This year's annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference will feature virtual events throughout the month.

The conference features presentations from five world-renowned social justice activists to discuss this year's theme "Power, Protest and Privilege: Examining the Fractured State of America."

The conference begins tomorrow night at 7:00 with internationally known poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator Nikki Giovanni with her presentation "Tennessee by Birth, Poet by Choice."

Other speakers include: Jarrod Benjamin on February 16th; UT Martin alum and CNN commentator Van Jones on February 18th; and Drs. Robin DiAngelo and Michael Eric Dyson on February 23rd. Those presentations will all take place at 7:00.

Co-interim Director of the UTM Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs Anthony Previtt says he hopes this year's conference will spark dialogue in the community.

All events will be livestreamed on the UT Martin Facebook and YouTube accounts.

A complete list of this month's events can be found on the UTM website.
Countians honored for academics

Among the most recent batch of college graduates receiving degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin were 11 Henry Countians. Those who earned undergraduate degrees during the university's fall commencement ceremony in November were: Nicole M. Briley, Alyssa Brown, Hannah Grace Gwaltney, Jade S. Hamilton, Brady Ray Heath, Savannah Rhiann Houston, Andrew Blake McGarity and Jenna Lynn Pinson, all of Paris; Olivia G. Boyd of Buchanan and Allison Mariah Evans of Puryear. Elisabeth Kathleen Snow of Paris also obtained a graduate degree.

DEAN'S LIST HONOREES
A total of 18 Jackson State Community College students from Henry County were honored by the school with inclusion to its semester honor roll and dean's list. Those who maintained a grade point average between 3.0 and 3.49 were named to the honor roll.

Those six students were: Makiela Belyea Webb, Mansfield; Tyler Lynn Chandler, McKenzie; Serenity Renee Bradley, Anthony Gabriel Lee Manier, Alyssa Nicole Mellon and Kaira Mae Villania Pritchett, all of Paris.

The other 12 students earned a spot on the dean's list by finishing the semester with at least a 3.5 GPA. They include: Deana A. Kendall and Aaron Michael Stearnes, both of Buchanan; Abigail Blair Klopfenstein, McKenzie; Jenaah Alexis Coleman, Springville; Ella Rose Bomar, Deana Marie Bowden, Kelli A Chipman, Darrah Nikole Crawford, Chloe Lisette Kurtz, Amber Melita Pate, Katelyn Leanna Pinson and Alec Ryan Watkins, all of Paris.

A Paris native also earned a spot on Northern Illinois University's dean's list for the concluded fall 2020 semester.

Noah Hulbert, an acting student at NIU, was honored for having at least a 3.75 GPA for the semester. Hulbert is a graduate of Henry County High School.

EARN S SCHOLARSHIP
Lillie Fuqua, the daughter of Henry County Sheriff's Sgt. Wayne Fuqua and his wife Emily, recently received the dean's scholarship to attend college at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-22 academic year. Fuqua will be a freshman at the university during the 2021-22 school year.

https://www.tullahomanews.com/

Two local students get scholarships to Martin

Feb 2, 2021

Two Coffee County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2020-2021 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

The students include:

Hannah Roberts, of Tullahoma, daughter of Brad and Carol Roberts, is a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.

Kristen Wray, of Manchester, daughter of Darryl and Christy Wray, is a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.
OBION CO. STUDENTS RECEIVE UTM SCHOLARSHIPS

February 2, 2021 @ 8:35 am Shannon McFarlin

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Dr. James Mantoath, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

For the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Carson Hutchinson, of Troy, daughter of James and Teresa Hutchison, is a senior. She received the Annette Sublette Ferguson Graduate Award and the Elam Transfer Promise Scholarship.

For the 2021-2022 academic year:

- Drew Borcloy, of South Fulton, son of Dove and Amy Borcloy, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Scholarship.
- Makayla Buchanan, of Obion, daughter of John and Michelle Buchanan, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor's Scholarship.
- Madelyn Harris, of Rives, daughter of Patricia Harris and Jason Harris, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Katelin Jones, of Troy, daughter of Keith and Melissa Jones, will be a freshman. She received the Elam
- John McConnell, of South Fulton, son of Jennifer McConnell and John Lane, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Scholarship.
- Jared Pollock, of Obion, son of Richard Pollock and Kimberly Pollock, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Blakelee Taylor, of Kenton, daughter of Angie Taylor, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UT Martin Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, 205 Hall-Moody Administration Building, Martin, TN, 38238, or by calling (731) 881-7040.
MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin plans to hold their summer orientation and transfer orientation sessions virtually and in-person.

According to a news release, the 2021 Summer Orientation and Registration, known as SOAR, and Transfer Orientation registrations opened on Monday. SOAR is required for all incoming freshman, and students can register through their MyUTMPortal.

In-person orientation will be in the Boling University Center and the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, the release says. Virtual sessions will be held over online platforms, including Zoom, according to the release.

Events are subject to change according to university policies and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

The dates for in-person orientation are currently set as follows:

- Monday, May 24 for SOAR
- Wednesday, May 26 for SOAR
- Thursday, June 10 for Transfer Orientation
- Friday, June 11 for SOAR
- Wednesday, July 14 for Transfer Orientation
- Monday, June 21 for SOAR
- Friday, July 9 for SOAR
- Monday July 26 for SOAR

Online orientation dates are currently set as follows:

- Friday, April 23 for Transfer Orientation
- Wednesday, June 23 for SOAR
- Friday, Aug. 6 for Transfer Orientation and SOAR
Stout’s ‘Ignition’ exhibit showing at Murray State

By Ben Overby
Special to The Press

"Ignition," an exhibit of paintings and drawings by artist and University of Tennessee at Martin professor of art Jason Stout, opened at the Murray State Clara M. Eagle Gallery Tuesday, Jan. 19. The "Ignition" exhibit collects work from Stout’s Cloud Composition series, created from 2015 to 2019. The cloud compositions are distinct in their saturated colors, socio-political overtones and unique composition. They resemble the "big ball of violence" trope, popular in comic strips and cartoons with arms, weapons and various other objects extending from a central cloud.

Stout said his use of color and composition in "Ignition" is very important in creating the intended viewing experience. The pieces do not have a traditional background, foreground or middle ground, but are composed in a way to pull in the viewer and quickly push them back out. "The design of the information is to get you to spin," Stout said. "You are moving in and out of the painting and then also around at the same time. This goes conceptually with the idea of media spin, but also being totally overwhelmed with multiple narratives coexisting in the composition, not just one, which is tough to do in a static image such as a painting or drawing."

T. Michael Martin, assistant professor of art and design and director of University Galleries at Murray State, became interested in exhibiting Stout’s cloud compositions last year. "I contacted Stout to gauge his interest in presenting the works at Murray State during the protests and unrest happening in early 2020," Martin said. "I felt that curating a sampling of those works and presenting a solo exhibition featuring the conflict paintings and drawings would be very relevant and timely for this moment in America."

Martin said the exhibit has become even more relevant as political tension has only grown since the initial decision to bring the work to Murray State, citing the events at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6. "Jason Stout has been observing these behaviors as part of his studio practice since 2015, and possibly before, so one might give him credit for having a little foresight to the undercurrent and growing tensions he felt were important to research and present as a body of work dealing with struggle, altercations and cultural turbulence," Martin said.

Stout wanted the work in "Ignition" to reflect an array of different issues and anxieties rather than having paintings and drawings reflect on a single subject. He believes much of the intensity of the last five years comes from multiple issues coexisting and building upon each other.

"The visual language in the work is simplified but abundant," Stout said. "I want the viewer to feel overwhelmed, because I think that is the perfect reflection of how American society has been in the past five years." The art exhibit "Ignition" makes a comment on politics and social issues using clouds. (Dionte Berry/The News)

Pictured is Jason Stout’s painting "The Cloud" on display in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery. (Dionte Berry/The News) National issues still being left unresolved and eventually accumulating and "exploding" is what gave the "Ignition" exhibit its name. Stout said the format he developed with his cloud compositions lends itself to showing the plurality of conflict.

"The viewer really can read the order of the parts in the painting in a variety of ways, and the combinations of how they are ordered all create different results," Stout said. He said the work also had to respond to the speed and escalation of the news cycle. Southern identity is also a major component of "Ignition."

"I think the south lives in constant conflict over our identity," Stout said. "We struggle with our history and our progressiveness. We struggle with finding
new ways of living, new solutions, while also holding the heavy responsibility of guarding old tradition. Several of these paintings deal with this conflict.” He added that the south has a strong oral tradition that makes history an important part of the culture.

While “Ignition” deals strongly in socio-political themes, there are more personal aspects to Stout’s work as well. Some pieces close to his heart are those that deal with fatherhood. “My little boy was born right before this body of work started, so as it evolved he was growing up, and during the period of experiencing everything going on I had to not only consider how it made me think about my work, but also how it made me think about being a father,” Stout said. He enjoyed fitting references to his son into his work, like his snowboard in “Hats for Bats” and his toys in “Greyson Salvo Barrage.”

“Ignition” opens Tuesday, Jan. 19, and will be on display until Feb. 17 in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery on the sixth floor of the Price Doyle Fine Arts Building. The exhibition is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ben Overby is a journalism major at Murray State University and a staff writer for The Murray State News and can be contacted at boverby2@murraystate.edu.
WestStar to host 23rd annual working women’s conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host the 23rd annual Working Women’s Conference virtually from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Friday, Feb. 12. The deadline to register is Monday, Feb. 8, and the cost to attend is $10 per person.

The 2021 Working Women’s Conference will be themed “Take Heart – We’re All Connected” and focus on how to maintain a sense of community amid the pandemic and political turmoil.

The conference will feature sessions such as “Women’s Rights – Connected by Commonality,” “Connected in Spite of Chaos” and “Loving and Supporting Each Other.”

Dr. Lisa Piercey, Tennessee Department of Health commissioner, will give the keynote address titled, “Connected at the Core.” Additional conference speakers include Jacque Hillman, senior partner of HillHelen Group Publishers; Carly Unger Herrin, of Paducah Dermatology; Jodi Burgess, of Levy Dermatology; Cindy Hawkins, of Cindy’s Skin Clinic; Wanda Castellaw, military wife of United States Marine Corps retired Lt. Gen. John “Glad” Castellaw; Civil Miller Watkins, class of 2019 WestStar alumnus; Stephanie Spencer, Enneagram coach of Beyond Your Number; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin professor of communications and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UT Martin professor of family and consumer sciences.

To register for the 2021 Working Women’s Conference, visit utm.edu/weststar and select the “Conferences & Events” tab. Click the “Take Heart – We’re All Connected” conference registration to secure a virtual seat at the event. Once registered, a Zoom link will be sent to the provided email.

For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Jordan Gardner, conference coordinator, at 731-881-7298.

UT Martin debuts new safety app

The University of Tennessee at Martin launched a new mobile safety app called LiveSafe for students and employees on the main campus to easily communicate with the UT Martin Department of Public Safety to share emergency and non-emergency information.

