UT Martin could soon see four new programs

July 1, 2021 by Tristyn Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is a few steps closer to four new programs.

The UT Board of Trustees approved the new programs during a meeting in late June, according to a news release from the university.

The programs will now go to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for both consideration and final approval, according to the release.

The programs include Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology.
Sonic employee receives scholarship

On Wednesday, June 2, the Nashville Advertising Co-op of Sonic Drive-Ins awarded 70 $1,000 scholarships to employees of their drive-ins. Alivia Hannah, who works at the Sonic in Camden, was one of those fortunate employees.

Hannah reported that she plans to use the scholarship to help pay expenses when she starts her freshman year at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall. Hannah plans to study accounting.

The scholarship program began as the idea of Robert Newberry, owner and operator of the Sonic in Lewisburg. Over the past 20 years, the Co-op has given in excess of a million dollars in scholarships to Sonic employees.

When the program started, Newberry and other operators were looking for incentives that would help reduce turnover and attract higher caliber employees. “Aiding employees in their education has helped many drive-ins to keep well-trained associates on board,” Newberry said.

The scholarship program has gone beyond regular employee retention in some cases. In Dickson, Misty Meadows was an elementary education major who continued to work at the Sonic part time while completing her degree. Receiving the scholarship four years in a row really helped. After Meadows began teaching, she continued to work at Sonic part time during summers and holidays.

“The scholarship program is one of the best resources we have. It lets us help the people who help us. Without them, we can’t sell a single hamburger,” said Kent Alsup, owner and manager of the Dickson Sonic. “The Sonic Scholarship is a program that really lets our employees shine.”

To qualify for a scholarship, the employee must have worked for Sonic for at least one year; must acquire written recommendations from store managers, teachers, or other community leader; must have completed high school; and must be accepted in good standing with a college or university.
UT MARTIN APPROVES NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved four new academic programs for the University of Tennessee at Martin on June 25 during its first, in-person meeting since February 2020.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, presented the new programs to the board – Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology. The programs will now be presented to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for consideration and final approval.

“We predict that these programs will bring 200-225 students to us by 2025,” said Cavalier during his presentation to the Board of Trustees.

UT Martin's Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity from UT Martin will consist of 120 credit hours and will be taught primarily face-to-face on campus. The program will now seek accreditation via ABET-CAC (Computing Accreditation Commission), which currently recognizes only 18 such programs.

A Master of Science in Criminal Justice will be a 30-credit hour, fully online program that features certificate options in corrections administration and law enforcement, which can be obtained separately or as part of the complete program. The program has received strong external support from entities including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the UT Institute for Public Service Law Enforcement Center, both the International and Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

The Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology was the first program in the state to undergo an expedited review by THEC, for which only new and high-demand STEM programs are eligible. The new program offers two concentrations in veterinary science and veterinary technology, comprising 120 hours each. The program will serve as a pipeline for students to enter veterinary school or sit for the Veterinary Technician licensing exam and subsequent licensure in Veterinary Technology.

The Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology will attract more students and make program graduates more marketable in range in several fields and attractive to graduate schools.

Information about all UT Martin academic programs is found at www.utm.edu (http://www.utm.edu).
The Tennessee Department of Education and the University of Tennessee at Martin announced this week that all Tennessee high school students and teachers have access to free virtual workshops, office hours, and classes on how to succeed on the ACT, one of the most important college entrance exams offered to high school students across the country.

The ACT is a comprehensive college entrance exam, covering a wide range of subjects that assess students' mathematical skills, grammar usage and reading comprehension.

Beginning this summer, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education, UT Martin is providing the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and Mastery Classes for free via Zoom to all Tennessee high school teachers and students, designed for rising 11th and 12th graders, to gain knowledge and skills to prepare for and be successful on the ACT.

"We are excited to partner with UT Martin to focus on ACT readiness and college and career success for all Tennessee high school students," said Commissioner Penny Schwinn. "These workshops and classes are tremendous free resources that will help better prepare our students for postsecondary success while equipping our teachers with tools for focused classroom instruction on college readiness and career pathways."

Underway now and continuing through the fall of 2022, the series of workshops, office hours, and classes are being held via Zoom for free and accessible interaction.

For all Tennessee high school students:
- The ACT Success Tactics Workshop is designed to help students develop new strategies for how to manage exam questions, receive a detailed plan for practice opportunities to improve performance, learn crucial time-saving tips, and familiarize themselves more generally with higher education.
- The virtual office hours are offered in one-hour increments and provide students with the opportunity to do a deeper dive into areas where additional assistance is needed.
- The ACT Mastery Classes are available upon completion of the Success Tactics Workshop for a deeper dive into a certain section of the exam where additional assistance is needed.

For all high school Tennessee teachers:
- The ACT Workshop is offered via Zoom during subsequent semesters, with the first session Monday, Aug. 2, and open to all Tennessee high school teachers to learn how to build ACT curriculum into their instruction and how to use ACT data to inform teaching strategies. The two-hour workshop may be used for professional development points (PDPs) upon completion.

"The Tennessee Department of Education's work to ensure every student across the state has access to free student success ACT workshops and mastery classes, as well as provide professional development opportunities for school districts, is admirable," said UT System President Randy Boyd. "The University of Tennessee at Martin is always willing to go the extra mile to serve Tennessee students and teachers, and I applaud them for their dedication, hard work and partnership with the Department on this important initiative."

