UT Martin names Hendersonville students to spring semester Chancellor's Honor Roll

SUBMITTED
Jul 1, 2020

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 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).

Hendersonville students recognized include Katie N. Dickens, Honors; Casey R. Martin, Honors; Bria A. McCay, Highest Honors; Christine M. Medlen, Highest Honors; Kiana R. Mills, Honors; Anna P. Morrison, High Honors; Katrina Pope, Highest Honors; Jeremy R. Richardson, Highest Honors; Emily G. Sutherland, Highest Honors and Araina Y. Woods, 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.

UT MARTIN INVESTIGATING VIDEO SHOWING STUDENTS MAKING RACIST STATEMENTS
7/1/2020  Shannon McForlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin issued the following statement Tuesday evening:

"The university is investigating a video involving UT Martin students that makes racist statements directed toward members of the Black community. We condemn hate and are working hard to create an inclusive campus culture. This video in no way represents the values of UT Martin. We have a responsibility to support our Black students and create a place where all students feel safe. At the conclusion of the investigation, appropriate action will be taken."
UT Martin addresses video of students using racial slurs

Temi Adeleye
Jul 1, 2020

MARTIN, TN-- The University of Tennessee Martin Chancellor Keith Carver responded on Wednesday to a video of UTM students using racial slurs about the Black community.

The video was posted to social media. When it was originally posted is unknown.

"When one Skyhawk hurts, we all hurt, and I just want to start by saying the lives of our Black students, our Black faculty and staff on campus, but also the lives of our Black alumni and Black community members truly matter to me and they matter to our campus," said Carver.

The school first addressed the video Tuesday in a public post on social media.

In the public post, the school said "We condemn hate and are working hard to create an inclusive campus culture. This video no way represents the values of UT Martin."

Still, community members and students like DeAndria Meredith are upset.

"I'm kind of emotional about this, because it's hurtful," said Meredith. "We just want to get an education."

Meredith is the vice president of UTM's Black Student Association.

She talked about the struggles of being a Black student at a predominantly white institution.

Meredith said the video of her peers laughing while using racial slurs and saying "We hate blacks" was painful to watch, but a reminder of where she is.
"To actually know that I go to school with these people, people that think like that, joke like that, it was very disgusting and disheartening," said Meredith.

This is not the first time something like this has happened at UT Martin.

Local 6 reported on a white supremacist group putting fliers on cars across UTM's campus last November.

UTM Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Andy Lewter said to see a video like this targeting their black students was upsetting.

"I was appalled by the language our students were using," said Lewter. "I was surprised that they were saying the things they were, and wanted to get to the bottom of understanding what was going on."

Lewter confirmed that three of the four people in the video are current UTM students.

The vice chancellor said school leaders are meeting with them as part of an investigation to hear their side of the story, and see if any university policies were violated.

Meredith said BSA wants the school to take action, expel the students, and work harder to make the school more inclusive for black students.

"There's never the time, but especially now is not the time to make those types of jokes, even if you are just playing around, that's not something to play about," said Meredith.

"It's extremely hurtful and I really, really hope they learn from this experience and they do better."

As far as what will happen to those students, Lewter said all student conduct processes are protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

That means the school will not tell us what actions, if any, are taken against the students.
Lewter said they have held several Zoom meetings with students to discuss the social unrest and protests going on now.

They have race-centered conversations planned, along with other projects for the fall to make the university more inclusive for all students.

They will disclose those plans at a later date.

"We would hope that all of our students would learn to respect individuals to be understanding of different people's experiences, to know that what they were saying is inappropriate," said Lewter. "So we would want to continue to educate our students of what's right and appropriate in the world to say and to be kind to one another."

The school encourages people with ideas and suggestions to make the UTM more inclusive to submit them to UTM's Division of Student Affairs.

You can email Lewter at jlewter@utm.edu.

UT Martin is investigating a video involving UTM students making racist remarks towards members of the Black community.

The video began circulating on social media Tuesday.

In a statement, University officials said they condemn hate and are working hard to create an inclusive campus culture.

The statement goes on to say that the video in no way represents the values of UT Martin and that at the conclusion of the investigation, appropriate action will be taken.
UT Martin students under investigation after video surfaces of them saying racial slurs

NEWS

by: Andrew Ellison

Posted: Jul 1, 2020 / 08:55 PM CDT / Updated: Jul 1, 2020 / 10:13 PM CDT

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Several college students are under investigation after a racist video surfaced on social media Tuesday.

The students go to the University of Tennessee at Martin and can be heard saying racial slurs in the video.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver was in Memphis on Wednesday with local members of the Black Alumni Council. They addressed the UT Community via Facebook.

"I can only imagine the pain (the video) caused the members of our black community," Chancellor Carver said.

The video shows several students standing in a bedroom laughing. At one point, the n-word can be heard, and seconds later, one of the students says, "We hate blacks."

“This is not what we stand for,” Black Alumni Council member Tonya Parson said. “It is hurtful to all of us to have to see and hear these kinds of videos that are circulating against our students.” Andre Parker, a sophomore at UT Martin, said he knows one of the girls in the video and claims she was friendly with him when he first met her, but things changed after that.

“It seemed kind of different—the air seemed different, kind of cold," Parker said. “But then it was one of those things when this video came out, it was like, oh, that’s what was going on. That’s what it was.”

The university said the incident happened off campus, but officials are investigating to see if any UT policies were violated. If so, the students could be suspended or expelled.

Parker and other members of the UT community are demanding the students be expelled. They said that video is all the evidence officials need.

“I know that there’s more people who feel that way on the campus,” Parker said. “I know for a fact, and I don’t want them to feel they can act a certain way and nothing’s going to happen to them.”

The university does not believe whoever filmed the video is a student.

In his address, the chancellor said he’s encouraging faculty to develop courses that address diversity.
MARTIN — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2020 Chancellor’s 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.

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Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees from Weakley County include:

**Dresden** — Sarah E. Alford, High Honors; Katherine E. Arnold, High Honors; Rylee A. Bell, Honors; Tyler R. Brescum, Highest Honors; Braden L. Cooper, High Honors; Kaitlyn E. Courtney, Highest Honors; Rachel M. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Grace E. Finch, Honors; Joshua A. Grant, Highest Honors; Jordan N. Gumm, Honors; Kinleigh D. Harris, High Honors; Callen L. Killebrew, High Honors; Mabry A. Llewellyn, High Honors; Shannon M. Merrell, Highest Honors; Julie A. Mosley, Highest Honors; Rylee L. Neley, Honors; Brand E. Nicolay, Honors; Katherine G. Rea, Honors; Kinzi M. Reid,Highest Honors; Madison E. Riggs, High Honors; Lucas W. Rutkowski, Honors; Sara L. Simmons, High Honors; Brooklyn H. Snider, Highest Honors; Denver A. Snider, Honors; Jasmine A. Williams, Highest Honors; Dresser H. Winn, Honors; Collin L. Winstead, Honors; Preddy L. Winstead, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. Workman, Highest Honors; Bradley A. Young, Highest Honors.

**Dukedom** — Garrett L. Roberts, High Honors.

**Gleason** — Seth W. Bowers, Highest Honors; Chandler D. Braznner, Highest Honors; Colby S. Brooks, Highest Honors; Kyle E. Brooks, Highest Honors; Daniel J. Grissom, Highest Honors; Cameron B. Harrison, High Honors; Heidi E. James, High Honors; Dekota J. Lumpkins, Honors; Chloe E. Martin, Honors; Taylor J. Melton, Highest Honors; Wade W. Moran, Highest Honors; Daniel S. Morris, Honors; William M. Morris, Honors; Katarina E. Pompfrey, High Honors; Wilson D. Ross, Highest Honors; Julie T. Shankle, Highest Honors; Allyson K. Spain, High Honors; Carson A. Stafford, Highest Honors; Braxton S. Vickers, High Honors; Hannah E. Whitworth, Honors.

**Greenfield** — Blake A. Brauer, High Honors; Brock A. Brauer, High Honors; Andrew J. Capps, Highest Honors; Brett M. Capps, Highest Honors; Brennen Z. Cobb, Highest Honors; Peyton B. Cooper, High Honors; Seth J. Davidson, Honors; Tobi as J. Dillard, Honors; Layla E. Doyle, High Honors; Abby L. Subank, Highest Honors; Macy C. Garner, High Honors; Bentley G. Gordon, Highest Honors; William J. Harrison, Honors; Grant E. Huffstetler, Honors; Courtney E. Hutchinson, Honors; Taylor G. Houston, Highest Honors; Sara S. Lewis, High Honors; James R. Northcutt, Highest Honors; Matthew D. Pugh, Honors; Bryan P. Rogers, High Honors; Mattilyn J. Sellers, Highest Honors; Jamison L. Sheehan, Honors; Hannah D. Shull, Highest Honors; Bailey R. Smith, Highest Honors; Mandalyn J. Southerland, Honors; Jerry A. Todd, Highest Honors; Hannah E. Trimble, Highest Honors; Carly A. Williamson, Highest Honors; Chelsea J. Willis, Highest Honors; Richard M. Willis, Highest Honors.

**Martin** — Jacob A. Abdulla, Highest Honors; Alice Adams, High Honors; Joseph M. Adcock, Highest Honors; Joseph A. Aguilar, Honors; Hassan Y. Albashaa, Highest Honors; Sina C. Albersmeier, Highest Honors; DaeShunna M. Aldridge, High Honors; Aateral Alghajahji, Honors; Janan Alhalal, Honors; Benon, Highest Honors; Casey A. Allen, Highest Honors; Wardah Alshakhsain, High Honors; Muna Alturki, Highest Honors; Danyel R. Arnold, Highest Honors; Ronald A. Arreola, Highest Honors; Heathert L. Baggett, Highest Honors; Brandon T. Baker, Honors; Lindsey N. Baldwin, Highest Honors; Anna D. Barnes, Highest Honors; Buskin R. Barnes, Highest Honors; Bailey R. Barrett, High Honors; Tessa S. Bauman, Honors; Hendrik T. Baumann, Highest Honors; Alexia K. Beam, Honors; Mason S. Bearden, Honors; Kaitlin A. Belew, Highest Honors; Ali E. Beverly, High Honors; Lauren B. Beverly, Highest Honors; Alysha R. Blevins, Highest Honors; Stetson C. Bierman, Honors; Avery N. Blanchard, Highest Honors; Jade B. Bleskey, Highest Honors; Ashley E. Bondurant, Highest Honors; Brent W. Borden, Honors; Megan E. Bowden, Highest Honors; Taylor C. Bowles, Highest Honors; Tyler C. Bowling, Highest Honors; Jeffery D. Box, Honors; Sona F. Brandon, High Honors; Guy E. Brawley, Honors; Kayla S. Brooks, Highest Honors; Boone L. Brown, High Honors; Brennan G. Brown, Honors; Judah C. Brown, Highest Honors; Annalise H. Bruer, Highest Honors; Emma R. Brunet, Highest Honors; Hunter C. Burton, Honors; Ryan A. Butler, Honors; Amanda K. Camp, High Honors; Boyd C. Campbell, Honors; Grant T. Campbell, Honors; Allie M. Cantrell, Highest Honors; Katherine N. Capua, Highest Honors; Nicholas E. Cappo, Honors; Chandler H. Carey, Highest Honors; Nicholas C. Carpenter, High Honors; John A. Carr, Highest Honors; Kyle R. Carter, Highest Honors; Taylor S. Carter, Highest Honors; Olivia G. Casada, Highest Honors; Christina B. Chamberlain, Highest Honors; James M. Chapman, High Honors; Kylah M. Chatham, Highest Honors; Samantha E. Clayton, High Honors; Jacob A. Cottingham, Highest Honors; Baylee G. Covington, Honors; Divinity N. Cunigan, Honors; Bentley R. Cunningham, Highest Honors; Abigail N. Davis, Honors; Joshua F. Davis, Highest Honors; Allyson M. DeNote, Highest Honors; Matthew C. Dilday, Honors; Bryan J. Downing, High Honors; Kyle G. Doyle, High Honors; Callie D. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Tiffany D. Dyer, Honors; James T. Earls, Highest Honors; Tanner Elliott, Highest Honors; Devin N. Ellison, High Honors; Dijson Elma, High Honors; Andre D. Espinoza, Honors; Katelyn N. Essary, Honors; Holly E. Fain, Highest Honors; David J. Fleser, High Honors; Emma
M. Fleser, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Fleser, Highest Honors; Madison E. Ford, Highest Honors; Rachel M. Forrester, Honors; Peyton N. Posse, High Honors; Carly J. Fowler, Highest Honors; Gracie F. Fusting, Honors; Victoria M. Galloway, Highest Honors; Lauren E. Gansewalt, Honors; Brandy L. Gaul, Honors; Jonathan D. Gonswski, High Honors; Hope E. Gray, High Honors; Haley A. Harris, High Honors; John M. Harrison, Honors; Harley D. Hartin, Highest Honors; Amethyst L. Hawkins, High Honors; Garrett L. Hay, High Honors; Amanda B. Heaton, Highest Honors; Connor P. Hester, Honors; Mary E. Higgs, Highest Honors; Autumn J. Hoffman, Honors; Trevor C. Holcomb, Highest Honors; Hanna J. Hopper, Highest Honors; Terry J. Howell, Honors; Jennifer R. Huestis, Highest Honors; Haliee M. Huffstellar, High Honors; Dylan C. Hughas, Honors; Candle J. Hunter, Highest Honors; Dylan G. Ingram, Highest Honors; Killian H. Jackson, Highest Honors; Eric G. Jager, Highest Honors; Ally J. James, Highest Honors; Bria J. Jeffers, Highest Honors; Asia C. Jones, Honors; Josten B. Jones, High Honors; Mary K. Jones, High Honors; Seth R. Jones, Honors; Spencer B. Karpatti, Honors; Emma G. Kelly, High Honors; Kaylee M. Kemp, Honors; John L. Kennedy, High Honors; Meziah C. Kennedy, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Keyton, Highest Honors; Jonathan D. Kirkland, High Honors; Anna P. Kiser, High Honors; Kelton C. Kohne, High Honors; Tyler W. Langley, Honors; Taylor L. Larson, Highest Honors; Julia E. Law, Honors; Alyssa M. Lee, Highest Honors; Rebecca C. Leonard, Highest Honors; Dorothy L. Lester, Honors; Brooklyn N. Loar, High Honors; Thomas S. Logan, High Honors; Kaitlyn M. Long, High Honors; Michael J. Long, High Honors; Katherine A. Lopez, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Lyon, High Honors; Gina H. Mackenzie, Highest Honors; McKenzie K. Mathenia, Highest Honors; Makezin G. Matthews, Honors; Amanda K. Mayo, High Honors; Ashton M. McCage, Highest Honors; James H. McClaud, Highest Honors; Blaine E. McDaniel, Highest Honors; China-Marie A. McFall, Highest Honors; Andrew B. McGarity, Highest Honors; Kathryn S. McKendall, Highest Honors; Robert J. Mehilhorn, High Honors; McKenzie L. Merritt, Honors; Carly S. Milton, Highest Honors; Jillianne D. Moncrief, Highest Honors; Danielle M. Moody, Highest Honors; Lillian R. Moore, High Honors; Jordan N. Mosele, High Honors; Allie E. Moss, Honors; Alexis L. Muncey, Honors; Jordan P. Murdoch, Highest Honors; Brady C. Mustain, High Honors; Emily P. Nash, Highest Honors; Justin M. Nelson, Honors; Phuong H. Nguyen, Highest Honors; Kirsti S. Nordstrom, Highest Honors; Oisin J. O’Gailin, High Honors; Levi J. Owens, Honors; Amanda J. Padilla, Highest Honors; Brendan T. Page, Honors; Connor A. Page, Honors; Taylor J. Pannell, Honors; Colson T. Papsyzcki, High Honors; Ethan J. Parnham, Highest Honors; Andrew O. Parker, Highest Honors; Mason S. Parker, High Honors; Marissa P. Parks, Highest Honors; Kristen E. Parsley, Highest Honors; Kaylin M. Patel, Honors; Joseph F. Pelton, Highest Honors; Keaton N. Penick, Highest Honors; Maggie L. Plunk, Highest Honors; Dustin M. Pope, Honors; Leah B. Pybas, Honors; Bailey R. Radnitz, High Honors; Joe Marri A. Ray, Honors; Stonie L. Read, Honors; Allison K. Reda, Highest Honors; Jason P. Repath, Highest Honors; Stephen A. Richardson, Highest Honors; Mindy A. Roberts, Highest Honors; Kalen S. Royal, Honors; Jaleese P. Royse, Honors; Micaela M. Rowe, High Honors; Haiden A. Rubio, Honors; Jamie L. Rys, Highest Honors; Grace L. Salmon, Highest Honors; Taylor D. Sanders, Honors; Walter J. Sanders, Highest Honors; Caroline M. Schuster, High Honors; Cole R. Scott, Highest Honors; Hailey M. Seguna, Honors; Evan C. Sherman, High Honors; Estefania M. Silva, Honors; Catherine R. Skee, Honors; Chloe M. Smotherman, High Honors; Skylar M. Stewart, Highest Honors; Jule Streif, Highest Honors; Jasmine Strickland, Honors; Collin L. Stricklin, Highest Honors; William T. Sutter, High Honors; Shaynee L. Syler, High Honors; Andrea M. Tatum, Highest Honors; Lacey J. Taylor, High Honors; Enrique G. Tejeda, Highest Honors; Damon C. Thurman, Honors; Eli M. Todd, High Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, Honors; Mary K. Tucker, Highest Honors; Megan R. Vickers, High Honors; Gavin L. Vance, Highest Honors; Lyndsey B. Vance, Highest Honors; John L. Vincent, Highest Honors; Madison E. Vincent, Highest Honors; Zackary C. Wagenmaker, Honors; Dustin A. Warren, Highest Honors; Alvia S. Weaver, Highest Honors; Christopher D. Webb, High Honors; Summer E. Weldon, Highest Honors; Jeremiah A. Whitehead, Honors; Valerie P. Whitten, High Honors; Shelby R. Willett, High Honors; Alex L. Williams, High Honors; Lindsay M. Williams, Honors; Nathan E. Willis, High Honors; Adam C. Winschel, Highest Honors; Luke A. Winters, Honors; Angela L. Wise, Highest Honors; Kari E. Woods, High Honors; Matthew C. Wright, High Honors; Mingjun Zhang, High Honors; Yuxin Zhang, High Honors; Enrico Zoboli, Highest Honors.