The university will continue to use RAVE Alerts to send emergency messages campus wide.

“The LiveSafe app is going to do a lot of good things for the University of Tennessee at Martin,” said Monte Belew, chief and director of public safety. “We hope it’ll be beneficial to students and faculty alike, and hopefully, it’ll be another tool UT Martin can put on its tool belt to help make it a safer campus and a better place to be.”

LiveSafe allows campus community members to share safety and security concerns, request help, report an incident and access campus resources and information. Users will be able to privately confidentially submit photos and comments of incidents on campus through the app.

The app also acts as a virtual safety escort while walking across campus and will alert designated contacts upon arrival to the users’ intended destination. Reports submitted through LiveSafe will be monitored daily by the Department of Public Safety.

To download LiveSafe, visit links.livesafemobile.com/UTM. All users must have an active UT Martin email address.

For more information, contact Lt. Charlie Jahr at cjahr@utm.edu or visit the public safety website at utm.edu/publicsafety.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held Nov. 21.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted three in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of 2020's accomplishments. Spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates were invited to participate in the in-person ceremonies and were recognized virtually if not in attendance. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook Live and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Jesus A. Guzman and Tyler Ashton Laster of Dyersburg; Marcus S. Cherry, LaQueena M. Cox, Meleah Gateley, Thomas Garrett Lashlee, and Jamie Lynn Potts of Humboldt; Kimberly D. Brown, Shaelyn M. Horner, and Erika N. Karathanasis of Medina; Jason Michael Carter, James Edward Hatfield II, Michael Jonathan Hinnant, Isaac Avery Jones, Josten Blane Jones, Baylie Tate Lewis, Jonathan Chase Prescott, Tammy Yvette Floyd-Wade, and Jace Wallace Williams of Milan; Ashley Nicole Brooks of Rutherford; Tyson Bartholomew, Olivia Grace Gibson, and Kartrina Sperl of Trenton; and Brandt Gage Wright of Yorkville.

The students receiving graduate degrees were Deanna Jo Poole of Dyer; Haley Branon Stafford of Humboldt; Doris Ann Doss, Brittany Hatfield Reeves, and Kristen S. McCadams of Milan; and Heather Ford Hall of Trenton.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. — Several Dyer County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held Nov. 21, 2020.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted three in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of 2020's accomplishments. Spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates were invited to participate in the in-person ceremonies and were recognized virtually if not in attendance. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook Live and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dyersburg — Michael Jason Arguello II; Perilee Joy Willis Baker; Brandon Bartell; CarLeigh Ashlyn Payth Goad; Ashley Harris; O'Shea Stites; Matthew Eric Whitaker.
- Cookeville — Katherine Irene Clark; Michael Andrew Hendren; Erica Nicole Langley; Erynn Reid Parker; Darin Darian Martina Harris; Graham Patterson Jennings; Chase Allen Joy; Judith LeaAnne McCormack; Juliana G. O'Guin; Kellie Renee Riggs; Micheal Wayne Singleton; Odi Mohmoud Suleiman.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Dyersburg — Deborah Jane Stewart.
- Newborn — Mary Beth Neal.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses, and UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville. For more information, visit utm.edu.
Gibson County students receive UTM scholarships

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

For the 2020-2021 academic year:

Chloe Cook, of Medina, daughter of Brad and Heather Cook, is a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.

For the 2021-2022 academic year:

Kristel Avendano, of Bradford, daughter of William and Airish Ford, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

Conner Gatlin, of Trenton, son of Stacy Gatlin, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.

Matthew Leslie, of Medina, son of Bridget Bland, Josh Townsend and Nick Leslie, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.

Chloe Rangel, of Medina, daughter of Carla Rangel, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

Michael Schaefer, of Milan, son of Dan and Cindy Schaefer, will be a freshman. He received the Deans 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.

UTM hosting virtual civil rights conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin 21st annual Civil Rights Conference will feature virtual events throughout the month of February — including presentations from five world-renowned social justice activists to discuss this year’s theme “Power, Protest and Privilege: Examining the Fractured State of America.”

The 2021 Civil Rights Conference is sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs.

Traditionally a week-long event filled with campus activities, the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted this year’s conference online. Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director of student life and multicultural affairs, is still confident the schedule of events spanning all of February will bring awareness to the continued fight for social justice.

The Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs has scheduled five experts to speak during the conference. The speeches will be livestreamed via Zoom to the official UT Martin Facebook (facebook.com/utmartin) and YouTube (youtube.com/utmartin) accounts.

Nikki Giovanni, an internationally known poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator, will kick off the Civil Rights Conference with her presentation “Tennessean by Birth; Poet by Choice” at 7 tonight.

On Feb. 16, Jarrod Benjamin, adjunct professor and program director of the Florida International University Cybersecurity Apprenticeship, will address the topic “Change Agent Leaders: From Oppressed to Success” at 7 p.m.

Van Jones, a 1990 UT Martin graduate, will discuss “Rebuilding the Dream: The Next American Economy” at 7 p.m. Feb. 18. After graduating from UT Martin, he earned his law degree from Yale University and has advocated for political reform. He is the chief executive officer of REFORM Alliance, a social entrepreneur, CNN political commentator and host of Redemption Project and The Van Jones Show.

Dr. Robin DiAngelo, author of “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism,” and Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, longtime professor, author, preacher and media personality, will present “A Conversation of Minds” at 7 p.m. Feb. 23.

More virtual events include:

- **Wednesday** — Black History Month Music Trivia, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Feb. 10** — Alumni Engagement Series: Black Authors & Their Stories, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 11** — “Local Lynchings and Why They Still Matter,” 7 p.m.; Weakley County Reconciliation Project.
- **Feb. 25** — NPHC Movie Night.
WestStar to host 23rd annual Working Women’s Conference

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host the 23rd annual Working Women’s Conference virtually from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Feb. 12.

The deadline to register is Monday and the cost to attend is $10 per person.

The 2021 Working Women’s Conference will be themed "Take Heart — We’re All Connected" and focus on how to maintain a sense of community amid the pandemic and political turmoil. The conference will feature sessions such as "Women’s Rights — Connected by Commonality," "Connected in Spite of Chaos" and "Loving and Supporting Each Other."

Dr. Lisa Piercey, Tennessee Department of Health commissioner, will give the keynote address titled, "Connected at the Core."

Additional conference speakers include: Jacque Hillman, senior partner of HillHelen Group Publishers; Carly Unger Herrin of Paducah Dermatology Martin Clinic; Jodi Burgess of Levy Dermatology; Cindy Hawkins of Cindy’s Skin Clinic; Wanda Castellaw, military wife of United States Marine Corps retired Lt. Gen. John "Glad" Castellaw; Civil Miller Watkins, class of 2019 WestStar alumnus; Stephanie Spencer, enneau of Beyond Your Number; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin professor of communications and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UT Martin professor of family and consumer sciences.

To register for the 2021 Working Women’s Conference, visit utm.edu/weststar and select the "Conferences & Events" tab. Click the "Take Heart — We’re All Connected" conference registration to secure a virtual seat at the event.

Once registered, a Zoom link will be sent to the provided email.

For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Jordan Gardner, conference coordinator, at (731) 881-7298.

At the college level

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Carson Hutchison of Troy, a senior who is the daughter of James and Teresa Hutchison, is among the recipients for the 2020-21 academic year. She received the Annette Sublette Ferguson Graduate Award and the Elam Transfer Promise Scholarship.

Recipients for the 2021-22 academic year — all of whom will be freshmen — include:

- Drew Barclay of South Fulton, son of Dave and Amy Barclay. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.
- Makayla Buchanan of Obion, daughter of John and Michelle Buchanan. She received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.
- Madelyn Harris of Rives, daughter of Patricia Harris and Jason Harris. She received the Dean’s Scholarship.
- Katelin Jones of Troy, daughter of Keith and Melissa Jones. She received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.
- John McConnell of South Fulton, son of Jennifer McConnell and John Lane. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.
- Jared Pollock of Obion, son of Richard Pollock and Kimberly Pollock. He received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Blakelee Taylor of Kenton, daughter of Angie Taylor. She received the Excellence Scholarship.
UT Martin students work Super Bowl for the 8th time

Jillianne Moncrief
Feb 3, 2021

While in Tampa, Florida to work Super Bowl LV, the UT Martin cohort toured IMG Academy with UT Martin alumnus Dan Kerwin (2018). Pictured are UT Martin professor of sport management Dr. Dexter Davis and Kerwin.

MARTIN, TN — Thirteen students and one associate professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin headed to Tampa Bay, Fla., to experience the largest, single day sporting event in the United States firsthand as they help NFL staff at Super Bowl LV.

UT Martin says the group left Wednesday to work with the Host Committee at the NFL Experience and other events to help enforce COVID-19 safety guidelines, especially social distancing and mask regulations.

The university says the group will also be working inside Raymond James Stadium on Super Bowl Sunday, giving operational support to supplement the stadium staff throughout the event.
"We’re going to be helping do things like mask patrols and handing out hand sanitizer and doing what the NFL needs us to do to make sure this is a safe environment. Our responsibilities this year are focused on making sure we’re doing everything we can to stop the spread of the pandemic," explained Dr. Dexter Davis, Associate Professor of Sport Business at UTM. "This will not be the Super Bowl of the past. This event is still going to go on; there are still going to be 20,000 people in the stadium. They still need staffing to make sure the event runs smoothly, and that’s our role, to help the local organizing committee put on the best possible event."

UT Martin says the students will also tour other sites, including IMG Academy, where UT Martin alumnus Dan Kerwin works as a Team Training Advisor.

The university says Kerwin provided them with insights into how IMG functions and discussed some of the challenges the sport industry has faced because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UTM says Kerwin graduated from UT Martin in 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in sport management.

UTM says the students attending this year’s Super Bowl include: Logan Alfano-Webb, Timothy Dye, Jackson Hopper, Lauren Hutchinson, Lucas Istre, Parker Kendall, William Oglesby, Quinn Reed, Kristen Rice, John Sullivan, Wes Sutherland, Jennifer Vesey, and Peyton
Wolfe. Hutchinson, Istre and Wolfe have all attended the event in previous years, according to the university.

For more information on the trip or the UT Martin sport business program, housed in the College of Business and Global Affairs, contact Davis at davis78@utm.edu.

Thirteen UT Martin students, along with Dr. Dexter Davis, tour IMG Academy while in Tampa, Florida for Super Bowl LV.

UTM
Construction continues on Latimer building at UTM

February 3, 2021 by Julia Ewoldt

MARTIN, Tenn. — From just a shovel in some dirt five months ago, to the skeleton of a building.

“I can tell you when I was walking across the campus just five minutes ago, when you look up and see this tremendous building coming out of the ground, I’ve been here for 32 years, it’s amazing. It takes up a good portion, a quarter of our quad,” said Charley Deal, University of Tennessee Martin’s vice chancellor of university advancement.