The funding for the workshops and classes is from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER).

Interested students and educators can click here to learn more about the workshops, office hours and classes.

To learn more about the department's college readiness testing resources and materials, click here. For Tennessee Department of Education media inquiries, contact Edu.MediaInquiries@tn.gov.
New academic programs for UT Martin approved

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved four new academic programs for the University of Tennessee at Martin on June 25 during its first, in-person meeting since February 2020.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, presented the new programs to the board – Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology. The programs will now be presented to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for consideration and final approval.

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Information about all UT Martin academic programs is found at www.utm.edu.
UTM students receive awards

MARTIN, Tenn. – Several Gibson County residents received department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2021 semester. The following students were recognized:

Dylan Thomas, of Milan, received the Wayne Tansil Scholarship from the Department of Communications.

Samuel Walgren, of Milan, received an Honorable Mention for the Jenna S. Wright Short Story Award from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Benjamin Allen, of Trenton, received the Scholarly Essay in a Modern Foreign Language Award from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

STUDENTS VISIT — Dalton Morris (second from left) and John Grant McConnell (second from right), both graduates of South Fulton High School, visited the University of Tennessee at Martin recently to participate in Summer Orientation and Registration. Morris attended the event with his mother, Danielle Morris (far left), and McConnell was joined by his mother, Jennifer McConnell.
ON CAMPUS — Haannah Arthurs (right) of Union City recently participated in Summer Orientation and Registration during a visit to the University of Tennessee at Martin. She was accompanied by her mother, Mindy Chappell. Miss Arthurs is a graduate of Obion County Central High School.

CAMPUS VISITORS — Jaden Knott of South Fulton recently visited the University of Tennessee at Martin as a participant in Summer Orientation and Registration. The graduate of South Fulton High School was joined by his mother, Jamie Knott.
At the college level

Several Obion County residents received department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring semester. The honorees included:

- Audrey Adams of Union City, who received an honorable mention for the John E. McCluskey Undergraduate Scholarly Essay Award from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.
- Melissa Marsee of Troy, who received the Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award from the Department of Communications.
- Jason Stone of Union City, who received the Muriel D. Tomlinson Scholarship Award (Outstanding MFL Student) from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.
- Jasmite Youngblood of Union City, who received the Terry and Mitzi Hailey Award from the Department of Communications.

VISIT UTM — Wes Tilghman of Union City visited the University of Tennessee at Martin recently to participate in Summer Orientation and Registration. The Union City High School graduate was accompanied by his mother, Nan Tilghman.
UT Martin recognized for support of veteran students

July 7, 2021 by Tristyn Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is being recognized for its support of veterans.

The sun sets on the Field of Flags display along University Street in Martin. VIQTORY awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin a 2021-2022 Military-Friendly designation for the support provided to campus veterans. (Photo courtesy: University of Tennessee at Martin)

According to a news release, UT Martin received a 2021-2022 Military-Friendly designation from VIQTORY.

The release says that the designations are based off support given to veteran students, retention after one to two years, graduation rates and career outcomes.

The release says that UT Martin scored the highest for culture and commitment, and graduation and career categories.

According to the university, it has also been named the "Best for Vets" by the Military Times for 2021, and was labeled a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Campus by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.
W.C. Students Earn Awards

MARTIN (July 1) — Several Weakley County residents received department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2021 semester.

The following students were recognized:

Allie Cantrell, of Martin, received the Outstanding Senior Public Relations Award from the Department of Communications. Callie Dunlap, of Martin, received the Media Design Award and the Outstanding Senior Media Design Award from the Department of Communications. Dylan Ingram, of Martin, received the first-place Media Design IDEA Award, the Stewart Byars Excellence in Radio Production Award and the Junior Scholarship from the Department of Communications. Blaine McDonald, of Martin, received the Duke Drum WCMT Scholarship from the Department of Communications. Shannon Mitchell, of Dresden, received the Outstanding Student in the English Program Award from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. Alexis Millsaps, of Martin, received the Nick and Cathy Dunagan Team Spirit Award and the Senior Ambassador Award from the Department of Communications. William Spencer, of Martin, received the Sophomore Scholarship from the Department of Communications.

New Academic Programs Approved at UTM

MARTIN (July 1) — The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved four new academic programs for the University of Tennessee at Martin on June 25 during its first, in-person meeting since February 2020.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, presented the new programs to the board — Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology.

The programs will now be presented to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for consideration and final approval.

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The program has received strong external support from entities including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the UT Institute for Public Service Law Enforcement Center, both the International and Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

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The program will serve as a pipeline for students to enter veterinary school or sit for the Veterinary Technician licensing exam and subsequent licensure in Veterinary Technology.

The Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology will attract more students and make program graduates more marketable in range in several fields and attractive to graduate schools.
UT Martin Academic Programs Earn State, Regional and National Rankings

Three academic programs at the University of Tennessee at Martin have earned state, regional or national rankings. The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, the concentration in environmental management and the Online Master of Business Administration degree earned recognition from established ranking services.

* The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies is ranked second in the nation among similar programs by bestvalueschools.org. The four-year, self-designed general studies degree previously earned Best Value Schools' top ranking and maintains its top-five position based on tuition cost and university enrollment. The BIS degree is offered through the UT Martin College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences and can be earned through traditional in-person coursework or online. Learn more about the degree at www.utm.edu/departments/bis or the ranking at www.bestvalueschools.org.

