event with UT Martin’s library and Martin Public Library.

More than 40 persons including students, faculty members, library staff and interested community members attended the event held in the event space at the new Martin Public Library.

Dr. Walker, a veterinarian, discussed how research initiatives inform student learning and influence the evolving work of veterinarians in caring for pets and companion animals. The presentation included discussion of the top medical conditions for dogs and cats. Walker answered questions from the audience at the end of the interactive and informative presentation.

Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, introduced Dr. Walker and explained that UT Martin is one of only 30 institutions in the country to offer four-year academic instruction in veterinary health technology, with students completing on-site, hands-on internship experiences at regional veterinary hospitals, clinics and laboratories.

Dr. Walker’s presentation was open to the public and was co-sponsored by the Martin Public Library, the Friends of the Martin Public Library, the UT Martin Division of Academic Affairs, and the Paul Meek Library.
Free online ACT Prep courses

A series of free online ACT prep workshops for high school juniors and seniors across Tennessee will be offered in January by the UT Martin Office of University Outreach.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips that will help them while taking the test. The two-hour courses also aim to familiarize students with higher education. The two types of Success Tactics Workshops are Math and Science Reasoning and English and Reading.

The ACT Mastery Class Series is intended for students who previously completed the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and are seeking additional practice. Each Mastery Class consists of four two-hour class sessions, one for each section of the ACT. The Mastery Class includes new testing material and a practice exam. The times and dates for the Mastery Classes are at www.utm.edu/actprep.

The courses, which are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education, take place over Zoom, so students will need to have access to a computer with audio and video functions, as well as a secure internet connection.

UTM adjunct faculty member and author Alex Beene will teach the courses. He will also offer office hours at 7-8 p.m. on selected weekdays and 2:30-3:30 p.m. on selected Saturdays for further skills improvement. Students can request an appointment or submit questions before the session to Beene at abeene@utm.edu.

Register at www.utm.edu/actprep. For more info, go to jcooper@utm.edu.

Donald named Beth Maloan outstanding student employee

The University of Tennessee at Martin has named Abigail Donald as the recipient of the fall 2021 Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee award for her outstanding job performance and dedication to the university.

Donald is a senior social work major from Missoula, Montana, who works for the Office of Campus Recreation. She serves as a supervisor for the campus recreation facilities, intramural sports and special events. Donald also officiates all intramural sports offered on campus and works hard to make sure that all of the rules are applied fairly. She has officiated approximately 150 intramural sports activities since beginning the position.

"Abigail is at her best when meeting and greeting our patrons and our public. For example, when we need assistance for a special event like Senior Preview Days, she is always one of the first people we call because she is so friendly, approachable and knowledgeable about campus recreation and the university in general," said Eric Simmons, assistant director of campus recreation, in Donald's nomination letter. "Abigail is a wonderful student worker/supervisor who continually exhibits the ability to go above and beyond, whether her role is in intramural sports, facilities management or special events."

The Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award is named for the late Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who was a strong advocate of student employment. The award recognizes exemplary work ethic and commitment to the university. The award, which consists of a plaque and $1,000 check, is given each semester to a student nominated by his or her supervising office or department.

For more information, contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UTM programs earn national, state rankings

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently received 11 rankings for its undergraduate and graduate degree programs and overall affordability.

Intelligent.com included UTM in its list of best institution programs for 2022.

• The online master's in environmental management program ranked second in the nation and received the Best in the Southeast award.

• The master's in school counseling degree program ranked third in the nation.

• The online master's in educational psychology program ranked fourth by Intelligent.com. The online/on-campus ranking source also considered the program best for school counseling.

• Intelligent.com named UT Martin the fifth Most Affordable online master's in school counseling. The program was also recognized as the best for clinical mental health.

• UT Martin ranked seventh in the country for the Best Finance Degree Program. It also received acknowledgement for having the best scholarships.

• The university ranked eighth in the nation for the Best RN to BSN program. The program was also honored with the Best Campus Activities award.

• UTM ranked eighth in the state for its online degree programs.

• The online master's in school counseling is also ranked eighth in the nation, and Intelligent.com named the program Best Low Residency Program for 2022.

• UTM is ranked the 13th best college in Tennessee. This ranking also gave the university the Best for Military Members award.

• The UT Martin MBA program is ranked the 37th best MBA program in the nation. The program was awarded the best college in the southeast.

• The online MBA program is ranked 48th out 116 programs evaluated.

RISING STARS — Four students from Obion County and Union City schools participated in the WestStar Leadership Program's 2021 Cary Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is the summit's 10th year, and it featured the largest class so far with 47 students from 14 counties. The summit gives high school juniors and seniors opportunities to develop their leadership skills and learn the value of community involvement. The local participants, joined by WestStar leadership, included (from left, front row) Virginia Grimes, assistant director of WestStar Leadership; Rachel Cochrum, a student at Obion County Central High School; Jennifer Black, program manager of WestStar Leadership; (back row) Alex Carpenter, a student at OCCHS; and Daniel Edwards and Taizhan Fuller, both students at Union City High School.
UTM offers ACT Prep classes

A series of free online ACT prep workshops for high school juniors and seniors across Tennessee will be offered starting in January 2022 by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips that will help them while taking the test. The two-hour courses also aim to familiarize students with higher education. The two types of Success Tactics Workshops are Math and Science Reasoning and English and Reading. Visit www.utm.edu/actprep to see when these courses are offered.

The ACT Mastery Class Series is intended for students who previously completed the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and are seeking additional practice. Each Mastery Class consists of four two-hour class sessions, one for each section of the ACT. The Mastery Class includes new testing material and a practice exam. The times and dates for the Mastery Classes are at www.utm.edu/actprep.

The courses, which are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education, take place over Zoom, so students will need to have access to a computer with audio and video functions, as well as a secure internet connection. Visit www.utm.edu/actprep to see when these courses are offered.

Charles Childers (center), of Adamsville, received a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Tennessee at Martin during commencement exercises Dec. 11. He is pictured with his wife Jennifer Childers and his children, Jades, Andie Kate and Brooks. There were 332 in-person participants, and another 301 graduates were recognized virtually. Chancellor Keith Carver served as commencement speaker. For more information, visit utm.edu.
### Admission Waived for UTM Basketball Game

**MARTIN (December 15)** - Entry to the University of Tennessee at Martin's women's basketball game will be free for all fans who make a donation to aid the nearby communities affected by the historic tornado that ran through four states over the weekend.

Fans are encouraged to donate monetarily in lieu of a ticket purchase. For those who would like to donate in advance or cannot attend this week's games, please visit this link: [https://give.utm.edu/victory](https://give.utm.edu/victory).

At the bottom of the webpage, click the “I have additional comments” box and type “Tornado relief.”