The Latimer Engineering and Science Building at UT Martin is three stories tall and 120,000 square-feet, easily one of the biggest buildings on campus.

“The contractor is moving forward, as long as weather permits. They are doing a tremendous job of keeping us on our timeline,” Deal said.
The building is expected to be finished in fall 2022, meaning current high school juniors will be able to use the building in their freshman year of college.

"The impact it will have on our physical plan as well as our potential for enrollment growth is unbelievable," Deal said.

The building will house most of the university's science, engineering and math classes, with labs and meeting spaces for students.

Deal says hopefully it will draw more students to the university and to West Tennessee.

"It's a fantastic display of modern technology combined with what we're about at UT Martin: that family feel," Deal said.

UT Martin officials say the building is expected to create about 900 jobs between construction and the first 10 years of graduates.
New Event to Highlight Art in W.C.

MARTIN — The Northwest Tennessee Arts Festival is a new outdoor event hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music, Weakley County Schools and Weakley Arts Can to promote K-12 and university performing and visual arts.

The event is open to the public and will feature live music, theatre and dance performances, food and a display of the annual Weakley County Art Show. It will be held on April 10 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Pacer Pond at UT Martin in a large music tent. The event is free to the public.

Anyone who is interested in submitting artwork to the Festival can apply until March 31 at weakleyartscan.org.

Students in Weakley County Schools interested in submitting visual art for the Weakley County Art Show must submit artwork directly to their individual schools instead of completing an online form.

Weakley Arts Can is an organization that exists to raise awareness of the need and value of art education in Weakley County schools.

They believe that the inclusion of visual art, theatre, music, and dance in our education system will not only make local students more successful, but that it will give the communities a brighter future.

Their mission is to see new generations of students grow up with an appreciation for the arts in all its forms through educational programs in Weakley County. And to also have students reap the academic benefits that come from a well-rounded arts education.

These include better reading/math skills and higher ACT/SAT scores.

UT Martin Plans In-Person, Virtual SOAR

BY SARAH KNAPP
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (February 1) — The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold 2021 Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and Transfer Orientation sessions both virtually and in person.

Registration for SOAR opened Monday, February 1, and is required for all incoming freshmen. Students can register for SOAR through the MyUTMPortal.

In-person orientation dates will be hosted in the Boling University Center and the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, while online sessions will be held over Zoom and other online platforms. The events are subject to change according to university policy and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 restrictions to best protect participants.

In-person orientation dates are as follows:
- Monday, May 24 - SOAR
- Wednesday, May 26 - SOAR
- Thursday, June 10 - Transfer Orientation
- Friday, June 11 - SOAR
- Wednesday, July 14 - Transfer Orientation
- Monday, June 21 - SOAR
- Friday, July 9 - SOAR
- Monday, July 26 - SOAR

Online orientation dates are as follows:
- Friday, April 23 - Transfer Orientation
- Wednesday, June 23 - SOAR
- Friday, August 6 - Transfer Orientation, SOAR

For more information, contact Destin Tucker, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at dtuckel3@utm.edu, or admissions at admitme@utm.edu.
UT Martin Debuts New Safety App for Campus

MARTIN (January 26) — The University of Tennessee at Martin launched a new mobile safety app called LiveSafe for students and employees on the main campus to easily communicate with the UT Martin Department of Public Safety to share emergency and non-emergency information.

The university will continue to use RAVE Alerts to send emergency messages campus wide.

"The LiveSafe app is going to do a lot of good things for the University of Tennessee at Martin," said Monte Belew, chief and director of public safety. "We hope it'll be beneficial to students and faculty alike, and hopefully, it'll be another tool UT Martin can put on its tool belt to help make it a safer campus and a better place to be," he added.

LiveSafe allows campus community members to share safety and security concerns, request help, report an incident and access campus resources and information.

Users will be able to publicly or confidentially submit photos and comments of incidents on campus through the app.

The app also acts as a virtual safety escort while walking across campus and will alert designated contacts upon arrival to the users intended destination.

Reports submitted through LiveSafe will be monitored daily by the Department of Public Safety.

LiveSafe has several features that you can use both at UTM and at home. The "Watch Me Walk" feature, in particular, lets you tell your co-workers, friends and family "I got your back" as you make sure they safely get to their car, a transit stop, or remote location.

LiveSafe Features

- Reporting - Quickly and easily report tips to UTM Public Safety with photos, video, audio, or text, and precise geo-tagged location information. Reports can be anonymous.
- Emergencies - Request emergency 911 or security assistance at your phone's geo-tagged location.
- "Watch Me Walk" - Request a virtual peer-to-peer or security escort to monitor your progress as you walk or drive somewhere. Or automatically notify someone if you don't arrive at your destination.
- Notifications - Receive security notifications relevant to your location directly on your phone. For example, if you arrive at campus while an incident is occurring, you may receive a notification to stay outside until further notice.
- Resources - Access useful documents and resources directly on your phone, such as emergency evacuation plans, bomb threat checklists, and tips for dealing with various security issues.

Quick Facts About LiveSafe

LiveSafe is a free application that can be downloaded and used on any Android or iOS device, including personal devices. You can use it with or without connecting to UTM.

UTM Public Safety cannot track your location by using LiveSafe unless you specifically request temporary monitoring through the "Watch Me Walk" feature.

You can also use LiveSafe to connect to a variety of other organizations such as hundreds of universities, shopping malls, and entertainment and sports venues across the country.

You can use LiveSafe's features with your non-work friends and family. For example, you can monitor your child as they walk home from a friend's house or after school.

Additional UTM departments and services may also use LiveSafe in the future.

To download LiveSafe, visit links.livesafemobile.com/UTM. All users must have an active UT Martin email address.

For more information, contact Lt. Charlie Jahr at cjahr@utm.edu or visit the public safety website at utm.edu/publicsafety.
Local Students Earn Scholarships to Attend UTM

MARTIN (January 27) — Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-2022 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

- Aleea Davis, of Dresden, daughter of Barbara Davis, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Belle Fowler, of Gleason, daughter of Steve and Karen Fowler, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.
- Kayle Hensley, of Martin, daughter of Robert and Cheryl Hensley, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.
- James McGregor, of Martin, son of Casey and Misty McGregor, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.
- Maddox Melton, of Dresden, daughter of Mark and Alisha Melton, will be a freshman. She received the Chancellor's Scholarship.
- Jamie Murphy, of Sharon, daughter of Paula and Jimmy Brewer, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Taylor Oliver, of Greenfield, daughter of Casey and Valorie Oliver, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Emily Palafax, of Martin, daughter of Jackie Palafax, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Makaylan Williams, of Martin, daughter of Greg and Baronica Williams, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

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

The University of Tennessee at Martin provides high-quality undergraduate and graduate educational programs to West Tennessee and beyond. UT Martin is committed to preparing students for success in the global economy.

South Fulton students scholarship recipients

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

For the 2021-2022 academic year: Drew Barclay, of South Fulton, son of Dave and Amy Barclay, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Scholarship; and John McConnell, of South Fulton, son of Jennifer McConnell and John Lane, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor's Scholarship.
Stanford earns degree
Feb 4, 2021

Tamiah Stanford of Radcliff was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement Nov. 21.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted three in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of 2020’s accomplishments.

Spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates were invited to participate in the in-person ceremonies and were recognized virtually if not in attendance.

Eighth UT Martin cohort to provide operational support at Super Bowl

Thirteen University of Tennessee at Martin students, along with Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, will experience the largest single-day sporting event in the United States firsthand as they assist NFL staff Sunday at Super Bowl LV.

Among them is UT Martin student Parker Kendall of Hornbeak.

The group left Jan. 27 to work with the host committee at the NFL Experience and other events to help enforce COVID-19 safety guidelines, especially social distancing and mask regulations.

They will also be working inside Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla., on Super Bowl Sunday, providing operational support to supplement the stadium staff throughout the event.

This year’s game will be played by the Kansas City Chiefs (16-2) and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (14-5).

"We’re going to be helping do things like mask patrols and handing out hand sanitizer and doing what the NFL needs us to do to make sure this is a safe environment. Our responsibilities this year are focused on making sure we’re doing everything we can to stop the spread of the pandemic," Davis explained.

"This will not be the Super Bowl of the past. This event is still going to go on; there are still going to be 20,000 people in the stadium. They still need staffing to make sure the event runs smoothly, and that’s our role, to help the local organizing committee put on the best possible event."

The students also will have the opportunity to tour other sites, including IMG Academy, where UT Martin alumnus Dan Kerwin works as a team training advisor.

Kerwin provided them with insights into how IMG functions and discussed some of the challenges the sport industry has faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He graduated from UT Martin in 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in sport management.

In addition to Kendall, students attending this year include Logan Alfano-Webb of Counce, Timothy Dye of Murfreesboro, Jackson Hopper of Tiptonville, Lauren Hutchinson of McEwen, Lucas Istre of Center-ville, William Oglesby of Toney, Ala., Quinn Reed of Batavia, Ohio, Kristen Rice of Lebanon, John Sullivan of Lexington, Wes Sutherland of Mt. Juliet, Jennifer Vesey of Bartlett and Peyton Wolfe of Ramer.

Ms. Hutchinson, Istre and Wolfe have all attended the event in previous years.
SUPER TRIP — Thirteen University of Tennessee at Martin students and their professor toured IMG Academy recently while in Tampa, Fla., to work Super Bowl LV, which will be played this Sunday night. Among those involved in the experience are (from left, front) student Jennifer Vesey; Dr. Dexter Davis, UT Martin associate professor of sport business; and students (second row) Wesley Sutherland, Quinn Reed, Logan Alfano-Webb, (third row) Lauren Hutchinson (at center), Parker Kendall of Hornbeak (far right), (fourth row) Peyton Wolfe, William Oglesby, (fifth row) Timothy Dye, Lucas Istre, Kristen Rice, (back) John Sullivan and Jackson Hopper of Tiptonville.
UT Martin receives state and national rankings

UT Martin recently received several state and national rankings for its affordability and accessibility, as well as for various graduate and undergraduate programs.

UTM was ranked eighth in bestvalueschools.org's Top 15 Most Affordable Colleges in Tennessee in 2021 list for its accreditation, student-to-teacher ratio, per-credit tuition cost, fees, and degree recognition.

UT Martin also received numerous rankings by intelligent.com, including 12th in the Best Colleges in Tennessee for its flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost and reputation, 44th in the nation in the Most Affordable Colleges category for the dual enrollment program, third in the Best Master's in School Counseling Degree Programs category, and 14th in the Best MBA Programs category.

Study.com ranked the UT Martin finance program 28th in the nation in the 2021 Best Degrees in Finance for the networking opportunities and student-managed stock portfolio.

Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

By Kevin Morris - February 8, 2021

Two receive scholarships to attend UT Martin for 2020-2021

Several Chester County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held Nov. 21, 2020. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted three in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of 2020's accomplishments. Spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates were invited to participate in the in-person ceremonies and were recognized virtually if not in attendance. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook Live and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Mercedes Dawn Tomlin of Enville and Kason Garrett Emison, Hanna Jo Hopper, Caitlin Elise Jones, Brandi Yvonne Browder and Angela Ellen Wilson of Henderson.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses, and UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville. For more information, visit utm.edu.

