UT Martin to begin spring semester with all-virtual classes

UT Martin will open the spring semester January 14th with all-virtual classes at the main campus and the five centers located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville.

According to Bud Grimes with the university's Public Relations Office, the initial all-virtual format will allow monitoring for a potential post-holiday COVID-19 surge.

Grimes says the all-virtual classes will continue through January 21st, and the university will continue to monitor conditions.

Recommendations from the Tennessee Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will guide related class format decisions.

Residence halls will open Friday, January 8th, but students who are living on campus spring semester are encouraged to wait closer to January 14th to return.

The UT Martin Office of Housing will communicate directly with students by email about move-in instructions. The university encourages a COVID-19 test for returning students 48 hours before moving into residence halls or a test within three to five days after moving back to campus.

Food services will resume January 14th, and all university safety measures for spring semester will follow CDC guidelines, including required wearing of masks by all who are on the main campus or at the five centers; enhanced cleaning procedures and campus visitation restrictions.

Social activities will be limited initially and must be approved by the Office of Student Affairs.

Additional spring semester information is available by calling the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.

Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
Saluting Skyhawk service

Stories & photos courtesy of UT Martin; Page compiled by Chris Menees, Messenger staff

KIRSTY-RHE JANSE

With love for all, UTM grad plans to serve home country

By SARAH KNAPP
Special to The Messenger

Atem Lo Levad. Translation from Hebrew: You are not alone.

This is the message Kirsty-Rhe Janse, with her co-founder Zach Tiffner, plans to share with her home country of South Africa through the A.L.L. Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating communities, equipping disciples and empowering families.

“We’re hoping to have the impact of giving several, several kids, a home, a family, teaching them what that looks like, and that they are valued, and they are treasured, and that they do have a future and that they can do those big dreams that they have,” Ms. Janse said.

Growing up in South Africa is one of her most cherished memories, and she said she can’t imagine doing anything else other than working to create a safer environment for children and families in the place she still considers home.

“I prayed for a really long time, not knowing where the Lord was leading me in going with this nonprofit organization, and South Africa, it’s so close to my heart. Those people are my people, so I have that firsthand experience and knowledge of what’s going on in that country and how I can reach those people,” she said.
According to Ms. Janse, the goal of the A.L.L. Foundation will be to create educational opportunities for both children and adults to learn life skills in a gospel-centered manner so they can teach others.

"We're wanting to go in and help walk alongside of them to teach them something so that they can, in turn, go back into their community and serve their community and make their community better," she said.

While the nonprofit organization is still being developed, Ms. Janse hopes their mission to serve others will change the lives of many but knows she will have been successful even if only one person benefits from her work.

"Honesty, if I can just change one person's life, it's enough for me. The thing that drives me is helping people; that's literally what makes me happy and what really I'm passionate about," she said.

"I could literally die happy if I know that's something that we gave somebody else's story. That we showed somebody that their life isn't over just because they are in these awful circumstances. Their life isn't over; there's still hope, and the hope that we give them is much bigger than us, that's through our faith that we give that and through God."

Ms. Janse and her family know a lot about relying on faith to create a better life for themselves, considering they moved to the United States from South Africa just before she turned 11. While she struggled to adapt to her new home and culture, she said she truly began to flourish when she arrived at the UT Martin. The connections she felt with her communications faculty members and their willingness to help her along the way is what brought the A.L.L. Foundation to life.

"I honestly wouldn't be the way I am without UT Martin. I think it's a God thing that I ended up here," she said. "I think the biggest thing for me was just the department that I came into because I was in the communications department. With the professors being so personable and so invested, I immediately had professor (Andrew) Brown, professor (Jerald) Ogg, Dr. (Teresa) Collard, all of these people wanting to invest in me and wanting to encourage me in what I wanted to do. It was just like they were walking alongside of me in my dreams. Here, I had people that had experience in (nonprofits) that were encouraging me and that were giving me advice."

Brown, an instructor of communications with an extensive professional background in nonprofit organizations, has worked with Ms. Janse since she started at UT Martin to help her understand the process of creating a start-up and what it takes to maintain a successful nonprofit organization. Brown said while it is still a business, Ms. Janse's faith-driven passion to help others is what will sustain her goals.

"I saw in Kirsty-Rhe from the time I met her to this fall ... a desire, a compassion; that's the word I would use to describe her. She is one of the most compassion-driven young people I have ever met," Brown said. "I hope that Kirsty has learned that when you're working in a nonprofit, you're really working in serving people. It's not about how well you manage it; it's not about how good at fundraising you are. Our public, to use a PR term, our target audience, is the people we serve."

"As long as you can put the people you intend to serve first and take care of them, a lot of the pieces with hard work will come together."
From people to wildlife, soldier dedicated to serving
By SARAH KNAPP
Special to The Messenger

From Tennessee to Washington, D.C., and even Bulgaria, Isaac Mecklin of Munford has proudly served the United States as a soldier in the Tennessee Army National Guard while completing his degree in natural resources management from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

As his time in the military and at UT Martin comes to an end, Mecklin’s next mission will find him in Florida serving a different community in need: wildlife.

After graduating in December, Mecklin accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services as a biological science technician in Ruskin, Fla.

He will be responsible for preparing and conducting field and animal studies designed to assess the risks of pathogen transmission in wildlife, domestic animals and humans, as well as develop methods to reduce or eliminate the transmission through partnership with other environmental agencies and universities.

“I’m excited for the opportunity because it will give me the chance to work with a wide variety of different agencies while collecting data that will enhance private landowner’s success toward eradicating diseases that domestic animals carry,” Mecklin said.

While Mecklin is confident in taking this next step in his life, natural resources management wasn’t the obvious career path for him when he graduated high school. He enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard as a military police officer at 19 while earning his associate degree in criminal justice from Dyersburg State Community College.

Now that his enlistment is ending in 2021, Mecklin is thankful for the experiences he gained in the military and the educational opportunities provided by the National Guard that led him to wildlife services.

“Wanted to serve in the community, and that was a big part of the National Guard,” Mecklin said. “I also wanted to knock out school, so I could do both of those things at once.”

His desire to help his community is what guided Mecklin through three deployments during his time at UT Martin. From standing guard at the 2016 presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., to training multicoalition forces in Bulgaria in 2019, as well as serving as security for protesters in Memphis during the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, Mecklin has answered his unit’s call to serve regardless of how it would affect his education.

Thankfully, through the understanding of his faculty members, Mecklin was able to complete his coursework while dedicating himself to his military duty.

“The faculty and staff have really been supportive of me... and the professors really helped me out,” Mecklin said. “It’s a very veteran-oriented school.”

Mecklin did not grow up with access to or an interest in wildlife, but through the influence of his uncle, he developed a deep love and respect for nature that pushed him to study wildlife biology at UT Martin.

With a goal to become a game warden, he realized there were many other opportunities in the field to protect wildlife while still safely utilizing the resources provided in nature.

“I want to preserve (wildlife) for as long as I can. I am not by any means a preservationist; I would classify myself as a conservationist,” Mecklin explained. “Being able to use the land and also respecting it at the same time is what defines conservation for me, compared to preservation that sets aside the land in its entirety all together. This is why I chose wildlife biology. That’s why I like it and what I hope to give to future generations.”

Now, as a biological science technician for the USDA Wildlife Services, Mecklin plans to do just that and continue serving communities in need.

Editor’s note: Sarah Knapp is a staff writer and Addenda editor in the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Four locals named to honor roll at UT Martin

Jan 9, 2021

Four Blount County locals were named to the fall 2020 chancellor's honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They are: Jasmine Bryant, who received high honors; Michael Davis, who received high honors; Justin Sailors, who received highest honors; and Makara McDonald, who received highest honors. Bryant, Davis and Sailors are from Maryville and McDonald is from Walland.

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

Jan 12, 2021

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

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Manchester - Tatum N. Baldwin, Honors; Kylie L. Brown, Highest Honors; James M. Hale, Highest Honors; Ashley R. Thomas, Highest Honors; Lacey R. West, Honors.

Tullahoma - Caitlin S. Kenney, Highest Honors; Shyanne K. Sheffield, High Honors; Jacob T. Uehlein, Highest Honors.

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

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

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Atwood — Lauren J. Martin, Honors; Haley M. Stout, High Honors; Caitlin S. Wade, Highest Honors.

Buena Vista — Garrett T. Gratz, High Honors.

Cedar Grove — Noah W. Rogers, Highest Honors; McKayla B. Vaughn, Honors; Christopher W. Wood, High Honors.

Hollow Rock — Autumn H. Blankenship, Honors; Kaitlyn E. French, Honors; Channa L. Ragsdale, Highest Honors; Rachel A. Smith, Honors; Riley P. Walker, Highest Honors; Ana-Kate M. Welsh, Highest Honors; Hannah E. Work, High Honors.

Huntingdon — Madison G. Angeles, Honors; Jessica J. Berry, Highest Honors; Trent J. Boyd, Honors; Anna E. Burden, Highest Honors; Kody L. Byrd, Honors; Layla D. Bryum, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Cagle, Highest Honors; Brandyon A. Campbell, Honors; Emily D. Coleman, Honors; Payton E. Connell, Honors; Amy R. Craig, High Honors; Grant J. Davis, Highest Honors; Carson E. Ensley, Highest Honors; Kaet L. Fuller, High Honors; Dylan W. Hicks, Highest Honors; Brett D. Huis, Highest Honors; Skyley D. Kirkland, Highest Honors; Caitlin E. Kreuziger, High Honors; Haidyn B. McLemore, Highest Honors; Joseph T. Richardson, Highest Honors; Abby L. Stokes, Highest Honors; Wyatt C. Stokes, Honors; Molly B. Sturgis, High Honors; Lilian K. Taylor, Honors; Deja H. Williams, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn E. Williams, Highest Honors; Lexie G. Williams, Honors; Ashley H. Yarbrough, High Honors.

La Verna — Dalton R. Hilmer, High Honors; Laura E. Millsaps, Highest Honors; Tristan D. Ward, Highest Honors; Anna N. Woodall, Honors.

McKenzie — Madison G. Barker, High Honors; Emily A. Balm, Highest Honors; Mikayla E. Boucher, Highest Honors; Molly K. Boucher, Highest Honors; Olivia B. Bowden, High Honors; Lori Brown, Highest Honors; Nathan S. Brown, High Honors; Brian W. Cook, Honors; Leah B. Cox, Highest Honors; Pedro Flores Rodriguez, Honors; Angel R. Flores, High Honors; Madison B. Fuzzell, High Honors; Nikolás A. Heath, Highest Honors; Braxton D. Hobson, Honors; Hannah S. Hopkins, High Honors; Evan B. Jarrett, High Honors; Ashton D. Marr, Honors; Austin J. Maxwell, Honors; Jordyn P. Millsap, High Honors; Mitchell L. Moore, Highest Honors; Sydney G. Pate, Highest Honors; Logan C. Payne, Honors; Jessica L. Pence, Highest Honors; Maycie M. Rollins, High Honors; Zack D. Sadler, Honors; Hannah E. Singleton, Highest Honors; Morgan R. Spring, Highest Honors; Molley K. Tippett, Highest Honors; Braulio Vega, Highest Honors; Eduardo Vega, Highest Honors; Audrie N. Washburn, High Honors; Chloe J. Williams, Honors; Amber E. Wright, Honors; Grace A. Zheng, High Honors.

Trezvant — Lindsey L. Baker, High Honors; Caitlin B. Giles, High Honors.

Yuma — Harley E. Gossett, High Honors; Mikayla R. Peterson, Highest Honors; Kennedy A. Pritchard, Honors; Sophia J. Saclowski, Honors.

In addition, Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Carroll County include:

Bradford — Ginger A. Evans, Honors.

Camden — Steven E. McMackins, High Honors.

Chattanooga — Julie A. French, High Honors.

Dover — Joseph R. Barnes, Honors.

Lexington — Gracie L. Renfro, Honors.

Martin — Victoria M. Gallagher, Highest Honors; Dawson B. Greemela, High Honors; Rebecca L. Harrison, Honors; Seth A. House, High Honors; Lydia K. Jones, Highest Honors; Makenzie G. Matthews, Honors; Aurora B. McClellan, Highest Honors; Amanda J. Padilla, Highest Honors; Sydney M. Roney, Honors; Kaitlein B. Scott, Highest Honors.

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UT Martin names local students to fall semester chancellor’s honor roll

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

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Bradford — Lucas L. Cagle, High Honors; Bethany M. Eddings, Highest Honors; Ginger A. Evans, Honors; Nolan K. Johnson, Honors; Cheryl A. King, Highest Honors; Chloe R. Kirk, Honors; Lexie E. Knott, High Honors; Robert Mathis, High Honors; Jordan D. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Dylan C. Schaefer, Honors; Katrina M. Tyler, High Honors; Taylor L. Underwood, Honors; Mary E. Wollam, Highest Honors.

Dyer — McKinley H. Burkett, High Honors; Shelby N. Croom, Highest Honors; Ethan S. Goad, High Honors; Alex C. Jones, Highest Honors; Abbey G. Landrum, Highest Honors; Allie C. Landrum, Highest Honors; Ashton P. Lannom, Honors; Amy J. Lee, High Honors; Caitlyn H. Mayberry, High Honors; Macey B. Neal, High Honors; Terry L. Newsome, Highest Honors; Savanna P. Ramsey, Highest Honors; Jacob T. Siler, Highest Honors; Henry E. Todd, Highest Honors; Charles C. Williams, Highest Honors; Brandt G. Wright, Highest Honors.

Gibson — Amber R. Laroe-Schacher, Honors; Hope E. Newell, Highest Honors.