The UT Martin women's team hosts Southern Illinois on Wednesday. The game is scheduled for 7 p.m. tipoff at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The Skyhawk men's squad hosted UNC Asheville Tuesday night, when admission was also waived in an effort to collect monetary donations for tornado victims. Severe weather Friday night severely impacted neighboring Dresden, as well as Kenton, Sidonia and Samburg.

---

### Empty Bowls Raises $12,000

**MARTIN** — The University of Tennessee at Martin's 18th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser raised nearly $12,000, making it the second-largest iteration yet. Bowls were sold during the in-person event November 20 and online November 13-21. Empty Bowls is sponsored by UT Martin and the university's Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

The proceeds from the bowls went to We Care Ministries Inc., and the bowls were made by UT Martin art professor and potter David McBeth, his students and other volunteers.

McBeth founded the event in 2003 and has grown into an annual event, so far raising more than $125,000 for the Martin community.

"In these uncertain times, it is so heartwarming the way the campus and city have come together to support the We Care Ministries food bank and hunger relief mission," said McBeth.

We Care Ministries was founded in 1973 and receives no government funding. All monetary donations are used to assist Weakley County families through 11 assistance programs that include the food bank, education and literacy, childcare and direct aid.

Information about the Empty Bowls fundraiser is available at [www.martinemptybowls.com](http://www.martinemptybowls.com) and [www.facebook.com/martinemptybowls](http://www.facebook.com/martinemptybowls). McBeth can be reached at dmcbeth@utm.edu or 731-881-7416.
This year, 15 teachers graduated from the five-month program and some say it's important to have programs like WestTeach.

"This program I think has been really really good to get someone such as myself, a teacher, out of the classroom and into the community. It was a great opportunity to put us in contact with resources that we could lean on," said Patrick Corbin, STEM Teacher in Henry County.

"Once you get out and see what's available and hear others in other schools talk about what they're doing and what's available to them, you get new ideas, you learn the things that are important to them and you might be able to use in your own teaching in your school," said Beth Glover, Reading Intervention Teacher in Gibson County.

For more information on the program or if you know of a teacher that would benefit from WestTeach, click here (https://www.utm.edu/departments/weststar/westteachprogram.php).
Local educators learn how to improve education

December 16, 2021 by Marcos Santander (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/msantander/)

MADISON COUNTY, Tenn. — Local teachers are discovering ways to improve education across West Tennessee.

"To go into the different communities across West Tennessee to learn what's working and what's not working, some of the needs of our industry partners," said Charley Deal, Vice Chancellor of University Advancement for UT Martin.

UT Martin's program, WestTeach, helps teachers learn and network with local leaders.

"It provides us an opportunity to get those teachers in front of industry leaders and community leaders so that they can better understand what's taking place in the classroom is just a small part of what's taking place in the community and the region as a whole," said Deal.
ACT Prep Class At UTM Slated

A series of free online ACT prep workshops for high school juniors and seniors across Tennessee will be offered starting January 2022 by the UT Martin Office of University Outreach.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips that will help them while taking the test. The two-hour courses also aim to familiarize students with higher education.

The two types of Success Tactics Workshops are Math and Science Reasoning and English and Reading.

Visit www.utm.edu/actprep to see when these courses are offered. The ACT Mastery Class Series is intended for students who previously completed the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and are seeking additional practice. Each Mastery Class consists of four two-hour class sessions, one for each section of the ACT.

The Mastery Class includes new testing material and a practice exam. The times and dates for the Mastery Classes are at www.utm.edu/actprep.

The courses, which are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education, take place over Zoom, so students will need to have access to a computer with audio and video functions, as well as a secure internet connection. UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author Alex Beene will teach the courses. Beene serves as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and works primarily with rising high school juniors and seniors needing academic help with standardized testing.

Beene will also offer office hours at 7-8 p.m. on selected weekdays and 2:30-3:30 p.m. on selected Saturdays for further skills improvement. Students can request an appointment or submit questions before the session to Beene at abeene@utm.edu.

To register, visit www.utm.edu/actprep, or for more information, contact Jennifer Cooper at jlcoper@utm.edu.
Former UT-Martin Graduate Honored by Governor Bill Lee

A UT-Martin graduate is being honored by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee.

Dr. Adam Travis, with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, is being honored with the "Governor's Excellence in Service Award".

Dr. Travis is one of 23 state employees to receive the honor, which is presented to those who help provide Tennessee taxpayers with the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost.

He currently serves as administrator of the Technical Services Laboratory for the Consumer and Industry Services Division, and as the interim director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory.

Dr. Travis is from Woodlawn, and graduated from UT-Martin with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and minor in biology.

He earned his PhD at Vanderbilt University.
Co-op board member Chris Fowler, of Fowler Farms, sees a mutually beneficial relationship growing from Co-op’s investment. “I just think that any time the university gets an opportunity to partner with a local business, like Co-op, that’s a great opportunity, and on our end — the producer end — anytime we can get access to that kind of expertise, I think that really improves our operations as individuals, so I think it’s going to be a great partnership.”

“This partnership will provide great opportunities for students to gain hands-on, real-world experience while providing service and consulting to Weakley County Farmers Co-op members.”

Roberts said the addition of Moore brings to five the total number of veterinarians teaching in the university’s Veterinary Science and Technology Program. “It (the addition of Moore) will be a great benefit to UT Martin and all of our students in agriculture and specifically majors in veterinary science and technology,” Roberts said. “This partnership will provide great opportunities for students to gain hands-on, real-world experience while providing service and consulting to Weakley County Farmers Co-op members.”

Moore credits her UT Martin experience for success in veterinary school and private practice. She looks forward to both working with university students and engaging with the Weakley County community through the Co-op portion of the professorship. “Large-animal medicine and management is my favorite part of the veterinary medicine,” she said. “This position was perfect for me because it allows me to still use my veterinary knowledge to teach students and help producers at the same time.”
WEAKLEY FARMERS CO-OP ESTABLISHES VET SCIENCE PROGRAM

December 18, 2021 @ 8:23 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The Weakley County Farmers Co-op has established a veterinary science professorship at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Weakley County Farmers Cooperative Professorship in Veterinary Science will fund an additional veterinary science faculty member whose duties will include a 50% university teaching appointment. The remainder of the professorship will be focused on service to the cooperative and its members. The partnership will promote and develop agriculture education, research and outreach in Weakley County and surrounding communities. Dr. Amber Moore has accepted the professorship appointment and will start work in January. She is a Crockett County native and graduate of both UT Martin and UT College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Weakley County Farmers Co-op is committed to supporting UT Martin not only through this professorship, but also through internships and scholarships.”

“This position will be a great example of the value of public-private partnerships and the benefits they can have on education and the community,” said Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and veterinary technology program director. “Weakley County Farmers Co-op is committed to supporting UT Martin not only through this professorship, but also through internships and scholarships.”