* UT Martin's Online MBA is ranked second in Tennessee and 18th in the South by www.onlinembareport.com. According to the website, more than 400 U.S.-based online MBA programs were evaluated through school surveys, publicly available information on each school's website and other reputable publications. Ranking criteria included academic reputation of a school's online and campus-based MBA program, value related to tuition and student indebtedness, relative MBA program enrollment numbers, admissions selectivity, and program quality and rigor.

Business programs in the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). Information about the Online MBA is found at www.utm.edu/departments/mba/online_mba.php.

Information about all UT Martin academic programs is found at www.utm.edu.
TDOE & UT Martin Offer Free ACT Prep Workshops And Classes

The Tennessee Department of Education and the University of Tennessee at Martin announced this week that all Tennessee High School students and teachers have access to free, virtual workshops, office hours and classes on how to succeed on the ACT, one of the most important college entrance exams offered to high school students across the country.

The ACT is a comprehensive college entrance exam covering a wide range of subjects that assess students' mathematical skills, grammar usage and reading comprehension.

Beginning this summer, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education, UT Martin is providing the ACT Success Tactics Workshops and Mastery Classes for free via Zoom to all Tennessee High School Teachers and Students, designed for rising 11th and 12th graders, to gain knowledge and skills to prepare for and be successful on the ACT.

"We are excited to partner with UT Martin to focus on ACT readiness and college and career success for all Tennessee High School Students," said Commissioner Penny Schwinn. "These workshops and classes are tremendous free resources that will help better prepare our students for postsecondary success while equipping our teachers with tools for focused classroom instruction on college readiness and career pathways."

Beginning June 1 and continuing through the Fall of 2022, the series of workshops, office hours, and classes are being held via Zoom for free and accessible interaction.

For all Tennessee High School Students:
*The ACT Success Tactics Workshop is designed to help students develop new strategies for how to manage exam questions, receive a detailed plan for practice opportunities to improve performance, learn crucial time-saving tips, and familiarize themselves more generally with higher education.
*The virtual office hours are offered in one-hour increments and provide students with the opportunity to do a deeper dive into areas where additional assistance is needed.
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For all High School Tennessee Teachers:
*The ACT Workshop is offered via Zoom during subsequent semesters, with the first session on Monday, Aug. 2, and open to all Tennessee High School Teachers to learn how to build ACT curriculum into their instruction and how to use ACT data to inform teaching strategies. The two-hour workshop may be used for professional development points (PDPs) upon completion.

"The Tennessee Department of Education's work to ensure every student across the state has access to free student success ACT Workshops and Mastery Classes, as well as provide professional development opportunities for school districts, is admirable," said UT System President Randy Boyd. "The University of Tennessee at Martin is always willing to go the extra mile to serve Tennessee students and teachers, and I applaud them for their dedication, hard work and partnership with the Department on this important initiative."

The funding for the workshops and classes is from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER).
For high school students who want to get a "head start" in college, dual enrollment can apply credits to high school and college graduation requirements. Dual enrollment, or concurrent enrollment, allows students to receive these dual credits when completing and passing a course.

The University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center offers dual enrollment courses that will prepare students for college courses and will provide them with an advancement in their college education. The center has general education courses in History, English, Spanish, Psychology, Math, Finance, Music, Art, Agriculture, Economics, Criminal Justice, and more.

Evan Sudduth, a former dual enrollment student and current University of Tennessee at Knoxville student, says dual enrollment gave him a boost in his college experience. "Dual enrollment made the transition from high school to college easier. It helped me learn how to study too. In high school, I could get by without having to study, but in college, you have to know how to study. It also helped me learn how to work with other students."

Kaitlynn Burkett, a former dual enrollment student and current University of Tennessee at Martin student, says "Dual enrollment got me ahead. I was able to get general education courses out of the way and start with the courses required for my major. What I loved about the Somerville Center is being able to learn in a new environment and forming connections."

Students can take four free classes that will equal 12 college credit hours. In order to be eligible for dual enrollment, students must have a 3.0 or higher GPA and a junior or senior in high school. Sophomores may be eligible for dual enrollment with a 3.5 or higher GPA.
Local Student Works Race

JACOB CLARK, of Halls, in rear, on far right, traveled with the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs to work the NASCAR Ally 400 race June 20th at the Nashville Superspeedway. The group was led by Dr. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sports management.

ALLY HELP — Several students from the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs recently traveled to Nashville to work the NASCAR Ally 400 race, held June 20 at Nashville Superspeedway. Those who attended were (from left, front row) Lauren Hutchinson, Quinn Reed, Macy Rippy, Karra Bailey, Shae Cardwell, Sara Jane Kendall, Erica Phipps, (back row) Dr. Dexter Davis, Jessica Davis, Kristen Rice, Parker Kendall, Jacob Wyatt, Rosalinda Alvarado, Mikaela Curtis, Brayden Wilson and Jacob Clark. Parker Kendall, Sara Jane Kendall and Erica Phipps are from Obion County. Davis is an assistant professor of sports management at UTM.
MARTIN, Tenn. – VIQTORY awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin a 2021-2022 Military-Friendly designation for the support provided to campus veterans. VIQTORY is a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that promotes organizations that provide opportunities for military communities.