Humboldt — William P. Bain, Honors; Annie G. Bass, High Honors; Cannon O. Bauer, High Honors; Calista R. Beard, High Honors; Savannah K. Beaton, High Honors; Elizabeth Boucher, Highest Honors; Anna G. Brown, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn R. Burkett, Highest Honors; Loren A. Castellaw, Honors; Caitlyn M. DeHaan, Honors; Chia Pei Dreutzler, Highest Honors; Morgan F. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Meleah Gateley, Highest Honors; Reece E. Gibson, Highest Honors; Denise D. Handy, Highest Honors; Hannah E. Kent, High Honors; Thomas G. Lashlee, Honors; Daisey Martinez, Honors; Leah J. Miller, High Honors; Jamie L. Potts, Highest Honors; Danielle R. Price, Honors; Sophia D. Raines, High Honors; Destiny D. Regier, High Honors; Allison G. Smith, Honors; Mary K. Thompson, High Honors; Elizabeth A. Turner, Highest Honors.

Kenton — Julie B. Allen, Highest Honors; Cole E. Davis, High Honors; Hillary D. Eddlemon, High Honors; Anniekathlyn L. Hensley, High Honors; Alyssa B. Hopper, High Honors; Macy B. Little, Honors; Kaci L. Merrick, Honors; Andrea L. Penn, Highest Honors.

Medina — Joseph W. Austin, Honors; Trina R. Bobbit, Honors; Blake R. Bryant, Honors; Chloe G. Cates, Highest Honors; Kristen B. Dabbs, High Honors; Madison B. Faulkner, Honors; McKaylee R. Glass, Honors; David C. Hollis, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn M. Martin, Honors; Magdalena I. Martinez, High Honors; Michael D. McFarland, Highest Honors; Jason L. Mollett, Highest Honors; Tracie A. Mollett, Honors; Ethan B. Moore, Honors; Ashlyn E. Page, Honors; Keri A. Parrish, High Honors; Mackenzie G. Poore, High Honors; Levi J. Schlesinger, Honors; Kaily H. Thompson, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Wiles, Highest Honors; Hunter L. Williams, Highest Honors.

Milan — Hannah E. Acuff, Highest Honors; Brittney N. Autry, High Honors; Lori B. Bridges, Honors; Ariana M. Claro, Highest Honors; Madison C. Crocker, High Honors; Savanna L. Crane, Honors; Annette D. Diaz, Honors; Ella E. Fagin, Honors; Samuel B. Fagin, Highest Honors; Bailee R. Graves, High Honors; Kaitylyn A. Guard, Highest Honors; James E. Hattfield, High Honors; Michael J. Hinnant, Highest Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, Highest Honors; Kellon K. Johnson, Honors; Shellie R. Kosark, Highest Honors; Karsten L. Kyle, Highest Honors; Abigail M. Lewis, Highest Honors; Hannah L. McCaskill, Highest Honors; Aaliyah M. Mendez-Howard, Highest Honors; Stephanie R. Muntz, Honors; Cameron R. Patrick, Highest Honors; Langston C. Patrick, Highest Honors; Olivia J. Patrick, Highest Honors; Jonathan C. Prescott, Highest Honors; Kaylah R. Richards, Highest Honors; Tori B. Riggs, Highest Honors; Daniel J. Schaefer, High Honors; Hailey C. Seger, Highest Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Staley, Highest Honors; Jaxon D. Stringer, Highest Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, Highest Honors; Austin H. White, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Wilson, Highest Honors; Summer R. Wray, High Honors.

Rutherford — Madison P. Ellis, Highest Honors; Maxwell T. Harford, Honors; Daphne Z. LaGrone, Highest Honors; Ashlyn L. Penick, Honors.

Trenton — Emilie R. Anderson, Highest Honors; Hannah G. Ball, High Honors; Tyson I. Bartholomew, Highest Honors; Ryan D. Bateman, Highest Honors; Emelyn J. Bridges, High Honors; Desiree B. Brooks, Highest Honors; Morgan G. Campbell, Honors; Deanna R. Denton, High Honors; Emma L. Dudley, High Honors; Joanna C. Ferguson, Highest Honors; Magen B. Gargus, Highest Honors; Billy W. Gibson, High Honors; Caleb A. Greene, Honors; Allyson M. Ingram, Highest Honors; Eli J. King, High Honors; Jake H. Lewis, Highest Honors; Cade E. Milligan, Honors; Carl R. Nowell, Highest Honors; Caitlin P. Phillips, High Honors; Joshua A. Poole, Honors; Livia M. Pybas, High Honors; Dixie E. Reed, Honors; Martina A. Roznovsky, Highest Honors; Allison R. Skaggs, Highest Honors; Alyssa M. Welch, Highest Honors; Makayla N. Zelenka, Highest Honors.

Yorkville — Brennan T. Lownsdale, High Honors.
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UT Martin names...

(Continued from page 4)

R. Richards, Highest Honors; Toni B. Riggins, Highest Honors; Daniel J. Schaefer, High Honors; Hailey C. Sergerson, Highest Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Staley, Highest Honors; Jaxon D. Stringer, Highest Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, Highest Honors; Austin H. White, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Wilson, Highest Honors; Summer R. Wray, High Honors.

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Yorkville – Brennan T. Lownsdale, High Honors.

In addition, Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees with ties to Gibson County include:

- Crockett Mills – Logan W. Johnston, High Honors.
- Jackson – Grace N. Abbott, Highest Honors; Carlton Childs, Honors.
- Martin – Abigail B. Allen, Highest Honors; Anna G. Allen, High Honors; Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Nicole G. Ayers, Honors; Adeline C. Blanken, High Honors; Chandler H. Carey, Highest Honors; Zachary M. Case, High Honors; Cassidy L. Clyde, Honors; Holly K. Faulkner, Highest Honors; Kortnie D. Gottschalk, Honors; Hannah L. Hansbrough, High Honors; Caitlin M. Harris, Highest Honors; Josten B. Jones, High Honors; Leah B. Pybas, High Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, Highest Honors; James L. Wren, Honors.

THANK YOU GIFT – Kayley Tyner, Servpro director of sales and marketing, presents a thank you gift to Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Carver spoke at Servpro’s Beginning of Year Meeting about leadership, telling employees about his Aunt Sue and her four methods of leadership success that drove him to be the leader he is. Servpro meets every year to discuss the previous year and develop a plan for the new year. “It is an honor to work for a company that encourages its employees to work harder each year,” Tyner said. “They truly value us as employees, and it means a lot.”
A New Year With A New Resolution: UT Martin Students Enter the Semester Seeking Equality

By RETIAZHA CHAMBERS (PEOPLE/RETI AZHA-CHAMBERS)  •  JAN 13, 2021

After four months of demanding change, students at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) may be one step closer to their goal of creating a more diverse and inclusive education.

Just two months ago, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was set to vote on a resolution from the Black History Matters Coalition (https://www.instagram.com/utm_bhm/). The resolution's purpose was to include a requirement for the study of African American History within the UT Martin General Education curriculum. The resolution was not presented during the Nov.10 (https://www.wkms.org/post/ut-martin-faculty-senate-committee-set-vote-black-history-culture-course-resolution#stream/0) meeting, leaving students feeling unheard on campus.

Not even two weeks later, the Student Government Association (SGA) created a resolution to implement courses in diversity and inclusion to supplement general education requirements, not excluding gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and religion.

In response, the SGA conducted a survey for students on campus which asked various questions about the need for a required African American course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Government Association Survey</th>
<th>135 Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In regard to General Education courses for degree completion: Do you support a required African American History course?</td>
<td>Yes = 267, No = 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In regard to General Education courses for degree completion: Do you support an optional African American History course?</td>
<td>Yes = 619, No = 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In regard to General Education courses for degree completion: Would you support other required courses focused on diversity and inclusion?</td>
<td>Yes = 314, No = 392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In regard to General Education courses for degree completion: Would you support other optional courses focused on diversity and inclusion?</td>
<td>Yes = 617, No = 96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SGA President Hunter McCloud said in an interview with WKMS after reviewing the survey results, the tables turned. As many students voted in support of a required African American course, many also voted in support of other optional courses focused on diversity and inclusion across the board.
H. McCloud said after all the civil unrest of 2020, it's important to not forget those who are in the shadows.

"This was my biggest concern when creating the bill. There are several minorities on our campus of not only race but religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc. All of these students have a chance of feeling excluded and underrepresented. It is my thought that if we are here to fix one problem, but have the opportunity to fix several, it is best to take the steps necessary to help as many students as possible," he explained.

H. McCloud said he and the members of the SGA wanted to make sure those who may be a part of the LGBTQ+ community on campus were fully represented in this resolution.

"The resolution was so important to me because the thing I love most about UTM is the feeling of community. It has truly been a home away from home for my four years here. The fact that some on our campus do not have that same feeling hurts me. I want all Skyhawks on campus to feel safe and represented so we can all feel at home," he said.

H. McCloud said he wants students at UT Martin to know although the faculty and staff has been in full support of this bill, this process takes time. This bill may not be enforced in the curriculum until the academic year 2022-2023.

"An important thing to note through all of this is that change takes time. It will take time for the classes to be developed, it will take time for students to take them, and it will take time for the atmosphere to change. While I don't expect a large shift in the atmosphere on campus, I hope that students see the steps we are taking and feel some sort of relief knowing we care and are trying," he said.

Chief of Diversity and Inclusion Officer Mark McCloud said when he read the proposed bill from the SGA, he liked the idea of all students, regardless of race, being represented.

"I have to look at all of those issues. All the students whether it's race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, and all those different factors. When speaking with those students, I want to make sure that everyone is represented. Then we'll all get a deeper understanding of the issues everyone faces," he explained.

M. McCloud said he has spoken with the advisor and students of the LGBTQ+ community at UT Martin who have expressed their concerns about not being represented enough on campus.

"We have to move the needle forward in a way that is inclusive. I'm not saying we could not have a class for African American studies as a part of diversity, but if we only had that requirement, then what would our Latino students say and what would our LGBTQ students say? Or what would our students with disabilities say? How are they getting represented?"

As the semester begins, M. McCloud said the university will continue to do what is necessary in order to make all students on campus feel valuable and fully represented. He also plans to implement a bias training program for faculty and staff in the future.

"With our diversity plan, we're looking at all of these programs which are important to move the needle forward," he said. "A class alone is not going to change racism. A program alone is not going to change racism. A conversation alone is not going to change it. But all of us continuing to work together to implement lots of different things will definitely improve the process and make those changes we so desperately need."
UT MARTIN NAMES LOCAL STUDENTS TO FALL SEMESTER CHANCELLOR’S HONOR ROLL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 13, 2021

Contact: Nathan Morgan, University Relations, 731-881-7615

Editors: Below is a list of students who requested that your paper receive notification that they have been named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Each listing includes the student’s name, hometown and honors.

UT MARTIN NAMES LOCAL STUDENTS TO FALL SEMESTER CHANCELLOR’S HONOR ROLL

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

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

- Cape Girardeau – Miranda K. Metje, High Honors; Carson L. Stroup, High Honors.

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

THE CURRENT, JANUARY 13, 2021

UTM Chancellor’s Honor Roll includes local students

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

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Residents of South Fulton include Logan P. Brimm, Honors; Amelia F. Brown, Highest Honors; Hannah A. Brimm, High Honors; Makenzy G. Crawford, High Honors; Riley K. Davis, Highest Honors; Taylor J. Heathcock, High Honors; Audri A. Hill, Highest Honors; Madelyn N. Hogan, High Honors; Brandon S. Hutchinson, Highest Honors; Ryanne B. Kessel, Highest Honors; Ariabella E. Kinney, High Honors; Arianna M. Kinney, High Honors; Chandler B. Malray, High Honors; Slade C. Murray, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, Highest Honors; Abigail M. Potts, Highest Honors; Austin D. Puckett, High Honors; Kristin T. Roach, Highest Honors; Michaela L. St John, Highest Honors; Kelly A. Whitesell, Highest Honors; and Kenneth J. Williams, Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses.
Local students achieve academic honors

Numerous University of Tennessee at Martin undergraduate students from Henry County were recognized for academic accomplishment by making it to the school's Chancellor's Honor Roll for the fall 2020 semester.

Students become eligible for the honor roll by earning at least a 3.2 GPA while taking at least 12 hours of credit for the semester.

They can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49 GPA), high honors (3.5 through 3.79 GPA) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0 GPA).

The names of the students are listed with their honors, separated by their hometowns:

PARIS

BUCHANAN

COTTAGE GROVE
Highest honors: Chase D. Wyrick.
High honors: Adrienne E. Huestis, Kailey N. Schmidt.

HENRY
High honors: Jasmine L. Al-Ahmad, Graci B. Ellis, Aaron L. Macdonald, Abbey N. Prosser.

PURYEAR
Highest honors: Samantha J. Carpenter, Allison M. Evans.
High honors: Britian L. Hudson, Justin L. McElroy.
Honors: Kesley L. Grooms.

SPRINGVILLE
Highest honors: Joshua R. Eaton.
High honors: Matthew J. Nanney.

Others with ties to Henry County include:
Highest honors: Julie T. Shankle, Gleason; Alysha R. Bevill, Martin; Lon H. Sowell, Martin.
High honors: Anderson L. Taylor, Martin; Kenzie G. Williams, Martin.
Honors: Logan C. Payne, McKenzie; DaeShuana M. Aldridge, Martin.

LOCAL STUDENT GRADUATES COLLEGE
Isabella Lowrance, a Paris native, graduated from Carson-Newman University on Dec. 11, earning an associate's degree in general studies.
Carson-Newman is a Christian liberal arts school based in Jefferson City.

https://www.kpcnews.com/

Maslin earns Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition

Jan 14, 2021

MARTIN, Tenn. — Katriana Maslin of Garrett has received Highest Honors recognition on the Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale.

Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49 GPA), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

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.
Tennessee universities honor fall students

Three of Tennessee’s universities have published data about the academic performance of undergraduate students during the 2020 fall semester. UT Knoxville, Tennessee Tech, and UT Martin all have named students from Benton County and surrounding communities whose strong grades earned recognition for the fall.

UT KNOXVILLE DEAN’S LIST
Four students from the Benton County area have been named to the UT Knoxville Dean’s List for the fall. William Cagle and Rachel Wiser, both of New Johnsonville, were recognized at the Summa Cum Laude level (GPA of 3.8-4.0). Tyler D. Thompson, of Eva, and Myah D. Webb, of Camden, both were recognized at the Cum Laude level (GPA of 3.5-3.64).

TENNESSEE TECH DEAN’S LIST
Nine area students were named to the fall Dean’s List by Tennessee Tech University. From Benton County, Rachel Baker, Christopher Buchanan, Leah Husson, and Tanner Johnson all earned this honor. From New Johnsonville, Easton Cash, Makayla Logan, Dalton Mirabelle, Kyle Plant, and William Rudolph made the Dean’s List.

UTM HONOR ROLL
UTM recognized the outstanding academic work of many undergraduate students from the Benton County area by naming these students to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll. To be eligible for the honor roll at UTM, students must take at least 12 hours and achieve a 3.2 (B) GPA. Students can earn honors (GPA of 3.2-3.49), high honors (3.5-3.79) or highest honors (3.8-4.0).

Below are lists of UTM students from this area who were named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll for the fall 2020 semester.


Highest Honors: Haley Mathews, Hannah Morgan, and Hannah Nichols.


NEW JOHNSONVILLE High Honors: Alexis Gardner, Katelyn Proper, Benjamin Spencer, Marlene Upchurch, and Keelen Yates. Highest Honors: Campbell Spencer, Mary Trull, and Jacob Walker.

OTHER AREAS Honors: Sydney Bittikofier (Erin). High Honors: Megan Bowden (Martin) and Matthew Nanney (Springville). Highest Honors: Bentley Cunningham (Martin), Joshua Eaton (Springville), and Olivia Frazee (Martin).

UTM begins 2021 spring semester with all-virtual classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin opened its spring semester on Jan. 14 with all-virtual classes. This is the original spring semester start date for the main campus and five satellite locations in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville.

The initial all-virtual format will allow monitoring for a potential post-holiday COVID-19 surge. Virtual classes will continue through January, and the university will continue to monitor conditions. Recommendations from the Tennessee Department of Health and the CDC will guide future class-format decisions.

Residence halls opened Jan. 8, but students who plan to live on campus this spring semester were encouraged to wait closer to Jan. 14 to return. The UTM Office of Housing communicated directly with students by email about move-in instructions. The university encouraged a COVID-19 test for returning students 48 hours before moving into residence halls, or a test within 3-5 days after moving back to campus.

Food services resumed Jan. 14, and all university safety measures for spring semester will follow CDC guidelines, including required wearing of masks by all who are on any UTM campus or center, enhanced cleaning procedures, and campus visitation restrictions. Social activities will be limited initially and must be approved by the Office of Student Affairs.

Additional spring semester information is available by calling the UTM Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012. Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
UT-M To Open Virtual Classes

The University of Tennessee at Martin will open spring semester January 14th with all-virtual classes. This is the original spring semester start date for the main campus and five centers located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville. The initial all-virtual format will allow monitoring for a potential post-holiday COVID-19 surge. Virtual classes will continue through January 21st, and the university will continue to monitor conditions.

Recommendations from the Tennessee Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will guide related class-format decisions.

Residence halls will open January 8th, but students who are living on campus spring semester are encouraged to wait closer to January 14th to return.

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Food services will resume January 14th, and all university safety measures for spring semester will follow CDC guidelines, including required wearing of masks by all who are on the main campus or at the five centers, enhanced cleaning procedures and campus visitation restrictions.

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Additional spring semester information is available by calling the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012. Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
Bedford County residents earn academic honors

Saturday, January 16, 2021

**Taylor Overcast** of Shelbyville was one of 412 students named to the fall semester dean's list at Union University in Jackson. The Dean's List includes full-time students who achieve a 3.5 grade point average on a four-point scale. About 3,000 students are currently enrolled at Union.

**Bailey Ledbetter** of Shelbyville has been named to the fall dean's list-honor roll at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin. In order to be awarded both recognitions, students must have accumulated a minimum of 18 overall collegiate-level hours and complete a minimum of 12 collegiate-level hours with at least a 3.750 GPA during the awarding term.

The University of Tennessee at Martin has released its fall honor rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition, a Martin student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

- **Bell Buckle** – **Jennie K. Conley**, High Honors.
Local student named to UT Martin Chancellor’s Honor Roll

Special to the Ledger
Jan 19, 2021

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

Maggie Waldrop of Murray has achieved the highest honors award. To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade-point-average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the honor roll with honors 3.2 through 3.49, high honors (3.5 through 3.79) and highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Honor roll: Tessa S. Baumann earns honor at University of Tennessee at Martin

Jan 19, 2021

Tessa S. Baumann of Ellensburg was named to the University of Tennessee at Martin honor roll for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts for fall 2020.
Clark Family donation benefits new beef cattle research facility

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a $150,000 pledge from John Clark, a 1975 UT Martin alumnus and the interim director of the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, and his wife, Janie, to support the new beef cattle research facility. The state-of-the-art beef cattle research facility will be the first of its kind in Tennessee and will provide hands-on teaching experiences for students preparing for careers in agriculture, animal reproduction, nutrition, genetics and health. Located on 80 acres of the UT Martin Teaching Farm Complex, the facility will house a classroom, a laboratory, a large covered barn with a complete cattle working system and a meats lab to provide enhanced teaching resources and research opportunities.

"The facility will support our animal science, veterinary science and technology programs from a teaching standpoint, providing another classroom at the farm for these growing programs, as well as a much-needed teaching lab for laboratories associated with nutrition and reproduction," said Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. "Artificial insemination classes, heifer development programs (and) beef cattle quality assurance certification..."
Clarks... (Continued from Page 1)

The beef cattle research facility will also be used by the Weakley County Schools' agricultural program to provide hands-on learning opportunities for high school students. The Clarks value the university's dedication to providing a high-quality education in agriculture and wanted to support the future generations of Skyhawks who will learn in the beef cattle research facility.

John and Janie have lived on his family's farm, Silver Gate Farms located in the New Salem community between Dresden and Sharon, since 1976. The farm was originally purchased in 1849 by John's ancestors and has predominantly produced row crops and beef cattle since its inception. As the farm has grown through each generation, John and Janie have expanded the operation to include Clark Cattle Company, which they now run with their son, Codie.

"I am very familiar with UT Martin, and throughout my 40-year banking career, we were able to live on our family's farm. Beef cattle have been in that farm's history ever since it became a farm," John explained. "UT Martin is a quality institution, and it's a good resource for our area. I just wanted to support it in ways that made sense for us."

The donation is given in honor of John's grandparents, Carman and Ruth Speight, his parents, J.C. Clark and Frances Speight Clark, as well as the eight generations of John and Jane Clark's family, including his three children, who have resided on Silver Gates Farms. Frances celebrated her 100th birthday on the farm last November.

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1973 from UT Knoxville, where his parents J.C. and Frances met, John returned home to northwest Tennessee to complete his master's degree from UT Martin in 1975. He worked in the banking industry for 40 years before retiring, during which he successfully established a one-bank holding company, Sharon Bancshares, that grew to include four banks: The Bank of Sharon, City State Bank, Weakley County Bank and First State Bank. John and Jane met in Knoxville, were married in 1974 and are thankful for the University of Tennessee bringing their families together.

Since funds for the beef cattle research facility are still being raised, the building's blueprints are not yet finalized.

For more information about the beef cattle research facility, contact Jeanna Curtis-Swafford, associate vice chancellor for development, at 731-881-7629.
UT MARTIN NAMES LOCAL STUDENTS TO FALL SEMESTER CHANCELLOR’S HONOR ROLL.

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DRESDEN — Journey L. Adkins, Honors; Sarah E. Allford, Honors; Katherine E. Arnold, Highest Honors; Jordan A. Bell, High Honors; Tyler R. Branscum, High Honors; Braden L. Cooper, High Honors; Kaleb J. Dilday, Honors; Grace E. Finch, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Grant, Highest Honors; Jaden N. Harris, Honors; Kassidy L. Harris, Honors; Callen L. Killebrew, Honors; Jacqueline E. Laycock, High Honors; Shannon M. Merrell, High Honors; Dena D. Morris, High Honors; Julie A. Mosley, Highest Honors; Hayden B. Nanney, High Honors;

Hudson L. Nanney, Honors; Alexandra N. Nichols, Honors; Kirsti S. Nordstrom, Highest Honors; Diana B. Parker, High Honors; Katherine G. Rea, Honors; Olivia D. Reagan, Highest Honors; Kinzi M. Reid, Highest Honors; Madison E. Rigs, Highest Honors; Emily A. Rogers, High Honors; Brooklyn H. Snider, Highest Honors; Tristan P. Trevathan, Highest Honors; Collin A. Williams, Honors; Jasmine A. Williams, Highest Honors; Joshua T. Williams, Highest Honors; Tinley L. Winn, High Honors; Collin L. Winstead, Highest Honors; Freddie L. Winstead, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. Workman, Highest Honors; Bradley A. Young, Honors.

Dukedom — Garrett L. Roberts, Highest Honors.

Gleason — Seth W. Bowers, High Honors; Cameron B. Harrison, Honors; Michael W. Hicks, Honors; Heidi E. James, High Honors; Heath A. Keeling, Honors; Dekota J. Lampaun, Honors; Marissa A. Laws, High Honors; Chloe E. Martin, High Honors; Wade W. Moran, Highest Honors; Daniel S. Morris, Honors; William M. Morris, Honors; Katarina E. Pumphrey, Highest Honors; Natalia M. Pumphrey, Highest Honors; Julie T. Shankle, Highest Honors; Allyson K. Spain, Highest Honors;

Braxton S. Vickers, Honors; Hannah E. Whitworth, Honors.

Greenfield — Sarah S. Brown, Highest Honors; Andrew J. Capps, Highest Honors; Brett M. Capps, High Honors; Peyton B. Cooper, High Honors; Levi A. Does, Honors; Layla E. Doyle, High Honors; Abby L. Eubank, Highest Honors; Colton N. Freeman, Honors; Macy C. Garner, Honors; Bailey A. Gordon, Highest Honors; Bentley G. Gordon, Highest Honors; William J. Harrison, Highest Honors; Lydia K. Hazlewood, Highest Honors; Dylan P. Holt, High Honors; Amber M. Hoshkinson, High Honors; Anna G. Huggins, Honors; Courtney E. Hutchison, Honors; Casey R. Langley, Highest Honors; Sara S. Lewis, Highest Honors; Makayla C. Little, Highest Honors; James H. Northcutt, Highest Honors; Maya L. Rush, High Honors; Bryan P. Rogers, Highest Honors; Mattilyn J. Sellers, Highest Honors; Jamion S. Shelton, Honors; Hanna D. Shull, Highest Honors; Lukas A. Skinner, Honors; Bailey R. Smith, Highest Honors; Mandolyn J. Southland, Honors; Jerry A. Todd, Highest Honors; Taylor B. Totty, Honors; Hannah E. Trimble, Highest Honors; Carly A. Williamson, High Honors.