Paul Wilson, Weakley County Farmers Co-op general manager, said that the partnership, approved by the Co-op board, is “a very good opportunity to help the community, help the members of Weakley Farmers Co-op and help the university.” He also noted that while the Co-op is often known for its service to row-crop production, this partnership shows a commitment to the livestock community as well. “I think this is a huge step in showing our members and the community that we’re invested in all types of agriculture,” he said.
Often overlooked as a rural and agricultural region with little cultural significance, West Tennessee is rooted in key aspects of American history, including Native American pre-settlement activity; the colonial and early settlement period; tobacco and cotton production during the antebellum, Civil War, and post-war periods; significant clay mining; river and rail transportation, and important pathways in the country, rockabilly, and R&B music industries. Large portions of the region’s cultural collections are held by smaller nonprofit organizations with minimal budgets, volunteer staff, and aging structures. The coronavirus pandemic has adversely impacted this sector, and it is unclear which agencies will emerge from a sustained period of closure and lost revenue.

In support of the survey work, a workshop on basic preservation techniques and disaster preparedness will be repeated in three UT Martin regional centers in spring 2022. A concluding one-day conference in fall 2022 will share results of the survey project and highlight the rich heritage of West Tennessee. These events will assist in identifying and engaging with survey respondents and provide learning and networking opportunities for employees and volunteers at these institutions.

“We want to thank the NEH for supporting this project. It will allow us to build a directory of local historical associations, their contact information, and a list of their collections for use by historians, genealogists, and other interested users,” Richardson said. “This project will highlight the important work done by many agencies to preserve local records. These organizations continue to protect these vital parts of our heritage.” For more information, contact Richardson at srichal2@utm.edu or 731-881-7094.
Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive a $126,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. The grant money will support a survey of West Tennessee historical records collections.

The project, titled “Surveying the Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Collections in Western Tennessee,” will be led by Sam Richardson, chief archivist and curator of the J. Houston Gordon Museum, as well as numerous other UT Martin faculty and staff members. Work for the survey, which will begin in January, will continue through the year. The project assesses the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on heritage collections in 21 counties across the historic Western Grand Division of the state, a geographic area stretching east from the Mississippi River to the Tennessee River and from the Kentucky border south to the state of Mississippi.
Weakley County Co-op establishes veterinary science professorship

The Weakley County Farmers Co-op has established a veterinary science professorship at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Weakley County Farmers Cooperative Professorship in Veterinary Science will fund an additional veterinary science faculty member whose duties will include a 50 percent university teaching appointment. The remainder of the professorship will be focused on service to the cooperative and its members. The partnership will promote and develop agriculture education, research and outreach in Weakley County and surrounding communities. Dr. Amber Moore has accepted the professorship appointment and will start work in January. She is a Crockett County native and graduate of both UT Martin and UT College of Veterinary Medicine.

"This position will be a great example of the value of public-private partnerships and the benefits they can have on education and the community," Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and veterinary technology program director, said. "Weakley County Farmers Co-op is committed to supporting UT Martin not only through this professorship, but also through internships and scholarships."

Paul Wilson, Weakley County Farmers Co-op general manager, said that the partnership, approved by the Co-op board, is "a very good opportunity to help the community, help the members of Weakley Farmers Co-op and help the university." He also noted that while the Co-op is often known for its service to row-crop production, this partnership shows a commitment to the livestock community as well. "I think this is a huge step in showing our members and the community that we're invested in all types of agriculture," he said.

Co-op member Chris Fowler, of Fowler Farms, sees a mutually beneficial relationship growing from Co-op's investment. "I just think that any time the university gets an opportunity to partner with a local business, like Co-op, that's a great opportunity, and on our end - the producer end - anytime we can get access to that kind of expertise, I think that really improves our operations as individuals, so I think it's going to be a great partnership."

Roberts said the addition of Moore brings to five the total number of veterinarians teaching in the university's Veterinary Science and Technology Program. "It (the addition of Moore) will be a great benefit to UT Martin and all of our students in agriculture and specifically majors in veterinary science and technology," Roberts said. "This partnership will provide great opportunities for students to gain hands-on, real-world experience while providing service and consulting to Weakley County Farmers Co-op members."

Moore credits her UT Martin experience for success in veterinary school and private practice. She looks forward to both working with university students and engaging with the Weakley County community through the Co-op portion of the professorship. "Large-animal medicine and management is my favorite part of the veterinary medicine," she said. "This position was perfect for me because it allows me to still use my veterinary knowledge to teach students and help producers at the same time."
WC Farmers Co-op establishes veterinary science professorship

PROFESSORSHIP ESTABLISHED — The Weakley County Farmers Co-op has established a veterinary science professorship at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Weakley County Farmers Cooperative Professorship in Veterinary Science will fund an additional veterinary science faculty member whose duties will include 50 percent university teaching appointment. Attending the announcement were (from left) Paul Wilson, Weakley County Farmers Co-op general manager; Dr. Wes Totten, chairman of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Chris Fowler, Fowler Farms and member of Weakley County Farmers Cooperative board; and Kenny Caldwell, farmer and president of Weakley County Farmers Cooperative board.

The Weakley County Farmers Co-op has established a veterinary science professorship at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Weakley County Farmers Cooperative Professorship in Veterinary Science will fund an additional veterinary science faculty member whose duties will include a 50 percent university teaching appointment. The remainder of the professorship will be focused on service to the cooperative and its members. The partnership will promote and develop agriculture education, research and outreach in Weakley County and surrounding communities. Dr. Amber Moore has accepted the professorship appointment and will start work in January. She is a Crockett County native and graduate of both UT Martin and UT College of Veterinary Medicine.

“This position will be a great example of the value of public-private partnerships and the benefits they can have on education and the community,” said Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and veterinary technology program director. “Weakley County Farmers Co-op is committed to supporting UT Martin not only through this professorship, but also through internships and scholarships.”

Weakley County Farmers Co-op general manager Paul Wilson said the partnership, approved by the Co-op board, is “a very good opportunity to help the community, help the members of Weakley Farmers Co-op and help the university.” He also noted that the Co-op is open known for its service to row-crop production, this partnership shows a commitment to the livestock community as well. “I think this is a huge step in showing our members and the community that we’re invested in all types of agriculture,” he said.

Co-op board member Chris Fowler of Fowler Farms sees a mutually beneficial relationship growing from Co-op’s investment. “I just think that any time the university gets an opportunity to partner with a local business, like Co-op, that’s a great opportunity, and on our end — the producer end — anytime we can get access to that kind of expertise, I think that really improves our operations as individuals, so I think it’s going to be a great partnership.”

Roberts said the addition of Dr. Moore brings to five the total number of veterinarians teaching in the university’s Veterinary Science and Technology Program. “It (the addition of Dr. Moore) will be a great benefit to UT Martin and all of our students in agriculture and specifically majors in veterinary science and technology,” Roberts said. “This partnership will provide great opportunities for students to gain hands-on, real-world experience while providing service and consulting to Weakley County Farmers Co-op members.”