Palmersville — Ashley R. Bell, Honors; Kelly R. Childress, High Honors; Noah Y. Copeland, Honors; Mary D. Jones, High Honors; Danielle N. Leo, High Honors; Victoria G. Todd, Highest Honors.

Sharon — Madison B. Croom, Highest Honors; Kristen K. Crossno, Honors; Jessica L. Davis, High Honors; William B. Erwin, High Honors; Jordan R. Fischer, High Honors; Demi J. Lackey, Highest Honors; Vivian R. Miller, Highest Honors; Kilee D. Moore, Highest Honors; Erik N. Olivas, Honors; Haley S. Renner, Highest Honors; Alex N. Sadler, Highest Honors; Dakota R. Sanford, Highest Honors; Abigail E. Sartain, Highest Honors; Lindsay D. Sparks, High Honors; River B. Stoltz, High Honors; Tucker N. Turner, High Honors.

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

Cottage Grove — Adrienne E. Huestis, Highest Honors.

Fulton, Kentucky — Gerald P. Yates, Highest Honors.

Hornbeak — Shelby D. Burt, High Honors.

Humboldt — Dylan R. Potts, High Honors.

Jackson — Jacob G. Reynolds, Honors.

Mason — Jayla V. Terry, Honors.

McKenzie — Alexia J. Allen, High Honors; Mitchell L. Moore, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Pence, Highest Honors; Logan Priestley, Highest Honors.

Newbern — Deliah C. Ward, Highest Honors.

South Fulton — Michelle L. Richardson, Highest Honors.

Union City — Justin C. Foulks, High Honors; Jack S. Gaines, Highest Honors.

Waynesboro — Myles A. Prince, High Honors; Mason O. Risner, High Honors.
Boyd Talks Leadership During Times of Crisis

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

MARTIN (June 17) — COVID-19 has changed the manner in which the world operates. In that regard, UT Martin's leadership program, WestStar, is holding a leadership series entitled Looking Through Zoom Lenses. Last Wednesday, the series opened with the University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd speaking about leadership and management in times of crisis.

65 community leaders from around West Tennessee listened as the former gubernatorial candidate stated in times of crisis everything is amplified. Thus the crisis forces individuals to look for improvements. Boyd explained since taking over at the university in November 2018, he has looked for ways to improve the school, but now with a pandemic, he has had to find unique ways for the institution to cope.

Boyd provided his four keys to leadership in times of crisis:
1. Teamwork — teamwork is critical because it shows the strength of the team.
2. Communication — communication is a must. Talk with shareholders and don't hold back.
3. Transparency — Tell what you. You may not know all the answers and don’t be afraid to admit it.
4. Make Decisions — Make decisions when you need to. Don’t procrastinate or let the problem fester.

Using those four components, he explained how he believes UT Knoxville is on the road to have the greatest decade the school has seen despite the school’s revenue being down 40% for the year.

UT Knoxville President Randy Boyd opened the WestStar series Looking Through ZOOM Lenses. Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee

Tasked with the challenges of keeping everyone healthy and safe when students return, the president stated faculty and staff will wear masks, there will be required immunizations and universal testing on the first day. He stated not having students on campus cost the school nearly $40 million in regards to refunds and lost tuition.

As students left campus, distance learning became a necessity and shined a light on what was one of the university’s weaknesses. Before the pandemic, very few faculty members wished to work from home. In a recent survey, 80% of the faculty believed working from home was a possibility. He said when classes resume, the university will have a much-improved distance learning program.

He commented on his personal businesses that include Radio Systems Corp., a Knoxville-based business with more than 300 employees producing pet-related products. He serves as chairman of Boyd Sports and is the owner of the Tennessee Smokies, Johnson City Cardinals, Greeneville Reds and Elizabethon Twins. Boyd explained how his pet business has increased by 85% since May due to people being at home and shopping online. While Radio System Corp. is having a fantastic financial uptick, his minor league baseball teams are facing financial difficulties because they have received zero dollars since all minor league baseball has been canceled for 2020. He added his teams have not produced any revenue in 18 months.

Boyd said people weren’t as prepared as they should have been for this pandemic. There were warnings, but maybe society will be ready when the next one strikes.

The next Looking Through Zoom Lenses series talk is July 15 with Tennessee Department of Health Commissioner Lisa Piercey.
UTM Introduces Video Game Design

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin departments of Computer Science and Visual and Theatre Arts have partnered to create a Video Game Design Certificate that will debut this fall for students and design professionals interested in entering the video game industry.

The certificate includes 18 hours of computer science and graphic design courses that will teach students video game theory, design, construction and development. Students earning the certificate will take courses such as graphic design, software development, 3D modeling, computer graphics and video game design and development to produce their own computer video games.

The courses offered this fall will be taught online using free design programs students can utilize on their computers.

The certificate was created in a joint effort by Dr. Windy Wang, associate professor of art education and program coordinator; Dr. Joshua Guerin, associate professor and chair of computer science; Dr. Carol Eckert, professor and chair of visual and theatre arts; and Doug Cook, former chair of visual and theatre arts. Wang, who earned a master’s degree in Immersive Mediated Environments with a concentration in video game design and a Ph.D. in art education from Indiana University, will lead the program with the support of the computer science department.

“One of the main goals for developing this certificate program is that we wanted to benefit our students. We want them to have a chance to learn...how to be digitally skillful so they will be able to get a job,” said Wang.

According to the Video Game Design Certificate webpage, “The program provides opportunities for creative and technical-minded students to explore multimedia tools, skills and applications that are essential to staying competitive in today’s gaming culture.”

Wang, Guerin and Eckert encourage students across campus to participate in the program as the video game designers will need help from multiple disciplines, such as history, English and music majors, to develop characters, backstories, musical scores and more.

“We’re very excited about this program, and we think it’s going to interest a lot of students,” said Guerin. “I see creative new programs as an important way for us to grow at UT Martin.”

“This is the future. It is absolutely the future,” said Eckert about the design certificate. “I think we will see it grow rapidly.”

For more information, visit www.utm.edu/gamedesign or contact Wang at twang42@utm.edu.

Local Students Receive Scholarship to UT Martin

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

• Jeffrey Allen, of Greenfield, son of Jeff and Carla Allen, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.
• Isaac Ivy, of Martin, son of Beth Ivy, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Music Award, the Band Scholarship, the Marching Band Scholarship and the Deans Scholarship.
• Destin McKee, of Martin, daughter of Jeremy and Kat McKee, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Scholarship.
• Shannon Merrell, of Dresden, will be a sophomore. She received the Kellie Jones English Scholarship.
• Dalton Moore, of Martin, son of Brian and Kris Moore, will be a freshman. He received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.
• Stephen Richardson, of Martin, son of Sam and Stephanie Richardson, will be a senior. He received the Chancellor’s scholarship.
• Grant Roberts, of Sharon, son of Anna Roberts, will be a freshman. He received the Sharon United Presbyterian Scholarship and the Achieve Scholarship.
• Bradley Thomas, of Martin, son of Bonnie Thomas, will be a freshman. He received the Music Scholarship and the Achieve Scholarship.
• Tinaley Winn, of Dresden, daughter of Albert and Shelley Winn, 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.
Chancellor’s Honor Roll includes local students

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Gerald P. Yates, of Fulton, made the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with Highest Honors.

Brittany J. Gray, of Hickman, made the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with Highest Honors.

Amber M. Hoskinson, of Hickman, made the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with Highest Honors.

Drew W. Love, of Hickman, made the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with Highest Honors.

Brittany N. Walsh, of Hickman, made the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with Highest Honors.

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UTM scholarships awarded to Obion Countians

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

Brandon Beard, of Union City, Tenn., son of Ken and Jennifer Beard, will be a freshman. He received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Memorial Scholarship.

Claire Coleman, of Union City, daughter of Gregory and Stephanie Coleman, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

Isaac Copeland, of Rives, Tenn., son of Cindy Copeland and Johnny Copeland, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

Logan Crabtree, of South Fulton, son of Jason and Marla Crabtree, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.

Sam Ferguson, of Obion, son of Ricky and Tabitha Ferguson, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

Jacob Roberts, of Union City, son of Rick and Mary Roberts, will be a junior. He received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.

Alli Shaw, of Rives, daughter of Tim and Tracy Shaw, will be a junior. She received the Robert G. and Elizabeth Latimer Scholarship.
In-Person Component Included In Half Of UT Martin Fall Classes

Almost half of the classes offered this Fall by the University Of Tennessee At Martin will include an in-person component as part of the university's reentry plan. On May 6, University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd announced that all UT Campuses would reopen this Fall with in-person classes as UT continues to address operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

UT Martin will begin classes Aug. 17 at the Main Campus and five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, and all classes will end by Thanksgiving. The condensed semester combination of online, hybrid and in-person classes is designed to curb travel to and from the main campus and five centers to minimize spread of the COVID-19 virus. Students should check their individual schedules to verify the course-delivery method for each class.

In addition to the earlier start date, the semester will include classes on Labor Day and no Fall Break. Classes will end Tuesday, Nov. 24, and Final Exams will be administered the week following Thanksgiving. A study day for Final Exams will be observed Monday, Nov. 30, followed by online exams to close the semester. Students will not return to the main campus or centers following the Thanksgiving Holiday. Plans for fall move-out and Fall Commencement are being developed.