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

The upcoming freshman students are Hailey Hess, of Henderson, daughter of Tomcie Hess, who received the Deans Scholarship, and Matiann Smith, of Henderson, daughter of Stephanie Smith and Christopher Smith, who received the Achieve Scholarship.
MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee Martin just hired the newest member of its police force. He’s around 50 pounds and full of energy.

His name is Morton, and he belongs to campus police chief Monte Belew. Belew worked with dogs while he was the Henry County Sheriff.

"I have seen K-9s and the benefit they bring a department, whether it’s bloodhounds, whether it’s patrol dogs. I’ve worked a single-purpose dope dog for years," Belew said.

But Morton’s job may be considered the best of them all: just be himself.

“He’s going to be here strictly as a therapy dog. He just wants to be petted on and loved on,” Belew said.
But Morton also helps Belew connect with the students.

"A lot of times I can walk into a classroom, and there's a few people who are glad to see me, say 'Hey, Monte!' But when I walk in with Morton, everybody is glad to see me. Everybody wants to pet Morton," Belew said.

Belew hopes Morton is making UT Martin a safer and happier home away from home.

"We want the students to know we're here for them, and we want this to be a safer place, a good place, to continue their higher education, and Morton just make them feel more at home. We hope he's their friend like he is mine," Belew said.

Morton actually used to belong to Hank Williams Jr., and Belew says the original plan was to train Morton as a hunting dog and give him back. However, Belew fell in love with Morton and asked if he could keep him instead.
UT Martin launches new license plate

February 9, 2023 by Tristan Fletcher

MARTIN, Tenn. — Fans and alumni from the University of Tennessee at Martin have a new way to show their pride.

UTM has launched a new license plate, according to a news release.

The plate, which was chosen through a university-wide survey, replaces the older version from 2003, according to UTM.

"The new UT Martin specialty plate provides our alumni and friends with yet another opportunity to display their UT Martin pride," said Chancellor Keith Carver. "I'm eager to fill the highways and byways with a Skyhawk fleet of cars and trucks across Tennessee."

The plate received 40% percent of the vote and will available upon request at local county clerk offices across the state.

UTM says proceeds from each plate benefit the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Tennessee Highway Fund, and will cost $36 to renew annually.

For more information, visit the Tennessee Department of Revenue website (https://www.tn.gov/revenue.html) or contact the Office of University Relations at (731) 881-7615.
Eighth UTM cohort works Super Bowl

Thirteen University of Tennessee at Martin students, along with Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, experienced the largest single day sporting event in the United States firsthand as they assisted NFL staff Sunday at Super Bowl LV.

The group left Wednesday to work with the Host Committee at the NFL Experience and other events to help enforce COVID-19 safety guidelines, especially social distancing and mask regulations. They also worked inside Raymond James Stadium on Super Bowl Sunday, providing operational support to supplement the stadium staff throughout the event.

"We are going to be helping do things like mask patrols, handing out hand sanitizer, and doing what the NFL needs us to do to make sure this is a safe environment," Davis said before the group departed for the Super Bowl. "Our responsibilities this year are focused on making sure we are doing everything we can to stop the spread of the pandemic. This will not be the Super Bowl of the past. This event is still going to go on; there are still going to be 20,000 people in the stadium. They still need staffing to make sure the event runs smoothly, and that is our role, to help the local organizing committee put on the best possible event."

The students also will have the opportunity to tour other sites, including IMG Academy, where UT Martin alumnus Dan Kerwin works as a team training advisor. Kerwin provided them with insights into how IMG functions and discussed some of the challenges the sport industry has faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kerwin graduated from UT Martin in 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in sport management.

ANOTHER SUPER TRIP — UT Martin sent a group of 13 students to help work the Super Bowl for the eighth time. The students and advisor to the group who attended this year include Logan Alfano-Webb, of Counce; Timothy Dye, of Murfreesboro; Jackson Hopper, of Tiptonville; Lauren Hutchinson, of McEwen; Lucas Istru, of Centerville; Parker Kendall, of Hornbeak; William Oglesby, of Toney, Alabama; Quinn Reed, of Batavia, Ohio; Kristen Rice, of Lebanon; John Sullivan, of Lexington; Wes Sutherland, of Mt. Juliet; Jennifer Vesey, of Bartlett; and Peyton Wolfe, of Ramer.
SigEp at UT-M partners with Martin firefighters for training exercises

With a vacant building scheduled for demolition, the UT Martin Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter knew it had an opportunity to serve the community.

“We have several alumni firefighters, and it made sense to loan out the building for training exercises,” said local Alumni & Volunteer Corp. President Stephen Yargin. “We are happy to help improve public safety in the City of Martin.”

The building, known as Scholars, was built in 1957. The chapter used the residence as an auxiliary dormitory for fraternity members from 1995 to 2016. It suffered significant damage in a 2020 storm that knocked a tree onto its roof. Earlier this year, the AVC made the decision to move forward with demolition later this month.

Training Captain Kory Green with the City of Martin Fire/Rescue/EMS Department coordinated the exercises. The training lasted two days.

While no actual fires were set in the building, the crews practiced cutting vents in the metal roof. This tactic, used during a real house fire, helps remove heat and smoke from the building to aid fire suppression.

Vantrease named to TSBA board of directors

By Karen Campbell
Special to The Press

Weakley County Schools Board chair Steve Vantrease was recently named to the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) board of directors for 2021. The 18-member board carries out the mandates of the Delegate Assembly and acts as a liaison between the association and local school boards.

Vantrease has served on the Board of Education for Weakley County Schools for 20 years. Retired from 34 years in student services at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he continues to work as the assistant director of UTM’s Governor’s School for the Humanities and is also the director of the Ned Ray McWherter Institute. He obtained both a Bachelor of Science in business administration and a Master of Science in education administration at UTM and is a graduate of the WestStar Leadership program and the UT Leadership Institute.

“While I was surprised with the appointment, I am honored to have been asked to serve our professional organization in this position,” said Vantrease. “Several of my Weakley County colleagues have served in various leadership roles over the past several decades engaging, at the state level, in the administration of public education in Tennessee. I am honored to be able to continue this advocacy and will do my best to support and promote the best in public education.”

Weakley County Director of Schools Randy Frazier noted that TSBA is a statewide, nonprofit organization of school boards throughout Tennessee and Vantrease’s new role will help bring the needs of rural areas to the forefront of discussions.

“I’ve served alongside Steve Vantrease throughout my tenure as director of schools,” said Frazier. “His knowledge of how education systems operate is only surpassed by his heart and advocacy for the students, teachers and staff in this county. The TSBA has made a wise choice.”

TSBA also provides school board members with a collective voice in matters of legislation and public education concerns.

For more information about TSBA, visit: www.tsba.net.
UTM earns several state, national ranks

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently received several state and national rankings for its affordability and accessibility, as well as for various graduate and undergraduate programs.

UT Martin was ranked eighth in bestvalue-schools.org's Top 15 Most Affordable Colleges in Tennessee in 2021 list. The university received the ranking for its accreditation, student-to-teacher ratio, per-credit tuition cost, fees, degree recognition and more.

The university also received numerous rankings by intelligent.com, including 12th in the Best Colleges in Tennessee list for its flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost and reputation; 44th in the nation in the Most Affordable Colleges category for the dual enrollment program; third in the Best Master's in School Counseling Degree Programs category; and 14th in the Best MBA Programs category.

Study.com ranked the UT Martin finance program 28th in the nation in the 2021 Best Degrees in Finance for the networking opportunities and student-managed stock portfolio.

In-person and virtual orientations scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold 2021 Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and Transfer Orientation sessions both virtually and in person.

Registration for SOAR opened Feb. 1 and is required for all incoming freshmen. Students can register for SOAR through the MyUTMPortal.

In-person orientation dates will be hosted in the Boling University Center and the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, while online sessions will be held over Zoom and other online platforms. The events are subject to change according to university policy and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 restrictions to best protect participants.

In-person orientation dates are as follows:
- May 24 — SOAR.
- May 26 — SOAR.
- June 10 — Transfer Orientation.
- June 11 — SOAR.
- July 14 — Transfer Orientation.
- June 21 — SOAR.
- July 9 — SOAR.
- July 26 — SOAR.

Online orientation dates are as follows:
- April 23 — Transfer Orientation.
- June 23 — SOAR.
- Aug. 6 — Transfer Orientation and SOAR.

For more information about orientations, contact Destin Tucker, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, by email at ducerke13@utm.edu; or admissions by email at admitme@utm.edu.

UT Martin debuts mobile safety app

The University of Tennessee at Martin has launched a new mobile safety app — LiveSafe — for students and employees on the main campus to easily communicate with its Department of Public Safety to share emergency and non-emergency information.

The university will continue to use RAVE Alerts to send emergency messages campus wide.

"The LiveSafe app is going to do a lot of good things for the University of Tennessee at Martin," said Monte Belew, UT Martin chief and director of public safety. "We hope it'll be beneficial to students and faculty alike and, hopefully, it'll be another tool UT Martin can put on its tool belt to help make it a safer campus and a better place to be."

LiveSafe allows campus community members to share safety and security concerns, request help, report an incident and access campus resources and information.

Users will be able to publicly or confidentially submit photos and comments of incidents on campus through the app. The app also acts as a virtual safety escort while walking across campus and will alert designated contacts upon arrival to the users intended destination.

Reports submitted through LiveSafe will be monitored daily by the Department of Public Safety.

To download LiveSafe, visit links.livesafemobile.com/UTM. All users must have an active UT Martin email address.

For more information, contact Lt. Charlie Jahn at cjahn@utm.edu or visit the public safety website at utm.edu/publicsafety.

UTM plans music events

The Department of Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin has the following events planned this week:
- Recording and Sound Tech with Jay McCutcheon, UT Martin alum virtual guest speaker, Wednesday at 2 p.m. This is open to anyone via Zoom.
- Brass faculty interview, part of UTM Music's CulturEd Online series, Thursday at 8 p.m. on Facebook or YouTube.

For more information, visit utm.edu/musicevents.
UT MARTIN TAKES SKYHAWK ROAD SHOW TO OBION COUNTY
February 10, 2021 @ 9:18 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The UT Martin roadshow continued with visits to Obion County Central, Union City High School and Dyer County High School Tuesday, speaking with future Skyhawks about the UTM programs. Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said, "We're grateful for the warm welcome across West Tennessee today!" (Keith Carver photo).

UTM to expand in-person learning in the fall
February 10, 2021 by Tristan Fletcher

MARTIN, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin says students can expect more in-person options in the fall.

UTM says this expansion coincides with an increase in vaccine availability across the state.

"Many have worked hard to bring us to a better place in this pandemic, and UT Martin is ready to take the next steps toward normal university operations," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. "We're also realistic that conditions can change, so we'll prepare to change direction if conditions warrant. Safety remains our top priority."