Dr. Moore credits her UT Martin experience for success in veterinary school and private practice. She looks forward to both working with university students and engaging with the Weakley County community through the Co-op portion of the professorship. “Large-animal medicine and management is my favorite part of the veterinary medicine,” she said. “This position was perfect for me because it allows me to still use my veterinary knowledge to teach students and help producers at the same time.”
UT Martin awarded $126,000 in funding for survey

The University of Tennessee at Martin will receive a $126,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities.

The grant money will support a survey of West Tennessee historical records collections.

The project, titled “Surveying the Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Collections in Western Tennessee,” will be led by Sam Richardson, chief archivist and curator of the J. Houston Gordon Museum, as well as numerous other UT Martin faculty and staff members.

Work for the survey, which will begin in January 2022, will continue through the year.

The project assesses the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on heritage collections in 21 counties across the historic Western Grand Division of the state, a geographic area stretching east from the Mississippi River to the Tennessee River and from the Kentucky border south to the state of Mississippi.

Often overlooked as a rural and agricultural region with little cultural significance, West Tennessee is rooted in key aspects of American history, including Native American pre-settlement activity; the colonial and early settlement period; tobacco and cotton production during the antebellum, Civil War, and post-war periods; significant clay mining; river and rail transportation; and important pathways in the country, rockabill shows and R&B music industries.

Large portions of the region's cultural collections are held by smaller nonprofit organizations with minimal budgets, volunteer staff and aging structures. The coronavirus pandemic has adversely impacted this sector and it is unclear which agencies will emerge from a sustained period of closure and lost revenue.

In support of the survey work, a workshop on basic preservation techniques and disaster preparedness will be repeated in three UT Martin regional centers in spring 2022.

A concluding one-day conference in fall 2022 will share results of the survey project and highlight the rich heritage of West Tennessee. These events will assist in identifying and engaging with survey respondents and provide learning and networking opportunities for employees and volunteers at these institutions.

“We want to thank the NEH for supporting this project. It will allow us to build a directory of local historical associations, their contact information and a list of their collections for use by historians, genealogists and other interested users,” Richardson said in explaining the scope of the project and expressing his appreciation.

“This project will highlight the important work done by many agencies to preserve local records. These organizations continue to protect these vital parts of our heritage.”
Four non-degree courses scheduled for the spring

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach has scheduled four community courses for the spring 2022 semester.

All courses are enrolling now and are open for registration on a first-come, first-served basis.

They include:
- An Adobe PhotoShop course will be offered 6-9 p.m. Mondays from Jan. 24- Feb. 28. The course teaches photo editing using the latest version of PhotoShop and costs $145. The course will be taught by Dr. Tom Gallien.
- Water aerobics sessions will be held 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from Jan. 24- March 7; 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan. 25- March 8; 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from March 9- April 27; and 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 10- April 28. Each session costs $45, and anyone interested can save $10 by registering for January and March sessions at the same time.
- Water aerobics is a low-impact fitness class recommended for those with joint pain or chronic pain, as well as those recovering from injuries. The course builds cardiovascular stamina and circulation, strength, flexibility and balance and helps burn body fat.
- Beginner and intermediate courses about the Korean language and culture will be held Mondays from Jan. 24- May 20. Those taking the beginner level courses will meet from 5-6 p.m., and those taking the intermediate courses will meet from 6-7 p.m. Registration is $30 per person.

The courses, taught by Jisun Collier, will focus on the Korean alphabet and basic conversational skills. Students will also be able to attend the annual Korean New Year party and Kimchi Festival.

Online registration and payment are required for all courses. Visit utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php for information on how to register for each individual course.

Online ACT workshops offered free

A series of free online ACT prep workshops for high school juniors and seniors across Tennessee will be offered starting in January 2022 by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips that will help them while taking the test. The two-hour courses also aim to familiarize students with higher education.

The two types of Success Tactics Workshops are math and science reasoning and English and reading.

The ACT Mastery Class Series is intended for students who previously completed the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and are seeking additional practice. Each Mastery Class consists of four two-hour class sessions, one for each section of the ACT. The Mastery Class includes new testing material and a practice exam.

Times and dates for all classes are at www.utm.edu/actprep.

The courses, sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education, take place over Zoom, so students will need to have access to a computer with audio and video functions, as well as a secure Internet connection.

UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author Alex Beene will teach.

Beene will also offer office hours on select weekdays and Saturdays for further skills improvement. Students can request an appointment or submit questions to Beene at abeene@utm.edu.
Jasmine Youngblood won't have to wait long to start her first job after college. The Union City, Tennessee, native received her mass media and strategic communication degree during the second of three commencement ceremonies held at 10 a.m. at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Youngblood will have a short time to celebrate as she moves to Paducah, Kentucky, to start a multimedia journalist position for WPSD Local 6.

The separate commencement ceremonies Dec. 10-11 provided social-distancing options for in-person participants and attendees. Those unable to attend or who chose not to participate in person were honored virtually as the ceremonies ended. All ceremonies were livestreamed on the UT Martin Facebook page and YouTube channel. Graduates represented 63 Tennessee counties, 25 states and three countries outside of the U.S. In-person participants for the three ceremonies totaled 332 graduates, and another 301 graduates were recognized virtually.

"I just love storytelling and writing, and I loved being able to tell somebody something that they didn't know and watch their face light up," she said.

Youngblood is a Union City High School graduate whose parents, Nelson and Clarissa, are both educators for Union City Schools. She transferred to UT Martin after completing her first year of college at another university and continued to pursue her interest in the communications field. "I just love storytelling and writing, and I loved being able to tell somebody something that they didn't know and watch their face light up," she said. "As I got older and I found that I could turn that into a career, it was a no-brainer."

In addition to her classes, Youngblood gained practical experience as she worked at the student radio station WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk" and WUTM-TV. She also grew as a leader in Summer Orientation and Registration for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the university's Peer-Enabling Program that helps freshmen adjust to college life.

"When students would come to me with issues that they had and things that I'd never experienced, learning how to find a solution that would help them was probably the most important thing that I learned," she said.

Preparation met opportunity toward the end of her time at the university when she had to pick an organization that she wanted to work for as part of a class project. She chose WPSD. "And then literally later that week after I made the decision and had started doing research, Dr. (Richard) Robinson calls me in his office, and he's like, 'Jasmine, I think you should try to work at WPSD ... I think you should try to get in there.' " Robinson, professor and WUTM adviser, knew about two station openings, recommended Youngblood, and the graduating senior was eventually hired as a multimedia journalist, a position that aligns well with her storytelling skills.

"My job would be coming up with stories, finding stories that I want to tell in the community, and then I would make that story a reality from start to finish," she said. "I would pick who I was going to interview, do the interview, shoot all the footage. I would bring it back to the station and edit it myself to make a package for the newscast."

"And then I would also write a web version of that same story, so it's pretty hands on as far as every aspect of writing a successful story."