For courses that have an in-person component, faculty members are aligning course delivery with recommended spacing and safety measures. For example, hybrid classes can be offered in several ways, such as dividing a class of 30 or fewer students into subgroups and alternating in-person and online sessions. Faculty members are participating in a series of summer online teaching methodology workshops offered by the university to better prepare for online instruction.

"Each one of us wants to...maximize the core UTM educational experience, which is based on face-to-face instruction, interaction and mentoring," said Dr. Philip A cree Cavalier, the university's Chief Academic Officer, in a recent email to faculty members. "Anything we can do to contribute to that work during this uncertain period will ultimately benefit our students."

All university safety measures for fall reentry follow guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 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. Fall move-in to residence halls will feature a staggered schedule with residents assigned a date between July 27 and Aug. 12 to minimize person-to-person contact. Residents are encouraged to return home after completing their move-in and may return to campus starting Aug. 13.

UT Martin Summer Orientation and Registration and Transfer Orientation Sessions in preparation for Fall Semester will be held virtually as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Remaining SOAR Sessions are July 10 and 28, and Aug. 7. The remaining transfer orientation session is July 16.

Additional UT Martin Fall Semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012. Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
Lewis students receive UTM Scholarships

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

Caleb Carroll, of Hohenwald, son of Stephanie Bailey, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.

Daisy Runions, of Hohenwald, daughter of Shannon Runions, will be a freshman. She received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.

UTM Spring Honor Roll

The University of Tennessee at Martin announced Lewis County students eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll.

They are Hayden S. Bass, Highest Honors; Keston W. Bean, Honors; Alexis D. Brewer, Highest Honors; Landree S. Carroll, Highest Honors; David K. Churchwell, Highest Honors; Lauren K. Graves, Honors; Kevin A. Greene, Highest Honors; Olivia P. Hinson, Honors; Hope M. Kelley, Highest Honors; Bryanna M. McBreaity, Honors; Johnathan A. Murray, Highest Honor; Hunter J. Owen, Highest Honors; Ariana L. Potts, High Honors; Shannon S. Reid, Highest Honors; Nathaniel L. Rochelle, Highest Honors; Destinie R. Runions, High Honors; Jerrid A. Runions, Honors; Loren R. Runions, Highest Honors; Karley P. Seiber, Highest Honors; and Christopher M. Spurlock, Highest 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).
Chancellor, black alumni meet to talk about racism
By CHRIS MENEES
Senior Staff Reporter
University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver has met with black alumni leaders amid investigation into a video of students making racist statements.

The chancellor announced via Facebook that he traveled to Memphis Wednesday morning to meet with leaders of UT Martin’s Black Alumni Association “to discuss concerns and a path forward.”

“UT Martin is hurting today for a variety of reasons, most notably surrounding a video that surfaced on social media (Tuesday),” Carver said in the post.

Carver, flanked by two leaders of the association, posted a five-minute video in which he said, “When one Skyhawk hurts, we all hurt.”

He said he was grateful for the discussions Wednesday and looks forward to “future conversations on campus and beyond.”

(See Page 4, Col. 1)

Chancellor...
(Continued from Page 1)
The investigation into the student video was launched Tuesday, according to an announcement on UT Martin’s Facebook page.

In a statement, university officials confirmed they are investigating a video “involving UT Martin students that makes racist statements directed toward members of the black community.

“We condemn hate and are working hard to create an inclusive campus culture. This video in no way represents the values of UT Martin. We have a responsibility to support our black students and create a place where all students feel safe.

At the conclusion of the investigation, appropriate action will be taken,” according to the statement.

The university’s post about the investigation immediately began drawing comments, with many in the community expressing outrage or concerns about the video and others thanking the university for launching a probe to address the matter.

As of early today, UT Martin’s statement about the investigation has been shared on Facebook over 720 times and has drawn over 400 comments.

Senior Staff Reporter
Chris Menees may be contacted by email at cmenees@ucmessenger.com.
UTM Offers Game Design

The University of Tennessee at Martin departments of computer science and visual and theatre arts have partnered to create a Video Game Design Certificate that will debut this fall for students and design professionals interested in entering the video game industry.

The certificate includes 18-hours of computer science and graphic design courses that will teach students video game theory, design, construction and development. Students earning the certificate will take courses such as graphic design, software development, 3D modeling and computer graphics, and video game design and development to produce their own computer video game.

The courses offered this fall will be taught online using free design programs students can utilize on their own computers.

The certificate was created in a joint effort by Dr. Windy Wang, associate professor of art education and program coordinator, Dr. Joshua Guerin, associate professor and chair of computer science, Dr. Carol Eckert, professor and chair of visual and theatre arts, and Doug Cook, former chair of visual and theatre arts. Wang, who earned a master’s degree in Immersive Mediated Environments with a concentration in video game design and a Ph.D. in art education from Indiana University, will lead the program with the support of the computer science department.

“One of the main goals for developing this certificate program is that we wanted to benefit our students. We want them to have a chance to learn ... how to be digitally skillful so they will be able to get a job,” said Wang.

According to the Video Game Design Certificate webpage, “The program provides opportunities for creative and technical-minded students to explore multimedia tools, skills and applications that are essential to staying competitive in today’s gaming culture.”

Wang, Guerin and Eckert encourage students across campus to participate in the program as the video games designers will need help from multiple disciplines, such as history, English and music majors, to develop characters, backstories, musical scores and more.

“We’re very excited about this program, and we think it’s going to interest a lot of students,” said Guerin. “I see creative new programs as an important way for us to grow at UT Martin.”

“This is the future. It is absolutely the future,” said Eckert about the design certificate. “I think we will see it grow rapidly.”

For more information, visit www.utm.edu/gamedesign or contact Wang at twang42@utm.edu.
MARTIN, Tenn. – University of Tennessee at Martin officials have extended the closure of the Elam Center swimming pool through the month of July after evaluating the current COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

All traditional recreational swimming, swimming lessons and pool parties are suspended indefinitely. A decision to safely reopen the swimming pool may be decided at a later date if COVID-19 conditions improve.

For the latest UT Martin COVID-19 updates, visit www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
Universities looking at how to reopen this fall

LaSherica Thornton  Jackson Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

The colleges and universities across West Tennessee have either finalized or are deciding the best, safest way to reopen in the fall, whether that be through in-person classes with guidelines, a mix of online and face-to-face instruction or ending the semester early.

- Union University, Bethel University, the University of Tennessee at Martin and Lane College plan for the fall semester to start either as originally scheduled or a week early. Even so, the returns may have new procedures for students, staff and visitors to abide by or changes to the schedule like with Bethel and UT-Martin.

See REOPEN, Page 5A

"Is there going to be a spike in these cases this fall and winter? We don’t know. So, let’s get as much done earlier as we can."

Keith Carver, UT-Martin Chancellor (shown at left)
Reopen

Continued from Page 1A

Union University

Though opening as originally scheduled on Aug. 18, Union has a logistics team developing plans for classroom size and space, on-campus dining and housekeeping.

**Timeline:**
- New student move-in – Aug. 14
- Returning student move-in – Aug. 16
- Classes start – Aug. 18

On-campus housing units are apartment-style residence halls with a private bedroom for each student and separate entrances into each apartment, which will provide a safe place for students to live and study, said Union President Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver.

“Our students thrive in the Christ-centered community they find at Union, and we’re looking forward to seeing that community re-established as we continue to provide students with an excellent education.” Oliver said in a press release. “We are already practicing, and will continue to practice, safety measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control as well as the state and local health departments.”

The school will release more details over the summer.

Bethel University

For Bethel, a private university, classes will start on Aug. 10 – a week earlier than usual – and end before Thanksgiving.

Bethel, too, is still working on its plans for campus dining, residential life, classroom space and housekeeping.

But, Bethel President Walter Butler said they want to “restore as much of the face-to-face experience as possible while taking measures to prioritize the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff.”

UT-Martin

At UT-Martin, classes will start about a week early on Aug. 17 rather than Aug. 24, there will be classes on Labor Day, and there won’t be a fall break. The goal is for all classes to be done by Thanksgiving.

“Is there going to be a spike in these cases this fall and winter? We don’t know,” UT-Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said. “So, let’s get as much done earlier as we can.”

They’re still working on plans for instruction and campus life.

UT has a COVID-19 task force that recommended the best practices for re-entry on its campuses, including at UT-Martin.

Jon McCullers, senior executive associate dean of clinical affairs at the UT Health Science Center, led the task force that advised the campuses on ways to prioritize student, faculty and staff safety. The report focused on educational awareness about COVID-19, managing the campus environment, its facilities and classes and student transitions on and off campus. Each campus also created its own task force to address their specific needs.

The report can be found at Best Practices for Reopening Tennessee University Campuses.

“The task force agrees with national experts that we will not return to campus life just as it was before,” McCullers said. “We will be experiencing a new normal where we must manage through the risks.”

All UT faculty and staff will be required to get a flu vaccine and could be required to get a COVID vaccine if created and recommended by the CDC and state department of health.

Carver said the university has created an awareness campaign to educate students on the value of masks, how to social distance, self-awareness of symptoms and self-screening.

For UT-Martin specifically, Carver said they will offer all of their classes. The university wants to do some face-to-face with other classes solely online and some in a hybrid method that does both online and face-to-face.

However, the university doesn’t want students or faculty risking their health by being in a face-to-face setting.

There may be faculty or students who have compromised immune systems and can’t do in-person instruction, even with CDC guidelines. In those cases, the university will encourage them to utilize
online teaching and learning.

Carver said the campus is also evaluating the number of people gathered in one place at a time, which will be guided by state rules.

For example, student organizations will have the opportunity to meet even if under number limitations so students “feel like they’re still having that residential campus experience,” he said.

Because the task force addressed things such as instruction, residence halls, visitors and cleaning, the university is making adjustments.

Instead of all students moving in at one time, there will be staggered times for families to move students in.

The university is also investing in machines that may assist in properly cleaning common areas of the campus.

“It’s just evolving daily,” Carver said. “We know it won’t be business as usual this fall. We’re going to have to monitor a lot of scientific data and health trends and pivot if we have to.”

For example, faculty has prepared their courses to be shifted to online only if schools must close again.

Lane

Lane is one of the few schools to have a finalized plan for fall reentry.

They chose a hybrid option for fall 2020, which is with part of the classes online and part face-to-face.

Doing the hybrid option is to provide a healthy, safe, supportive campus for its students who will practice personal responsibility, Lane College President Logan Hampton said.

Lane College has developed protocols, including:

- Cleaning facilities twice a day
- The administrative and nursing office will have personal protective equipment (PPE) for faculty and staff and about 13,000 masks as well as sanitizers and other equipment
- In classes, professors will be 10 feet away from students while students will be six feet from each other, which will lower class sizes.
- Students will have the option to either be in the classroom or do online, Hampton said.
- Anyone coming to campus or anytime students leave their residence halls, they must WWSS: Wear a mask, wash hands, Social distance and Self-check. There will be subsequent protocols for self-checks that reveal a fever.
  - Many residential students will be single-occupancy dorms.
  - Residence halls will have thermal checks.
  - A partnership with organizations to test for the coronavirus and have results within a day
  - Quarantine rooms if a person is either diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspects he or she was in contact with someone with COVID-19
  - Meals are delivered to the student in the quarantined area.
  - Will continue to restrict campus access
  - Visitors – vendors, contractors, guests – must also wear a mask, wash hands, social distance and self check before they’re able to conduct business on campus

Timeline

- July 6 – open campus with new protocols in place
- July 18 – virtual commencement
- Aug. 1 – residence halls open
- Aug. 3 – classes start

Lane already was under a calendar where they ended the semester by Thanksgiving, so they’ll follow that.

If there is a spike in cases before the semester ends, Lane will transition classes to online only following the rubric used this past spring semester when universities closed and switched to online classes.

“We’re hoping to provide a healthy, safe, supportive campus,” Hampton echoed. “We have all been traumatized by COVID-19. We have a senior class coming in that didn’t have graduation, that didn’t have prom, and we have to lean in, take care and educate those students (the whole student).

“It probably sounds strange coming from an educator, but we have to take extra measures to love on those students and help them through the trauma that they’ve experienced ... a trauma we never expected and never planned for.”

Lasherica Thornton is The Jackson Sun's education reporter. Reach her at 731-343-9233 or by email at lthornton@j高效sun.com. Follow her on Twitter: @LashericaT
UT Martin Elam Pool remains closed

UT Martin officials have extended the closure of the Elam Center swimming pool through the rest of this month after evaluating the current COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

All traditional recreational swimming, swimming lessons and pool parties are suspended indefinitely.

If COVID-19 conditions improve, a decision to safely reopen the swimming pool may be decided at a later date.

UTM professor, alum to interview Hall of Famers

Dr. Julie Hill, professor and chair of the music department at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and 1982 UT Martin alumnus Ed Sargent will interview legendary Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Joan Jett and Kenny Laguna on “Keeping the Beat Hosted by TNMEA.”

The program at 7 tonight will be livestreamed on the Keeping the Beat Facebook and YouTube pages.

Jett and Laguna have produced music together for over 35 years, including her top hits “I Love Rock N’ Roll,” “Crimson and Clover” and “Bad Reputation.”

Jett and Laguna will discuss how they have used their musical platform for advocacy with Dr. Hill and Sargent during the interview.

The Keeping the Beat interactive educational series began March 15 as an expansion of the UT Martin Department of Music’s “Corona Connection” program.

Since its beginning, Keeping the Beat has hosted 62 programs through the sponsorship of the Tennessee Music Education Association and the Country Music Association Foundation with the support of UT Martin Music.

The last Keeping the Beat program will air July 15.
**UT Martin plan includes in-person component for fall**

Almost half of the classes offered this fall by the University of Tennessee at Martin will include an in-person component as part of the university's reentry plan.

On May 6, University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd announced that all UT campuses would reopen this fall with in-person classes as UT continues to address operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UT Martin will begin classes Aug. 17 at the main campus and the centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, and all classes will end by Thanksgiving.