Martin — Jacob A. Abdulla, High Honors; Allice Adams, High Honors; Luke H. Adams, High Honors; Joseph M. Adcock, Highest Honors; Sina C. Albersmeier, Highest Honors; DaeShuana M. Aldridge, Honors; Toqa Alhassawi, High Honors; Abigail A. Allen, Highest Honors; Anna G. Allen, High Honors; Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Rosalinda M. Alvarado, High Honors; Madison D. Anderson, Highest Honors; Mason B. Arant, Honors; Robyn P. Armats, Honors; Baylee L. Arnott, Highest Honors; Ronald A. Arredondo, Honors; Nicole G. Ayers, Honors; Heather L. Baggett, Highest Honors; Allie Baker, High Honors; Garrett E. Baker, Honors; Mason B. Baker, Highest Honors; Megan E. Bailey, Highest Honors; Anna D. Barnes, Highest Honors; Buskin R. Barnes, Highest Honors; Sidney A. Barmhill, Honors; Jacob R. Bates, Honors; Tessa S. Baumann, High Honors; Hendrikje Baumann, Highest Honors; Alexiss K. Beam, Honors; Andrew E. Bell, Honors; Ali E. Beverly, Honors; Lauren B. Beverly, Highest Honors; Alysha R. Bevill, Highest Honors; Alyssa M. Black, Highest Honors; Avery D. Blanchard, Highest Honors; Adeline C. Blanken, High Honors; Anthony W. Blaylock, High Honors; Olivia G. Bolton, Honors; Ashley E. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Megan E. Bowden, High Honors; Taylor C. Bowles, High Honors; Guy E. Brawley, High Honors; Parker L. Brogdon, Highest Honors; Kayla S. Brooks, Highest Honors; Kayley E. Brooks, Highest Honors; Boone L. Brown, Highest Honors; Judah C.
Brown, Highest Honors; Annalise H. Bruer, Highest Honors; Jonathan D. Bryant, Highest Honors; Hunter C. Burton, Highest Honors; Amand a K. Camp, Highest Honors; Amelia R. Campbell, Highest Honors; Allie M. Cantrell, Highest Honors; Daniel A. Capua, High Honors; Katherine N. Capua, Honors; Chandler H. Carey, Highest Honors; Nicholas C. Carpenter, High Honors; Kyle R. Carter, Highest Honors; Lauren P. Carter, High Honors; Taylor S. Carter, High Honors; Olivia G. Casada, High Honors; Zachary M. Case, High Honors; Christina B. Chamberlain, High Honors; Virginia K. Chej, Honors; Kelly R. Childress, High Honors; Samantha I. Clayton, Highest Honors; Micah J. Climer, High Honors; Cassidy L. Cloyd, Honors; Abby M. Covington, Highest Honors; Baylee G. Covington, High Honors; Divinity N. Cunigan, Honors; Bentley R. Cunningham, Highest Honors; Abigail N. Davis, High Honors; Joshua F. Davis, Highest Honors; Tiffany J. Decker, Honors; Allyson M. DeNote, High Honors; Daphne B. De Oliveira Pratt, Honors; Alyssa L. Dunc an, High Honors; Cellie D. Dunlap, Highest Honors; James T. Earls, Highest Honors; Tanner Elliott, Highest Honors; Georgia E. Emmons, Highest Honors; Mary L. Emmons, Highest Honors; Holly K. Faulkner, Highest Honors; David J. Fieser, Honors; Kelly Fieser, Highest Honors; Emily K. Fisher, High Honors; Gregory W. Forrester, High Honors; Rachel M. Forrester, Honors; Peyton N. Fosse, Highest Honors; Carly J. Fowler, Highest Honors; Olivia G. Frazee, Highest Honors; Victoria M. Galloway, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Ganseritt, High Honors; Brandy L. Gaul, Honors; Jonathan D. Gonowski, High Honors; Kortnie D. Gottschalk, Honors; Alexis B. Grandys, Honors; Hope E. Gray, Honors; Dawson B. Gremmel, High Honors; Braxton R. Gunter, Honors; Marshall B. Hammill, High Honors; Grace E. Hamrick, Highest Honors; Hannah L. Hanksbrough, High Honors; Caitlin M. Harris, Highest Honors; Kinleigh D. Harris, Honors; Rebecca L. Harrison, Honors; Holley D. Harstine, Highest Honors; Kaitlynn C. Hays, Honors; Amanda B. Headdon, Highest Honors; Leann T. Hentsley, Highest Honors; Hanna J. Hopper, Highest Honors; Seth A. House, High Honors; Terry J. Howell, Honors; Jennifer R. Huestis, Highest Honors; Hailee M. Huffsteter, Honors; Dylan C. Hughey, Highest Honors; McKenzie K. Hurst, Highest Honors; Cory W. Hussey, High Honors; Dylan G. Ingram, Highest Honors; Isaac H. Ivy, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn D. Jamerson, High Honors; Ally J. James, High Honors; Samantha M. Jarvis, High Honors; Emily M. Jeffers, High Honors; Tom E. Jehnzen, High Honors; Tasharea K. Johnson, Honors; Asa C. Jones, High Honors; Josten B. Jones, High Honors; Lydia K. Jones, Highest Honors; Malek O. Jones, Honors; Mary D. Jones, Honors; Emma G. Kelly, Honors; Victor K. Kemboi, High Honors; Kaylee M. Kemp, High Honors; John I. Kennedy, Honors; Elizabeth A. Keylon, High Honors; Jonathan D. Kirkland, Highest Honors; Bailey N. Knous, Highest Honors; Kelsea G. Koonce, High Honors; Grant W. Larcom, Highest Honors; Hannah M. Laster, Highest Honors; Kiarnie M. Latham, Highest Honors; Lily Little, Honors; Taylor L. Larson, Honors; Lydia A. Lee, Highest Honors; Clayton D. Lockhart, Honors; Michael J. Long, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Lyon, Highest Honors; Cecelia D. Mack, High Honors; Matthew R. Manocci, Highest Honors; Robert T. Martin, Honors; David A. Mason, Honors; McKenzie G. Matthews, Honors; Ashton M.McCage, Honors; Auria B. McClerking, Highest Honors; Blaine E. McDonald, Highest Honors; Andrew B. McGrathy, High Honors; Sophia C. McMinn, High Honors; Meredith N. Meadows, Honors; Robert J. Mehnhorn, High Honors; Kaylee E. Michon, Highest Honors; Alexis V. Millicaps, High Honors; Emily T. Mitchell, Honors; Lillian R. Moore, High Honors; Anthony K. Murray, High Honors; Justin M. Nelson, High Honors; Phuong H. Nguyen, Highest Honors; Alec R. Norris, Honors; Olsin J. O’Gallin, Highest Honors; Ariadna Ondo Cerezo, High Honors; Levi J. Owens, Honors; Amanda J. Padilla, Highest Honors; Ethan J. Parham, Highest Honors; Marissa P. Parks, Highest Honors; Joseph F. Pelton, High Honors; Evan B. Pendergrass, Honors; Keaton N. Penick, High Honors; Kendal M. Penick, High Honors; Abigale L. Plunk, Highest Honors; Jordin L. Pritchard, Honors; Pamela A. Pryor, Honors; Leah B. Pybas, High Honors; Bailey R. Radlnitzer, Highest Honors; Emily K. Ray, Highest Honors; Jason P. Repath, Highest Honors; Ivy O. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Heather T. Rhodes, Honors; Christopher L. Richardson, Honors; Stephen A. Richardson, High Honors; Tristan J. Riley, High Honors; Mindy A. Roberts, High Honors; Kyle W. Rolland, High Honors; Sydney M. Roney, Honors; Marisa A. Rubio, Honors; Heather S. Ruff, High Honors; Destiny R. Runions, Highest Honors; Jamie L. Rys, High Honors; Mizuki Sakurai, Highest Honors; Taylor D. Sanders, High Honors; Caroline M. Schuster, High Honors; Kaitiin B. Scott, Highest Honors; Violet R. Scott, Highest Honors; Hailey M. Seguna, Honors; Evan
C. Sherman, Highest Honors; Jacob T. Sisk, Highest Honors; Caleigh S. Smith, Highest Honors; Chloe M. Smotherman, Highest Honors; Lon H. Sowell, Highest Honors; Lindsay D. Sparks, Honors; Hattie C. Spencer, Highest Honors; William H. Sowell, Highest Honors; Lindsy D. Sparks, Honors; Hattie C. Spencer, Highest Honors; William H. Spencer, Highest Honors; Casey F. Stanfill, High Honors; Skylar M. Stewart, High Honors; Tamara L. Stewart, High Honors; Tessa R. Stout, Honors; Jule Streif, Highest Honors; Jasmine Strickland, High Honors; William T. Sutter, High Honors; Madison R. Summers, Honors; Shaynee L. Syler, High Honors; Kento Tada, Honors; Anderson L. Taylor, High Honors; Alejandro G. Tejeda, High Honors; Enrique G. Tejeda, Highest Honors; Isabelle M. Thibault, Highest Honors; Bradley J. Thomas, Highest Honors; Damon C. Thurman, High Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, Highest Honors; Gavin L. Vance, High Honors; Caitlin E. Vincent, High Honors; Madison E. Vincent, Highest Honors; Zackary C. Wagenmaker, Honors; Aaron C. Washington, High Honors; Ainsley C. Watt, Highest Honors; Aliya S. Weaver, Highest Honors; Christopher D. Webb, Highest Honors; Natalie E. Weldenbach, Highest Honors; Summer E. Weldon, Highest Honors; Elizabeth C. Wentzell, High Honors; Brian T. White, Honors; Mary H. Whitley, Highest Honors; Bryonna R. Wilgus, Honors; Kenzie G. Williams, High Honors; Caleb D. Williamson, Highest Honors; Nicholas D. Williamson, High Honors; Nathan F. Willis, High Honors; Luke A. Winters, Highest Honors; Angela L. Wise, High Honors; Kari E. Woods, High Honors; Erik S. Worley, Honors; James L. Wren, Honors; Matthew C. Wright, High Honors; Wenwen Xu, Highest Honors; Christian R. Young, High Honors; Allison T. Zieminski, Highest Honors; Enrico Zoboli, High Honors; Palermville — Ashley R. Bell, Honors; Noah Y. Copeland, High Honors; Carson R. Johnson, Honors; Danielle N. Leo, Honors; Sharon — Hannah M. Avery, Honors; Hunter W. Avery, High Honors; Aubrie E. Croom, High Honors; Madison B. Croom, High Honors; Kristen K. Crossno, High Honors; Keith L. Evans, High Honors; Jared C. Freeman, Honors; Jenna C. Freeman, Highest Honors; Demi J. Lackey, Honors; Rizpah A. Melton, Highest Honors; Kinlee D. Moore, Highest Honors; James G. Nail, High Honors; Rex T. Roberts, High Honors; Alex N. Sadler, High Honors; Dakota R. Sanford, High Honors; Wesley R. Sawyers, High Honors; Andrew D. Stacks, High Honors; River B. Stoltz, High Honors; Tucker N. Turner, Highest Honors.
Clark family donation benefits new Beef Cattle Research Facility

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a $150,000 pledge by John Clark, a 1975 UT Martin alumnus and the interim director of the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, and his wife, Janie, to support the new Beef Cattle Research Facility.

The state-of-the-art Beef Cattle Research Facility will be the first of its kind in Tennessee and will provide hands-on teaching experiences for students preparing for careers in agriculture, animal reproduction, nutrition, genetics and health. Located on 80 acres of the UT Martin Teaching Farm Complex, the facility will house a classroom, laboratory, a large, covered barn with a complete cattle working system and a meats lab to provide enhanced teaching resources and research opportunities.

“The facility will support our animal science and veterinary science and technology programs from a teaching standpoint, providing another classroom at the farm for these growing programs, as well as a much-needed teaching lab for laboratories associated with nutrition and reproduction,” said Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

“Artificial insemination classes, heifer development programs (and) beef cattle quality assurance certifications are some of the proposed outreach uses, supporting and having a positive economic impact on the beef cattle industry in West Tennessee.”

The Beef Cattle Research facility will also be used by the Weakley County Schools’ agricultural program to provide hands-on learning opportunities for high school students.

The Clarks value the university’s dedication to providing a high-quality education in agriculture and wanted to support the future generations of Skyhawks who will learn in the Beef Cattle Research Facility.

John and Janie have lived on his family’s farm, Silver Gate Farms located in the New Salem community between Dresden and Sharon, since 1976. The farm was originally purchased in 1849 by John’s ancestors and has predominantly produced row crops and beef cattle since its inception.

As the farm has grown through each generation, John and Janie have expanded the operation to include Clark Cattle Company, which they now run with their son Codie.

“I am very familiar with UTM, and throughout my 40-year banking career, we were able to live on our family’s farm. Beef cattle have been in that farm’s history ever since it became a farm...,” John explained.

“UT Martin is a quality institution, and it’s a good resource for our area. I just wanted to support it in ways that made sense for us.”

The donation is given in honor of John’s grandparents, Carman and Ruth Speight, his parents, J.C. Clark and Frances Speight Clark, as well as the eight generations of John and Jane Clark’s family, including his three children, who have resided on Silver Gates Farms. Frances celebrated her 100th birthday on the farm last November.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in 1973 from UT Knoxville, where his parents J.C. and Frances met, John returned home to northwest Tennessee to complete his master’s degree from UT Martin in 1975. He worked in the banking industry for 40 years before retiring, during which he successfully established a one-bank holding company, Sharon Bancshares, that grew to include four banks: The Bank of Sharon, City State Bank, Weakley County Bank and First State Bank. John and Jane met in Knoxville, were married in 1974 and are thankful for the University of Tennessee bringing their families together.

Since funds for the Beef Cattle Research Facility are still being raised, the building’s blueprints are not yet finalized.

For more information about the Beef Cattle Research Facility, contact Jeanna Curtis-Swafford, associate vice chancellor for development, at (731) 881-7629.
SUPPORT UTM — John and Janie Clark, surrounded by family at their home on Silver Gate Farms, recently pledged $150,000 to University of Tennessee at Martin Beef Cattle Research Facility. Family members include (seated from left) John Clark, Frances Speight Clark, Janie Clark, Mason Clark, (standing) Leanna Clark, Emersyn Clark and Codie Clark.
OC students recognized for achievement at UTM

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin — including a number from Obion County — have been honored with publication of the fall Chancellor's Honor Rolls.

The honorees are students in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; College of Business and Global Affairs; College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences; College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; or the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

The Obion County honorees are:

Rives — Dylan M. Armstrong, high honors; Hannah L. Blakely, highest honors; Carson H. Cary, honors; Kathryn G. Crockett, highest honors; Alexis L. Johnson, high honors; Derrick A. Morris, high honors; Wesley P. Sisco, highest honors; Casidy C. Tidwell, honors; Bailey B. Wisener, high honors; and Claire E. Wisener, high honors.

Samburg — Hunter M. Burress, highest honors.

South Fulton — Logan P. Brimm, honors; Amelia F. Brown, highest honors; Hannah G. Carlisle, highest honors; Makenzy G. Crawford, high honors; Riley K. Davis, highest honors; Taylor J. Heathcock, high honors; Audri A. Hill, highest honors; Madelyn N. Hogan, high honors; Brandon S. Housh, highest honors; Arielle A. Kinney, high honors; Arianna K. Kinney, high honors; Chandler B. Malvar, high honors; Slade C. Murray, highest honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, highest honors; Abigail M. Potts, highest honors; Austin D. Puckett, high honors; Kristen T. Roach, highest honors; Michaela L. St. John, highest honors; Kelly A. Whitesell, highest honors; and Kennedy J. Williams, honors.