Youngblood said that the biggest change for her will be audience size as she transitions from reaching a campus audience to communicating with thousands of households served by the station. However, the new graduate is ready for the challenge and credits some key mentors for achieving her dream.
"Definitely my family, my parents in particular," she said. "They were very strong advocates for getting me to actually pursue what I wanted to do, because it's kind of hard to pursue a career where you're going to be more so a talent or like a personality. It can be a little daunting to jump into an industry like that."

She's also grateful to the mass media and strategic communications faculty members, especially Richard Robinson and Rodney Freed. "Those two have been behind me hard, like my entire three years that I've been here," she said. "They just kept me motivated and kept pushing me to be the person that I am today, so I greatly, greatly, greatly appreciate both of them."

Youngblood took the next step to the professional world when she joined fellow graduates, faculty members and other attendees as Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, presided over commencement and conferred degrees. He opened the ceremony with a moment of silence for those affected by the deadly storms that occurred Friday evening and overnight across the region. Carver later delivered the commencement address, which he titled "10 Things I Wish I'd Known 20 Years Ago," his list of life lessons that address both personal and professional success.

Photo: Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, and Union City native Jasmine Youngblood, are pictured at the university's fall commencement ceremony.
REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FREE ACT PREP AT UTM

December 27, 2021 @ 8:40 am Shannon McFarlin

MARTIN, Tenn. - A series of free online ACT prep workshops for high school juniors and seniors across Tennessee will be offered starting in January 2022 by the UT Martin Office of University Outreach.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips that will help them while taking the test. The two-hour courses also aim to familiarize students with higher education. The two types of Success Tactics Workshops are Math and Science Reasoning and English and Reading. Visit www.utm.edu/octprep (http://www.utm.edu/octprep) to see when these courses are offered.

The ACT Mastery Class Series is intended for students who previously completed the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and are seeking additional practice. Each Mastery Class consists of four two-hour class sessions, one for each section of the ACT. The Mastery Class includes new testing material and a practice exam. The times and dates for the Mastery Classes are at www.utm.edu/octprep (http://www.utm.edu/octprep).

The courses, which are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education, take place over Zoom, so students will need to have access to a computer with audio and video functions, as well as a secure internet connection.

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

Beene will also offer office hours at 7-8 p.m. on selected weekdays and 2:30-3:30 p.m. on selected Saturdays for further skills improvement. Students can request an appointment or submit questions before the session to Beene at aabenee@utm.edu (mailto:abenee@utm.edu).

To register, visit www.utm.edu/octprep (http://www.utm.edu/octprep). For more information, contact Jennifer Cooper at jlcooper@utm.edu (mailto:jlcooper@utm.edu).
PROUD GRAD — University of Tennessee at Martin graduate Annalise Bruer is shown with her husband, Jarrett Bruer, and their daughter, Blakely. Mrs. Bruer recently graduated despite living 681 miles from UTM's main campus.

South Fulton native finishes degree 681 miles away from UTM campus

Annalise Bruer completed her University of Tennessee at Martin degree despite living 681 miles from the main campus.

The South Fulton native began her college career at UT Martin in fall 2018 in person but took a break in spring 2019 to have her first baby. She immediately began online summer classes in 2019 while continuing to care for her newborn.

Mrs. Bruer's husband, a United States Marine, was stationed in Japan during their child's first year of life. She continued online classes in South Fulton until her husband got stationed in Beaufort, S.C.

While she knew having a small child, moving away from family, having a husband in the military and going to school full-time would be a challenge, Mrs. Bruer kept her eyes on her diploma.

"I never lost motivation because college was always my plan. I didn't know any different," she said.

Working out has always been a passion of Mrs. Bruer's so she chose marketing, hoping to be a fitness trainer and using her marketing skills to attract clients. Once she started taking business classes, she realized she also had a passion for real estate. Her ultimate goal is to become a real estate investor for resort properties.

Until she gains the experience and knowledge to do that, she plans to get her real estate license and begin working.

She chose UT Martin because it was the best option for her since it was close to home and convenient. She said, "UT Martin turned out really good for me having a baby and my husband being in the military."

She attributes her easy transition from in-person to online classes to the faculty and staff at UT Martin. "They helped me out so much and they didn't even have to do that," she said. "I get so emotional thinking about crossing the commencement stage because it has been such a hard journey. I have worked harder for this degree than anything else in my life."

Mrs. Bruer wants all busy mothers and wives to know that they, too, can obtain a degree online. She never expected to have the determination to complete her degree, but she mentioned that the workload was never too demanding to discourage her.

She said she hopes she can inspire others to complete their degree.

"A lot of times, we're much more capable than we believe," Mrs. Bruer added.
COMPLETES WESTTEACH — Union City High School teacher JB Suiter (left) recently accepted congratulations on his West Teach graduation from Carlton Gerrell, a WestStar board of trustees member from Paris. Suiter was among 15 graduates of the class, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar program.
Union City High School teacher among 15 WestTeach graduates

JB Suiter teaches 10th-grade geometry and personal finance as a Union City High School faculty member.

He's also known for coaching high school sports, and the coaching side of his personality is evident when he talks about his experience as a member of the third WestTeach class, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program.

Suiter was one of 15 class members who graduated earlier this month at the Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. Class members represented 15 West Tennessee school districts.

Prospective WestTeach participants must be K-12 teachers who want to remain in the classroom but also aspire to be leaders in their respective schools and communities. Program applicants must also be recommended by their principal, director of schools or superintendent, and only one teacher per school district is chosen to participate.

Four WestTeach sessions held across West Tennessee from August through November covered topics in agriculture, entrepreneurship, leadership, education partnerships for economic development and building communities.

"I'm always looking for new ideas to improve on what to do in the classroom," Suiter said of the WestTeach experience. "If there's info out there that can help me prepare my students for what's after high school, then I want to be a part of it."

The informational sessions were made even more effective as he shared the experience with his fellow WestTeach educators, whom he compared to having teammates.

"Well, for me, I've done a lot of coaching in my time, too, so it's like being on the same team and working towards some common goals," he said. "We've been able to discuss some of the classroom.

Here recently with the pandemic in mind, we've been able to talk about some ideas and share some things that work and don't work in the classroom, but ultimately, it's been about being able to network with others outside of my school and being very beneficial to see what everyone else is doing."

Among Suiter's most valuable WestTeach takeaways was learning what's available to students today that maybe wasn't available to them 10 years ago.

"When I came up in high school, we just had the notion of there being a four-year college and that being the only opportunity really, and that's not the case anymore," he said. "Now students have the options that can fit into what works best for them, whether it be a four-year college, a trade school or may even going directly into the workforce in some cases."

Amber Ryan, principal at Lakewood Elementary and Middle School in Henry County, was among several principals and superintendents who attended the graduation to support their teachers in the program. She nominated sixth-grade teacher Colby Prosser, who fits the WestTeach profile.

"She's always looking for ways to make herself better so that she can be better for our school and for her students," Ms. Ryan said. "She's a teacher leader as she's constantly looking for personal improvement."