Designations are mainly based on the support provided to veteran students and retention rates after one and two years, as well as graduation rates and career outcomes. Attention is also paid to educational loan repayment levels, academic and admissions policies, and the level of commitment institutions have toward supporting military students.
UT Martin scored highest in the culture and commitment and graduation and career categories and is one of 18 institutions across Tennessee to receive a designation from VIQTORY. In addition to the VIQTORY designation, UT Martin was recently named among the 2021 “Best for Vets” by Military Times. The university is also designated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Campus.

For more information about UT Martin’s military veterans services, visit The University of Tennessee at Martin – http://www.utm.edu (https://www.utm.edu/departments/veteranaffairs/.)
Benton County students Jacob Wyatt (back row, fifth from the left), Brayden Wilson (back row, second from right), and Lauren Hutchinson (front row, first from left) traveled with the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs to work the NASCAR Ally 400 race on Sunday, June 20, at the Nashville Superspeedway. The group was led by Dr. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sports management.
“Everywhere You Look, UT” murals to be painted in Dyersburg, Fruitvale

July 9, 2021 by Maranda Faris

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee is continuing their “Everywhere You Look, UT” campaign this summer with more murals being painted across the state.

According to a news release, Dyersburg will join the campaign with the 17th mural and Fruitvale in Crockett County will become home to the campaign’s 18th mural.

The mural in Dyersburg will be on a storage barn owned by Brad and Vickie Studard, the release says. Their son Luke graduated from the University of Tennessee Martin in 2017 with an engineering degree, and their son Will graduated this year with a degree in agricultural business/management, the release says. Their aunt Janet Fowlkes also graduated from UT Martin in 1980, according to the release.

The mural on Lenox Nauvoo Road is expected to be 90-feet tall and will be visible from Interstate 155 East and State Route 183.

The 45-foot mural in Fruitvale will be at the J.O Boyd General Merchandise Store owned by Myrtle Emerson, the release says. Emerson is a relative of UT President Randy Boyd.

To learn more about the campaign, their locations, or to nominate a canvas, click here (https://everywhere.tennessee.edu/murals/).
WBBJ says 'goodbye' to anchor/reporter Julia Ewoldt

July 9, 2021 by Kyle Peppers

After three years serving the West Tennessee community as both a journalist and morning anchor, Julia Ewoldt’s time at WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News has come to a close.

Known for her lively personality and commitment to her work, Julia quickly became both a beloved member of our staff and earned a special place in our viewer’s hearts.

We’ve received numerous messages through the years thanking her for her dedication, and praising her for “always starting their day with a smile” on “Good Morning West Tennessee.”

Julia had one last goodbye message to share with everyone.

Since it is my final day here at WBBJ, I wanted to say something to all of you, our viewers.

It’s been such an honor to wake up and drink a cup of coffee with you every morning. Your kind words, messages, and phone calls always made my day.

When I started at WBBJ in the spring of 2018, I was a college student at UT Martin working in production. I drove an hour each way for 6 months to be here at 4:30 a.m. From there, you all helped me fulfill my dreams and join you on air less than a year later.

From cows, to floods, to county commission and city court, I’ve loved getting to know you. To all the people I hugged along the way, I meant every one of them. Thank you for letting me tell your stories.

Especially to my friends and family in Savannah and Martin, thank you for joining me on this journey. It means the world that I have been able to serve my hometown and alma mater in this way.

I hope to see you along my journey in West Tennessee.

It’s safe to say she will be missed dearly, and we wish her nothing but the best on her next steps ahead.
In-person classes to resume at University of Tennessee at Martin

July 9, 2021 by Ashley Luningham (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/aluningham/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is returning to in-person classes this fall.

Chancellor Keith Carver says they are prepared to have students on campus, and they’re making sure COVID-19 precautions are still enforced.

“We will use the cleaning and safety protocols that we have used all last year. How we have been cleaning and sanitizing all three shifts with our facility teams, we are going to continue that,” Carver said.

Last year, the university limited the number of students who could live on campus to 1,200. They are hoping to fill rooms at regular capacity.

“Much more robust student population on campus. We still will have some rooms reserved for isolation, just in case we have some students come down with COVID. But we will be much more full and residential this fall,” Carver said.

Consuelo Crews’ son will be attending UTM in the fall. She says, for her son, having to physically go to class makes a world of difference.
"I think being on campus will teach him to make those decisions. You have to be mature enough to say, 'I know I have to go to class. I have to get up,'" Crews said.

Carver says the university is going to be mainly in-person, but it will still offer a few alternatives.

"The majority of our classes will be face-to-face. However, in the normal cadence of a semester, we do have online options, remote options for students to choose from," Carver said.

UTM held student and parent orientation sessions to prepare for the upcoming semester.

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UT-Martin reinstates merit scholarships for students who didn't meet GPA requirement last year

Evan Beebe
Jul 13, 2021
MARTIN, TENN– University of Tennessee at Martin will reinstate merit scholarships for students who failed to meet the grade-point-average (GPA) requirement at the end of the Spring 2021 semester.

"So many students struggled last year because of the method of course delivery caused by the pandemic," Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, said. “This will give students another chance to get on track.”