Troy — Morgan L. Armstrong, highest honors; Bailey B. Basham, highest honors; Abigail G. Cunningham, high honors; Michael D. Hogg, high honors; Carson L. Hutchison, highest honors; Jaye B. Jennings, highest honors; Camille V. Kendall, high honors; Sara J. Kendall, honors; John D. Kersey, highest honors; Cecilee A. Morris, highest honors; Mikayla R. Shupp, highest honors; Eric S. Stromblad, honors; and Madeline A. Sydnor, high honors.

Union City — Audrey M. Adams, highest honors; Austin C. Atwill, highest honors; Jacob D. Ball, honors; Rebecca J. Beachum, high honors; Benjamin H. Beard, highest honors; Brandon W. Beard, highest honors; Levi H. Beard, highest honors; Sloan M. Bearden, high honors; Dariona A. Bishop, highest honors; Cassidy E. Brunette, highest honors; Ronda A. Brewer, highest honors; Abby C. Bruff, honors; Taylor-Rae F. Brundige, highest honors; Kayla D. Bryant, high honors; Morgan W. Burton, highest honors; Claire M. Coleman, honors; Britney A. Contreras, high honors; Kaylee M. Cook, highest honors; Jordan L. Copeland, high honors; Kera J. Corum, highest honors; Will T. Crawford, high honors; Rachel M. Cruse, highest honors; Olivia G. Davis, highest honors; Jennifer L. Del-Castillo, honors; Elizabeth J. Driver, highest honors; Aaron J. Dyer, highest honors; Macy S. Earley, highest honors; Andrew M. Easley, honors; Carington P. Fasolo, highest honors; Jakayla M. Fisk, high honors; Hannah R. Flatt, high honors; Hannah X. Fulkwright, honors; Jack S. Garrett, highest honors; Maria A. Gonzalez, high honors; Reagan M. Griffin, high honors; Monserrat Guerrero, honors; Clayton J. Hagan, highest honors; Madison L. Hicks, highest honors; Elizabeth C. Huggins, honors; Lauren A. Hurst, honors; Donna L. Jackson-Graves, high honors; Davis B. Johnson, high honors; Justyn I. Johnson, honors; Aliya E. Jowers, high honors; Cruz M. Kepner, honors; Arturo Lopez, high honors; Kendraya C. Maddox, honors; Megan V. Massey, highest honors; Thomas P. Mathis, honors; Alaynca S. McCoy, honors; Guadalupe Mejia, high honors; Clayton M. Mize, honors; Shelby N. Mosley, honors; Jordan P. Murdock, highest honors; Audrey M. Myers, highest honors; Abbie N. Niemeyer, high honors; Refugio Palacios, highest honors; Caleb T. Parker, honors; Karolyn L. Parker, honors; Lane S. Partin, honors; Erica S. Phipps, high honors; Christopher G. Pickering, high honors; Madison S. Pitt, highest honors; Tucker M. Pounds, highest honors; John A. Rico, high honors; Jacob R. Roberts, high honors; Hillary R. Rousseau, highest honors; Santiago A. Ruiz, high honors; Matthew A. Ryder, high honors; Samantha M. Schelander, highest honors; Kelly D. Simmons, highest honors; Jenna M. Smith, honors; Reilly J. Stanford, highest honors; Jason M. Stone, highest honors; Emily B. Taylor, highest honors; Conner B. Terry, high honors; Makai B. Thompson, honors; Edmond A. Valentine, highest honors; Jacob T. Wheelis, high honors; Olivia R. Williams, honors; Nolan G. Wilson, honors; Jalaene A. Woods, honors; Brett R. Woodward, honors; Jared C. Woodward, high honors; and Jasmine M. Youngblood, highest honors.

In addition, the most recent Chancellor's Honor Roll honorees who have a connection to Obion County include:

Martin — Heather L. Baggett, highest honors; Anna D. Barnes, highest honors; Alyssa M. Black, highest honors; Taylor C. Bowlin, high honors; Annalise H. Brumbaugh, highest honors; Hunter C. Burton, highest honors; John I. Kennedy, honors; Grant W. Larcom, highest honors; Lillian R. Moore, high honors; Jasmine Strickland, honors; William T. Suiter, high honors; and Bryonna R. Wilgus, honors.

Milan — Hailey C. Sergerson, highest honors; Portland — Courtney R. Heuck, high honors; Rutherford — Madison P. Ellis, highest honors.
Clark Family Donation Benefits Research Facility at UTM

BY SARAH KNAPP
UTM University Relations

MARTIN (January 14) — The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a $150,000 pledge by John Clark, a 1975 UT Martin alumnus and the interim director of the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, and his wife, Janie, to support the new Beef Cattle Research Facility.

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“The facility will support our animal science and veterinary science and technology programs from a teaching standpoint, providing another classroom at the farm for these growing programs, as well as a much-needed teaching lab for laboratories associated with

See Clark on Page 3

The Clark family is featured in between Dresden and Sharon. Janie Clark and Mason Clark are standing seated are (L to R) John Clark, Frances Speight Clark, Codie Clark, Emersyn Clark and Codie Clark.

Our home on Silver Gate Farms in the New Salem community are Silver Gate Farms in the New Salem community.
Clark

...From Front Page

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Frances celebrated her 100th birthday on the farm last November.

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Since funds for the Beef Cattle Research Facility are still being raised, the building’s blueprints are not yet finalized.

For more information about the Beef Cattle Research Facility, contact Jeanna Curtis-Swafford, associate vice chancellor for development, at 731-881-7829.

UTM Fine Arts Gallery Features Abstract Exhibit

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host an abstract art exhibit titled, “Blind Runner,” by Melissa Dunn now through February 19.

Dunn is a Memphis-based artist who teaches adult art courses at Flicker Street Studio and volunteers at the Carpenter Art Garden afterschool art program. Dunn was recently awarded a public art commission by the Urban Art Commission, as well as a residency at Crosstown Arts in Memphis.

The exhibit will be open to the public from 1-5 p.m., Monday – Friday, and all guests are required to wear masks. For more information, contact Lane Last, professor of art, at 731-881-7400.
Dresden Enterprise • Dresden, Tenn. • Wednesday, January 20, 2021

UT Martin Names Local Students to Fall 2020 Chancellor’s Honor Roll

MARTIN (January 8) — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2020 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls.

Dresden - Journey L. Adkins, Honors; Sarah E. Alford, Honors; Katherine E. Arnold, Highest Honors; Jordan A. Bell, High Honors; Tyler R. Branscum, High Honors; Braden L. Cooper, High Honors; Kaleb J. Culter, Honors; Grace V. Finch, Highest Honors; Jennifer L. Grant, Highest Honors; Jaden N. Harris, Honors; Kassidy L. Harris, Honors; Callen L. Killebrew, Honors; Jacqulyn E. Laycock, High Honors; Shannon M. Marrell, High Honors; Dena D. Morris, High Honors; Julie A. Morley, Highest Honors; Hayden B. Nanney, High Honors; Hudson L. Nanney, Honors; Alexa Lisa N. Nichols, Honors; Kirstin S. Nordstrom, Highest Honors; Diana B. Parker, High Honors; Katherine G. Rea, Honors; Olivia D. Reagan, Highest Honors; Kimzi M. Reid, Highest Honors; Madison E. Rigs, Highest Honors; Emily M. Rogers, High Honors; Brooklyn H. Sauter, Highest Honors; Tristan P. Trevathan, Highest Honors; Collin A. Williams, Honors; Jasmine A. Williams, Honors; Joshua T. Williams, Highest Honors; Tinley L. Winn, High Honors; Collin L. Winstead, Highest Honors; Freddie L. Winstead, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. Workman, Highest Honors; Bradley A. Young, Honors.


Gleason - Seth W. Bowers, High Honors; Cameron B. Harrison, Honors; Michael W. Hicks, Honors; Heidi E. James, High Honors; Heath A. Keeling, Honors; Dekota J. Lampkins, Honors; Marissa A. Laws, Highest Honors; Chloe E. Martin, High Honors; Wade W. Moran, Highest Honors; Daniel S. Morris, Honors; William M. Morris, Honors; Katarina E. Pumphrey, Highest Honors; Natalie M. Pumphrey, Highest Honors; Julie T. Shankle, Highest Honors; Allyson K. Spain, Highest Honors; Braxton S. Vickers, Honors; Hannah E. Whitworth, Honors.

Greenfield - Sarah S. Brown, Highest Honors; Andrew J. Capps, Highest Honors; Brett M. Capps, High Honors; Peyton B. Cooper, High Honors; Levi A. Deeds, High Honors; E. Doyle, High Honors; Abby L. Rubank, Highest Honors; Colton N. Freeman, Honors; Macy C. Garner, Honors; Bailey A. Gordon, Highest Honors; Bentley G. Gordon, Highest Honors; William J. Harrison, Highest Honors; Lydia K. Hazelwood, Highest Honors; Dylan P. Holt, High Honors; Amber M. Hoskinson, High Honors; Anna G. Huggins, Honors; Courtney E. Hutchison, Honors; Casey R. Langley, High Honors; Sara S. Lewis, Highest Honors; Makayla C. Little, High Honors; James R. Northcutt, Highest Honors; Morgan L. Rash, High Honors; Hannah M. Schenker, Highest Honors; Mattilyn J. Sellers, Highest Honors; Jamison S. Shelton, Honors; Hanna D. Shull, Highest Honors; Lukas A. Skinner, Honors; Bailey R. Smith, Highest Honors; Mandolyn J. Southerland, Honors; Jerry A. Todd, Highest Honors; Taylor B. Totty, Honors; Hannah E. Trumble, Highest Honors; Carly A. Williamson, High Honors.