Dr. Charley Deal, secretary of the board for WestStar and UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement, presided over the event that welcomed some 60 attendees.

He introduced guest speaker UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver, who highlighted three "lessons from adversity" based on the life of James "Jimmy" Braddock. The famous boxer overcame poverty, tremendous adversity and a severe boxing injury to win a heavyweight boxing title in 1935 and later earned success in the military and business. His life was the subject of the 2005 movie "Cinderella Man," directed by Ron Howard.

"Carver used challenges created by the pandemic to illustrate life's peaks and valleys. "This has been one big valley," he said of the pandemic. "But we've had peaks and valleys within COVID-19 when you think about schools and education delivery, and just about the time that we think things are going to get a little better, here comes another variant, or here comes a new policy, or here comes a new obstacle with a student in school."

Braddock also experienced many peaks and valleys, losing fame and fortune on the way to gaining skills that eventually made him successful. "Things are going to get better, and I think that's really important to remember when we're in these valleys," Carver said.

He next urged the audience to learn from the challenges created by life's peaks and valleys. Braddock emerged from major personal setbacks by adapting to his circumstances and eventually overcoming major challenges. In similar fashion, the pandemic led Carver to begin keeping a journal, and when he reviews his entries, he sees how adapting and changing during the pandemic have made him and others stronger and resilient.

"I think we need to pause and reflect and think about, 'What are the lessons that we're learning during these crazy times, and how can it make us better in the end?'" he said. "That's what Braddock did, and that's what we can do, too."

Lastly, Carver advised each person to "not forget where you started." Following his military service, Braddock began a successful marine construction business and later repaid the Catholic Charities organization all of the assistance he had received at other times in his life. He even helped to raise money so that those experiencing tough times would have a source of assistance.

"Braddock, at the height of his fame, never forgot what people had helped him, and I think at the core, that's what we've got to do, too," Carver said. Deal expressed his appreciation to the teachers and educators for their service.

"These teachers are doing unbelievable work in the classroom," he told the audience. "It was a calling to go into education, and we appreciate you answering that call."
WUTM celebrates 50 years on the air

WUTM 90.3 "The Hawk," the University of Tennessee at Martin’s award-winning campus radio station, has spent the fall 2021 semester celebrating its 50th anniversary the best way the station knows how — interacting with students and the Martin community.

The station had its humble start Sept. 15, 1971, in a small brick building on the corner of Hurt Street and Moody Avenue.

The vision for the station was set forth by a group of students and Robert Todd, a professor of English and the station’s first faculty adviser. The students would use radio equipment that was donated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, as well as equipment that was bought from the station’s starting money.

“There’s nothing quite like starting a radio station from scratch,” said Dave Nichols, retired radio and television broadcaster.

During his time at WUTM, Nichols served as the station’s first music director, second program director and second student manager.

After a few years of the station being housed under the umbrella of the Department of English, WUTM began to see some changes. Dr. Gary Steinke began his career at UT Martin and along with Dorotha Norton established in 1978 what is now the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication. Steinke’s experience in the radio industry allowed him to incorporate WUTM into a curriculum specially created for broadcast radio.

Although Steinke would be a faculty member at UT Martin until 2014, he passed the torch to Carla Gesell Streeter after 17 years as adviser. Ms. Streeter would serve as adviser for four years, after which Rodney Freed, instructor of MMSC, would take over. Freed would lead the station for two years until Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of MMSC and current faculty adviser, began his UT Martin career in 2001.

During Robinson’s 20 years of service to UT Martin, WUTM’s students would win more than 300 awards, including the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Society’s Abraham and Borst award in 2012, which recognizes the best radio station overall, regardless of size.

The station began streaming online the next year, which allows anyone to listen to WUTM any time from anywhere. The station has also begun calling Westview High School’s football and basketball games on top of their UT Martin sports coverage. WUTM was chosen to broadcast the TSSAA Region 2A football championship game at Chattanooga on Dec. 4 for Westview.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of its first broadcast, WUTM’s current staff broadcasted live from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Nov. 17 at Dunagan Alumni Center, where they asked students, faculty and staff, alumni and the local community to drive by and receive a free T-shirt, register for prize giveaways and maybe be interviewed on air. The staff also made appearances at Quad City during 2021 UT Martin Homecoming and the Paul Meek Library’s open house in September to meet students and faculty.

Throughout all of the changes that the station has experienced during its 50 years, the intention behind its creation has stayed the same — to serve the community and prepare students for success in their career.

“One of my favorite expressions is, ‘Don’t just do what’s required, do what’s necessary,’ and that’s what I try to get these students to do. Don’t just do the minimum; do everything you can and a little bit more and you’ll see the benefit of it, now as well as later,” Robinson said.
South Fulton native completes degree ‘long distance’ at UTM

Annalise Bing Bruer, a graduate of South Fulton High School and a native of the area, completed her UT Martin degree despite living 681 miles from the main campus. She began her college career at UT Martin in the Fall of 2018 in person but took a break in Spring 2019 to have her first baby.

She immediately began online summer classes in 2019 while continuing to care for her newborn.

Bruer’s husband, a United States Marine, was stationed in Japan during their child’s first year of life. She continued online classes in South Fulton until her husband got stationed in Beaufort, S.C.

While she knew having a small child, moving away from family, having a husband in the military and going to school full-time would be a challenge, Bruer kept her eyes on her diploma. “I never lost motivation because college was always my plan. I didn’t know any different,” she said.

Working out has always been passion of Bruer’s, so she chose marketing hoping to be a fitness trainer and use her marketing skills to obtain clients. Once she started taking business classes, she realized she also had a passion for real estate.

Her ultimate goal is to become a real estate investor for resort properties. Until she gains the experience and knowledge to do that, she plans to get her real estate license and begin working.

Bruer chose UT Martin because it was the best option for her since it was close to home and convenient. She said, “UT Martin turned out really good for me having a baby and my husband being in the military.”

Bruer attributes her easy transition from in-person to online classes to the faculty and staff at UT Martin.

“They helped me out so much and they didn’t even have to do that,” said Bruer.

“I get so emotional thinking about crossing the commencement stage because it has been such hard journey. I have worked harder for this degree than anything else in my life,” said Bruer.

She said she wants all busy mothers and wives to know that they, too, can obtain a degree online.

Brue never expected to have the determination to complete her degree, but she mentioned that the workload was never too demanding to discourage her. She says she hopes she can inspire others to complete their degree.

“A lot of times, we’re much more capable than we believe,” Bruer said.
Information Session on Animal Science Held at New Martin Public Library

MARTIN (December 7) — Dr. Danny Walker, associate professor of animal science in the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, discussed recent research in UT Martin's veterinary science and veterinary health technology programs on December 7, at the Martin Public Library. His presentation, part of the UT Martin Research Series sponsored by the Paul Meek Library, was a collaborative event with UT Martin's library and Martin Public Library.