The 508 students that will have scholarships reinstated have begun receiving emails that say, "We believe in you and want to see you succeed, so here is a second chance to bring your GPA up to the minimum required to retain your scholarship(s) past the 2021-22 academic year."

Questions should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 731-881-7040 or by email at financialaid@utm.edu. Students suspended from financial aid at the end of the 2021 spring semester must file a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal before reinstatement of federal and state aid will be considered.
MARTIN, Tenn. – The COVID-19 pandemic challenged educators and students in multiple ways. For students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin who lost merit scholarships during the pandemic, some help is on the way. Students who did not meet the grade-point-average requirement at the end of the 2021 spring semester to retain merit scholarships will have these scholarships reinstated to start the 2021-22 academic year. A total of 508 students will have their scholarships reinstated.

"So many students struggled last year because of the method of course delivery caused by the pandemic," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"This will give students another chance to get on track."
Students are receiving direct emails about the reinstatement, which reads in part, “We believe in you and want to see you succeed, so here is a second chance to bring your GPA (Grade Point Average) up to the minimum required to retain your scholarship(s) past the 2021-22 academic year.”

“At this point, students will have a one-year grace period to bring their GPAs back up to above the scholarship thresholds,” Cavalier added. “Last year will still have an effect on their GPA calculations, of course, but one extra academic year will help many of them.”

Students and families who have questions can contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 731-881-7040 or by email at financialaid@utm.edu. Students suspended from financial aid at the end of the 2021 spring semester must file a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal before reinstatement of federal and state aid will be considered.

The university’s main campus and five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville will fully open Aug. 23 for in-person classes. The university uses Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for pandemic safety that include encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations, mask wearing for the unvaccinated, frequent handwashing and social distancing when possible. The university offers related updates and informational resources at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
WC residents receive award from UTM

Several Weakley County residents received department-level awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the spring 2021 semester. The following students were recognized:

- Allie Cantrell of Martin received the Outstanding Senior Public Relations Award from the Department of Communications.
- Callie Dunlap of Martin received the Media Design Award and the Outstanding Senior Media Design Award from the Department of Communications.
- Dylan Ingram of Martin received the first-place Media Design IDEA Award, the Stewart Byars Excellence in Radio Production Award and the Junior Scholarship from the Department of Communications.
- Blaine McDonald of Martin received the Duke Drummond-WCMT Scholarship from the Department of Communications.
- Shannon Merrell of Dresden received the Outstanding Student in the English Program Award from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.
- Alexis Millsaps of Martin received the Nick and Cathy Dunagan Team Spirit Award and the Senior Ambassador Award from the Department of Communications.
- William Spencer of Martin received the Sophomore Scholarship from the Department of Communications.

Proposed UTM facility renamed ‘TEST Hub’

The proposed Innovation and Product Realization Facility at the UT Martin has been submitted to the University of Tennessee System for consideration in the 2023 fiscal year. The proposed facility also moves forward with a new name: the Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology Hub or the “TEST Hub.”

The $17.5 million, 50,000-square-foot facility is a joint effort by UTM, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and Dyersburg State Community College to support and expand workforce and economic development in rural Northwest Tennessee. Dr. Shadow Robinson, UTM College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean, wrote about the project’s significance and name change in a letter to university supporters.

“This project is not only a top educational priority for the University of Tennessee at Martin, but also a top priority for future economic and workforce development for the region we serve,” he wrote. In the same letter, Robinson explained the reasoning behind the new name.

The TEST Hub will be located on the UTM main campus and combine educational facilities, entrepreneurial centers and manufacturing workshops surrounding a shared industrial maker space. Already under construction is the new Latimer Engineering and Science Building, which is scheduled to open in fall 2022. The 120,000-square-foot, three-story building is made possible by a $6.5 million gift from Union City’s Bill Latimer that was needed to secure state funding for the $65 million project.

More information about the proposed TEST Hub, the Latimer Engineering and Science Building and UTM STEM programs is available by contacting Robinson at shadow@utm.edu or call 731-881-7380.

UT Martin earns military friendly designation

VIQTORY awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin a 2021-22 Military-Friendly designation for the support provided to campus veterans. VIQTORY is a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that promotes organizations that provide opportunities for military communities.

Designations are mainly based on the support provided to veteran students and retention rates after one and two years, as well as graduation rates and career outcomes. Attention is also paid to educational loan repayment levels, academic and admissions policies, and the level of commitment institutions have toward supporting military students.

UTM scored highest in the culture and commitment and graduation and career categories and is one of 18 institutions across Tennessee to receive a designation from VIQTORY.

In addition to the VIQTORY designation, UTM was recently named among the 2021 “Best for Vets” by Military Times. The university is also designated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission as a Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Campus.

For more information about UTM’s military veterans services, visit https://www.utm.edu/departments/veteranaffairs/.
POTENTIAL USES — This artist's rendering of the proposed TEST Hub at UTM shows potential uses of space for engineering and other projects. The facility is a joint effort by UTM, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and Dyersburg State Community College to support and expand workforce and economic development in rural Northwest Tennessee.

LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL — Dallas Hall of Martin and Annika Jolley of Dresden were among 46 students statewide to participate in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences during the month of June. The academic program is hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin and allows select high school juniors and seniors to earn college credit in agriculture and natural resource management or agricultural business and gain hands-on experience with technology in their field. For more information, go to https://www.utm.edu/departments/tgsas/.
UT Board of Trustees approves new academic programs

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved four new academic programs for the University of Tennessee at Martin during its first, inperson meeting since February 2020.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, presented the new programs to the board—Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology. The programs will now be presented to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) for consideration and final approval.