Martin - Jacob A. Abdulla, High Honors; Alice Adams, High Honors; Luke H. Adams, High Honors; Joseph M. Adcock, Highest Honors; Sina C. Albersmeier, Highest Honors; Dae Shanna M. Aldridge, Honors; Toqa Alhasawi, High Honors; Abigail B. Allen, Highest Honors; Anna G. Allen, High Honors; Benjamin T. Allen, Highest Honors; Rosalind M. Alvarado, High Honors; Madison D. Anderson, Highest Honors; Mason B. Arant, Honors; Robyn P. Armatys, Honors; Baylee L. Arnott, Highest Honors; Ronald A. Arredondo, Honors; Nicole G. Ayers, Honors; Heather L. Baggett, Highest Honors; Allie Baker, High Honors; Garrett E. Baker, Honors; Mason R. Baker, High Honors; Megan E. Bailey, Highest Honors; Anna D. Barnes, Highest Honors; Buskin R. Barnes, Highest Honors; Sidney A. Barnhill, Honors; Jacob R. Bates, Honors; Tessa S. Baun, Highest Honors; Hendrikje Baumann, Highest Honors; Alexus K. Beam, Honors; Andrew B. Bell, High Honors; Ali E. Beverley, Honors; Lauren B. Beverly, Highest Honors; Alyssa R. Bevill, Highest Honors; Alyssa M. Black, Highest Honors; Avery N. Blanchard, Highest Honors; Adeline C. Blanken, High Honors; Anthony W. Blaylock, High Honors; Olivia G. Bolton, Honors; Ashley E. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Megan E. Bowden, Highest Honors; Taylor C. Bowing, Highest Honors; Guy E. Brawley, High Honors; Parker L. Brod- don, Highest Honors; Kayla S. Brooks, Highest Honors; Kaylee E. Brooks, Highest Honors; Boone L. Brown, Highest Honors; Judah C. Brown, Highest Honors; Annalis E. Briner, Highest Honors; Jonathan D. Bryant, Highest Honors; Hunter C. Burton, Highest Honors; Amanda K. Camp, Highest Honors; Amanda L. Campbell, Highest Honors; Allie M. Cantrell, Highest Honors; Daniel A. Capua, High Honors; Katherine N. Capua, Honors; Chandler H. Carey, Highest Honors; Nicholas C. Carpenter, High Honors; Kyle R. Carter, Highest Honors; Lauren P. Carter, Highest Honors; Taylor S. Carter, High Honors; Olivia G. Casada, High Honors; Zachary M. Case, High Honors; Christina B. Chamberlain, High Honors; Virginia K. Cheii, Honors; Kelly R. Childress, Highest Honors; Samantha L. Clayton, Highest Honors; Micah J. Climer, High Honors; Cassidy L. Cloyd, Honors; Abby M. Covington, Highest Honors; Baylee G. Covington, High Honors; Divinity N. Cunningham, Honors; Bentley R. Cunningham, Highest Honors; Abigail N. Davis, High Honors; Joshua P. Davis, Highest Honors; Tiffany J. Decker, Honors; Allyson M. DeNote, High Honors; Daphne B. De Oliveira Pratt, Honors; Alyssa L. Duncan, High Honors; Callie D. Dunlap, Highest Honors; James P. Earls, Highest Honors; Tanner Elliott, High Honors; Genna R. Emmons, Highest Honors; Mary L. Emmons, Highest Honors; Holly K. Faulkner, Highest Honors; David J. Fieger, Honors; Kelly Fieger, Highest Honors; Emily K. Fisher, High Honors; Gregory W. Forrester, High Honors; Rachel M. Forrester, Honors; Peyton N. Fosse, Highest Honors; Carly J. Fowler, Highest Honors; Olivia
Honors; Victoria M. Galloway, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Gansser, High Honors; Brandy L. Gaul, Honors; Jonathan D. Gonowaski, High Honors; Kortnie D. Gottschalk, Honors; Alexis B. Grandys, Honors; Hope E. Gray, Honors; Dawson B. Gremmels, High Honors; Braxton R. Gunter, Honors; Marshall B. Hammill, High Honors; Grace E. Hamrick, Highest Honors; Hannah L. Hansbrough, High Honors; Caitlin M. Harris, Highest Honors; Kynleigh B. Harris, Honors; Rebecca L. Harrison, Honors; Holley D. Harst, Highest Honors; Kaitlynn C. Hayes, Honors; Amanda B. Headon, Highest Honors; Leann T. Hensley, Highest Honors; Hanna J. Hepper, Highest Honors; Seth A. House, High Honors; Preston C. Howard, Honors; Rachel R. Huestitis, Highest Honors; Hallee M. Huffsteter, Honors; Dylan C. Hughley, Highest Honors; McKenzie K. Hurst, Highest Honors; Cory W. Hussey, High Honors; Dylan G. Ingram, Highest Honors; Isaac H. Ivy, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn D. Jamerson, High Honors; Ally J. James, High Honors; Samantha M. Jarvis, High Honors; Emily M. Jeffers, Honors; Tom E. Jehnzen, High Honors; Tasharea K. Johnson, Honors; Asa C. Jones, High Honors; Josten B. Jones, High Honors; Lydia K. Jones, Highest Honors; Malek O. Jones, Honors; Mary D. Jones, Honors; Emma G. Kelly, Honors; Victor K. Kemboi, High Honors; Kaylee M. Kemp, High Honors; John I. Kennedy, Honors; Elizabeth A. Keylon, High Honors; Jonathan D. Kirkland, Highest Honors; Bailey N. Knox, Highest Honors; Kelsea G. Koonce, High Honors; Grant W. Laroom, Highest Honors; Hannah M. Laster, Highest Honors; Klairee M. Lameth, Highest Honors; Lily Little, Honors; Taylor L. Larson, Honors; Lydia A. Lee, Highest Honors; Clayton D. Lockhart, Honors; Michael J. Long, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Lyon, Highest Honors; Cecelia D. Mack, High Honors; Matthew R. Manes, Highest Honors; Robert T. Martin, Honors; David A. Mason, Honors; Makenzie G. Matthews, Honors; Ashton M. McCAGE, Honors; Aurie B. McClerk, Highest Honors; Blaine E. McDonald, Highest Honors; Andrew B. Mcgrady, High Honors; Sophia C. McMin, Highest Honors; Meredith N. Meadows, Honors; Robert J. Mehlhorn, High Honors; Kaylee E. Michon, Highest Honors; Alexis V. Millsaps, High Honors; Emily T. Mitchell, Honors; Lillian R. Moore, High Honors; Anthony K. Murray, High Honors; Justin M. Nelson, High Honors; Phuong H. Nguyen, Highest Honors; Alec R. Norris, Honors; Oisin J. Ogallin, Highest Honors; Ariadna Ondi Cerezo, High Honors; Levi J. Owens, Honors; Amanda J. Padilla, Highest Honors; Ethan J. Parham, Highest Honors; Marissa P. Parks, Highest Honors; Joseph P. Pelten, High Honors; Evan B. Pendegrass, Honors; Kasten N. Penick, High Honors; Kendal M. Penick, High Honors; Abigail L. Plunk, Highest Honors; Jorlynn L. Pritchard, Honors; Pamela A. Pryor, Honors; Leah B. Pybas, High Honors; Bailey K. Radcliff, Highest Honors; Emily K. Ray, Highest Honors; Jason P. Reifer, Highest Honors; Ivy O. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Heather T. Rhodes, Honors; Christopher L. Richardson, Honors; Stephen A. Richardson, High Honors; Tristan J. Riley, High Honors; Mindy A. Roberts, High Honors; Kyle W. Rolland, High Honors; Sydney M. Roney, Honors; Marissa A. Rubo, Honors; Heather S. Ruff, High Honors; Destiny R. Runions, Highest Honors; Jamie L. Rys, High Honors; Mizuki Sakurai, Highest Honors; Taylor D. Sanders, High Honors; Caroline M. Schuster, High Honors; Kaitlin B. Scott, Highest Honors; Violet R. Scott, Highest Honors; Hailey M. Seguna, Honors; Evan C. Sherman, Highest Honors; Jacob T. Sisk, Highest Honors; Caleigh S. Smith, Highest Honors; Chloe M. Smotherman, High Honors; Lon H. Sowell, Highest Honors; Lindsay D. Sparks, Honors; Hattie C. Spencer, Honors; William H. Spencer, Highest Honors; Casey E. Stanfill, High Honors; Skylar M. Stewart, High Honors; Tamara L. Stew, High Honors; Tessa R. Stout, Honors; Julie Strouf, Highest Honors; Jasmine Strickland, Honors; William T. Sutter, High Honors; Madison R. Summers, Honors; Shaynee L. Syder, High Honors; Kento Tada, Honors; Anderson L. Taylor, High Honors; Alejandro G. Tejeda, High Honors; Enrique G. Tejeda, Highest Honors; Isabelle M. Thibault, Highest Honors; Bradley J. Thomas, Highest Honors; Damon C. Thurman, High Honors; Anna O. Tubbs, Highest Honors; Gavin L. Vance, High Honors; Caitlin E. Vincent, High Honors; Madison E. Vincent, Highest Honors; Zackary C. Wagemaker, Honors; Aaron C. Washington, High Honors; Ainsley C. Watt, Highest Honors; Ally S. Weaver, Highest Honors; Christopher D. Webb, Highest Honors; Natalie E. Wedenbach, Highest Honors; Summer E. Welton, Highest Honors; Elizabeth C. Wentzell, High Honors; Brian T. White, Honors; Mary H. Whitley, Highest Honors; Bryonna R. Wilgus, Honors; Kenzie G. Williams, High Honors; Caleb D. Williamson, Highest Honors; Nicholas D. Williamson, High Honors; Nathan F. Willis, High Honors; Luke A. Winters, Highest Honors; Angela L. Wise, High Honors; Kari E. Woods, High Honors; Erik S. Woring, Honors; James L. Wren, Honors; Matthew C. Wright, High Honors; Wenwen Xu, Highest Honors; Christian R. Young, High Honors; Allison T. Zeleniecki, Highest Honors; Enrico Zoboli, High Honors.

Palmersville – Ashley R. Bell, Honors; Noah Y. Copeland, High Honors; Carson R. Johnson, Honors; Danielle M. Leo, Honors.

Sharon – Hannah M. Avery, Honors; Hunter W. Avery, High Honors; Aubrie B. Croom, High Honors; Madison B. Croom, High Honors; Caroline M. Crossno, High Honors; Keith L. Evans, High Honors; Jared C. Freeman, Honors; Jennifer C. Freeman, Highest Honors; Demi J. Lackey, Honors; Bryanna L. Mclnn, Highest Honors; Kinlee D. Moore, Highest Honors; James G. Nail, High Honors; Rex T. Roberts, High Honors; Alex N. Sadler, High Honors; Dakota R. Sanford, High Honors; Wesley R. Sawyer, High Honors; Andrew D. Stacks, High Honors; River B. Stoltz, High Honors; Tucker N. Turner, Highest Honors.
Students with Weakley County Ties Named to Fall Chancellor's Honor Roll

MARTIN (January 8) — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

- Collierville – Tyler C. Bowling, High Honors.
- Cottage Grove – Adrienne E. Huestis, High Honors.
- McKenzie – Mitchell L. Moore, Highest Honors;
- Jessica L. Pence, Highest Honors.
- Rutherford – Ashlyn L. Penick, Honors.
- Shelbyville – Campbell R. Puckett, High Honors.
- Sherman, Ill. – Kathryn S. McKennedy, High Honors.
- South Fulton – Michelle L. Nicholson, Highest Honors.
- Union City – Jack S. Garrett, Highest Honors.
- Waynesboro – Myles A. Prince, High Honors;
- Mason O. Risner, High Honors.
- Yuma – Mikayla R. Peterson, Highest Honors.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 19 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses. For more information, visit utm.edu.

https://www.thunderboltradio.com/

UT Martin lifts all-virtual format; begins hybrid or face-to-face classes Thursday

LOCAL NEWS < HTTPS://WWW.THUNDERBOLTRADIO.COM/CATEGORY/LOCAL-NEWS/>

Steve James < HTTPS://WWW.THUNDERBOLTRADIO.COM/AUTHOR/STEVEJAMES/>  January 20, 2021  0

The all-virtual format at UT Martin is being lifted and beginning Thursday, courses that were approved to operate in hybrid or face-to-face formats will begin on the UT Martin campus.

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver says based on information from the Tennessee Department of Health, the CDC, and the UT System, the UT Martin Emergency Management Policy Committee decided to lift the all-virtual class mandate.

The university and its five regional campuses had been operating in the all-virtual format since spring semester classes began last Thursday.
Local student named to UT honor roll

Jan 21, 2021

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

Lauren N. O’Neill of Covington received high honors.

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

January 22, 2021 by Diamond Williams

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee Martin hosted its annual advisory board meeting.

The meeting was virtual and leaders discussed updated plans for the university. UT Martin has made changes to its Title IX and Clery Act.

Assault incidents that take place off campus by a faculty member can now be reprimanded by the university. It also now applies to students, faculty and staff.

"We make sure that our policy addresses Title IX and non-Title IX violations and applies the hearing process as required by regulation," said Ashley Blamey, UT System Title IX Coordinator.

University leaders also discussed plans to increase student enrollment for the upcoming years.
Several local students make chancellor's honor roll at UT Martin

MARTIN—The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin were honored with publication of the fall chancellor's honor rolls.

Those from Clarksville who received highest honors included Rianna M. Freireich, Aniya A. Gold, Ashley N. Harrison, Anna C. Holt, Abigail L. Honbarger, Christopher D. Martin, Gwenyth L. Metz, Samara M. White and Jared T. Zacharzuk.

Those from Clarksville who received high honors included Mireya I. Carrion, Marrisa D. Dauenhauer, Kennedy D. Day, Amarise B. Flores, Mallon A. Kennedy, Daniel L. Lillard, Bailey E. Meek, Tannar M. Outland, Macy P. Rippy, Kyleigh D. Scott, Sinceria S. Shipman and JaVeon D. Walton.

Those from Clarksville who received honors included Sydney L. Barksdale, Lindsey M. Brown, Molly A. Frederickson, Grace A. Maher, Shelbea N. Martinez, Allana D. Petsch and Kyla A. Segebart.

Those from Cunningham who received highest honors included J. Payton E. Frimel and Jessica R. McCall.

To be eligible for the chancellor’s honor roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the chancellor’s honor roll with honors with a 3.2 through 3.49, high honors with a 3.5 through 3.79 or highest honors with a 3.8 through 4.0.
UT Martin Director of Public Safety to serve on Asian Carp Advisory Commission

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Steve James < HTTPS://WWW.THUNDERBOLTRADIO.COM/AUTHOR/STEVESJAMES/>

January 25, 2021 0

UT Martin Director of Public Safety Monte Belew has been named to serve on Governor Bill Lee's Asian Carp Advisory Committee.

Governor Lee signed an Executive Order in September establishing the Commission to study and provide advice regarding the best methods for mitigating the invasion of Asian carp into the state's lakes and river systems.

Belew is an avid outdoorsman and a resident of Henry County which has the Tennessee River and Kentucky Lake on its eastern border and one of the targets of the invasive species.

Along with Belew, the Commission includes representative from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission, Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Tourist Development, Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, there is one appointee each from the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House of Representatives.

The TWRA’s battle against Asian carp has been ongoing. The TWRA was recently awarded nearly $1.7 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct carp control and monitoring in the coming year. This amount is a substantial increase from previous years that will advance the agency’s capacity to control and monitor carp populations.

Asian carp work will be conducted in the Tennessee and Cumberland basin as well as Reelfoot Lake.

Plans include providing incentives for the commercial removal of Asian carp and monitoring population.

(photo: Monte Belew (right) UT Martin Director of the Department of Public Safety is pictured with Bobby Wilson, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at the inaugural meeting of Asian Carp Advisory Commission.)
Obion County students among UT Martin grads

Several Obion Countians received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement ceremonies.

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 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.

Among those from Obion County who earned undergraduate degrees were:

Kenton — Cole Ellis Davis, Cody Guy Little, Jordan Brooke Page and Laura Monica Silva.

Obion — Lindy Prather Hood, Lauren Maddison Moore and Bethany Leona Walsh.

Samburg — Autumn Jane Hoffman.

South Fulton — Trajin Cheirs and Howard Kelly Stubblefield.


Obion County students awarded graduate degrees included:

Hornbeak — Brook Elizabeth Ruble.

Kenton — Kacey L. Jashfar and Ryan S. McMackin.

Troy — Anthony Russell Wright.

Union City — Brenna Coffee Ray, Debra K. McKelvy Craig, Ali McEwen Daniel, Andrew London Larkins, Alexandra H. Lyle, Natalie Elizabeth Noles, Emily Anne Sparks, Parker Carstell Stewart and Brittany MaShé Terry.

Local residents receive degrees from UTM

Several Gibson 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:

Medina — Kimberly D. Brown; Shaelyn M. Horner; Erika N. Karathanasis.

Milan — Jason Michael Carter; James Edward Hatfield II; Michael Jonathan Himnant; Isaac Avery Jones; Josten Blane Jones; Baylie Tate Lewis; Jonathan Chase Prescott; Tummy Yvette Floyd-Wade; Jace Wallace Williams.

Dyer — Jesus A. Guzman; Tyler Ashton Laster.