In-person options, along with a more traditional opening, will be at the main campus and the five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

UTM says it will be following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health and its own guidelines for keeping everyone safe.
More in-person classes planned for UT Martin in the fall

Students attending UT Martin this fall can expect a more traditional college experience as the university announced Wednesday that it plans to expand in-person classes to open the semester.

Plans for more in-person classes and a more traditional opening at the main campus and five regional centers coincide with increased COVID-19 vaccine availability and improving pandemic conditions in Tennessee.

UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville, and Ripley.

"Many have worked hard to bring us to a better place in this pandemic, and UT Martin is ready to take the next steps toward normal university operations," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. "We're also realistic that conditions can change, so we'll prepare to change direction if conditions warrant. Safety remains our top priority."

The university will continue to follow recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Tennessee Department of Health, and the University of Tennessee System for maintaining maximum safety.

Feb. 10, 2021

Two get scholarships

Lyla Pitarro of Lenoir City and Jacob May of Loudon have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-22 academic year. Pitarro received the Excellence Scholarship, while May was awarded the Deans Scholarship.
Vantrease Named to TSBA 2021 Board

BY KAREN CAMPBELL
Weakley County Schools
Communications Director

WEAKLEY COUNTY (February 3) - Weakley County Schools Board Chair Steve Vantrease was recently named to the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) Board of Directors for 2021. The 18-member board carries out the mandates of the Delegate Assembly and act as a liaison between the Association and local school boards.

Vantrease has served on the Board of Education for Weakley County Schools for 20 years. Retired from 34 years in student services at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he continues to work as the assistant director of UT Martin’s Governor’s School for the Humanities and is also the director of the Ned Ray McWherter Institute. He obtained both a Bachelor of Science in business administration and a Master of Science in education administration at UTM and is a graduate of the WestStar Leadership program and the UT Leadership Institute.

"While I was surprised with the appointment, I am honored to have been asked to serve our professional organization in this position," said Vantrease. "Several of my Weakley County colleagues have served in various leadership roles over the past several decades engaging, at the state level, in the administration of public education in Tennessee. I am honored to be able to continue this advocacy and will do my best to support and promote the best in public education," he added.

WCS Director Randy Frazier notes that TSBA is a statewide, nonprofit organization of school boards throughout Tennessee and Vantrease’s new role will help bring the needs of rural areas to the forefront of discussions.

"I’ve served alongside Steve Vantrease throughout my tenure as director of schools,” said Frazier. “His knowledge of how education systems operate is only surpassed by his heart and advocacy for the students, teachers and staff in this county. The TSBA has made a wise choice.”

TSBA also provides school board members with a collective voice in matters of legislation and public education concerns.

For more information about TSBA, visit: www.tsba.net.

Fayette County Student Receives Scholarship To Attend UT Martin

A Fayette County student has been awarded a Scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, Executive Director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

**Ariel Woods of Oakland, daughter of Cassandra Morrow, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.**
Hinson receives UT-M Scholarship
Feb. 11, 2021

A Lewis County student has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-2022 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Jayden Hinson of Hohenwald, daughter of Robin and Billy Keeton and Barry Hinson, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.

UT Martin awarded National Guard Partnership Award
February 11, 2021

UT Martin has been awarded the Tennessee National Guard Partnership Award in recognition of the university's continued support of the National Guard.

UTM provides academic and student support to the National Guard soldiers earning their degree, as well as offers a physical space on campus for guard drill and recruitment offices.

Sergeant First Class Tyler Shaw presented UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver with the award, stating his commitment to the military personnel on campus "set the standard on leadership support from the school staff."
UT Martin to remain virtual through Feb. 12

February 11, 2021 by Tristan Fletcher

MARTIN, Tenn. — Due to the threat of inclement weather, the University of Tennessee at Martin says all classes will remain virtual.

This will stay in effect through Friday, Feb. 12, according to the university.

This will include classes at the main campus and regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

Staff will telework during those dates.

For more information, call (731) 881-7615.

UT MARTIN RECEIVES NATIONAL GUARD PARTNERSHIP AWARD

February 12, 2021 @ 8:57 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.— The University of Tennessee at Martin was awarded the Tennessee National Guard Partnership Award in recognition of the university’s continued support of the National Guard. UT Martin provides academic and student support to the National Guard soldiers earning their degree, as well as offers a physical space on campus for guard drill and recruitment offices. Sergeant First Class Tyler Shaw presented Chancellor Keith Carver with the award, stating his commitment to the military personnel on campus “set the standard on leadership support from the school staff.” In photo, from left are Carver and Shaw with the award. UTM photo.
The University of Tennessee at Martin main campus and regional centers will conduct all classes virtually Feb. 15 – 19 because of impending inclement weather. Staff will telework.

Supervisors will notify employees who are to report for work in-person. Students should check with their instructors for classwork schedules this week.

UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Donation to benefit UT Martin accounting, finance students

February 16, 2021 by Tristan Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — University of Tennessee at Martin students majoring in accounting and finance have received a big contribution to their education.

A news release from the university says James D. "Jim" and Barbara Wingett provided a $1 million pledge to the James Duncan Wingett Scholarship Endowment.

The Wingetts say the university is a special place to them. The release says the couple met there in the 1980s.

“UTM holds a special place in my heart having met the love of my life there,” he said. “Barbara and I have been blessed, and we are excited to make this commitment to the university that means so much to us. Our sincere hope is that the students that receive these scholarship funds will enjoy and benefit from their UTM experience as much as we did and ultimately pay it forward to the next generation of UTM students.”
Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, the dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs, says Jim Wingett serves as a role model.

"It is an honor for us to see one of our graduates to have a success story as remarkable as Jim Wingett's. He is a role model and a source of inspiration for all of our students, and although I have known him for only a short time, I could not help but immediately recognize his devotion to our college, and his commitment to our students' success," Tootoonchi said.

Tootoonchi adds that the endowment is a reflection of the Wingetts' goodness of hearts and shows the height of their giving spirits.

For more information on the James Duncan Wingett Scholarship Endowment contact Tootoonchi at (731) 881-7306.
UTM ALUM VAN JONES HIGHLIGHTS CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE
February 16, 2021 @ 8:32 am Shannon McFarlin

The University of Tennessee at Martin 21st annual Civil Rights Conference continues the week of Feb. 15 with two keynote speakers: Jarrod Benjamin and UT Martin alumnus Van Jones.

On Feb. 16, Jarrod Benjamin, adjunct professor and program director of the Florida International University Cybersecurity Apprenticeship, will address the topic “Change Agent Leaders: From Oppressed to Success” at 7 p.m. Benjamin also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of The LEAD Firm where he is responsible for curriculum development, leadership training, as well as an organization consultant for more than 120 colleges and universities across the country. He is the founder and host of the Black and Multicultural Greek EMPOWERMENT Summit – Atlanta Edition and is a recipient of the United States President’s Lifetime Award.

Van Jones, a 1990 UT Martin graduate, will discuss “Rebuilding the Dream: The Next American Economy” at 7 p.m., Feb. 18. Jones is the CEO of REFORM Alliance, a social entrepreneur, CNN political commentator and host of Redemption Project and The Van Jones Show. Jones has founded and led many social enterprises focused in social and environmental justice, including the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change, Rebuild The Dream, The Dream Corps and Magic Labs Media. After graduating from UT Martin, Jones earned his law degree from Yale University and has advocated for political reform.

The events will be livestreamed on the UT Martin Facebook (facebook.com/utmartin) and YouTube (youtube.com/utmartin) accounts.

The UT Martin Civil Rights Conference will feature more events throughout the month of February, including presentations by Dr. Robin DiAngelo and Michael Eric Dyson on Feb. 23.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director of student life and multicultural affairs, at aprewitt@utm.edu or visit the conference website at utm.edu/civilrights.
UTM continues Civil Rights Conference

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For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director of student life and multicultural affairs, at aprewitt@utm.edu or visit the conference website at utm.edu/civilrights.
ROCKS TO THE FUTURE — UTM geology professor emeritus Tom McCutchen recently donated his personal collection of rocks, minerals and fossils to Sharon Middle School teacher Missy Estes for use in her science lab.

Geology professor donates personal collection

By Karen Campbell
Special to the Press

University of Tennessee at Martin geology professor emeritus Tom McCutchen recently donated his personal collection of rocks, minerals and fossils to Sharon Middle School teacher Missy Estes for use in her science lab.

McCutchen, who began teaching at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1964, presented the collection of about 100 specimens housed in wooden trays he had personally handcrafted.

Considered a founding father of the university’s geosciences program, McCutchen said he had amassed his personal collection from the coal mines of Kentucky to vacations out West to field trips across the state as he introduced college students to Tennessee geology.

Included in the donation is a plant fossil from the coal beds, which reveals an impression of a scale tree (so named because the leaves resemble fish scales) that lived 250 million years ago.

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UTM AWARDED NATIONAL GUARD PARTNERSHIP AWARD — The University of Tennessee at Martin was awarded the Tennessee National Guard Partnership Award in recognition of the university's continued support of the National Guard. UT Martin provides academic and student support to the National Guard soldiers earning their degree, as well as offers a physical space on campus for guard drill and recruitment offices. Sergeant First Class Tyler Shaw presented Chancellor Keith Carver with the award, stating his commitment to the military personnel on campus "set the standard on leadership support from the school staff." Pictured (from left) are Carver and Shaw with the award.

UTM releases new specialty plate

The University of Tennessee at Martin released a new specialty license plate that features the new Skyhawk attack logo created by DVL Seigenthaler, the Nashville office of global marketing and communications firm Finn Partners. The license plates are available for purchase to Tennessee residents at local county clerk offices upon request.

The license plate design was selected through a university-wide survey conducted in August 2020 to update the previous plate which debuted in 2003. Of the three options provided in the survey, the tri-striped plate with the attack logo received over 40% of the votes. The license plate was designed by the UT Martin Office of University Relations Design Coordinator Beth Bodwell.

"The new UT Martin specialty plate provides our alumni and friends with yet another opportunity to display their UT Martin pride," said Chancellor Keith Carver. "I'm eager to fill the highways and byways with a Skyhawk fleet of cars and trucks across Tennessee."

The plate costs an additional $36 to renew annually, and proceeds from each purchase benefit the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Tennessee Highway Fund.

For more information about the UT Martin license plate, visit the Tennessee Department of Revenue website or contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UT Martin receives state and national rankings

University of Tennessee at Martin recently received several state and national rankings for its affordability and accessibility, as well as for various graduate and undergraduate programs. UT Martin was ranked eighth in bestvalue-schools.org’s Top 15 Most Affordable Colleges in Tennessee in 2021 list. The university received the ranking for its accreditation, student-to-teacher ratio, per-credit tuition cost, fees, degree recognition and more.