“We predict that these programs will bring 200-225 students to us by 2025,” said Cavalier during his presentation to the board of trustees.

UT Martin’s Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity from UT Martin will consist of 120 credit hours and will be taught primarily face-to-face on campus. The program will now seek accreditation via ABET-CAC (Computing Accreditation Commission), which currently recognizes only 18 such programs.

A Master of Science in Criminal Justice will be a 30-credit hour, fully online program that features certificate options in corrections administration and law enforcement, which can be obtained separately or as part of the complete program. The program has received strong external support from entities including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the UT Institute for Public Service Law Enforcement Center, both the International and Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

The Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology was the first program in the state to undergo an expedited review by THEC, for which only new and high-demand STEM programs are eligible. The new program offers two concentrations in veterinary science and veterinary technology, comprising 120 hours each. The program will serve as a pipeline for students to enter veterinary school or sit for the veterinary technician licensing exam and subsequent licensure in Veterinary Technology.

The Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology will attract more students and make program graduates more marketable in range in several fields and attractive to graduate schools.

Information about all UT Martin academic programs is found at www.utm.edu.
Tennessee 4-H Roundup Coming July 19-23 To UT Martin

Jul 14, 2021

Public speaking is among the leadership skills that 4-Hers have the opportunity to learn and practice.
Photo Courtesy Of UTIA

MARTIN - After missing 2020 due to the pandemic, the State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference is returning to the University of Tennessee, Martin, to celebrate the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. The event takes place July 19-23. Approximately 300 high school age
"Although much of the year's efforts were completed through virtual experiences, we are pleased that we can gather to celebrate our members' accomplishments in person at Roundup and the All Star Conference. This is the 98th year we will gather, and I am looking forward to seeing my young friends and hearing about all their efforts," said Justin Crowe, director and state 4-H program leader. "While we honored our 4-H project winners virtually last year, we are excited to get to recognize our 2021 outstanding 4-H members in person this year! 4-H Roundup is one of Tennessee 4-H's premiere events," said Lori Gallimore, UT Extension specialist in 4-H youth development. "4-Hers who have spent years growing their skills and knowledge in their respective project areas come to our annual 4-H Roundup event to compete in their project areas for scholarships, trips and awards. Roundup is also an opportunity for them to learn skills in leadership and citizenship and enjoy networking with other 4-H'ers from across the state."

In addition to project competitions, delegates will participate in a number of activities, including the 4-H All Star Conference, Vol State Ceremony, the election of the 2021 State Council officers and a service-learning project.

Delegates to the Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference will work to benefit two worthy causes. Some will meet with members of the 4-H Club on Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota to learn about life on the reservation and to gather school supplies to send for youth on the reservation. Roundup participants will also work to give their "hands to larger service" to benefit St. Jude Target House.

4-Hers from across Tennessee will meet for several days on the UT Martin campus. The 4-Hers have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography and will now compete for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for this meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2021 is "The Great Comeback."
for families and patients of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. 4-H clubs across the state sent needed items like hand sanitizer, laundry detergent and household supplies that the Roundup participants will package for delivery to the Target House.

"Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program," said Crowe. "Each year, 4-H'ers statewide perform thousands of hours of service at an estimated economic impact of almost $14 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-H'ers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities."

During Roundup the youth will take the time to have some fun. The group will visit Discovery Park of America in Union City. The Division of Youth and 4-H is housed in the Institute of Youth, Family, and Community at USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and is conducted through the land-grant university extension 4-H offices. Additional support is provided to 4-H by National 4-H Council (a private, nonprofit organization). In Tennessee, University of Tennessee Extension manages the program with cooperation from Tennessee State University. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and service learning to more than 180,000 Tennessee youth in the fourth through 12th grades. 4-H also has more than 5,000 adult volunteers in the state and numerous alumni, among them Gov. Bill Lee. Many Tennessee 4-H alumni support the organization and Tennessee youth through the Tennessee 4-H Foundation.
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Painting begins on UT system murals

The University of Tennessee System is on a mission to paint the state orange with its “Everywhere You Look, UT” campaign.

Dyersburg in Dyer County will become home to the 17th mural and Fruitvale in Crockett County will showcase the 18th mural of the campaign.

UT System has a goal to paint a mural in 95 counties across Tennessee to remind travelers of UT’s statewide presence. Since the campaign’s launch in 2018, 16 murals have been completed in Cumberland, Fentress, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Houston, Knox, Lincoln, Meigs, Roane, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Trousdale and Weakley counties.


The 18th mural in Fruitvale will find a home on the J.O. Boyd General Merchandise Store, located on Fruitvale Road and owned by Myrtle Emerson, who is related to UT President Randy Boyd.
Four new academic programs gain approval for UT Martin

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved four new academic programs for UT Martin recently during its first in-person meeting since February 2020. They include bachelor of science in cybersecurity, master of science in criminal justice, bachelor of science in veterinary science and technology and bachelor of science in cell and molecular biology. Dr. Philip Accree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin, presented the new programs to the board. The programs will be presented to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for consideration and final approval.