Humboldt — Marcus S. Cherry; LaQuenna M. Cox; Meleah Gateley; Thomas Garrett Lashlee; Jamie Lynn Potts.

Rutherford — Ashley Nicole Brooks.

Trenton — Tyson Bartholomew; Olivia Grace Gibson; Katrina Sperl.

Yorkville — Brandon Gage Wright.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

Dyer — Deanna Jo Poole.

Humboldt — Haley Branum Stafford.

Milan — Doris Ann Doss; Brittany Hatfield Reeves; Kristen S. McCadams.
Local students receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Weakley County residents and international students were among those who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held Nov. 21, 2020. The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Jordan Andrew Bell; Tyler Reed Branscum; Ashlee Lauren Garner; Jennifer Lynn Grant; Joshua A. Grant; Megan LeeAnn Grant; Hayden B. Nanney; Olivia Dianne Reagan; Madison Elvonia Riggs; Brooklyn Hope Snider.
- Gleason – Heidi Elizabeth James; Austin Michael Shafer.
- Greenfield – Andy Forsythe; William James Harrison; Casey Ruth Langley; Morgan Elizabeth Simmons; Mandolyn Jane Southerland.
- Martin – Anna Denise Barnes; Buskin R.; Barnes; Kimberly D. Barnett Sledd; Guy Easton Brawley; Boone L. Brown; Kyle Ray Carter; Kaitlyn M. Harrelson; Jake Allen Hollows; Tom Eric Jehnzen; Jonathan David Kirkland; Anna Paige Kiser; Katherine Aileen Lopez; Kayla Star McDowell; Taylor James Adams Pannell; Kristen Emily Parsley; Jaleah P. Royster; John L. Vincent; Zakary C. Wagenmaker; Caleb D. Williamson; Dilu Wu; Yuxin Zhang.
- Sharon – William Bailey Erwin; Jordan Rae Fischer.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

- Dresden – Sarah Alyssa Bynum; Boyd J. Erwin.
- Greenfield – Dakota Betts.
- Martin – Martha M. Barnett; Matthew Daniel Borden; Elizabeth R. Bukeavich; Anne C. Holloway; Benjamin P. Jones; Ryan S. Martin; Rachel Alise McCollough; Benjamin M. Ort; Shannon M. Perry; Trevor Harte Smith; Tammy Jo Stanford; Audrey S. Waterfield; Chad R. Worley.
- Sharon – Mykaela Scot Waterfield.

International students included

Beijing, China – MingJun Zhang; Saihat, Saudi Arabia – Janan Alhalal and Muna Alturki.

21st Annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference throughout February

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

“The fight to ensure civil rights continues to be a major movement throughout the globe,” Prewitt said. “By our institution’s commitment to continue not only looking at civil rights from a historical perspective, but examining the current and future elements of it, we assist in educating our campus and community and providing a platform for change agents and makers to ensure that those civil liberties and rights are guaranteed to all.”

The Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs has scheduled five experts to speak during the conference, including UT Martin alumnus and CNN commentator Van Jones. The speeches will be live streamed via Zoom to the

SEE CIVIL RIGHTS PAGE 2
NIKKI GIOVANNI

Show. He 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.

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.

As well as being a New York Times bestselling author, DiAngelo is an affiliate associate professor of education at the University of Washington. She has also been a consultant and trainer for more than 20 years on issues of racial and social justice.

Dyson earned his Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University and has spent over 30 years lecturing in some of the nation’s most distinguished universities, as well serving as a media commentator and host. Dyson has authored more than 20 books including New York Times Bestseller “The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America” and his most recent book “Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America.”

Other events that are to be scheduled for the conference include a student activist panel; Black Alumni Experience; a documentary addressing Confederate statues with Dr. David Coffey, UT Martin professor of history; a trans-rights event with Dr. Lindsay Anderson, UT Martin associate professor of sociology; and a Know Your Rights event with both Coffey and Anderson.

“I hope that with all that has been occurring over the past few years, that we can learn to see one another for our hearts, good deeds and minds, rather than through the vile eyes of bigotry, racism and hatred,” Prewitt said. “I want our students to walk away feeling empowered and inspired that they are the key to stamping out the systemic barriers in place. I want our faculty, staff and community members to find value in our institution’s commitment to continuing telling the stories that are often lost over the years. I want all to leave with a willingness to be change agents and to always push the agenda of love and kindness … and not hate.”

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Prewitt at aprewitt@utm.edu.

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

JARROD BENJAMIN

van Jones

DR. ROBIN DIANGELO

NIKKI GIOVANNI

DR. MICHAEL ERIC DYSON
ESR Airport welcomes UTM intern

By Amanda Mansfield
Press Reporter

Everett-Stewart Regional Airport held its monthly board meeting Thursday, and in attendance was its newest intern, Meredith Meadows. She is a senior at UT Martin majoring in communications/public relations and marketing. Meadows is involved in Greek Life and the Student Ambassador program, leading tours for prospective students. Airport manager Chris Rodgers said, “We’re excited to have her on board, doing some marketing and public relations work that we’re going to get into between now and the end of the semester.”

Of the position, Meadows said, “I think it’s going to be very interesting, and it will give me some hands-on experience.” She said, “I would like to get into social media management upon graduation.”

During the meeting’s budget report, treasurer Jennifer Branscum recommended implementation of strengthened internal controls, consisting of having a second person review bank statements and sign off on paid invoices with check numbers in the event invoices are separated from checks. “This will ensure funds are being spent the way they need to be spent,” she said, adding that these internal controls would serve as additional security measures to cover the manager and the board in the event problems arise in the future. She emphasized that there are no issues currently; these measures would only serve as an additional layer of protection.

Additionally, Branscum recommended the board draft a credit card policy. She said, “It’s just a good policy to have a written policy so there are guidelines in place. It’s just a good cover for [Rodgers] and for us to fall back on if there are any misuse[s] of the credit card. If you don’t have a policy in place, there’s nothing to fall back on.” The policy will be drafted using a template from the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), which is what is suggested for all municipalities to adopt and can also be adopted by other entities as well.

Jet fuel sales have been a resource for funding the airport. Pilots who fly across the country often look for airports to refuel along their route, and many have found ESR Airport for that need and continue to return. “We’re already getting several [sales], but there is more potential there,” Rodgers said, noting jet fuel sales have increased year to year despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rodgers relayed to the board that Nassar Nassur, CEO of Savant Learning Systems, has donated a computer to the airport for use in the terminal. The value of the computer is $599. “We would like to publicly thank him for doing that,” he said.

An external audit was recently conducted, and Rodgers shared that the two findings from the last audit had been corrected, and there were zero findings during this audit. Chairman Wayne McCreight noted this was the first audit where there were no findings. “We’ve always had little things,” he said, “I’d like to compliment Chris on his work, and I’d also like to compliment the board on financial controls to help us get to this point.”

Rodgers echoed those sentiments, saying, “I think we’ve got a good system in place.”

In building and expansion news, Brian Vogt of Barge Design Solutions spoke regarding plans laid out during last month’s meeting. The bid opening for construction of a new 80’ x 80’ storage hanger began Dec. 16. Vogt stated only one bid was received, from Alan Searcy, in the amount of $180,000. However, the bid exceeds the airport’s budget for the project. The plan is to work with Searcy to identify areas that can be reengineered in order to make the project more feasible. Once the redesign is completed, Vogt plans to present it to the board for approval. Vogt said, despite the reconfiguration, “We do still anticipate a summer construction.”

McCreight asked Vogt when he might be able to present an itemized list for cost savings to the board. Vogt stated that he anticipated having that already, but now believes he will have that for the board within one week.

Bids for new LED lighting have been put on hold, at the request of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Vogt stated, “Due to budgetary concerns, TDOT has asked us to move that to fiscal year 2022, which for TDOT is in July this year.” Vogt said that they are anticipating additional budget at the end of July.

Vogt said a flood elevation study has begun. “The engineers have run several models,” he stated, “that started with what’s called a one-dimensional model that uses a single elevation for the area. Barge has gone back and used what we call a two-dimensional model, which uses more refined elevation contours and looks at the flow of water, where it’s coming from, where it’s going to.”

While the models have been completed, the reports have not been completed, but Vogt anticipates having those reports to the board within one week as well.

McCreight ended the meeting by saying he anticipated an interesting and exciting spring with construction beginning after the flood study report was analyzed.

NEW INTERN — UTM student Meredith Meadows has taken an internship with the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport. She is pictured here with manager Chris Rodgers.
UT Martin debuts new safety app

UT Martin students and employees now have an easy way to communicate with the UTM Department of Public Safety with the launch of a new mobile safety app.

The app, called LiveSafe, allows students and employees to share emergency and non-emergency information.

UTM Public Safety Lieutenant Charlie Jahr tells Thunderbolt Radio News...

(AUDIO)

Lieutenant Jahr says the university will continue to use RAVE Alerts to send emergency messages campus wide.

Reports submitted through LiveSafe are 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.

UTM names local graduates

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

Local students who received undergraduate degrees included Lakenia Shana Halliburton Jones of Gates, La'Kia Rayshann Harvey, Jessica Noah Reaves, Jameka J. Rogers, and Kirsten Solomon of Halls, and Gared Lee Colvin, and Erica Lauren Hicks of Ripley.

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 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.

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.
Several Obion 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: Trajin Cheirs, and Howard Kelly Stubblefield, both of South Fulton; Keiyonna Kniesha Atkins; and Jon Ryan Paitsel, both of Fulton; and Brittany Jean Gray, of Hickman.

Several Fayette 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: *LaGrange-Gabrielle Denise Sales. *Oakland-Adam Ross Bass; Katlyn Bryant; Courtney McCall Gilgen; Maegan Linett Johnson; Sierra Mann; Caitlyn Fay; Mayden McElveen; Hunter Wayne Winstead. *Somerville-Kelsey Roxanne Wilson.
Four students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center graduated during the fall 2020 commencement held at the UT Martin main campus November 21.

Katlyn Bryant, of Oakland, earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree; Kashif Festherson, of Somerville, earned a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree; Katie Grantham, of Bartlett, earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree; and Kelsey Wilson, of Somerville, earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree.

The UT Martin Somerville Center offers general education and undergraduate courses supporting bachelor's degree requirements in more than 80 specialized programs, including agriculture, business, criminal justice, history, social work, political science, psychology and interdisciplinary studies.

For more information, contact Kara Tapp, director of the UT Martin Somerville Center, at 901-465-7313 or ktapp1@utm.edu.
UTM Begins Spring Semester Virtually

MARTIN (January 14) - The University of Tennessee at Martin began the Spring semester of 2021 online.

The university released a press release regarding the beginning of the spring semester stating, "The University of Tennessee at Martin will open spring semester January 14 with all-virtual classes. This is the original spring semester start date for the main campus and five centers located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Seimer and Somerville. The initial all-virtual format will allow monitoring for a potential post-holiday COVID-19 surge."

Recommendations from the Tennessee Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guide related class-format decisions.

Food services resumed January 14, and all university safety measures for spring semester will follow CDC guidelines, including required wearing of masks by all who are on the main campus or at the five centers, enhanced cleaning procedures and campus visitation restrictions.

Social activities are limited initially and must be approved by the Office of Student Affairs.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver commented about the beginning of the spring semester and gave more details into the all-virtual beginning to the semester.

He noted that many of the same changes and guidelines enacted by the university last year for the fall 2020 semester will remain for the spring semester.

This decision was made based on a combination of CDC guidelines, the Governor of Tennessee’s Executive Order and conversations with area health officials.

This was also because of any surges in cases that might be linked to the Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

“These are decisions and conversation topics we look at on a weekly basis on what is going on around us and we are optimistic with the availability of a vaccine … and hopefully our students towards the middle or end of the semester will be able to get it and also our staff. That we can get back to what we knew as normal and we know it won’t be the same for a while, but there is hope," Carver noted.

As the COVID-19 vaccine is becoming available to more groups, the university will not be requiring students to receive the vaccine.

Chancellor Carver said the reason for this was that the vaccine was approved with emergency authorization and for this reason the university cannot require this vaccine.

He did encourage students and staff to get the vaccine when they are able to, but it is not a requirement to attend classes.

Some changes that came to the university last year included the installation of plexiglas in offices and desks around the campus.

These were installed to help further protect students and workers on campus.

Last June, when Carver was interviewed about the beginning of the fall semester, he noted how cleaning on campus would have new guidelines and these will continue through the spring semester.

New equipment was purchased by the university last year to ensure best cleaning practices.

“One good thing about this is showing us new ways to clean for the safety of our students and staff,” Dr. Carver noted at the time.

Along with the new cleaning guidelines, there was a more frequent cleaning schedule implemented during the fall semester that will continue into the spring.

Many of the same housing guidelines will be followed this semester, including isolation rooms for students who live on campus and test positive for COVID-19. Food, wifi and school materials will be supplied to those who utilize these isolation rooms.

Social-distancing practices will continue at Martin through the upcoming semester for students to stay at least six feet away from each other during in-person classes.

The food court remains at limited capacity.

Some tables will remain marked for seating and it will be encouraged for large groups to not gather while eating.

The grab-and-go option will still be available for students who wish to eat outside of the building.

The social-distancing guidelines also extend to library use, sporting events and all campus events that might be held in the spring semester.

All who work or attend in-person classes will continue to be required to wear a mask or face shields while on campus and while attending any school-related functions.

Carver also noted that with the limiting of gatherings on campus, the university will continue to hold virtual events.

New to this semester is that all students and faculty are being asked to show proof of a flu vaccination.

Additional spring semester information is available by calling the UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-681-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-681-7012.

Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at www.utm.edu/coronavirus, where the university offers daily updates.
WestStar Leadership to Host 23rd Annual Working Women's Conference February 12

BY SARAH KNAPP
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (January 26) — 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., Friday, February 12.

The deadline to register is Monday, February 8, and the cost to attend is $10 per person.

The 2021 Working Women's Conference is themed “Take Heart - We're All Connected” and focuses 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, enneagram coach of Beyond Your Number; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin professor of communications and Dr. Lisa LeBlue, 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.
Local Students Earn Degrees from UT Martin

MARTIN (January 22) — Several Weakley County residents were among students receiving degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement held November 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:

Dresden — Jordan Andrew Boll; Tyler Reed Branscum; Ashlee Lauren Garner; Jennifer Lynn Grant; Joshua A. Grant; Megan LeeAnn Grant; Hayden B. Nanney; Olivia DiAnne Reagan; Madison Elvania Rigney; Brooklyn Hope Snider.

Greenfield — Andy Forsythe; William James Harrison; Casey Ruth Langley; Morgan Elizabeth Simmons; Mandolyn Jane Souterland.

Martin — Anna Denise Barnes; Buskin R. Barnes; Kimberly D. Barnett Sledd; Guy Easton Brawley; Boone L. Brown; Kyle Ray Carter; Kaitlyn M. Harrelson; Jake Allen Holloway; Tom Eric Jehnzen; Jonathan David Kirkland; Anna Paige Kiser; Katherine Aileen Lopez; Kayla Star McDowell; Taylor James Adams Pannell; Kristen Emily Parsley; Jaleah P. Royster; John L. Vincent; Zakary C. Wagenmaker; Caleb D. Williamson; Dilu Wu; Yuxin Zhang.

Sharon — William Bailey Erwin; Jordan Rae Fischer.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

Dresden — Sarah Alyssa Bynum; Boyd J. Erwin.

Greenfield — Dakota Betts.

Martin — Martha M. Barnett; Matthew Daniel Borden; Elizabeth R. Bukovich; Anne C. Holloway; Benjamin P. Jones; Ryan S. Martin; Rachel Alise McCollough; Benjamin M. Ort; Shannon M. Perry; Trevor Harte Smith; Tammy Jo Stanford; Audrey S. Waterfield; Chad R. Worley.

Sharon — Mykaela Scot Waterfield.

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.

Virtual Civil Rights Conference Set at UT Martin Throughout February

21st ANNUAL UTM CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

POWER, PROTEST & PRIVILEGE

EXAMINING THE FRAC TURED STATE OF AMERICA

FEBRUARY 2021
BY SARAH KNAPP
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (January 20) — The University of Tennessee at Martin announces its schedule of virtual events throughout the month of February, including presentations from five world-renowned social justice activists discussing 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, but the COVID-19 pandemic shifted this year’s conference online. Anthony Frewitt, co-interim director of student life and multicultural affairs, says he is confident the schedule of events spanning the entire month of February will bring awareness to the continued fight for social justice.

“The fight to ensure civil rights continues to be a major movement throughout the globe,” Frewitt said. “By our institution’s commitment to continue not only looking at civil rights from a historical perspective, but examining the current and future elements of it, we assist in educating our campus and community and providing a platform for change agents and makers to ensure that those civil liberties and rights are guaranteed to all,” he added.

The Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs has scheduled five experts to speak during the conference, including UT Martin alumna and CNN commentator Van Jones. The speeches will be livestreamed via Zoom to the official UT Martin Facebook (facebook.com/utmartin) and YouTube (youtube.com/utmartin) accounts. All events will be livestreamed in Central Standard Time.

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 p.m., Tuesday, February 2. Giovanni has taught as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech since 1987 and is the author of more than two dozen books, including volumes of poetry, illustrated children’s books, and three collections of essays. Giovanni was voted #1 poet for the spring of 2007 by the Academy of American Poets and prides herself on being “a Black American, a daughter, a mother, a professor of English.”

On February 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., 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.

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., February 23.

As well as being a New York Times Bestseller author, DiAngelo is an affiliate associate professor of education at the University of Washington. She has also been a consultant and trainer for more than 20 years on issues of racial and social justice.

Dyson earned his Ph.D. in religious studies from Princeton University and he spent more than 30 years lecturing in some of the nation’s most distinguished universities, as well serving as a media commentator and host. Dyson has authored more than 20 books including New York Times Bestseller “The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America” and his most recent book “Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America.”

More virtual events scheduled for the 2021 Civil Rights Conference include:

February 3: Black History Month Music Trivia; 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

February 10: Alumni Engagement Series: Black Authors & Their Stories; 7 p.m.

February 11: “Local Lynched and Why They Still Matter;” 7 p.m.; Weakley County Reconciliation Project;

February 25: NPHC Movie Night

Other events that are to be scheduled for the conference include a student activist panel, Black Alumni Experience, a documentary addressing Confederate statues with Dr. David Coffey, UT Martin professor of history, a trans-rights event with Dr. Lindsay Anderson, UT Martin associate professor of sociology, and a Know Your Rights event with both Coffey and Anderson. For more information, contact Frewitt.

“I hope that with all that has been occurring over the past few years, that we can learn to see one another for our hearts, good deeds, and minds, rather than the vile eyes of bigotry, racism and hatred,” Frewitt said. “I want our students to walk away feeling empowered and inspired that they are the key to stamping out the systemic barriers in place. I want our faculty, staff and community members to find value in our institution’s commitment to continuing telling the stories that are often lost over the years. I want all to leave with a willingness to be change agents and to always push the agenda of love and kindness ... and not hate,” he added.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Frewitt at afrewitt@utm.edu.
LILLIE FUQUA RECEIVES DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIP TO UT MARTIN
January 28, 2021 @ 8:26 am Shannon McFarlin

MARTIN, Tenn. — A Henry 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.

Lillie Fuqua, of Cottage Grove, daughter of Wayne and Emily Fuqua, will be a freshman. She 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.

UT MARTIN LAUNCHES NEW MOBILE SAFETY APP
January 28, 2021 @ 9:34 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—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 UTM 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 (http://www.links.livesafemobile.com/UTM). All users must have an active UT Martin email address.

Photo: UT Martin Department of Public Safety Chief and Director Monte Belew led campus community members on a safety walk across campus.
WestStar to host Working Women's Conference on Feb. 12

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. on 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.”

TDH Commissioner Dr. Lisa Piercey will give the keynote address. Additional conference speakers include Jacque Hillman, of HillHelen Group Publishers; Carly Unger Herrin, of Paducah Dermatology; Jodi Burgess, of Levy Dermatology; Cindy Hawkins, of Cindy's Skin Clinic; Wanda Castellaw, wife of retired USMC Lt. Gen. John Castellaw; Civil Miller Watkins, class of 2019 WestStar alumnus; Stephanie Spencer, enneagram coach of Beyond Your Number; Dr. Theresa Collard, UTM professor of communications; and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UTM 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 Conference Coordinator Jordan Gardner at 731-881-7298.
By BUD GRIMES
Special to
The Messenger

It’s a friendship formed as teammates on the University of Tennessee at Martin football gridiron in the mid-1960s.

Today, Alan “Buckwheat” Cox (Classes of 1969 and ’72) and Larry Shanks (Classes of ’68 and ’73) remain close friends, separated only by the driving distance between Shanks’ Union City home and the Tennessee State Veterans’ Home in Humboldt, where Cox has battled health issues in recent years.

Although both are retired from the rigors of coaching, every day is still game day for Shanks as he lends a hand to his lifelong teammate.

Their backgrounds couldn’t be more different. Cox was raised in a military family, which eventually took him to Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., when his father was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base. Another transfer would move his family again, but Cox stayed to complete his football career at Choctawhatchee High School, a program that boasts five professional football players. Shanks was raised in Middle Tennessee and was a star football player at McEwen High School in Humphreys County.

Football brought them together at UT Martin, an era that included a victory in the 1967 Tangerine Bowl, which is arguably the greatest team achievement in the university’s football history. Both amassed notable personal success during and after their playing days and are both members of the university’s Athletics Hall of Fame.

Cox quarterbacked for four seasons and threw for 2,934 yards from 1965-68, good for 10th all-time in UT Martin history. He was ninth in both career passing attempts and career pass completions, and he also threw 27 touchdown passes.

Following his graduation, Cox joined the U.S. Army and served with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star with valor. He returned to UT Martin from military service and earned a master’s degree, and then went to Murray (Ky.) State University to complete his specialist hours above the master’s before beginning a long and successful coaching career at multiple schools. He is perhaps best known for his time at Paducah (Ky.) Tilghman, where he led teams five times to the Kentucky state high school 3A championship game and a state title in 1985.
Shanks also played from 1965-68, is the seventh all-time rusher in UT Martin history and is tied for seventh with 10 rushing touchdowns in a single season in 1967. He led the team in rushing in 1966 and 1967 and also holds the distinction of playing both offense and defense during his playing career. He also enjoyed a decades-long coaching career, which included a successful tenure at Union City High School, a return to UT Martin as an assistant and a 2009 state championship at Paducah Tilghman, where he was defensive coordinator.

Both are heroes to the hundreds of young men they’ve coached.

Fast forward to Nov. 8, 2019. Shanks is making one of his regular visits to check on his friend. On this November day, members of the UT Martin Skyhawk Veterans Association are also visiting the Tennessee State Veterans’ Home to thank residents for their service, providing the perfect opportunity for the UT Martin football greats to reminisce. Cox, largely confined to a wheelchair, brightens up quickly and trades barbs with Shanks as the two relive past glory.

“One thing about it, most players to be good, you got to be a little cocky, in particular as the quarterback.” Shanks said. “I (Cox) was as cocky as they come.”

Cox remembered that UT Martin and Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame coach Bob Carroll allowed his quarterbacks to call the plays, and Cox knew how to manage a game. Shanks credits Cox for calling his number and handing him the ball often during the two years that he led the team in rushing.

“So, see, he helped me out. He’d call me,” Shanks said. “I wouldn’t have been the leading rusher if he hadn’t called my name.”

They remembered big games under Carroll with familiar UT Martin rivals such as Jacksonville State, Delta State and Troy State, but the iconic game from their playing days was the matchup with West Chester State of Pennsylvania in the 1967 Tangerine Bowl. Cox didn’t start the game, but he entered in the second quarter during a critical point.

“So, Buck comes in, and he ran a little old bootleg and hit Gary Capers (’68) ... on the post corner,” Shanks said. “We score the first play he comes in.”

The team went on to win the first bowl game in UT Martin history by a score of 25-8.

Amid the football memories, Cox and Shanks sparred with each other about who was the best athlete and who played at the best high school. At one point, Shanks said he planned to take Cox to see a statue that supposedly stands at the McEwen city limits and reads “Home of Larry Shanks.” Cox quickly declared that if the statue exists, it must be made of plastic.

Their brother-like relationship is evident amid the storytelling and laughter. However, the conversation’s tone became more serious when Shanks told

about Cox’s military service and his wartime accomplishments.

The Vietnam War posed a reality check for Cox as he neared graduation, and when he realized that he would be drafted, Coach Carroll advised him to enroll in advanced ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps).

“From that time on, the military changed my life,” Cox said. “I went to infantry basic school. Of course, playing ball and everything, it gave me an infantry MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), which meant I was going to be a platoon leader.”

Stationed at Phu Bai Combat Base near the Demilitarized Zone, the former border between North and South Vietnam, Cox led his men during dangerous combat operations.

At the age of 22 and the oldest man in the platoon, Cox achieved maybe his greatest military accomplishment when his time in Vietnam ended: “He came out of there, and he never lost a soldier in his platoon the whole time he was over there,” Shanks said. “They all came back home—alive.”

Subsequent years saw the former teammates leave their respective marks as successful football coaches, and both credit their players for the success they earned.

“I had great kids, and they loved each other,” Cox said.

Discipline anchored their coaching philosophies, which reminded Shanks of once seeing Tilghman players digging weeds from the football field on their hands and knees using screwdrivers.

“I didn’t want any weeds on that field,” Cox said, but Shanks picked up on the larger purpose, which was to build team discipline: the kind of discipline needed to win football games and succeed in life.

The memories and successes for both men circle back to a special time in UT Martin football history and Coach Carroll, who helped to lay the foundation for a lasting friendship.

“I just appreciate all the things that he (Carroll) did and all,” Shanks said. “We had a special group of players.”

More importantly, a bond forged on the football field remains strong for this history-making backfield duo.

Editor’s note: Bud Grimes is chief communications officer in the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Larry Shanks (left) of Union City and Alan "Buckwheat" Cox are pictured in the lobby of the Tennessee State Veterans' Home in Humboldt. Shanks makes regular visits to see his friend, who lives there. (Photo by Nathan Morgan, assistant director of University Relations, University of Tennessee at Martin)

Larry Shanks (No. 41) and Alan Cox (No.10) are pictured in 1967.
Holsten receives scholarship to attend UT Martin

Saturday, January 30, 2021

MARTIN, Tenn. – A Dunklin 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.

- KayLee Holsten, of Campbell, daughter of Toby and Kim Holsten, will be a freshman. She received the Voyager Scholarship.

UT Martin is a four-year university located in northwest Tennessee and is part of the University of Tennessee System. 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.

Colleges announce fall graduates

Saturday, January 30, 2021

MARTIN, Tenn. – Bedford County resident Jennie Kathryn Conley of Bell Buckle was among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee-Martin during fall commencement. 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.

Julia Homan, Taylor White earn degrees from UT Martin

Jan 30, 2021

Two Blount County students received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin in November 2020. They are: Julia Lynn Homan and Taylor James White, both of Maryville. Homan received an undergraduate degree and White received a graduate degree.