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UT Martin Summer Orientation and Registration and Transfer Orientation sessions in preparation for fall semester will be held virtually as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Remaining SOAR sessions are July 10 and 28 and Aug. 7. The remaining transfer orientation session is July 16.

Additional UT Martin fall semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at (731) 881-7012. Follow the latest information about COVID-19 at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
UTM Educational Outreach office changes name to offer transparency

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Educational Outreach has changed its name to the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs to offer more transparency for services provided to students in the region and beyond.

"It goes beyond trying to find us on a website; it is essential to help tell our story as we serve and educate students locally, regionally, and even nationally," said Erica Bell, director. "We are providing the educational touchpoint for West Tennessee and beyond."

The Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs is responsible for the five UT Martin centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville, plus UTM Online, dual enrollment programming, occupational licensure educator preparatory program, distance learning classroom operations, and other academic programming across the region.

The name change was determined through a survey of students, staff and community members. Ms. Bell said the new name will help the office become more accessible to students, campus faculty/staff and community members.

"We are committed to providing quality education to students where they are, while ensuring access to support services and resources needed to be successful," she said. "Whether students start their UTM journey in high school, at one of our five regional centers, online, or a blend, the Office of Regional Campus and Online Programs will be here to support them."

UT music programs set

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Music has the following Keeping the Beat programs hosted by TNMEA planned for this week. They will be livestreamed on Facebook at 7 nightly.

- Thursday — “Kind of COVID: A Jazz Quarantine Conversation”

For a full calendar listing of events, visit utm.edu/music/events.
Obion County students honored at UT Martin

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls.

Several students from Obion County are among the honorees.

The honor rolls recognize students from 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 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 on the Chancellor's Honor Roll include:

- Hornbeak — McKinleigh R. Bell, high honors; Shelby D. Burkett, high honors; Jordan L. Copeland, honors; Brianna M. Hinton, highest honors; Parker W. Kendall, highest honors; and Madison L. Winchester, honors.
- Kenton — Haley R. Hicks, high honors; Cody G. Little, high honors; and Keaton N. McGuire, high honors.
- Obion — Destiny R. Alexander, high honors; Terrie K. Bergstedt, high honors; Taylor S. Elliott, honors; Carigan L. Grimes, high honors; Kellie L. Henson, highest honors; Lindy P. Hood, honors; Jonah M. Pittman, highest honors; Madison S. Pitts, honors; Axl D. Powers, high honors; Brycen G. Rainey, honors; Lauren M. Shaw, highest honors; and Bethany L. Walsh, highest honors.
- Rives — Dylan M. Armstrong, honors; Hannah L. Blakely, high honors; Carah H. Cary, high honors; Kathryn G. Crockett, honors; Hailey C. Sergerson, high honors; Wesley P. Sisco, highest honors; William S. Sisco, honors; Bailey B. Wisener, highest honors; and Claire E. Wisener, highest honors.
- Samburg — Harley M. Burress, highest honors.
- South Fulton — Logan P. Brimm, honors; Alyssa N. Burrous, honors; Hannah G. Carlisle, honors; Trajin A. Chiers, high honors; Benjamin R. Davis, high honors; Riley K. Davis, high honors; Sarah K. Hester, highest honors; Audri A. Hill, honors; Madelyn N. Hogan, high honors; Taylor P. Holley, high honors; Blake A. Johnson, high honors; Maegan M. Johnson, high honors; Ryanne B. Kessel, highest honors; Ariabella E. Kinney, high honors; Arianna M. Kinney, high honors; Slade C. Murray, highest honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, highest honors; Austin D. Puckett, highest honors; Kristen T. Roach, highest honors; Justin B. Sowell, honors; Howard K. Stubblefield, highest honors; Erin P. Tucker, highest honors; and Kelly A. Whitesell, high honors.
- Troy — Morgan L. Armstrong, highest honors; Kurt M. Brandt, honors; Rhett T. Fussell, honors; Micheal D. Hogg, high honors; James G. Hooper, high honors; Carson L. Hutchinson, highest honors; Jaye B. Jennings, high honors; Camille V. Kendall, highest honors; and Kendall, honors; Sara J. Kendall, highest honors; Kathryn G. Kerr, highest honors; Anna D. Logan, highest honors; Cecilee A. Morris, highest honors; Ali K. Shaw, honors; Mikayla R. Shup, honors; Eric S. Stromblad, honors; Bayleigh M. Travis, highest honors; and Megan E. Winchester, honors.
- Union City — Audrey M. Adams, highest honors; Austin C. Atwill, highest honors; Levi H. Beard, highest honors; Breanna N. Bell, highest honors; Dariona A. Bishop, high honors; Ronda A. Brewer, highest honors; Abby C. Bruff, highest honors; Taylor-Rae F. Brandige, high honors; Kayla D. Bryant, high honors; Sheridan B. Bugg, highest honors; Morgan W. Burton, high honors; Kaleigh E. Bynum, highest honors; Caroline J. Chism, highest honors; Oliver C. Cloyd, highest honors; Britney A. Contreras, honors; Kerr J. Corum, highest honors; Rachel M. Crouse, highest honors; Keathtley E. Darnall, honors; Olivia G. Davis, honors; Elizabeth J. Driver, high honors; Aaron J. Dyer, highest honors; Macy S. Earley, highest honors; Andrew M. Easley, honors; Jakayla M. Fisk, honors; Justin C. Foulks, high honors; Hannah X. Fulbright, highest honors; Jack S. Garrett, honors; Andrew B. Glover, high honors; Klayton J. Hagan, high honors; Kyle A. Hart, honors; Taylor J. Heathcock, highest honors; Madison L. Hicks, highest honors; James F. Hudspeth, highest honors; Jacob T. Hyde, honors; Kinley A. Isbell, honors; Donna L. Jackson-Graves, honors; Justin I. Johnson,
highest honors: Cruz M. Kepner, honors; Ryan T. Lewis, honors; Audrey E. Long, high honors; Arturo Lopez, high honors; Nicholas W. Luedeke, honors; Kendraya C. Maddox, highest honors; Mario R. Mandujano, highest honors; Meagan V. Massey, honors; Thomas P. Mathis, honors; Spencer W. Meyer, honors; Alexis V. Millsaps, highest honors; Shelby N. Mosley, honors; Audrey M. Myers, high honors; Abbie N. Niemeyer, honors; Kristen H. Orsborne, high honors; Karoline L. Parker, high honors; Katy Parker, highest honors; Zachary P. Parker, highest honors; Erica S. Phipps, high honors; Taylor N. Pickering, honors; Tucker M. Pounds, high honors; Stella D. Pruett, highest honors; John A. Rico, high honors; Hillary R. Rousséa, highest honors; Santiago A. Ruiz, high honors; Courtney D. Taylor, high honors; Samantha M. Scheland, highest honors; Emily G. Searcy, high honors; Leah A. Simmons, high honors; Daniel A. Slove, highest honors; Jenna M. Smith, honors; Reily J. Stanford, highest honors; Jason M. Stone, highest honors; Emily B. Taylor, honors; Makailly B. Thomson, high honors; William D. Thralls, high honors; Robert S. Ullrich, honors; Ariana G. Warner, highest honors; Amber M. Weak, highest honors; Ali P. Whaley, honors; Jacob T. Wheefes, highest honors; Jahnae A. Woods, highest honors; and Jasmine M. Youngblood, highest honors.

In addition, the spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll honorees who have ties to Obion County include:

- Dyersburg — Mirna J. Ullrich, honors.
- Gallatin — Courtney R. Heuck, high honors.
- Jordan, Minn. — Kelsey D. Simmons, high honors.
- Martin — Heather L. Baggett, highest honors; Anna D. Barnes, highest honors; Taylor C. Bowling, highest honors; Annalise H. Bruer, highest honors; Hunter C. Burton, high honors; Garrett L. Hay, high honors; Autumn J. Hoffman, honors; John I. Kennedy, high honors;
- Lillian R. Moore, high honors; Jordan P. Murdock, highest honors; Mason S. Parker, high honors; Jasmine Strickland, honors; and William T. Suiter, high honors.
- Ridgeley — Faith M. Edwards, honors; and Paxton Stover, high honors.
- Rutherford — Madison P. Ellis, highest honors.

Two UT-M Students Receive Nick Dunagan WestStar Scholarships

MARTIN (July 6) — Two Weakley County residents received the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship, which was established by former UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan to assist dependents of WestStar alumni in their education at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The two Weakley County students who received this scholarship were Ethan Parham and Grant Huffstetter.

Ethan Parham, of Martin, is a sophomore mechanical engineering major. His father, Jeff Parham, is a member of the WestStar class of 1985. Grant Huffstetter, of Greenfield, is a sophomore agricultural engineering major. His father, Randy Huffstetter, is a member of the WestStar class of 2012.

WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and is dedicated to identifying, encouraging and equipping community-minded people who want to be involved in West Tennessee’s economic success.

By: The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Tuesday, July 7, 2020
MARTIN, TN — At the beginning of July, University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver addressed a video of UTM students using racial slurs about the Black community.

The video was posted to social media. When it was originally posted is unknown.

Local 6’s Temi Adeleye tells you the school first addressed the video on June 30 with a public post on social media.

In the public post, the school said "We condemn hate and are working hard to create an inclusive campus culture. This video no way represents the values of UT Martin."

Adeleye originally tells you UTM Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Andy Lewter said seeing a video like this targeting their black students was upsetting.

"I was appalled by the language our students were using," said Lewter. "I was surprised that they were saying the things they were, and wanted to get to the bottom of understanding what was going on."

On Wednesday, Lewter published a statement on the UT Martin website explaining how the university is addressing the situation.

"Let me assure you the Division of Student Affairs is taking this matter very seriously," says Lewter in the statement. "All students are afforded due process. The conduct review will protect the privacy records of the students involved, as authorized by the State of Tennessee and the federal government, as well as provide opportunities to counsel, educate, and seek actions that will help heal the community."

Lewter adds that while he understands there is a great public interest in the outcome of the review, he will not be able to disclose this information to the public.

"Freedom of speech protects all of us as we express our opinions, both those socially acceptable and those that are not," Lewter continues. "Having said that, I also acknowledge that there are consequences for every action taken. The words stated in the video struck to the heart of all of us on campus, especially those of our Black students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends."

Lewter ends the statement by saying, "Moving forward, UTM is committed to providing a safe campus and opportunities to expand the conversation on racial justice. Please join me in creating a campus culture that is respectful and welcoming to all."
UT Martin announces initiatives for diversity, inclusion on campus

July 13, 2020 at 10:12 AM CDT - Updated July 13 at 10:12 AM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - The Chancellor of University of Tennessee Martin has announced plans to address racial justice and diversity issues ahead of the 2020-2021 academic year.

In his campus webpage, Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said he has had several conversations the past few weeks with members of the university community to confront racism and hatred head-on.

Dr. Carver believes the conversations have been productive and have developed into a plan for the upcoming school year.

The plan includes opportunities to be offered to participate in multiple conversations, external training and programming centered on the cultural climate across UT Martin.

The following are initiatives Dr. Carver said are in the process for the 2020-2021 academic year:

- **Hire a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer:** This new, full-time position is a recommendation made earlier this year by the Strategic Plan Goal 3 Implementation Task Force. This leadership position will serve as an adviser for UT Martin in the areas of inclusion and cultural awareness. The officer will directly report to the chancellor and assist senior leadership with all matters related to our diversity initiatives.

- **Create a Diversity Statement and Develop a Diversity Strategic Plan:** The Strategic Plan Goal 3 Implementation Task Force has submitted a statement to the cabinet for vetting. The task force’s current work is focused on the establishment of a comprehensive and clearly articulated university-wide diversity plan. This process will involve faculty, staff and students across the university and provide measurables for accountability.

- **Academic Affairs:**
  - Review Proposals for New Courses on Race and Diversity through the Faculty Senate
  - Increase Faculty Diversity

- **Student Affairs:**
  - Continue Captain’s Courageous Conversations: Engage students in meaningful and challenging conversations around racial justice and other diversity issues.
  - Create a Bias Reporting Process: Process allowing students to notify the university of incidents of bias they witness on campus.

- **Recruit and Retain Diverse Faculty and Staff:** Advertisements in publications, websites and distribution lists appeal to diverse populations. Recruitment through professional organizations and conference attendance provides additional opportunities.

- **Enhance University Safety:** The university is in the final stages of selecting a new Director of Public Safety. Additionally, installation of new security cameras all across campus are expected to be completed by the end of July. An additional 210 cameras will be installed to provide an increased monitoring of the university grounds.

- **Engage Our Community:** Involve the City of Martin Town and Gown Association to strengthen relationships with partners and allies across Martin and Weakley County.

Dr. Carver expressed these measures will take everyone working together and to keep the lines of communication open.

"The lives of our Black students, faculty, staff and alumni matter, and we are doing everything we can to remain engaged in the fight against racism and hatred," stated Dr. Carver.
UT Martin responds to ICE decision regarding international students


MARTIN, Tenn. – According to NAFSA: The Association for International Educators (https://www.nafsa.org/policy-and-advocacy/policy-resources/nafsa-international-student-economic-value-tool-v2), almost 10,000 international students attend colleges in Tennessee.

A local university responds to a recent decision made by a federal agency that could impact these students.

"I haven't talked specifically to the students, but I've heard second hand. Obviously, they're very scared," said Dr. Todd Winters, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and the interim executive director of research outreach and economic development.

If universities switch to fully online programs due to COVID-19, thousands of international students across the country could be sent home.

"A lot of them are two or three years into their degree, and this would really mess that up," Winters said.

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement recently announced changes to the Student and Exchange Visitors program, which involves international students studying in the United States.

The general rule is students with certain visas cannot take a full schedule of online classes and stay in the United States.