More than 40 people — including students, faculty members, library staff, and interested community members — attended the session held in the event space at the new Martin Public Library.

Walker, a veterinarian, discussed how research initiatives inform student learning and influence the evolving work of veterinarians in caring for pets and companion animals. The presentation included discussion of the top medical conditions for dogs and cats. Walker answered questions from the audience at the end of the interactive and informative presentation.

Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, introduced Dr. Walker and explained that UT Martin is one of only 30 institutions in the country to offer four-year academic instruction in veterinary health technology, with students completing on-site, hands-on internship experiences at regional veterinary hospitals, clinics and laboratories.

Dr. Walker's presentation was open to the public and was co-sponsored by the Martin Public Library, the Friends of the Martin Public Library, the UT Martin Division of Academic Affairs, and the Paul Meek Library.
PROFESSORSHIP ESTABLISHED — The Weakley County Farmers Co-op has established a veterinary science professorship at UT Martin. The Weakley County Farmers Cooperative Professorship in Veterinary Science will fund an additional veterinary science faculty member whose duties will include a 50 percent university teaching appointment. The remainder of the professorship will be focused on service to the cooperative and its members. The partnership will promote and develop agriculture, research and outreach in Weakley County and surrounding communities. Attending the professorship announcement were (L to R) Paul Wilson, Weakley County Farmers Co-op general manager; Dr. Wes Totten, chair, UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Chris Fowler, Fowler Farms, and member, Weakley County Farmers Cooperative board; and Kenny Caldwell, farmer and president, Weakley County Farmers Cooperative board.

Weakley Farmers Co-op Establishes Professorship

MARTIN (December 17) — The Weakley County Farmers Co-op has established a veterinary science professorship at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The Weakley County Farmers Cooperative Professorship in Veterinary Science will fund an additional veterinary science faculty member whose duties will include a 50 percent university teaching appointment.

The professorship will be focused on service to the cooperative and its members.

The partnership will promote and develop agriculture education, research and outreach in Weakley County and surrounding communities. Dr. Amber Moore has accepted the professorship appointment and will start work in January. She is a Crockett County native and graduate of both UT Martin and UT College of Veterinary Medicine.

"This position will be a great example of the value of public-private partnerships and the benefits they can have on education and the community," said Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science and veterinary technology program director. "Weakley County Farmers Co-op is committed to supporting UT Martin not only through this professorship, but also through internships and scholarships."

Paul Wilson, Weakley County Farmers Co-op general manager, said that the professorship, approved by the Co-op board, is "a very good opportunity to help the community, help the members of Weakley Farmers Co-op and help the university." He also noted that while the Co-op is often known for its service to row-crop production, this partnership shows a commitment to the livestock community as well. "I think this is a huge step in showing our members and the community that we're invested in all types of agriculture," he said.

Co-op board member Chris Fowler, of Fowler Farms, sees a mutually beneficial relationship growing from Co-op's investment. "I just think that any time the university gets an opportunity to partner with a local business, like Co-op, that's a great opportunity, and on our end — the producer end — anytime we can get access to that kind of expertise, I think that really improves our operations as individuals, so I think it's going to be a great partnership."

Roberts said the addition of Moore brings a great benefit to UT Martin and all of our students in agriculture and specifically majors in veterinary science and technology. "It (the addition of Moore) will be a great contribution to UT Martin as well as all of our students in agriculture and specifically majors in veterinary science and technology," Roberts said.

"This partnership will provide great opportunities for students to gain hands-on, real-world experience while providing service and consulting to Weakley County Farmers Co-op members."

Moore credits UT Martin experience for success in veterinary school and private practice. She looks forward to both working with university students and engaging with the Weakley County community through the Co-op portion of the professorship. "Large-animal medicine and management is my favorite part of the veterinary medicine," she said.

"This position was perfect for me because it allows me to still use my veterinary knowledge to teach students and help producers at the same time."
**UT Martin Offering Free ACT Prep Courses**

MARTIN — A series of free online ACT prep workshops for high school juniors and seniors across Tennessee will be offered starting in January 2022 by the UT Martin Office of University Outreach.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips that will help them while taking the test. The two-hour courses also aim to familiarize students with higher education. The two types of Success Tactics Workshops are Math and Science Reasoning and English and Reading. Visit www.utm.edu/actprep to see when these courses are offered.

The ACT Mastery Class Series is intended for students who previously completed the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and are seeking additional practice. Each Mastery Class consists of four two-hour class sessions, one for each section of the ACT. The Mastery Class includes new testing material and a practice exam. The times and dates for the Mastery Classes are at www.utm.edu/actprep.

The courses, which are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education, take place over Zoom, so students will need to have access to a computer with audio and video functions, as well as a secure internet connection.

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

Beene will also offer office hours at 7-8 p.m. on selected weekdays and 2:30-3:30 p.m. on selected Saturdays for further skills improvement. Students can request an appointment or submit questions before the session to Beene at abeen@utm.edu.

To register, visit www.utm.edu/actprep. For more information, contact Jennifer Cooper at jlcooper@utm.edu.

---

**LOCAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN 2021 CARY VAUGHN RISINGSTAR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

IN NOVEMBER — Five students from Weakley County participated in the WestStar Leadership Program’s 2021 Cary Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, November 4-5, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This is the summit’s 10th year and featured the largest class so far with 47 students from 14 counties. The summit gives high school juniors and seniors opportunities to develop their leadership skills and learn the value of community involvement. Pictured (Front, L to R) are Tallon Legens, Cora Ogg, Grace Stafford, Elizabeth Mantooth. (Back, L to R) Virginia Grimes, assistant director of WestStar Leadership; Chase Black and Jennifer Mantooth, director of WestStar Leadership; Ogg and Black attend Dresden High School, and Stafford and Legens attend Gleason High School. Mantooth attends Westview High School. For more information about the Vaughn RisingStar Leadership Summit, contact the WestStar office at weststar@utm.edu or 731-881-7787.
UT Martin Programs Rank High in Nation, State

MARTIN (December 13) —
The University of Tennessee at Martin recently received 11 rankings for its undergraduate and graduate degree programs and overall affordability. Intelligent.com included UT Martin in its list of best institution programs for 2022.

The scoring system compares each university according to program strength, student readiness, return on investment, cost and student engagement.