The university also received numerous rankings by intelligent.com, including 12th in the Best Colleges in Tennessee list for its flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost and reputation; 44th in the nation in the Most Affordable Colleges category for the dual enrollment program; third in the Best Master’s in School Counseling Degree Programs category; and 14th in the Best MBA Programs category.

Study.com ranked the UT Martin finance program 28th in the nation in the 2021 Best Degrees in Finance for the networking opportunities and student-managed stock portfolio.

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University’s advisory board discusses Title IX, enrollment

The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met virtually recently to discuss changes to the Title IX and Clery Act policies, as well as current and future student enrollment statistics.

The board members met via Zoom in accordance with Gov. Bill Lee’s Executive Order No. 71.

Since UT Martin reinstated in-person classes the day before the meeting, chancellor Dr. Keith Carver expressed his excitement to have students back on campus in a safe manner and how hopeful he is for the future of UT Martin during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I am optimistic about our spring semester at UT Martin. I want to thank our students, faculty and staff for their creativity and flexibility in navigating the obstacles caused during the pandemic,” he said.

Carver also gave an update on campus construction including the Latimer Engineering and Science Building, which will open in the fall of 2022; the installation of the Hardy Graham Stadium visitor’s bleachers, which will be finished mid-February; and the Innovation and Product Realization Facility, which is on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission’s Capital Projects Recommendation List.

Ashley Blamey, University of Tennessee Title IX Compliance coordinator, updated the advisory board on the changes to the Title IX statute, which were implemented in August 2020, including changes to investigations, how live hearings are conducted with advisers and cross examinations, as well as who the new policy applies to. Ms. Blamey also addressed UT Martin’s improvement on Clery Act reporting and how the university can continue to grow into a safer, more inclusive campus.

“You’ll find that UT Martin’s policy is a bit broader than Title IX period. Your policy includes Title IX and non-Title IX (student misconduct) allegations,” she explained. “That was important for campus institutions to be able to maintain control.”

Carver presented the latest enrollment statistics including more than 7,100 students at UT Martin with 1,100 students being freshmen in the class of 2024. Twenty-six percent of students are first generation, 47 percent are Pell-eligible, 83 percent receive financial aid and 38 percent graduated debt-free in 2019-20.

According to Carver, the six-year graduation rate has increased six percentage points over the past four years and is currently 53.7 percent.

Sylvia Ewell, associate vice president of Ruffalo Noel Levitz, the national research firm that helped build UT Martin’s strategic enrollment management plan, gave an overview of how the pandemic has impacted expected enrollment trends in higher education.

According to RNL, the ongoing decrease in high school graduation rates, as well as the economic effect of the pandemic, will affect future college enrollment across the nation as fewer high school students will graduate and attend college.

While future enrollment is expected to decrease, UT Martin is implementing the strategic enrollment management plan to recruit and retain students, as well as introduce new academic programs for a wider variety of courses.

Carver also announced a $100,000 gift by an alumnus to the Rise Program, which is dedicated to retaining African American students through a mentorship organization.
Tyson makes intern part of local team

Tyson Foods' Obion County Complex has announced an addition to its team.

Slade Murray, a lifetime resident of South Fulton and a 2017 graduate of South Fulton High School, has been working as an intern at the local plant.

A grow-out operations associate, Murray is currently enrolled at the University of Tennessee-Martin and plans to graduate in May with an agricultural business degree. While at UTM, he has been on the Chancellor's Honor Roll for seven semesters and is striving to make it all eight semesters.

He has been working with poultry for about six or seven years at Crabtree Poultry farms and knew he wanted to do something with poultry as soon as he started. When he found out he had to have an internship to graduate college, he knew he wanted to go through Tyson.

"Tyson and Shane Joyner have been wonderful to me and have allowed me to work for Tyson even while in school," Murray said. "The internship experience has allowed me to get a better understanding of what Tyson is about and what a great company they are to work for. I have spent time learning about the broilers, breeders, hatchery and feed mill. When Shane asked me if I was interested in interviewing for a grow-out operations position, I was thrilled and knew I wanted to do it. I am thankful for Shane and Tyson giving me this opportunity and truly blessed to be a part of the Tyson family. I am excited for the future and the opportunities that follow and glad to be working at great company like Tyson Foods."

"Slade has done a tremendous job of showing self-motivation and great work ethic while working the last year as an intern in live production. Slade will graduate in May from UTM, but we have decided to hire him to be part of our team prior to graduation. He will join our management team as live operations associate. He has proved his interest in Tyson and is a great team player. I look forward to seeing him climb the ranks in management in the next few years," said Joyner, Tyson Foods live operations manager.

GUARD HONORS UTM — The University of Tennessee at Martin was awarded the Tennessee National Guard Partnership Award in recognition of the university’s continued support of the National Guard. UT Martin provides academic and student support to the National Guard soldiers earning their degrees, as well as offers a physical space on campus for guard drill and recruitment offices. Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Shaw (right) presented chancellor Dr. Keith Carver with the award, stating his commitment to the military personnel on campus “set the standard on leadership support from the school staff.”
Geology Professor Donates Collection

UT Martin Geology Professor Emeritus Tom McCutchen (R) recently donated his personal collection of rocks, minerals and fossils to Sharon Middle School teacher Missy Estes for use in her science lab.

BY KAREN CAMPBELL
Weakley County Schools Communications Director

SHARON (February 10) — UT Martin Geology Professor Emeritus Tom McCutchen recently donated his personal collection of rocks, minerals and fossils to Sharon Middle School teacher Missy Estes for use in her science lab.

McCutchen, who began teaching at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1964, presented the collection of approximately 100 specimens housed in wooden trays he had personally handcrafted.

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Murray Joins the Tyson TEAM

Slade Murray — Grow-Out Operations Associate, has lived in South Fulton all his life and a graduate from South Fulton in 2017. He is currently enrolled at the University of Tennessee-Martin and will graduate in May with an Agricultural Business Degree. He has been on the Chancellors Honor Roll for seven semesters and striving to make it all eight semesters. He has been working with poultry for about 6-7 years at Crabtree Poultry farms and knew he wanted to do something with poultry as soon as he started. When he found out he had to have an internship to graduate college, he knew he wanted to go through Tyson. Slade stated, “Tyson and Shane Joyner have been wonderful to me and have allowed me to work for Tyson even while in school. The internship experience has allowed me to get a better understanding of what Tyson is about and what a great company they are to work for. I have spent time learning about the broilers, breeders, hatchery, and feed mill.

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**Wingett Donation to Benefit Accounting and Finance Students**

**BY SARAH KNAPP**
*UT Martin University Relations*

MARTIN (February 15) — The University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs recently received a $1 million pledge from James D. “Jim” and Barbara Wingett to continue funding the established James Duncan Wingett Scholarship Endowment, which benefits students majoring in accounting and finance.

The Wingets met while studying at UT Martin in the 1980s and wanted to support the next generation of students who can benefit from the university just as they did.

“UTM holds a special place in my heart having met the love of my life there,” said Jim. “Barbara and I have been blessed, and we are excited to make this commitment to the university that means so much to us. Our sincere hope is that the students that receive these scholarship funds will enjoy and benefit from their UTM experience as much as we did and ultimately pay it forward to the next generation of UTM students.”

Barbara graduated in 1982 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and was followed by Jim in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

Jim later graduated from the University of Delaware Stonier Graduate School of Banking and spent more than 35 years in the financial services sector in commercial banking, insurance, investment banking and investment management.

In 2008, Jim co-founded Wolf River Capital Management in Memphis, and he currently serves on the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs Advisory Board, as well as the Chancellor’s Roundtable.

“It is an honor for us to see one of our graduates to have a success story as remarkable as Jim Wingett’s. He is a role model and a source of inspiration for all of our students, and although I have known him for only a short time, I could not help but immediately recognize his devotion to our college, and his commitment to our students’ success,” said Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs. “The scholarship endowment that he and his wife, Barbara, established for our accounting and finance students is a true reflection of the goodness of their hearts and the height of their giving spirits. We, the faculty, staff and students in the College of Business and Global Affairs, are so grateful for Jim and Barbara’s continued support.”

For more information about the James Duncan Wingett Scholarship Endowment, contact Tootoonchi at 731-681-7306.

**UT Martin Plans More In-Person Classes For Fall 2021**

MARTIN, Tenn. — Students who will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in fall 2021 can expect a more traditional college experience as the university expands its in-person course offerings to open the semester. Plans for more in-person classes and a more traditional opening at the main campus and five regional centers coincide with increased COVID-19 vaccine availability and improving pandemic conditions in Tennessee. UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

“Many have worked hard to bring us to a better place in this pandemic, and UT Martin is ready to take the next steps toward normal university operations,” said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. “We’re also realistic that conditions can change, so we’ll prepare to change direction if conditions warrant. Safety remains our top priority.”

The university will continue to follow recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Tennessee Department of Health and the University of Tennessee System for maintaining maximum safety.

**‘ONE DAY, ONE LIFE, ONE DEATH’ EXHIBIT PLANNED AT UT MARTIN**

MARTIN — There will be a senior art exhibit held at the University of Tennessee at Martin located in Weakley County March 16, 2021. This senior art exhibit is titled, “One Day One Life, One Death,” by Jasmine Williams, who is a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

There is a possibility the show will not have an in-person opening, but instead a Facebook Live opening. More details will be provided as the date comes closer. Come to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness life in one day.

For more information or questions, contact Williams on her Instagram at @jas_a_williams

**ALL VIRTUAL COURSES THIS WEEK AT UT MARTIN**

The University of Tennessee at Martin main campus and regional centers will conduct all classes virtually February 15-19 because of inclement weather. Staff will telework.

Supervisors will notify employees who are to report for work in-person. Students should check with their instructors for classwork schedules this week.

UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

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

BY SARAH KNAPP
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (February 11) — The University of Tennessee at Martin 21st annual Civil Rights Conference continues this week with two keynote speakers: Jarrod Benjamin and UT Martin alumnus Van Jones. Van Jones, a 1990 UT Martin graduate, will discuss “Rebuilding the Dream: The Next American Economy” at 7 p.m., Thursday, February 18. Jones is the CEO of REFORM Alliance, a social entrepreneur, CNN political commentator and host of Redemption Project and The Van Jones Show. Jones has founded and led many social enterprises focused in social and environmental justice, including the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change, Rebuild The Dream, The Dream Corps and Magic Labs Media. After graduating from UT Martin, Jones earned his law degree from Yale University and has advocated for political reform.

On Tuesday, February 16, Jarrod Benjamin, adjunct professor and program director of the Florida International University Cybersecurity Apprenticeship, addressed the topic, “Change Agent Leaders: From Oppressed to Success” at 7 p.m. Benjamin also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of The LEAD Firm where he is responsible for curriculum development, leadership training, as well as an organization consultant for more than 120 colleges and universities across the country. He is the founder and host of the Black and Multicultural Greek EMPOWERMENT Summit – Atlanta Edition and is a recipient of the United States President’s Lifetime Award.