Currently, the program allows students to stay in the U.S. and take online courses for the spring and summer semesters due to the pandemic, but this doesn't carry over to the upcoming academic year starting this fall.

"These are students that are already here. The number of new students coming in, because of COVID, has gone down significantly," Winters said.

Students with certain visas can take hybrid classes, meaning some in-person classes and some online classes.

Winters says the university currently has plans to operate under a hybrid model when reopening.

"That allows the students to at least take some hybrid classes, which will count under this new mandate," Winters said.

Although, if COVID-19 numbers get worse, it could change that plan.

Winters said international students leaving would impact the local economy.

"Each student brings in about $33,000 to the economy here in West Tennessee, and we've got 56 international undergraduate students here at UT Martin," Winters said.

Winters advises you to contact your congressman or senator if you disagree with the policy.

To see the full response, visit UT Martin's website. (https://www.utm.edu/news/2020/07/13/2385/)
UT music programs set

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Department of Music has the following keeping the Beat programs hosted by TNMEA planned for this week. They will be livestreamed on Facebook.

- Today at 4 p.m. — TN Collegiate Music Department Chairs, "Responding to COVID-19"
- Thursday at 7 p.m. — The final program, "Behind the Scenes of Keeping the Beat by TNMEA"

For a full calendar of events, visit utm.edu/musicevents.

UT Martin faculty members honored as award recipients

The University of Tennessee System and the University of Tennessee at Martin recognized six faculty members as award recipients during UTM's recent virtual commencement.

Dr. Abigail Shelton, associate professor of chemistry, received the Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award for demonstrating strength in teaching and contributing to the teaching profession through extracurricular achievements, leadership qualities and scholarly activities.

The Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award was established in 1998 by Mai and Charlie Coffey.

Dr. Shelton has taught chemistry at UT Martin since 2012. She has a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and a doctorate degree from the University of Florida.

Dr. Rachna Tewari, associate professor of agriculture economics, and David McBeth, professor of art, were the recipients of the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award.

The Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award was established in 1993 by James R. Cunningham, an attendee of the UT Junior College in the 1930s.

Dr. Tewari began working at UT Martin in 2013 after earning her doctoral degree in agricultural and applied economics from Texas Tech University the same year. She also holds a master of science degree in agricultural business and economics from West Texas A&M University, a master of business administration degree in agribusiness from Symbiosis International University in India and a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University in India.

McBeth began teaching 3D studio art at UT Martin in 1992 as an assistant professor before earning tenure in 1998 and the designation of a full professor in 2002. He was also the 2019 recipient of the Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and art from Friends University in Wichita, Kan., and a master of arts degree in ceramics and photography, as well as a master of fine arts degree in ceramics and drawing, from Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

Mark Hewitt, lecturer of educational studies, received the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award for his academic-advising work with students. He has worked at UT Martin since 2008 and has both his bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from Indiana University.

Dr. Jack Grubaugh, professor of biological sciences, and Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communications, were the recipients of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Awards. Recipients of this award on each UT campus are nominated by students, faculty and alumni based on classroom performance, scholarship and service.

Grubaugh began teaching at UT Martin in 2010 and served as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences for five years. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Central College, a master's degree in biology from Western Illinois University and his doctoral degree in ecology from the University of Georgia.

Robinson has taught communications and served as the faculty adviser for WUTM FM 90.3 "The Hawk" since 2001. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Central Arkansas, master's degree in journalism with a focus in radio, TV and film from the University of Arkansas and a doctoral degree in mass communications from Southern Illinois University.
Area students receive Nick Dunagan Weststar Leadership Scholarship

Two Weakley County residents received the Nick Dunagan Weststar Leadership Scholarship, which was established by former UT Martin Chancellor Nick Dunagan to assist dependents of Weststar alumni in their education at the UTM.

Students include:
- Ethan Parham of Martin is a sophomore mechanical engineering major. His father, Jeff Parham, is a member of the WestStar class of 2018.
- Grant Huffstetler of Greenfield is a sophomore agricultural engineering major. His father, Randy Huffstetler, is a member of the WestStar class of 2012.

WestStar is the state’s oldest and largest regional leadership program and is dedicated to identifying, encouraging and equipping community-minded people who want to be involved in West Tennessee’s economic success. For information about WestStar, call 731-881-7298, or email Virginia Grimes, program coordinator, at vgrimes@utm.edu.
The Black Student Association with UT-Martin released a statement online saying, "The BSA asks that appropriate actions are taken, and punishments are swift and adequate... We acknowledge the hard work of administrators on campus and we recognize that pressure that is placed on those in leadership roles when situations such as these transpire. The BSA does not, and will not, however, continue to accept vague responses and passive recognition of the trails that black students face, not only at UT-Martin but all over the state."

In a statement made, Monday, July 13, Chancellor Carver reported that there will be several changes to help promote inclusivity and understanding. These changes include the hiring of a new position, a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Office the position has been in the making for several months before the surfacing of the video. There will also be new courses offered to students over race and diversity.

Students will also now be able to report incidents of bias they see on campus to the university. Programs and speakers are also being looked at to host events for Martin.

Also, by the end of July, 212 new security cameras will have been installed on the UT-Martin campus to increase security.

When discussing with Carver over those who have voiced concerns on social media about feeling unheard, he told that those could contact his office. That any staff, faculty, alumni, or students could contact him or the office of student affairs with any concerns that were raised from this video.

Many on social media have been calling for the university to release an update on the students and their future at UT-Martin. Carver said that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) will prevent the college from releasing any information on the outcome of the investigation. FERPA is a federal law that protects all student conduct cases. Carver emphasized that FERPA protects not only this case but all student conduct cases.

The student conduct and student handbook are also being reviewed. The student conduct and handbook are reviewed on a yearly basis.

Many of the rules on investigation and student privacy are not set by UT-Martin but instead by the state and the federal government.
Fans attending UT Martin fall sports may see a change with indoor and outdoor seating in the Hardy-Graham stadium as coronavirus case numbers continue to climb. University officials, in conjunction with the Ohio Valley Conference and NCAA, are considering marked stadium seating, temperature checks and masks for stadium visitors.

**UTM Fall Classes, Sports Will Look Different**

**BY JASMIN WILLIAMS**

enterprise@dresdenenterprise.com

MARTIN (July 13) — In the June 17, 2020 edition of the Dresden Enterprise, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver spoke with the Enterprise about the upcoming fall semester. Many details about the start of fall classes and sports were still being discussed. This week Chancellor Carver gave an update on the upcoming fall semester and fall sports.

The fall semester is still on track to start August 17, will not include a day off for Labor Day or a fall break. All classes are currently scheduled to conclude the week of Thanksgiving. After the holiday, all final exams and other assignments will be done online. Carver also reported that just under 50% of all classes will be conducted virtually this semester. The rest of the classes will either be a hybrid of online and in-person or in-person solely.

With the increase of confirmed and probable cases in Weakley County and the state, the university is currently monitoring the daily case count of Tennessee and other states in the region. Carver did say he hoped the university can complete the semester with students and faculty on campus. However, the university is working to ensure that if the campus must go completely online, it will be an easy transition for students and staff.

Parts of the university are currently having desk shields installed for offices to protect students and workers to ensure that germs might not spread through talking.

Students, faculty, and staff will be asked to wear masks while on the campus and especially when in groups. Masks will be given to those who need them for the fall semester.

The university is making sure that the college is ready for going online with internet hotspots. These internet hotspots will be used by students who might not be able to have internet access at home. These hotspots can be utilized on campus or at a person’s home. Information about how to access internet hotspots will be sent to students.

For housing, the campus will continue to focus on cleaning. Carver reported that housing will not be at full capacity this fall. In resident halls, areas will remain empty if a person must be quarantined.

For housing events, such as movie nights and homecoming, there will be many changes. For in-person events, there will be the use of RSVP to ensure that room spacing and crowds are managed to prevent any close contact. For homecoming, the university is still looking to ensure that homecoming events many look forward to can still happen. Carver mentioned that some events for Homecoming could be held online.

For Greek organizations, recruiting will be allowed, but will be handled virtually, as will meetings for these organizations.

The university is also looking at all athletic programs to ensure all athletes, staff, and fans are safe.

Carver said he is hopeful all fall sports will finish their seasons on time and in full. The Ohio Valley Conference and NCAA are in close contact with UT Martin to ensure that fans and athletes are protected.

Carver said UT Martin will follow every guideline issued by those organizations.

Athletes will have temperature checks and are being taught the signs of COVID-19. They will also be asked to have appointments with doctors if they feel unwell.

For fans, there could be changes with attendance and seating. Members of the university are currently discussing the seating of fans outside and inside. They are also looking at the possibility of having stadiums physically marked with where to sit.

Fans could also see temperature checks and mandatory masks for attending sporting events. Carver said fans may have to wear masks and have their temperatures checked, but that will depend on the local and state case counts before that is necessary.

For bathrooms, the flow of traffic will be taken into account. There may be a maximum number of people allowed at once placed on bathrooms.

Even with all of these changes, the university will continue to prioritize cleaning all areas where fans, athletes, and staff might be in contact with.

Many changes to fan attendance will depend on the number of active coronavirus cases by the time the fall semester starts.
UT-Martin Chancellor Keith Carver stands Martin April Armstrong (Left) and Toyna Parson (Right) who are members of UTM’s Black Alumni Association addressing a racist video that has been spread across social media.

Viral Video Prompts Investigation, UTM Response

By Jasmine Williams
enterprise@dresdenterprise.com

Martin (July 8) — UT-Martin is investigating a video that spread through social media of three UT-Martin students’ apparently offensive language to those of African descent.

In the viral video, expletives can be heard against African Americans. Racial slurs were apparent, with one female saying, “I hate blacks” and that “You’re gonna get murdered,” all being said while laughing, in the short video.

In the first of many messages made by the university on social media over this video, UT Martin representatives noted, “We condemn hate and are working hard to create an inclusive campus culture. This video in no way represents the values of UT Martin. We have a responsibility to support our Black students and create a place where all students feel safe. At the conclusion of the investigation, appropriate action will be taken.”

Later, UT Martin’s Chancellor Keith Carver made comments in a video that was posted to social media. During this video, Carver said, “When one Skyhawk hurts, we all hurt, and I just want to start by saying the lives of our black students, our black faculty and staff on campus, but also the lives of our black alumni and black community members truly matter to me and they matter to our campus.”

Carver was joined by the school’s Black Alumni Association in the video.

UT Martin’s vice-chancellor, Dr. Andy Lewster of Student Affairs, also released a statement regarding the viral video and an update into the investigation by the university.

“The video is appalling. It illustrates that we have miles to go to become a campus that is welcoming to everyone. Let me assure you that the Division of Student Affairs is taking this matter very seriously. All students are afforded due process. The conduct review will protect the privacy records of the students involved, as authorized by the State of Tennessee and the federal government, as well as provide opportunities to counsel, educate, and seek actions that will help heal the community. While there is great interest in the outcome, I will not be able to disclose this information to the public,” Lewster said.

However, many on social media, including current faculty, students, and alumni have said the statements by the university are not enough. Many are requesting to know if the students in the video will be or have been expelled.

The UTM’s Black Student Association released a statement online noting, “The BSA asks that appropriate actions are taken, and punishments are swift and adequate. We acknowledge the hard work of administrators on campus and we recognize that pressure that is placed on those in leadership roles when situations such as these transpire. The BSA does not, and will not, however, continue to accept vague responses and passive recognition of the trails that black students face, not only at UT Martin, but all over the state.”

In a statement made Monday, July 13, Chancellor Carver reported there will be several changes to help promote inclusivity and understanding. These changes include the hiring of a new division — a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Office. The position has been in the making for several months before the surfacing of the video, according to the university. There will also be new courses offered to students focused on race and diversity.

Students are now able to report incidents of bias they see on campus to the university. Programs and speakers are also being looked at to host events for Martin.

By the end of July, 312 new security cameras are expected to be installed on the UT Martin campus to increase security.

When discussing with Carver, those who have voiced concerns on social media about feeling unheard, he said any staff, faculty, alumni, or students could contact him or the Office of Student Affairs with any concerns that were raised from this video.

Many on social media have been calling for the university to release an update on the students and their future at UT Martin. Carver said the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) will prevent the college from releasing any information on the outcome of the investigation. FERPA is a federal law that protects all student-conduct cases. Carver emphasized FERPA protects not only this case, but all student-conduct cases.

The student conduct and student handbook are under review, which happens annually. Many of the rules governing investigation and student privacy are not set by UT Martin, but instead, by the state and the federal government.
Students at UT Martin call on school administrators to require a class on African American History and Thought

Jack Kane
Jul 17, 2020

MARTIN, TN- A group of students at The University of Tennessee at Martin, "Skyhawks for a Required Class in African American History," want major educational and culture changes at the college. They held a demonstration in front of the university's administration building Friday evening.

As the rain poured down, demonstrators held their signs up on University Street to spread their message. Alexis Millsaps, Black Student Association Civil Rights Chair at UT Martin, wants to see the change happen now.

"I think that's what a lot of us have in mind at this point. In realizing what privileges you have, or don't have," Millsaps said.

"And then sort of recognizing what role you play in changing those things, or accomplishing whatever else you think you need to accomplish."

The group is making three demands for the college:

1. UT Martin must hold students accountable for any racist actions.
2. The university shall require a class in African American History and Thought for all students.
3. The university will create and fund an African American Studies Institute.

In a video posted to social media, UTM students were heard using racial slurs. Millsaps wants to see her school lead by example, and take action.

"The potential that UTM has to be sort of on the front line of this, and for it to sort of go on the other campuses just in the UT system and maybe Tennessee, we're definitely thinking of those things as well," Millsaps said.

The group wants these short-term changes, to change the culture of the university for future students.

"We're just asking for action that leads to positive change to essentially set the precedent for UT Martin for years to come," Millsaps said. "It's not just about right now, and we're hoping they realize that we're looking to the future and we're asking them to do the same thing."