"We predict that these programs will bring 200 to 225 students to us by 2025," Cavalier said.

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The university is one of 18 institutions across Tennessee to receive a designation from VIQTORY.

In addition to the VIQTORY designation, UT Martin was recently named among the 2021 “Best for Vets” by Military Times.
Student Enrollment Opportunities at UT Martin Somerville Center

By: Sinahi Carrizales

At the University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center, students can obtain an enriching education and career-oriented opportunities. The center offers undergraduate courses in more than 80 degree programs such as Agriculture Business, Business Management, Criminal Justice, Integrated Studies: K-5 Education, Political Science, Psychology and more.

Students can earn a degree from the comfort of their community. Many students face financial difficulties when it comes to attending college, but the UT Martin Somerville Center can help ease their concerns. Financial aid opportunities are available to help students pursue a degree. Students can receive scholarships and grants that can be applied toward their tuition and form connections and develop skills that will benefit them in the future.

Frankiel Henderson, a junior education major, says, "I enjoy taking classes at the center because it's home. I learn better in smaller classes, and they're flexible. The professors are great and understand their students. The staff makes you feel supported, and the environment is helpful to learn in. I feel cared for here."

James Avant, a junior psychology major, says, "I'm a military policeman at a nearby military facility and I appreciate how well the classes work with my career schedule. The classes work around my responsibilities with the military and the location is convenient. Non-traditional students can benefit from this as well because it allows them to get an education even with additional responsibilities and busy lives."

Laura Johnson, a senior criminal justice major, says, "It was easy to transition from adult education (a program for adults to complete their high school education) to the center. The professors and the rest of the staff are very communicative and helpful. The size of the center makes it easier to have a one-on-one experience and a stronger connection with everyone here."

With a supportive staff, growing resources and an uplifting environment, students at the UT Martin Somerville Center can take flight.
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UT Martin Hosts Ag-Based Governor's School

Martin (July 9) – Local student attends Governor's School – Dallas Hall, of Martin, and Annika Jolley, of Dresden, were among 46 students statewide to participate in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences during the month of June. The academic program is hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin and allows select high school juniors and seniors to earn college credit in agriculture and natural resource management or agricultural business and gain hands-on experience with technology in their field. For more information, go to https://www.utm.edu/departments/tgsas/.
Painting Begins on ‘Everywhere You Look, UT’ Murals in Dyer, Crockett Counties

KNOXVILLE (July 9) — The University of Tennessee System is on a mission to paint the state orange with its “Everywhere You Look, UT” campaign.

Beginning this weekend, Dyersburg in Dyer County will become home to the 17th mural and Fruitvale in Crockett County will showcase the 18th mural of the campaign.

UT System has a goal to paint a mural in 95 counties across Tennessee to remind travelers of UT’s statewide presence. Since the campaign’s launch in 2018, 16 murals have been completed in Cumberland, Fentress, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Houston, Knox, Lincoln, Meigs, Roane, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Trousdale and Weakley counties.

Robinson & Belew Grain Company in Sharon is home to the system’s second mural, which graces the side of a grain bin facing the four-lane highway.

“These new murals serve as great reminders of the far-reaching impact UT has on our great state,” UT President Randy Boyd said. “From west to east, UT really is everywhere you look.”

The 17th mural will find a home on a storage barn, owned by Brad and Vickie Studard; and their sons, Will and Luke, in Dyersburg. Luke graduated from UT Martin in 2017 with an engineering degree, and Will graduated from UT Martin this year with a degree in agricultural business/management.

Their aunt, Janet Powles, also graduated from UT Martin in 1980.

“When I saw the mural in Weakley County on the grain bin, it wasn’t just an advertisement for UT, but really showed what UT is all about,” Will said.

“Coming from an agricultural background and seeing the mural on a grain bin really caught my attention, it shows a little bit of how involved UT is in the agriculture community.”

When completed, the 90-foot Dyersburg mural will be seen by an estimated 11,676 travelers each day and visible from I-155 East and State Route 182. It is located at 3000 Lenox Nauvoo Rd. in Dyersburg.

The 18th mural in Fruitvale will find a home on the J.O. Boyd General Merchandise Store, owned by Myrtle Emerson, who is related to UT President Randy Boyd.

When completed, the 45-foot mural will be seen by an estimated 500 travelers each day at 5 Fruitvale Road in Fruitvale.

To learn more about the campaign, each location and to nominate a canvas, visit https://everywhere.tennessee.edu/murals/.

The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Pulaski, Martin and Memphis; the UT Space Institute in Tullahoma; the UT Institute of Agriculture with a presence in every Tennessee county; and the statewide Institute for Public Service. The UT system manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory through its UT-Battelle partnership; enrolls about 50,000 students statewide; produces about 12,000 new graduates every year; and represents more than 400,000 alumni around the world.
UT Martin Reinstates Merit Scholarships

MARTIN (July 13) — The COVID-19 pandemic challenged educators and students in multiple ways. For students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin who lost merit scholarships during the pandemic, some help is on the way. Students who did not meet the grade-point-average requirement at the end of the 2021 spring semester to retain merit scholarships will have these scholarships reinstated to start the 2021-22 academic year. A total of 600 students will have their scholarships reinstated.

"So many students struggled last year because of the method of course delivery caused by the pandemic," said Dr. Phillip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. "This will give students another chance to get on track."