The events are livestreamed on the UT Martin Facebook (facebook.com/utmartin) and YouTube (youtube.com/utmartin) accounts. The UT Martin Civil Rights Conference will feature more events throughout the month of February, including presentations by Dr. Robin DiAngelo and Michael Eric Dyson on February 23.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director of student life and multicultural affairs, at aprewitt@utmartin.edu.

WCRP Honors Local Lynching Victims

BY SARAH KNAPP
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (February 18) — The Weakley County Reconciliation Project presented “Local Lynchings and Why They Still Matter” on February 11, as a part of the University of Tennessee at Martin 21st annual Civil Rights Conference.

The Weakley County Reconciliation Project is a nonpartisan community organization dedicated to facilitating conversations about race, racism and social injustice in Weakley County, as well as recognizing and honoring the victims of lynching in the region. The event was facilitated by Weakley County Reconciliation Project member Chris Gunleifson and included presentations by Dr. Carol Acree Cavalier, independent researcher; Melinda Meador, first assistant district attorney of Obion County; and Dr. Brian Clardy, UT Martin alumnus and associate professor of history at Murray State University.

More than 6,000 race-related lynchings occurred in the United States between the Civil War and World War II, including at least eight people killed in lynchings in Weakley County: an unidentified boy, August 24, 1899; William and Edward Johnson, April 24, 1871; Leob Sanders, July 29, 1892; Lee C. Dumas, June 9, 1883; Edgar Bell, July 26, 1893; Bob Hudson, Oct. 7, 1893; and Mallie Wilson, Sept. 3, 1915.

"It's a subject that no one really wants to talk about," explained Cavalier. "It's very uncomfortable. It was traumatic for the Black community.

White people aren't comfortable talking about it, and it seems to me that the wounds are still open and raw. If there is a subject that causes shame, it needs to be addressed, and we can't heal without even just acknowledging the facts of what happened.”

The trio also answered questions from the virtual audience at the end of the presentation, which can be viewed on the UT Martin Office of Multicultural Affairs Facebook account.

For more information about the Weakley County Reconciliation Project, visit weakleyreconciliation.com or contact the organization at weakleyreconciliation@gmail.com.

Honoring

...From Front Page

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UT-Martin Plans For Fall Classes

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The university will continue to follow recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Tennessee Department of Health and the University of Tennessee System for maintaining maximum safety. Additional UT Martin fall semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.

https://www.radionwtv.com/

UT MARTIN RESUMES NORMAL OPERATIONS AFTER WEEK OF WEATHER CLOSURE

February 22, 2021 @ 9:08 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The UT Martin main campus and Jackson, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville regional centers will resume normal operations Monday, Feb. 22. In-person and hybrid classes will meet; main campus and regional center in-person staffing will resume along with pre-inclement weather telework schedules.

Because of ongoing icy conditions caused by recent weather, all UT Martin Parsons Center classes scheduled from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 22, will be virtual. Face-to-face classes will begin at 1 p.m., and Parsons Center faculty and staff will work virtually until the center opens for in-person operations at 1 o'clock.

This change only affects the Parsons Center for Monday, Feb. 22. The main campus and other regional centers will resume normal operations Monday as previously announced.
Van Jones addresses UT Martin during conference

By Amanda Mansfield
Press Reporter

It is well known that Van Jones is a charismatic television host and author who has crossed party lines in order to fulfill his mission of reforming the criminal justice system in the United States. But, did you know that he is a UT Martin graduate with a bachelor’s degree in communications?

Among his numerous accolades, Jones is most proud of the education he received while an undergraduate student at UTM. In fact, he said recently he was born at UT Martin.

He recalled arriving at the UT Martin campus in 1986, thinking that his given name, Anthony Jones, sounded too ordinary. “I had a fear that I was quickly going to become Tony Jones,” he said. “I sat there... trying to think of what name I could come up with that would be a better marketing tool for myself. At the time, I loved Prince and I loved Sting... they both had monosyllabic names.” He thought about calling himself “Jet” Jones or “Rush” Jones but decided against those because he couldn’t run very fast, Jones said with a chuckle.

“I went through every single-syllable name I could come up with before I finally got to Van... Van Jones, that seemed like a good name,” he said. “Van Jones was literally born at the University of Tennessee at Martin” while he sat in the parking lot of his dormitory.

Via Zoom, with the same bookshelf behind him proudly displaying Nelson Mandela’s biography, The Authorized Portrait, as has also recently been seen on The View, Jones attended UT Martin’s 21st annual Civil Rights Conference Feb. 18 as keynote speaker. In his opening remarks, he said, “I’ve had the chance to do a lot of stuff. I’ve gone a lot of places, I’ve met a lot of people, but there’s nothing like coming home.”

Jones has worked alongside the Obama and Trump administrations with organizations he founded, like the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change and the Dream Corps, developing advocacy initiatives such as #cut50, #YesWeCode and Green for All.

While these successful ventures were mentioned during Thursday night’s presentation, they were not the focus. He chose to focus his keynote address on giving hope and valuable advice to students of UT Martin.

“When I graduated [high school] in 1986, I was not a great student,” Jones said, “I was an OK student. I had a passion for English; I had a passion for writing.”

Upon arriving at UT Martin, he recalled thinking to himself, “This is my chance.”

During his keynote address, Jones spoke candidly and often emotionally of his professors at UT Martin who took an interest in him and influenced his career path. Dr. Jerald Ogg, in particular, was one of Jones’ greatest influencers on campus.

“I had the one thing you need in life,” Jones said of Ogg. “I had a hero, a coach and a mentor who guided me. We clicked, and he

SEE VAN JONES PAGE 9
helped me... a lot.”

Ogg helped Jones apply for and receive internships at The Shreveport Times and The Associated Press, and later he helped him get into Yale Law School.

During the address, Jones offered advice to UTM students.

“You’ve got a springboard at UT Martin,” he said. “You’ve got people there that care about you and that will fight for you.”

He went on to say of his accolades that UT Martin is where he learned the most.

“At UT Martin, I learned how to learn. I learned how to ask my questions even if it made me look stupid,” he said. “I went to school where there was a work ethic. It was a workhorse school, not a show horse school. I was prepared for everything that came my way.

“We thought the ’80s were rough, we thought the ’90s were rough; ya’ll have got some rough stuff to deal with,” Jones said to students watching the presentation.

He listed some of the anxiety-ridden struggles young people are facing, such as a flattening economy, low wages, social media, environmental issues and demographic changes.

In order to make a change, Jones told the students they have to believe they can have an impact, adding they shouldn’t distract themselves with mindless activities.

“No pressure, no diamonds,” he said. “The pressure that you feel that you’re under is trying to bring out the greatness in you. Last year was a breakdown across the board. But breakthroughs can become breakthroughs if you use them right.

“Your goal should be to become the most consequential person in your field, in your generation. Jerald Ogg told me, my sophomore year, it was true then and it’s true now, if you work hard, you can get anywhere from UT Martin.”

Jones said to be successful upon leaving UT Martin, the students need three things.

“You need good grades, you need extracurricular activities that show that you are motivated; do something so that you’re not just a grad,” he said. “And you need at least two professors who really believe in you. To sit in school four or five years and graduate without any professor excited about you; that’s not smart.”

Jones shared some humbling and inspirational advice to students: “Don’t let anyone steal your rainbow. God put something in you so special, it will shock you; you won’t believe it. We have an opportunity to have fantastic relationships with all races and backgrounds, be part of the next round of innovation and technology, or we can sit here and be mad at each other and blame each other all day. It’s up to you!”

In closing, Jones said, “Give yourself the permission to go where God is trying to put you. None of us who have ‘made it,’ when you really talk to us, can believe it. Whatever it is, you can do it. Yes, YOU! That dream? Yes, THAT dream, that thing you keep writing in your journal and coming back to three and five years later, that book that you keep saying you’re going to [write], that film you say you’re going to produce... yes, YOU! IT IS possible!”

There are three upcoming events this week to finish this year’s Civil Rights Conference. Tonight’s keynote speakers will be author and radio host Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and Dr. Robin DiAngelo, best known for her work pertaining to white fragility. Wednesday’s presentation of Just Mercy, the 2019 legal drama starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx will air at 2:30 p.m. at Cine Theater in Martin. The last activity will be Thursday’s Zoom presentation, featuring a tuba performance by Dr. Steven Darling.

More information, including how to register for each event can be found at www.utm.edu/departments/civilrights.
Weakley County EMA opens warming center

By Amanda Mansfield
Press Reporter

Below freezing temperatures, ice, snow and high winds caused area leaders to take action in case of widespread power outages last week. UT Martin and Weakley County Emergency Management teamed up to provide a warming station inside UT Martin’s Student Life Center.

Socially distanced cots were made available to anyone needing a warm place to go. While the center was not used, chief communications officer Bud Grimes said if there had been widespread power outages, the warming station would have had a great impact. “To my knowledge, this is the first time we have done anything like this,” he stated.

Weakley County EMA had the initial idea for the project and contacted the university to set up the station, which is one of three in West Tennessee. Oversight falls under UT Martin police, the Martin police department and EMA. Funding for the cots, blankets and other supplies come directly from EMA’s budget, and expenses to heat the building are covered by UT Martin.

Director of Weakley County EMA Ray Wiggington said, “We went through just about every organization we had in the emergency operations plan before someone would allow it. Once we got that, the setup was the easy part.”

Wiggington thanked the volunteers, UTM, campus police and the Martin PD for making the warming station possible.

While, thankfully, no citizens had the need to utilize the warming station during last week’s snowstorm, Wiggington said they were able to assist one family Feb. 12 during the first round of ice accumulation after they lost heating in their home.

“We worked with our county’s faith-based organizations to allow the family to stay in the Budget Inn in Dresden,” he said.

Weakley County EMA was also able to provide another individual, who was unable to get out, a few days’ worth of food and supplies.

“As you can see, it takes a lot of community partners to address the needs of our citizens when emergency strikes,” Wiggington said. “But that’s what we’re here for, and we’re proud to do it.”

For more information on services provided during emergency situations in Weakley County and how you might be able to help, visit https://www.facebook.com/WeakleyCoEMA.
McCloud named chief diversity, inclusion officer

Dr. Mark McCloud has been appointed chief diversity and inclusion officer at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver made the announcement Monday.

McCloud has served as the interim chief diversity and inclusion officer since August 2020.

The chief diversity and inclusion officer position was recommended by the UT Martin Strategic Plan Inclusion Task Force to provide strategic leadership in creating a welcoming and inclusive university.

Since his interim appointment last August, McCloud helped implement the Skyhawk Creed, which is a part of the development of the UT Martin university-wide diversity plan. He also helped establish the Skyhawk RISE, or Retention, Inclusion, Success and Equity Program to help serve underrepresented student populations.

"I am humbled by the appointment and grateful for the opportunity to be a thought leader in the areas of diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging at UTM," McCloud said. "Working collaboratively with open minds, access, oversight and accountability as an institution we can live up to our mission and creed."

McCloud has also been responsible for providing oversight to the Chancellor’s Cabinet concerning campus issues related to diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging, as well as partnering with the university community to implement programs to foster diversity and increase minority retention rates.