The group is planning more demonstrations and events for the start of the school year on August 17th. Millsaps says the proposal for the African American History class requirement has multiple options for how students could complete the class credit.

A link to the UT Martin Black Student Association webpage can be found here.
A student government leader at the University of Tennessee at Martin says about a dozen protesters -- making up faculty, students, and community members -- gathered on campus Friday to urge university administration to require students to take an African American History and Thought class. This follows the university launching an investigation (https://www.utm.edu/news/2020/07/08/student-affairs-response-to-racial-video/) into a video (https://www.instagram.com/p/CCExBF_J6D9/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link) of UT Martin students using racial slurs, still under investigation.

Alexis Millsaps, 22, is a senior at UT Martin, who serves as a student senator for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and is the civil rights chair for the Black Student Association at UT Martin, an organization that sponsored the protest.

Millsaps said requiring a class in African American History and Thought is important given the current moment of nationwide protests calling for racial justice.

"We've grown up learning America's history, but in reality we've learned America's white history," said Millsaps. "I know for a fact that there have been Black people other than Martin Luther King [Jr.], other than Rosa Parks, other than Malcolm X who laid these foundations for America, for these freedoms we have today."

She said she wants other students at UT Martin to be aware of that history, also. An online petition (https://www.change.org/p/university-of-tennessee-at-martin-require-an-african-american-history-class-at-ut-martin?recruiter=1114875144&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=share_pet) calling for making African American History a required course currently has more than 1,800 signatures as of Friday. Protesters are also demanding UT Martin create and fund an African American Studies Institute to help support education efforts regarding African American history. Millsaps also wants UT Martin to hold students who said racial slurs in a video that's under investigation, accountable.

"We've gotten a lot of statements [from the university] that have been a little tone deaf, but I'm not upset about that fact because I've talked to faculty," Millsaps said. "It makes me think African American history is so important because those kind of statements can be vague and go out, and the white administration will think that's acceptable and think that's enough."

University spokesperson Bud Grimes said the investigation into the video is ongoing. Millsaps said she and others are planning more protests and discussions for the upcoming fall semester.
Student rebuilds horse skeleton for anatomy classes

JUL 18, 2020

Submitted photos Recent Tennessee at Martin graduate Savannah Metheny, a West Virginia native, works to construct a fully articulated equine skeleton.

While she may be small in stature, the legacy Savannah Metheny, a recent animal science graduate from North Central West Virginia, has left at the University of Tennessee at Martin casts a tall shadow. In fact, it is 17-hands tall.

When the pre-veterinary student from Weston was asked if she wanted to help rebuild a fully articulated equine skeleton, she knew she could not pass up such an opportunity. The chance to disassemble, clean and rebuild a horse's skeleton was, according to Metheny, an invaluable experience that solidified her decision to become an equine orthopedic surgeon.

“There are so many things that I have already seen differently after this,” said Metheny. “I’ve held each portion of the horse in my hand and turned it around to make it fit where it was supposed to go, then put it back together. So, I’ve literally taken everything apart and then put it back together piece by piece. As a future equine surgeon, it's going to be priceless, truly. ... It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Metheny and Dr. Diana Watson, veterinary sciences lecturer, spearheaded the project of rebuilding “Ron,” the 28-year-old thoroughbred, to create a teaching model for UT Martin’s animal science classes. With no instructions or guide for how to reassemble Ron, the pair creatively reconstructed the horse from the ground up, after having the soft tissue and cartilage cleaned off the bones by flesh-eating beetles, in eight months.

“The beauty of this whole project is trial and error and just learning what works and what doesn’t. We were very innovative with it all; there wasn’t a textbook way to do it,” said Metheny. “What was guiding this project was just to see if we could do it. It was an educational endeavor that was just for fun. We said `great' if we could make it work for students as a teaching modality and if not, at least we tried and learned something. I think that's the beauty of education.”
"I guess we always surprised ourselves as we went through it...," Metheny continued. "We sat there and would think and think and flip everything around and go through all of the possibilities. Then we would decide on one way to do something, and it worked every time."

Ron now stands 7 feet tall in the Veterinary Science Lab and will be used to teach equine anatomy. Through creative measures, his roughly 200 bones are held together with high-tensile wire, fishing line, glue, epoxy, threaded rods, a little bit of tape, and according to Watson, a few prayers. Through collaboration with the departments of engineering and biology, the 75-pound structure is fixed on an in-house designed platform, which holds the horse upright.

Ron was completed with the help of many campus organizations including the departments of animal science, engineering, biology, the West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory, the UT Martin farm crew and many others.

Of the eight veterinary schools Metheny was accepted to attend, she chose the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, and is excited to see how this unique research opportunity will help her succeed in her veterinary program.

"I had seen anatomy in different ways, but never like this and in that much detail. You have a bone in front of you, and you have to flip it around six different ways to get it into the proper position... So just seeing it that in-depth, there's no better way to learn it," Metheny said. "It's just been such an incredible opportunity that I think really is a testament to the education this university provides, to the faculty, to the staff... and the kind of opportunities you can have as a student here if you seek them out."

Metheny, originally from Weston, came to UT Martin for the equestrian team and pre-veterinary program. Metheny says her grandfather began teaching her how to ride as soon as she could sit up and knew one day she would compete on an NCAA Division I sports team. Her passion for all things equine-related has led her to a career in which she knows she can help make a difference for these animals.
"As someone that has ridden many horses and seen how powerful they can be, they are also very fragile," said Metheny. "Show jumping and sport horses have been my absolute love since I was 7. There's nothing better to me than watching a horse that has been successfully rehabbed... As an equine surgeon, there are modalities to help get them back and to help them do that so they can be the best they can be, to do what they were bred to do. That's what pushes me every day to keep learning, keep getting better and help those horses compete at the highest level of competition."

Metheny participated on the UT Martin equestrian team as a four-year starter in the equitation over fences event. She says that while every competition was memorable, her very first competition was the defining moment of her collegiate career as she can still remember the smell of the arena as she prepared to ride in competition with her hand over her heart as the national anthem played over the speakers. Additionally, Metheny was recognized as a Farnam NCEA All-Academic First Team equestrian athlete and graduated Summa Cum Laude in May.

Between her experiences on the equestrian team and the research projects she has completed at UT Martin, Metheny says university students have a unique opportunity to learn through extracurricular activities and projects just like rebuilding a horse skeleton.

"Don't be afraid to own your education, to think outside of the box. I would encourage (students) to come in with an open mind and to never stop learning, to embrace each day's opportunity because you never know what might happen. Work hard, be grateful and just relish the opportunity to learn at this university because it is unique, and it's a gem. The faculty and staff, they're all there to help you, and there's not a better place that I could think of to do my undergraduate education."
Maury County student receives UT Martin-Kiwanis award for leadership and service

By Special To The Daily Herald
Posted Jul 20, 2020 at 12:04 PM
Updated Jul 20, 2020 at 3:25 PM

Sidney Church, a senior political science major from Santa Fe, is the 2020 recipient of the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service.

The award is given in recognition of Dr. S.K. Airee, a long-time chemistry faculty member at the University of Tennessee at Martin and charter member of the Martin Kiwanis Club.

The $1,000 scholarship is awarded to a student of at least a sophomore standing who shows academic excellence, leadership in co-curricular activities, and citizenship and service to the university and community. Eligible students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, have achieved the rank of an Eagle Scout or Gold Girl Scout in the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts of America, and have been a member of the Key Club in high school or have been involved in the collegiate Circle K Club.

On top of meeting the award requirements, Church has also volunteered with outreach organizations such as Make a Wish, Letters in Motion, Operation Christmas Child, St. Jude and the Martin Rotary Club. She serves as the Student Government Association academic affairs chair and senator for the College of Business and Global Affairs, is a member of Chi Omega sorority, the treasurer for the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature and is a Peer Enabling Program Leader.

The Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service was endowed in 2017 by Airee in honor of the Martin Kiwanis Club.
UT Martin names first-ever Chief Diversity and Inclusion officer

July 21, 2020 by WBBJ Eyewitness News Staff (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/wbbj/eyewitnessnewsstaff)

MARTIN, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin has appointed its first-ever Chief Diversity and Inclusion officer.

Dr. Mark McCloud will begin the interim position August 1.

In this new role, Dr. McCloud will be responsible for developing a comprehensive cultural competency plan for faculty, staff and students in order to promote institutional diversity and inclusion.

Mccloud, a UT Martin alumnus says in part:

"I am honored to serve in this crucial role at this time in our university's history...
I want UT Martin to reflect diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in everything we do."

Church receives Kiwanis Award

Sidney Church, a senior political science major from Santa Fe, is the 2020 recipient of the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service, which is given in recognition of Dr. S.K. Airee, a long-time chemistry faculty member at the University of Tennessee at Martin and charter member of the Martin Kiwanis Club.

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The Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service was endowed in 2017 by Airee in honor of the Martin Kiwanis Club.

For more information about the award, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
RESPONSE DEManded — Skyhawks for a Required Class in African American History protested Friday to demand that a class in African American history be mandatory for all students. They also want the university to punish racist behavior in all its forms.

UTM students and faculty demand changes

Compiled by Amanda Mansfield and Randy Cavin

Demonstrations and protests have been taking place all over the country following the death of George Floyd while being detained by four Minneapolis, Minnesota, police officers May 25.

Black Lives Matters protests have even been held in Martin. Now, the movement has hit home even harder following a racist video by some UT Martin students that made it to social media. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni staged a demonstration Friday afternoon about their displeasure with the way the administration is handling the ordeal.

Not even the storms raking the area deterred the demonstrators.

The demonstrators are wanting three things from the university:
1. UTM must hold racist students accountable for their actions.
2. UTM must require a class in African-American History and Thought.
3. UTM must create and fund an African-American Studies Institute to coordinate and broadly disseminate an understanding of the African-American experience and its significance to American History.

Demonstrators call their coalition “Skyhawks for a Required Class in African-American History.” A petition was started on Change.Org to have UTM to require such a class for all students. They are seeking 2,500 signatures and have about 1,900 as of Monday.

Alexis Millsaps, who is the Black Student Association Civil Rights Chair at UTM, is urging the administration to make changes now, as opposed to later. The demonstration is about more than just having UT Martin require an African-American History class.

“We have three goals with the demonstration, which are to have UTM hold students accountable, to create and fund an African-American History Institute that would essentially guide the classes that we are suggesting, and require a course in African-American History,” Millsaps said. “Whether it is African-American literature, African-American art or
African-American music. We are willing to compromise to discuss some of those things to tailor to each student who might be interested in that history course. That is why we are out here today.

UT Martin does have two courses in African-American Studies in the Department of History and Philosophy, and a Minor in African-American Studies. However, it doesn’t offer any African-American History classes.

Strangely, UTM does not offer such a class even though the university hosts an annual Civil Rights Conference in February, which is Black History Month.

“It is interesting to me as well,” Millsaps said. “UTM is either the only school in Tennessee or in the nation that does a civil rights conference. That is why, in my own opinion, that it might be easier to accomplish since we have the conference.”

The other big thing is the video, which made it rounds on social media before it got taken down. Racial slurs could be plainly heard in the video. The students in the video show that racism does go on behind closed doors on a campus as diverse as UT Martin.

Millsaps is disappointed and hurt emotionally knowing that such racism is happening on a campus that she thought was truly diverse.

“It just breaks my heart to see that is happening and to know it is happening behind closed doors,” Millsaps said. “It was a private video and it got out. It just makes me wonder what else is happening behind closed doors on this campus and how easy it is to be racist in this way. We do not have policies to punish these sorts of activities. We did not plan for it and we were not prepared for it. That is why I am hoping the administration’s eyes can be opened, and the students’ eyes can be opened. At this point, silence is violence.”

During two Zoom meetings discussion included enrollment, particularly black enrollment at UT Martin, as well as the history and accomplishments of the Black Alumni Council, the panelists also discussed the university’s response to the racist viral video that circulated social media, showing UT Martin students using racial slurs and making comments that some community members thought should have gotten them expelled from the university.

Additionally, Chancellor Keith Carver and Faculty Senate President Dr. Sean Walker responded to the call for a required course in African-American History and Thought, spearheaded by Dr. David Barber of UTM’s History Department.

Regarding the call for this required course, Dr. Carver stated that about two months ago, a petition for a required course in African-American History began circulating. He said several other discussions were happening at the same time, but this one was receiving the most attention.

Carver explained that in the faculty handbook, granted by the Board of Trustees, curricular changes begin with the faculty and are approved by the faculty. He went on to explain that after the faculty has done their work, he will have a look at the outcome.

“Dr. Carver supports conversation, he is disheartened that he will not openly support a necessary change to the curriculum, a change that cannot wait to go through the many steps that are currently required for a change of this magnitude.

Barber wants to make it clear that he has followed the Faculty Senate’s protocol by properly submitting a detailed proposal. However, without immediate action, he is afraid this issue will lose steam and fall through the cracks with the excuse of “lack of funding” or something similar.

During the second of the two meetings, alumni expressed concerns about the current policies at UT Martin, asking for a change in language regarding consequences for hate speech.

The racially-charged video circulated on social media June 30. Less than 24 hours after the video circulated, the university issued a statement stating that an investigation had begun, and hate was condemned. The next day, Dr. Carver posted a video on the university’s Facebook page stating that the university was in the process of listening and collecting ideas regarding the issues black students are facing on campus.

On July 8, Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, sent faculty, staff, alumni, and students an email in which he referred to the video makers’ due process and freedom of speech.

Upon receiving this email, many UT Martin community members took to social media in disdain regarding Lewter’s statement, arguing that freedom of speech should not mean freedom from consequences.

As Dr. Lewter began his conversation on the July 10 Zoom meeting with the Black Alumni Council, he stated, “We are in the process of addressing the student’s behavior, but there are some limitations on what we can do.”

He said immediate expulsion was not an option. He also added that, “We do not have the ability to let the community know any outcome,” due to privacy rights. On July 16, Dr. Sean Walker reiterated that, “A University is not allowed to share disciplinary actions that are tied to a specific person.”