- The Master’s in Environmental Management program is ranked second in the nation and received the Best in the Southeast award for its outcomes, cost, reputation, faculty and flexibility.
- The Master’s in School Counseling degree program is ranked third in the nation. According to the website, 132 universities and colleges were assessed. Ranking criteria included accreditation, program strength and student readiness.
- The Online Master’s in Educational Psychology program is ranked fourth by intelligent.com. The online/on-campus ranking source also considered the program best for school counseling.
- UT Martin is ranked seventh in the country for the Best Finance Degree Program.
- Out of the 195 institutions assessed by intelligent.com, UT Martin received acknowledgement for having the best scholarships.
- The university ranked eighth in the nation for the Best RN to BSN program. The report shares that nurses with a BSN have expanded career opportunities, including alternative career paths such as nurse educators and case management.
- In addition to the national ranking, the program was also honored with the Best Campus Activities award.
- UT Martin is ranked eighth in the state of Tennessee for its online degree programs. Based on the report from intelligent.com, it is estimated that 33% of postbaccalaureate students chose distance learning for fall 2019.
- UT Martin is ranked the 13th best college in Tennessee. This ranking also gave the university the Best for Military Members award.
- The UT Martin MBA program is rated the 37th best MBA program in the nation. Of the 163 universities and colleges assessed by intelligent.com, UT Martin’s MBA program was awarded the best college in the southeast.
- The Online MBA program is ranked 48th out 116 programs evaluated in this report.

For more information about these programs, visit www.utm.edu where lists to different rankings can be found.

UTM OFFERING NON-DEGREE COURSES

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach has scheduled four community courses for the spring 2023 semester.

All courses are enrolling now and are open for registration on a first-come, first-served basis.

- An Adobe PhotoShop course will be offered 6-9 p.m. Mondays from Jan. 24-Feb. 28. The course teaches photo editing using the latest version of PhotoShop and costs $145. The course will be taught by Dr. Tom Gallien.
- Water aerobics sessions will be held 5:30-6:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, from Jan. 24-March 7; 5-6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Jan. 25-March 8; 5:30-6:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, from March 9-April 27; and 5-6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, from March 10-April 28. Each session costs $45, and anyone interested can save $10 by registering for January and March sessions at the same time.
- Water aerobics is a low-impact fitness class recommended for those with joint pain or chronic pain, as well as those recovering from injuries. The course builds cardiovascular stamina and circulation, strength, flexibility, balance, and helps burn body fat.
- Beginner and intermediate courses about the Korean language and culture will be held Mondays, Jan. 24-May 20. Those taking the beginner level courses will meet from 5-6 p.m., and those taking the intermediate courses will meet from 6-7 p.m. Registration is $30 per person.

The courses, taught by Jisun Collier, focus on the Korean alphabet and basic conversational skills. Students will also be able to attend the annual Korean New Year party and Kimchi Festival. Online registration and payment are required for all courses. Visit utm.edu/departments/non-degree/martin.php for information on how to register for each individual course.

For more information, contact Jennifer Cooper at jicooper@utm.edu.
As Dresden, Kenton, Samburg and Mayfield, Kentucky, try to raise the Phoenix from the ashes after deadly tornadoes ravaged the area on December 10, the University of Tennessee at Martin is doing its part to help the recovery.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver expressed awe over how serendipitous the school transitioned from educational institution to recovery command center. "We had (fall-term) graduation Saturday and as soon as that was over, we handed the keys over to the Red Cross," Carver said.

Since then, about 50 Red Cross volunteers are staying in residence hall.

"We also are providing them space in the University Center so they can have a command center," Carver said. "We've given them storage space and use of the loading docks, too."

To the chancellor's knowledge, there weren't any displaced individuals or families housed by UTM.

"I don't think we had any displaced people stay with us, but I don't think we were approached to do that, either," Carver said. The Weakley County School System began making facilities available to storm victims just 45 minutes after the storm moved through Dresden.

The UT Martin athletics department also has gotten into the act. During recent games following the storm, fans were admitted to the game if they provided a donation to those in need. Blankets, water, food, clothing got fans through the gate.

"We wanted to help the effort and get these items to folks in need," said Carver. Carver expects the Red Cross to be at UTM for a while, but he also expects Skyhawk students to play a role in the recovery.

"When we have some organized student groups back on campus, they'll help with the cleanup if they can."

The chancellor quickly pointed out that this isn't some sort of self-aggrandizement scheme orchestrated by the campus.

"We aren't doing any of this for a pat on the back," Carver said. "We're doing this because it's the right thing to do."
A series of free online ACT prep workshops for high school juniors and seniors will be offered starting in January 2022 by the UTM Office of University Outreach.

The 2-hour ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students timesaving and strategic tips that will help them while taking the test. The two types of workshops are math and science reasoning, and English and reading. The courses also aim to familiarize students with higher education.

The ACT Mastery Class Series is intended for students who previously completed the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and are seeking additional practice. Each Mastery Class consists of four 2-hour class sessions, one for each section of the ACT. The Mastery Class includes new testing material and a practice exam.

These courses, which are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education, take place over Zoom. Students will need to have access to a computer with audio and video functions, as well as a secure internet connection.

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

Beene also will offer office hours at 7-8 p.m. on selected weekdays and 2:30-3:30 p.m. on selected Saturdays for further skills improvement. Students can request an appointment or submit questions to Beene before their session at aabeene@utm.edu.

Visit www.utm.edu/actprep to see when the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and the ACT Mastery Class Series courses are offered and to register. For more information about these courses, contact Jennifer Cooper at jlcooper@utm.edu.
Camden teacher Jenna Leonard, along with the other members of the UTM WestTeach Program class of 2021, graduated Thursday, Dec. 16, at an invitation-only reception and dinner in Jackson. Leonard teaches fifth grade math and science at Briarwood.

WestTeach graduates represented 15 West Tennessee school districts. Other area teachers included Patrick Corbin, a 6-8th grade STEM teacher at W.O. Inman Middle School in the Paris Special School District; and Colby Prosser, a sixth grade English language arts teacher at Dorothy and Noble Harrelson School in Henry County. This is the third WestTeach class, which is sponsored by the university's WestStar Leadership Program.

Prospective participants must be K-12 teachers who want to remain in the classroom but also aspire to be leaders in their respective schools and communities. Applicants must be recommended by their principal and director of schools or superintendent, and only one teacher per school district is chosen to participate in each class. Four WestTeach sessions held across West Tennessee from August through November.

Class members attended four sessions throughout the fall to learn more about West Tennessee's economic needs and meet with regional industry and community leaders. Covered topics included agriculture, entrepreneurship, leadership, education partnerships for economic development, and building communities. They also met with community child resource agents to greater understand what some of their students experience outside the classroom.

WestTeach graduates become part of a growing network of educators and community leaders dedicated to serving the region. For more information about the WestTeach Program, contact Assistant Director Virginia at 731-881-7298.
Local resident graduates from UT Martin

Charles Childers (center), of Adamsville, received a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Tennessee at Martin during commencement exercises Dec. 11. He is pictured with his wife Jennifer Childers and children, Jaden, Andie Kate and Brooks. There were 332 in-person participants, and another 301 graduates were recognized virtually. Chancellor Keith Carver served as commencement speaker.

For more information, visit utm.edu.
HEATH HARRALD, son of Joe and Tamara Harrald, of Ripley, finished his first semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin this fall. Heath was awarded highest honors and placed on the chancellor's honor roll for his outstanding academic achievements this semester. Heath is an active member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and an accounting major at the university.