Because of his commitment to the pursuit of diversity and inclusion at UT Martin, the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers recently presented McCloud with the 2020 Mosaic Award. The award annually recognizes individuals who demonstrate dedication to the spirit of diversity and inclusion through active participation in promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives within the last 12 months; positive communication and education that promotes mutual respect, acceptance, cooperation or tolerance among people of different backgrounds; and demonstration of a positive influence on constituencies.

McCloud earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration in economics from UT Martin and holds both a master of arts degree in higher education with an emphasis in student personnel services and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Mississippi.

He previously served as the director of Career Planning and Development, a position he had held since 2016.
Reconciliation Project addresses lynchings

The Weakley County Reconciliation Project recently presented "Local Lynchings and Why They Still Matter" as a part of the University of Tennessee at Martin's 21st annual Civil Rights Conference.

The Weakley County Reconciliation Project is a nonpartisan community organization dedicated to facilitating conversations about race, racism and social injustice in Weakley County, as well as recognizing and honoring the victims of lynching in the region.

The event was facilitated by Weakley County Reconciliation Project member Chris Gunlefinger and included presentations by Dr. Carol Aree Cavalier, independent researcher; Melinda Meador, first assistant district attorney of Obion County; and Dr. Brian Clardy, UT Martin alumnus and associate professor of history at Murray State University.

More than 6,000 race-related lynchings occurred in the United States between the Civil War and World War II, including at least eight people killed in lynchings in Weakley County: an unidentified boy, Aug. 24, 1869; William and Edward Johnson, April 24, 1871; Loab Sanders, July 29, 1892; Lee C. Dumas, June 9, 1893; Edgar Bell, July 28, 1893; Bob Hudson, Oct. 7, 1893; and Mallie Wilson, Sept. 3, 1915.

"It's a subject that no one really wants to talk about," Cavalier explained. "It's very uncomfortable. It was traumatic for the black community. White people aren't comfortable talking about it, and it seems to me that the wounds are still open and raw. If there is a subject that causes shame, it needs to be addressed, and we can't heal without even just acknowledging the facts of what happened."

The trio also answered questions from the virtual audience at the end of the presentation, which can be viewed in its entirety on the UT Martin Office of Multicultural Affairs Facebook account.

For more information about the Reconciliation Project, go to the website weakleyreconciliation.com; or contact the organization by email at weakleyreconciliation@gmail.com.

Music programs slated

The University of Tennessee at Martin music department has announced the following programs, which will be available each day on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube pages or via Zoom:

- Voice faculty interview — Thursday.
- Performance by Chuck Leavell, keyboardist for the Rolling Stones — Sunday at 3 p.m.
- Conducting a symphony by Peter Shannon, conductor of the Jackson Symphony — 2 p.m. Wednesday, open to everyone via Zoom.
UT Martin makes steps towards diversity goals with key appointment

February 24, 2021 by Clint Eiland

MARTIN, Tenn. — A local university announced a key appointment.

University of Tennessee at Martin has taken a big step towards their goals of diversity.

Recently, Chancellor Keith Carver appointed Dr. Mark McCloud as the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for UT Martin, a position he has held as an interim appointment since 2020.

"Inside and outside the classroom, faculty and staff, hiring processes, all the different nuances of diversity and inclusion at the university," McCloud said. "And so moving forward, we begin to look at a diversity plan."

McCloud’s appointment is part of a larger attempt to reach strategic goals when it comes to diversity and inclusion, which began with the Skyhawk Creed in 2020.

"If we begin to educate ourselves, we begin to be able to not only understand, but then maybe we become an ally or an advocate for someone that is different or has a need different from ours," McCloud said.

UT Martin has been at the center of two controversies in recent years. Both involved alleged racist behavior by students. McCloud says it’s a learning and growing process.

"When you have incidents and people don’t really understand people that are different than them, it’s necessary to educate," he said. "It’s necessary to talk about things like respect, and civility, and being responsible for our actions."
Some students agree, the student body is diverse and they do value the campus climate. But they also feel like more diversity is needed in the faculty positions.

"The faculty is where I do believe they need to improve on. I feel like with the students, there is a lot of diversity," said Rosalinda Alvarado, a sophomore at UT Martin.

"Professional staff we have here is great, and I don't feel like I'm unwanted in class, but having someone that looks like me, or relate to what I'm going through within like vet or applying to vet school and being a black student, would actually help," said Treasure Howard, a senior.

McCloud reiterated, an overview of faculty diversity will be a goal going forward. And for McCloud, he wants the discussion to be even more broad.

"I think it's an awareness. I think so many times when people think in terms of diversity, it's an umbrella term. A lot of times people think in terms of race or gender. But it's way more than that. Race, gender, sexual orientation, disability," McCloud said.

The hope is that they can continue the momentum in making UT Martin a place where everyone can learn, with whatever help they need.

"It's a small town where you're going to get to know people from all walks of life, and I have made some of my best friends, who are all different backgrounds," Alvarado said.

McCloud says the specific goals will be released soon.
Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series features Chuck Leavell on Sunday

The UT Martin Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series, hosted by the Department of Music, features a virtual performance by Chuck Leavell, keyboardist for the Rolling Stones, Sunday afternoon at 3:00.

Leavell began performing with the Rolling Stones in 1982 and has served as the band's musical director for over 20 years. He is featured on their most recent album "Blue and Lonesome," and he joined them on their No Filter tour in both the U.S. and Europe.

Leavell has also collaborated with prominent musicians like George Harrison, The Allman Brothers Band, The Black Crowes, Train, Martina McBride and many others.

The event will be streamed live through the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube accounts.

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

For more information about Chuck Leavell's performances, visit chuckleavell.com.

For more information about the event, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Wingett Donation to Benefit Accounting and Finance Students at UT Martin

By: Sarah Knapp, staff writer, UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs recently received a $1 million pledge from James D. "Jim" and Barbara Wingett to continue funding the established James Duncan Wingett Scholarship Endowment, which benefits students majoring in accounting and finance.

The Wingetts met while studying at UT Martin in the 1980s and wanted to support the next generation of students who can benefit from the university just as they did.

"UTM holds a special place in my heart having met the love of my life there," said Jim. "Barbara and I have been blessed, and we are excited to make this commitment to the university that means so much to us. Our sincere hope is that the students that receive these scholarship funds will enjoy and benefit from their UTM experience as much as we did and ultimately pay it forward to the next generation of UTM students."

Barbara graduated in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and was followed by Jim in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Jim later graduated from the University of Delaware Stonier Graduate School of Banking and spent more than 35 years in the financial services sector in commercial banking, insurance, investment banking and investment management.

In 2008, Jim co-founded Wolf River Capital Management in Memphis, and he currently serves on the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs Advisory Board, as well as the Chancellor's Roundtable.

"It is an honor for us to see one of our graduates to have a success story as remarkable as Jim Wingett's. He is a role model and a source of inspiration for all of our students, and although I have known him for only a short time, I could not help but immediately recognize his devotion to our college, and his commitment to our students' success," said Dr. Ahmad Toootoonchi, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs. "The scholarship endowment that he and his wife, Barbara, established for our accounting and finance students is a true reflection of the goodness of their hearts and the height of their giving spirits. We, the faculty, staff and students in the College of Business and Global Affairs, are grateful for Jim and Barbara's continued support."

For more information about the James Duncan Wingett Scholarship Endowment, contact Toootoonchi at 731-881-7306.
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See McCloud on Page 3

McCloud

By Sarah Knapp

UTM University Relations

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McCloud previously served as the director of Career Planning and Development, a position that he has held since 2016.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses to help students prepare for the test.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips in a two-hour Zoom session from 5 – 7 p.m. The Math and Science Reasoning courses will be offered March 3 and April 6, and the English and Reading courses will be taught March 5 and April 8.

Registration for each workshop costs $30. Students will need access to a computer that can connect to Zoom through audio and video. To register, visit utm.edu/actprep.

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.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
Performance series to feature Chuck Leavell

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series, hosted by the Department of Music, will feature a virtual performance by Chuck Leavell, keyboardist for the Rolling Stones, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28. The event will be streamed live through the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube accounts.

Leavell began performing with the Rolling Stones in 1982 and has served as the band’s musical director for over 20 years. He is featured on their most recent album “Blue and Lonesome,” and he joined them on their “No Filter” tour in both the U.S. and Europe. Leavell also has collaborated with prominent musicians like George Harrison, the Allman Brothers Band, the Black Crowes, Train, Martina McBride, and many others.

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For more information about Chuck Leavell’s performances, visit chuckleavell.com. For more information about Sunday’s scheduled performance event, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
Students receive UTM scholarships

Several Benton County students who will be incoming freshmen next fall have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2021-22 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Emma Jackson, of Big Sandy, daughter of Brad and Beth Jackson, received the Deans Scholarship. Kathryn Redlund, of Camden, daughter of Eric Redlund and Regina Redlund, received the Excellence Scholarship. Jayna Page, of Holladay, daughter of Mitchell and Cynthia Page, received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

There is still time for other students planning to enroll as freshmen in the fall of 2021 to apply for scholarships or financial aid. Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting the UTM Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 731-881-7040.

Locals earn degrees at UTM

Several Benton County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement. Each commencement ceremony was live streamed via Facebook Live and YouTube for those unable to attend.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UTM hosted three in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of 2020’s accomplishments. Spring, summer, and fall 2020 graduates were invited to participate in the in-person ceremonies and were recognized virtually if not in attendance.

Two students from Camden received graduate degrees from UTM in the fall. Chelsea Gaskin and Erica Lynch each completed Master of Science degrees in education-instructional leadership.

Students who completed undergraduate degrees in UTM in the 2020 fall semester were Carson Richardson and Rachael Wade, both of Big Sandy; Abigail Holladay, Karlie Hudson, Alexander Kee, and James Whitfield, all of Camden; and Jessie Conrad and Casey Wright, both of Holladay.
MARTIN, Tenn. – Music students at a local university hosted a music series with a popular guest.

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Music Department is hosting multiple musical series, guiding music majors through the importance of sound.

The series features popular musicians who give their insight on music.

Sunday evening during a Facebook live, the department featured music artist and Alabama native Chuck Leavell.

Pleasing the ears of music fans for more than 40 years, Leavell has been featured in many musical groups while playing his most popular piano sounds, and getting most of his musical lessons from his mother.

"I learned when I was very young from my mother. My mother wasn’t a teacher or instructor, but she played for family enjoyment," Leavell said.

Leavell is also releasing a documentary series that was shown to students; giving them the opportunity to see what they can learn from his career.

“The musical career of course, then my involvement in forestry and the environment and outdoor concerns and issues.” Leavell said.

The series will take place again on Sunday March 13 with another special guest.

For more information on UT Martin's Music Department series you can visit their website (https://www.utm.edu/departments/music/) or the ‘Seen on 7’ (https://www.wbbjtv.com/seen-on-7/) section of our website.