In June, however, UT Knoxville responded quickly and publicly, in less than one week, with a suspension of one student and revocation of admission of another student, after racist remarks were made on social media.

As of printing today, it has now been three full weeks since UT Martin’s racist video incident, and the community is left wondering how and when the University will complete its investigation and take appropriate action.

Dr. Lewter had some remarks regarding the differences between the UT Knoxville incidents and UT Martin’s.

“They have had a number of different incidents, they have been dealing with being a larger institution,” Lewter said. “If there was a suspension, it was probably in response to a direct threat. If you threaten someone directly, those will be dealt with very swiftly. If it is a statement expressing an opinion or idea, those are dealt with differently, in a legal sense.”

Chancellor Carver added, “not to diminish the hurt and the pain, but they are different cases.”

While the direct threat of students is punishable by suspension, expression of opinions, which is what UT Martin is dealing with, is not. However, some alumni brought up that the assault on the mental health of black students, by witnessing the video, is just as harmful as a physical attack.

“If there was one message I would like to take to the masses, it is to continue to hold us accountable, continue to protest, because you allow us to have a seat at the table and our voices to be heard,” McCullard said.

More demonstrations and events are being planned for the start of the school year.
Student-run station wins 13 AP awards

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"The AP college awards are open to all schools in Tennessee and honor the best work by college journalists working across all platforms — television, radio, print and digital. The competition is pretty fierce, and this year's results show UT Martin is producing some of the state's best young journalists," said Adam Yeomans, southern regional director of The Associated Press.

First-place awards include Kayla Brooks of Dickson in the radio newscast category; Jillianne Moncrief, a spring 2020 graduate from McLemoresville, in the radio reporter category; John Thornton, a spring 2020 graduate from Atoka, in the radio sports reporting category; and Thornton, Jordan Taylor of Medon and Davis Gregory of Knoxville in the radio sports coverage/program category.

Second-place honors include Ms. Brooks for the radio news story and Ms. Moncrief for the use of sound categories.

Third-place recognitions include Ms. Brooks in the radio newscast, radio news story, radio feature story and television videography categories; Thornton, Taylor and Gregory in the radio sports coverage/program category; and Ms. Moncrief and Thornton in the radio sports reporting category.

Thornton also received Best in Show for radio.

WUTM competed against universities in Tennessee which include UT Knoxville, UTChattanooga, University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University, Belmont University and more.

Of the award recipients, two recent UT Martin graduates and a current student have already begun their careers in broadcast communications. The other recipients will return to UT Martin in the fall to continue their education.

WUTM also received 30 awards from news and broadcast organizations, including the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System, Collegiate Broadcasters, Inc., and the Southeast Journalism Conference.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Tuesday, July 21, 2020
UT Martin names local students to honor rolls

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2020 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Natural 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).

Bradford – Alexander H. Cantrell, Honors; William C. Evans, High Honors; Shayan C. Graves, High Honors; Nolan K. Johnson, Highest Honors; Ashley N. Manning, High Honors; Hannah N. Moore, Highest Honors; Brian C. Perritt, Highest Honors; Jacob C. Pruett, Highest Honors; Jordan D. Reynolds, Highest Honors; Dylan C. Schaefer, Honors; Anna M. Sison, Highest Honors; Frederick J. Spain, Highest Honors; Katrina M. Tyler, High Honors; Mary E. Wollam, Highest Honors.

Dyer - Cody S. Brennan, High Honors; McKinley H. Burdett, High Honors; Shelby N. Croom, Highest Honors; Peyton G. Holt, Honors; Alex C. Jones, Highest Honors; Anna G. Jones, Honors; Abbey G. Landrum, Honors; Allie C. Landrum, Highest Honors; Ashton P. Lannom, Honors; Erin T. Lannom, Highest Honors; Caitlyn H. Mayberry, Honors; Terry L. Newsome, High Honors; Kyndal B. Pulley, Highest Honors; Savannah P. Ramsey, Highest Honors; Jacob T. Siler, Highest Honors; Henry E. Todd, Highest Honors; Brandt G. Wright, Highest Honors.

Gibson – Hope E. Newell, Highest Honors.

Humboldt – Karen N. Allen, Highest Honors; Cannon O. Bauer, Highest Honors; Calista R. Beard, High Honors; Colton M. Beasley, Honors; Savannah K. Beaton, Highest Honors; Adeline C. Blanken, Honors; Krystal D. Boggs, Highest Honors; Anna G. Brown, Highest Honors; Kaitlynn E. Burkett, Highest Honors; Morgan P. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Melenah Gateley, Highest Honors; Seth D. Gibson, High Honors; Hannah E. Kent, Highest Honors; Leah J. Miller, Highest Honors; Dylon R. Potts, High Honors; Jamie L. Potts, High Honors; Destiny D. Regier, Honors; Allison G. Smith, High Honors; Mary K. Thompson, Highest Honors; Keaton B. Wilson, Highest Honors.

Kenton – Julie B. Allen, High Honors; Cole E. Davis, Highest Honors; Bethany M. Eddings, Highest Honors; Alyssa B. Hopper, High Honors.

Medina – Nicole G. Ayers, Honors; Trevor L. Boals, Highest Honors; Trina R. Bobbitt, High Honors; Covy L. Case, Highest Honors; Chloe G. Cates, Highest Honors; Rebecca E. Climer, Highest Honors; Charles B. Colemaine, Highest Honors; Kristen B. Dabbs, Highest Honors; Bentley A. Davis, Honors; David C. Hollis, Highest Honors; Rachel N. Jones, Honors; Cody A. Kinniburgh, High Honors; Konner P. Knop, Honors; Hadley G. Lindsey, High Honors; Kaitlyn M. Martin, High Honors; Magdalene I. Martinez, Highest Honors; Elizabeth N. Matney, Highest Honors; Ethan B. Moore, High Honors; Cameron D. Pemberton, Honors; Amy A. Polk, High Honors; Levi J. Schlesinger, High Honors; Rachel K. Smith, Highest Honors; Kyle M. Trompeter, Highest Honors; Barry C. Wimberly, Honors.

Milan – Hannah E. Aucoff, Highest Honors; Brittny N. Autry, Honors; Destiny Banks, Honors; Megan Black, Highest Honors; Sydney C. Blackburn, Highest Honors; Ashlyn C. Collins, High Honors; Madison C. Crocker, Highest Honors; Savannah L. Crone, Highest Honors; Abigail M. DeIdent, Honors; Samuel B. Fagan, High Honors; Karen M. Gantt, Highest Honors; Bailey R. Graves, High Honors; James E. Hatfield, Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, Highest Honors; Kellon K. Johnson, Highest Honors; Karsten K. Kyle, High Honors; Abigail M. Lewis, High Honors; Savannah G. Maxey, High Honors; Kelsey B. Morris, High Honors; Olivia J. Patrick, Highest Honors; Jonathan C. Prescott, Highest Honors; Tori B. Rigg, Highest Honors; Sarah A. Smith, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Wilson, Highest Honors.

Rutherford – Madison P. Ellis, Highest Honors; Cassey D. Faulkner, Honors; Alexa L. Garner, High Honors; Daphne Z. LaGrone, Highest Honors; Jessica C. Rogers, Highest Honors.

Trenton – Abigail B. Allen, High Honors; Hannah G. Bell, Highest Honors; Tayla A. Bartholomew, High Honors; Tyson L. Bartholomew, Highest Honors; Desiree B. Brooks, High Honors; Emily M. Campbell, Highest Honors; Morgan G. Campbell, High Honors; Joanna C. Ferguson, Highest Honors; Caleb A. Greene, Honors; Jadarius D. Harris, High Honors; Allyson M. Ingram, Highest Honors; Eli J. King, Highest Honors; John K. Lester, Highest Honors; Jake H. Lewis, High Honors; Wesley R. McCaskill, High Honors; Cade E. Milligan, High Honors; Adrian M. Rodriguez, Highest Honors; Martina A. Roznovsky, High Honors; Makayla N. Walters, High Honors.

Yorkville – Brennan T. Lowsdale, High Honors.

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

Jackson – Grace N. Abbott, Highest Honors; Carlton Childs, High Honors; Britteele A. Crosser, Highest Honors; Lawson C. Mann, Honors.


Murfreesboro – Daivion Shepherd, High Honors.

Sharon – Madison B. Croom, High Honors.

South Fulton – Alyssa N. Burrous, Honors.

Union City – Donna L. Jackson-Graves, Honors.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin has partnered with ReUp Education Network to identify students across the globe who have "stopped out," or temporarily withdrawn from college, to enroll at UT Martin and complete their degree.

ReUp Education is a research organization that locates stop-out students for higher education institutions and provides assistance and resources, such as personal success coaches, for students to reenroll at a partnering university. According to the ReUp Education website, in the past 20 years, 36 million Americans, including over 800,000 Tennesseans, have received some college education but did not earn a degree.

"The completion crisis facing higher education requires an innovative response that breaks down barriers to help students reenroll in college. Stop-out students have historically been left behind, and we want to change that," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, the university's chief academic officer, in a previous release from ReUp Education. "This is about fulfilling our mission to serve West Tennessee by educating and engaging its citizens."

UT Martin has worked with ReUp Education since June 2019 to reenroll UT Martin stop-out students; however, through the ReUp Network, the university will be able to recruit students who stopped out from other ReUp Education-connected universities as well.

According to Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, as a result of the collaboration, UT Martin has reenrolled almost 100 stop-out students into online and on-campus programs.

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree program has attracted many stop-out students because it can be completed online, allowing non-traditional students to finish their degrees without disrupting their daily lives or restarting their college careers.
Sarah MacAaron, a commercial/film producer from Los Angeles, says ReUp gave her the connection to UT Martin as well as a sense of personal accountability to finish her BIS degree in order to advance in her career. She chose UT Martin for its flexible online program and easy admission process.

"Going back to school has felt overwhelming, so the fact that I have (an organization like ReUp Education) to be accountable to to take the steps to go back to school was really helpful for me.

That’s all I needed to take the actions myself and apply," said MacAaron. "I feel like I have a network of support with (ReUp)."

MacAaron encourages stop-out students who are considering going back to school to talk with a ReUp Education counselor to address the concerns students have about continuing their education and what resources are available for students to earn their degrees.

In addition to UT Martin, the ReUp Network includes Arkansas Tech University, Bellevue University, Brandman University, California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, Ducere Global Business School, Eastern Michigan University, Excelsior College, Salem University, University of Idaho, and Texas A&M University – Central Texas.

For more information regarding UT Martin’s affiliation with ReUp Education, contact Mantooth at jdmantooth@utm.edu
Above, Students gathered in front of the Administration Building on the UT Martin campus Friday afternoon to rally for a mandatory African-American course and for accountability. Below, UTM Students make signs before the demonstration begins.

BY JASMIN WILLIAMS
jasmine@dresdenterprise.com

MARTIN (July 17) — The Black Student Association and the Skyhawks for African-American History hosted a demonstration on the UT Martin campus in front of the administration building Friday afternoon. Students participated in the peaceful demonstration for a required African-American history course at the university and in response to a controversial video that recently circulated on social media.

Despite the weather, several students came in support of the demonstration. A formal proposal was sent to the university. In it every student will have to take one class regarding African-American history and culture. Hailey Williford, a member of the Skyhawks for African-American History, said there are many courses a student could take to fulfill this requirement. Race and psychology, African-American history, and African-American literature could all be used for this requirement. Williford said the reason students need an African-American history course was, “There are black students who don’t know black history. We feel it’s important to have students to be ready for a diverse world.”

The proposal was sent and is under review by the university. If approved, it would go into effect as soon as the fall of 2021.

The demonstration was also in response to a controversial social media video. Those who participated in Friday’s event said they wanted to show racist comments and actions would not be tolerated on UT Martin’s campus. “We need allies and people to be there for black people,” president of the UTM’s Black Student Association Kaylyn Bailey stated.
Former brick layer receives brick since he signed over 60 years ago on UT Martin's Campus

Jack Kane
Jul 25, 2020

MARTIN, TN - Brick academic buildings are something almost every college campus in the United States has. For James Vinson, the buildings on UT Martin's campus, and the bricks they're made of are part of his personal history.

"Our brick team that we had, of course we started that back in 90, and we ended up in 2000 and something we quit," Vinson said.

In 1957, James Vinson helped lay brick for several buildings on UT Martin's campus. During some renovation's to some of the academic buildings crews found a brick Vinson signed that year. Dana Hagen, the school's project coordinator for maintenance, goes to church with Vinson and gave him his signed brick.

"The contractor called me and said, 'I found something you might want to keep,'" Hagen said. "And I went over there and got it, and I couldn't believe what I saw on the tile that it had the name of someone I knew!"

Vinson is excited to be able to show off his contribution to the campus to his family.

"Just for my family to realize about what I did and everything. They can look back and say, 'well he done this and he done that.' So they can see part of it now," Vinson said.

One of his proudest contributions to the campus is the sign on University Street.

"Now I see it every time I come into Martin, and I always look over here at it whenever I come by. My wife will say, "there's your sign!"" Vinson said. "That's the way we look at it."

Every brick he put down, is a part of his legacy with the school. Vinson and Hagan say they are both thankful for the crew who found the brick and got it back into his possession.
Memorial for Madison County lynching victims completed


JACKSON, Tenn. — A new memorial is erected honoring African Americans whose lives ended brutally.

"Part of this effort is to memorialize, and to bring some symbol of justice to the victims of lynching that occurred in Madison County," UT Martin associate professor of criminal justice Dr. Cindy Boyles said.

Dr. Boyles said it's been an almost two year process, but now a new memorial stands where two lives ended. Eliza Woods and John Brown were both lynched on the grounds of the Madison County Courthouse.

Woods was lynched in 1886, and Brown in 1891.

Some county officials voted down the memorial at first, but then reconsidered and approved it.

"We wanted to put the marker up back in April, we wanted to have a big public dedication ceremony at that time, but of course the pandemic got in the way," Boyles said.

Friday, Boyles and others celebrated the memorial's completion in a small ceremony and remembered African Americans who died as a result of what she calls 'domestic white terrorism.'

"People were accused, but never given a chance to prove their innocence or even to be found guilty, except by anything other than a vigilante group," Boyles siad.

Woods was accused of poisoning the wife of her employer, Jesse Wooten.

"They dragged her here to the courthouse yard, and in this area right here, they hung her to a tree and tried to force her to confess," Boyles said.

Brown was accused of shooting a train switch man after being told to get off a train for not having a ticket.

The worker survived.
"John Brown was lynched for killing a man that lived," Boyles said.

Boyles also discussed Frank Ballard, an African America man who was lynched for assaulting a young woman in what's known today as Beech Bluff.

She says she and the Jackson-Madison County Community Remembrance Project plans to honor Ballard with a marker in Beech Bluff.

"To be able to bring this forward and to be able to talk about it, and to be able to try and start some conciliation between the races here, is a very powerful and emotional feeling," Boyles said.

She said she and the coalition are looking for descendants of the three known lynching victims in Madison County.
WUTM receives multiple awards

The University of Tennessee at Martin student-run radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 "The Hawk" won 13 awards at the Tennessee Associated Press 2020 College competition, including four first-place awards and Best of Show in radio.

"The AP college awards are open to all schools in Tennessee and honor the best work by college journalists working across all platforms - television, radio, print and digital," Adam Yeomans, southern regional director of the Associated Press said. "The competition is pretty fierce, and this year's results show UT Martin is producing some of the state's best young journalists. It is a credit to their drive and talent, not to mention the direction and guidance they receive from the school's instructors."

First-place awards include Kayla Brooks, of Dickson, in the radio newscast category; Jillianne Moncrief, a spring 2020 graduate from McMinnville, in the radio report category; John Thornton, a spring 2020 graduate from Atoka, in the radio sports reporting category; and Jordan Taylor, of Memphis, in the radio sports coverage/program category.

Second-place honors include Brooks for the radio news story and Moncrief for the use of sound categories.

Third-place recognitions include Brooks in the radio newscast, radio news story, radio feature story, and television videography categories; Thornton, Taylor, and Davis in the radio sports coverage/program category; and Moncrief and Thornton in the radio sports reporting category.

Thornton also received Best in Show for radio.

WUTM competed against universities in Tennessee including UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga, University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University, Belmont University and more.

Of the award recipients, two recent UT Martin graduates and a current student have already begun their careers in broadcast communications. Moncrief is an associate news producer and social media manager for WPSD in Paducah, Kentucky, while Thornton has accepted a position as the lead sports play-by-play announcer for Union City sports at Froggy 99.3 radio station, alongside Taylor who will serve as the lead sports analyst and sales specialist.

The other recipients will return to UT Martin in the fall to continue their education.

With the 13 awards from AP, WUTM has also received an additional 30 awards this year from news and broadcast organizations, including the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System, Collegiate Broadcasters, Inc., and the Southeast Journalism Conference.

For more information about the 2020 Tennessee Associated Press collegiate awards, contact WUTM-FM 90.3 "The Hawk"
UT Martin seeks stop-out students to enroll and complete their degrees

The University of Tennessee at Martin has partnered with ReUp Education Network to identify students across the globe who have “stopped out,” or temporarily withdrawn from college, to enroll and complete their degree.

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Ms. MacAaron encourages stop-out students who are considering going back to school to talk with a ReUp Education counselor to address the concerns students have about continuing their education and what resources are available for students to earn their degrees.

In addition to UT Martin, the ReUp Network includes Arkansas Tech University, Bellevue University, Brandman University, California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, Duceré Global Business School, Eastern Michigan University, Excelsior College, Salem University, University of Idaho and Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

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Diversity, inclusion position to be filled by Dr. McCloud

Dr. Mark McCloud has been named interim chief diversity and inclusion officer at the University of Tennessee at Martin, effective Saturday.

In his new role, McCloud will be responsible for developing a comprehensive cultural competency plan for faculty, staff and students in order to promote institutional diversity and inclusion.

"As a proud UTM alumnus and change agent, I am honored to serve in this crucial role at this time in our university’s history," McCloud said. "I want UT Martin to reflect diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in everything we do. As an institution, we should be leaders in creating a welcoming and supportive community for all, while learning and respecting the unique individual cultures that make us one."

McCloud will also be responsible for providing oversight to the Chancellor’s Cabinet concerning campus issues related to diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging, as well as partnering with the university community to implement programs, like the Multicultural Center for underrepresented student groups, to foster diversity and increase minority retention rates.

"I’m honored that Dr. McCloud has accepted the opportunity to serve as the interim chief diversity and inclusion officer at the University of Tennessee at Martin," Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. "Mark is well-suited to guide the university in the areas of inclusion and cultural awareness."

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

He currently serves as the director of Career Planning and Development, a position he has held since 2016. He has also served as the interim assistant vice chancellor of Student Affairs in his time at UT Martin.

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

MARTIN (July 14) — A Carroll County native is part of an award-winning communications team for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In a press release issued last week, it was announced the University of Tennessee at Martin student-run radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk” won 13 awards at the Tennessee Associated Press 2020 College competition. The awards included four first-place awards and Best of Show in radio.

Team member Jillianne Moncrief, a spring 2020 graduate from McMinnville, earned a first-place spotlight in the radio reporter category. She also received the title of Best in Show for radio.

Moncrief garnered a second-place award for the use of sound category of the Tennessee Associated Press 2020 College competition. In addition to her first- and second-place designations, Moncrief picked up a third-place award in the category of radio sports reporting.

The UT Martin graduate recently began her career in broadcast communications as an associate news producer and social media manager for WPSD in Paducah, Kentucky.

“The AP college awards are open to all schools in Tennessee and honor the best work by college journalists working across all platforms — television, radio, print and digital. The competition is pretty fierce, and this year’s results show UT Martin is producing some of the state’s best young journalists,” said Adam Yeomans, southern regional director of The Associated Press. “It’s a credit to their drive and talent, not to mention the direction and guidance they receive from the school’s instructors,” he added.

Other first-place award winners include Kayla Brooks, of Dickson, in the radio newscast category; John Thornton, a spring 2020 graduate from Atoka, in the radio sports reporting category; and Thornton, Jordan Taylor, of Medon, and Davis Gregory, of Knoxville, in the radio sports coverage/program category.

Brooks also earned a second-place award for the radio news story category.

Third-place recognitions include Brooks in the radio newscast, radio news story, radio feature story, and television videography categories; Thornton, Taylor and Davis in the radio sports coverage/program category; and Thornton in the radio sports reporting category.

WUTM competed against universities in Tennessee including UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga, University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University, Belmont University and more.

Of the award recipients, a recent UT Martin graduate and a current student have already begun their careers in broadcast communications. Thornton has accepted a position as the lead sports play-by-play announcer for Union City High School sports at Froggy 99.3 radio station, alongside Taylor who will serve as the lead sports and sales specialist. The other recipients will return to UT Martin in the fall to continue their education.

With the 13 awards from AP, WUTM has also received an additional 30 awards this year from news and broadcast organizations, including the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System, Collegiate Broadcasters, Inc., and the Southeast Journalism Conference.

For more information about the 2020 Tennessee Associated Press collegiate awards, contact WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk” faculty adviser Dr. Richard Robinson at rrobins@utm.edu.
UTM recreational facilities only open for students this fall

The UT Martin Student Recreation Center, Elam Center, and swimming pool will reopen August 17th for registered UTM students, but will remain closed to the public in response to safety and health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

University Relations' Sarah Knapp says the recreation facilities will be adopting modified hours of operation and guidelines, which students will be informed of before the semester begins.

Meanwhile, all UT Martin faculty, staff, retiree, and family memberships will continue to be suspended until further notice.

UT Martin’s Move-In Day brings first students back to campus since March

MARTIN, Tenn. — Move-In Day at UT Martin always includes eager students, nervous parents, and a mini fridge — except this year looked a little different.

“This year it’s a little more subdued,” said Ryan Martin, assistant director for residence life. “A maximum of three guests are allowed to come help. They’re staggered out and spaced out, that way they can get in safely and not have to worry about running into other people.”

Sophomore Samantha Peyton is one of the hundreds of students moving into the dorms over the course of 12 days.

“I would rather be safe than sorry,” Peyton said. “I would rather move stuff in early then go back home for a little bit.”
The university is also making sure everyone takes proper precautions.

"We're definitely looking at social distancing. We're requiring masks to be worn at all times when they're moving in and out of public areas. We're also temperature checking everyone who comes onto campus, including their guests," Martin said.

And things like social distancing and temperature checks are just some of the many changes being made at UT Martin this year.

"We have a restricted visitation policy this year, so no external guests are allowed inside the residence halls," Martin said. "We've got increased sanitation efforts, and our programming and events are going to be more online and Zoom and virtual than they are in-person."

"Three out of five of my classes are already online. Two of them are hybrid, so we'll go to class half the time, then the other half will be on our computer," Peyton said.

But either way, students like Samantha are ready to be back.

"I'm ready to be back with friends that I haven't seen since March, and get back to the new normal and doing stuff that I was doing when we were here before," Peyton said.

Classes at UT Martin start August 17. They have already planned to not be back after Thanksgiving break.
UT Martin Names Diversity, Inclusion Officer

SUBMITTED BY
UTM UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

MARTIN (July 21) — Dr. Mark McCloud was named interim chief diversity and inclusion officer at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He will assume duties August 1, 2020. In this new role, McCloud will be responsible for developing a comprehensive cultural competency plan for faculty, staff and students in order to promote institutional diversity and inclusion.

"As a proud UTM alumnus and change agent, I am honored to serve in this crucial role at this time in our university's history," McCloud said.

"I want UT Martin to reflect diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in everything we do. As an institution, we should be leaders in creating a welcoming and supportive community for all, while learning and respecting the unique individual cultures that make us one," he added.

McCloud will be responsible for providing oversight to the Chancellor's Cabinet concerning campus issues related to diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging, as well as partnering with the university community to implement programs, like the Multicultural Center for underrepresented student groups, to foster diversity and increase minority retention rates.

"I'm honored that Dr. McCloud has accepted the opportunity to serve as the interim chief diversity and inclusion officer at the University of Tennessee at Martin," said Chancellor Keith Carver.

"Mark is well-suited to guide the university in the areas of inclusion and cultural awareness," Carver added.

Dr. McCloud graduated from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in economics. He holds a Master of Arts degree in higher education with an emphasis in student personnel services and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Mississippi.

McCloud serves as the director of Career Planning and Development, a position he has held since 2016. McCloud also served as the interim and assistant vice chancellor of Student Affairs in his time at UT Martin.

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

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7815.

UT Martin Seeks Stop-Out Students to Complete Degrees

SUBMITTED BY
UTM UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

MARTIN (July 22) — The University of Tennessee at Martin is partnering with ReUp Education Network to identify students across the globe who have "stopped out," or temporarily withdrawn from college, to enroll at UT Martin and complete their degree.

ReUp Education is a research organization that locates stop-out students for higher education institutions and provides assistance and resources, such as personal success coaches, for students to re-enroll at a partnering university. According to the ReUp Education website, in the past 20 years, 36 million Americans, including more than 800,000 Tennesseans, have received some college education but did not earn a degree.

"The completion crisis facing higher education requires an innovative response that breaks down barriers to help students reenroll in college. Stop-out students have historically been left behind, and we want to change that," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavaller, the university's chief academic officer, in a previous release from ReUp Education.

"This is about fulfilling our mission to serve West Tennessee by educating and engaging its citizens," Acree added.

UT Martin has worked with ReUp Education since June 2019 to re-enroll UT Martin stop-out students; however, through the ReUp Network, the university will be able to recruit students who stopped out from other ReUp Education-connected universities as well. According to Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement, as a result of the collaboration, UT Martin has re-enrolled almost 100 stop-out students into online and on-campus programs.

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree program has attracted many stop-out students because it can be completed online, allowing non-traditional students to finish their degrees without disrupting their daily lives or restarting their college careers.

In addition to UT Martin, the ReUp Network includes Arkansas Tech University, Bellevue University, Brandman University, California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, Davenport Global Academy, Eastern Michigan University, Excelsior College, Salem University, University of Idaho, and Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

For more information regarding UT Martin’s affiliation with ReUp Education, contact Mantooth at jdmantooth@utm.edu.
UTM Seeks To Aid Stop-Out Students

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For more information regarding UT Martin’s affiliation with ReUp Education, contact Mantooth at jdmantooth@utm.edu.

UTM To Provide ACT Prep Class

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses throughout the fall for students preparing for the test.

The ACT Digital One-Stop Success Tactics workshops will teach students test-taking strategies over Zoom in either two two-hour sessions on the first Tuesdays and Thursdays of each month or a four-hour session on select Saturdays. Math and Science Reasoning will be taught on Tuesdays, and English and Reading will be taught on Thursdays.

The four-hour Saturday sessions will cover all subjects on the ACT and will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., September 12th and October 10th.

The two-hour sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be taught from 5 to 7 p.m.
- English and Reading: Aug. 6th, Sept. 3rd, Oct. 8th, Nov. 5th and Dec. 3rd.

University Outreach is also offering the ACT Mastery Classes, which provide expanded, in-depth ACT prep instruction. Students will also be able to take a full practice exam and learn strategies not taught in the success tactics workshop.

All classes are offered from 5 to 7 p.m.
- English Mastery Course: Sept. 21st
- Math Mastery Course: Sept. 22nd
- Reading Mastery Course: Sept. 23rd
- Science Reasoning Mastery Course: Sept. 24th

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

Students are required to have access to a computer with video and audio capabilities in order to connect to Zoom. To register, visit www.utm.edu/actprep. For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.