Students are receiving direct emails about the reinstatement, which reads in part, "We believe in you and want to see you succeed, so here is a second chance to bring your GPA (Grade Point Average) up to the minimum required to retain your scholarship(s) past the 2021-22 academic year."

"At this point, students will have a one-year grace period to bring their GPAs back up to above the scholarship thresholds," Cavalier added. "Last year will still have an effect on their GPA calculations, of course, but one extra academic year will help many of them."

Students and families who have questions can contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 731-881-7040 or by email at financialaid@utm.edu. Students suspended from financial aid at the end of the 2021 spring semester must file a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal before reinstatement of federal and state aid will be considered.

The university's main campus and five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville will fully open August 23 for in-person classes. The university uses Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for pandemic safety that include encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations, masking for the unvaccinated, frequent handwashing and social distancing when possible.

The university offers related updates and informational resources at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.

UT Martin Earns Military-Friendly Designation

The sun sets on the Field of Flags display along University Street in Martin. VIQTORY awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin a 2021-2022 Military-Friendly designation for the support provided to campus veterans.

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**Spivey completes WestStar class**

UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program graduated its most recent class on June 22 in Jackson. The class included 29 members from 18 West Tennessee counties. Among the graduates was Benton County resident Katelyn Arnold Spivey.

“I’ve tried to find the right words to share about my WestStar experience. I have enjoyed every minute with my classmates, learning more about West Tennessee. We have built relationships that will last a lifetime,” Spivey said. “Thank you to my family and Carroll Bank & Trust for supporting me through this program. It was a honor to represent Benton County.”

A 2014 CHS graduate, Spivey holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing and works as a marketing director at CB&T in Huntingdon. She has many strong ties to the business and volunteer communities in both Benton and Carroll Counties.

The program’s 31st class began in fall 2019 but was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Class members continued to meet virtually and resumed in-person class sessions in March of this year. Each WestStar class is chosen by the program’s board of trustees. Selection is based on individual leadership achievements and potential to contribute to West Tennessee’s development.

Class members complete eight sessions covering topics on agriculture and transportation, energy and environment, public policy issues, education, and tourism. The program has graduated 857 class members since it began in 1989. For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, call 731-881-7398.

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**Merit Scholarships Reinstated At UTM**

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Student Attends Governor's School

Hannah Billings, of Gates, was among 46 students statewide to participate in the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences during the month of June. The academic program is hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin and allows select high school juniors and seniors to earn college credit in agriculture and natural resource management or agricultural business and gain hands-on experience with technology in their field. For more information, go to https://www.utm.edu/departments/tgas/.
Tennessee 4-H Roundup, conference returns to UTM

After missing 2020 due to the pandemic, the State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference is returning to the University of Tennessee at Martin to celebrate the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. The event runs through the week.

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Harriette Spiegel spends a term in Canada

Harriette L. Spiegel, Ph.D. is a lecturer in Educational Studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin and spent a term this past December through April as Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Education at Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, researching the topic of Digital Accessibility.

“I was in Halifax during the COVID crisis, which prevented the interaction with folks that I had hoped to have. But my initial impression of Canadians— the airport personnel and shop clerks— was that they were so courteous,” Spiegel said.

“I was entranced by the pretty colored neon-lights display in the Toronto airport, my last leg of the flight to Halifax. On the return trip in April, Spiegel noticed a similar display in the Chicago airport.

Before the airplane took off to Halifax, Spiegel’s plane had to go through de-icing. “After boarding the plane from Toronto to Halifax, a big truck with a huge arm on it drove up to our plane. I heard a daddy in the seat behind me explaining to his little boy, ‘Look at the truck, the driver is at the top of the truck and runs everything from up there.’ Then the huge arm started spraying the de-icing material all over the airplane wings. That was interesting!”

When Spiegel arrived in Halifax, the taxi driver showed her a neighborhood near where she was staying. “The wonderful Christmas decorations that two brothers put up each year— it’s a great story about their non-competition that the rest of the neighborhood joins in on.”

The first two days were cloudy, but it wasn’t long until the snow arrived. The roads, sidewalks and bike lanes were immediately cleared while snow was still plentiful. The weather Feb. 26 called for 20 to 40 centimeters of snow, or eight to 16 inches. “I saw thin poles everywhere in the ground delineating the paths for the snow plows,” Spiegel said.

“The campus was so pretty in the snow, as was Peggy’s Cove on the South Shore.”

The University motto is Age Quod Agis - Do What You Do. “These are views of snow on campus and beyond,” Spiegel explained. Spiegel even tried snowshoeing. “I did not realize that snowshoes have huge cleats on the bottom, and it would definitely take practice to learn how to use them effectively,” she said.

In Halifax, doing research, Spiegel said she got to know the Halifax Public Library, which might look like a stack of books. “It is projected that this building will use 64% less water than a typical building,” Spiegel explained.

Nova Scotia is on the east coast of Canada, with Prince Edward Island (think Anne of Green Gables books) just north of it, New Brunswick just west of it and Newfoundland Labrador northeast of Nova Scotia. Spiegel’s first research presentation was on WebEx to Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland. “I learned that Newfoundland is on Newfoundland Daylight Time, one half hour ahead of Nova Scotia, which is on Atlantic Time.” Atlantic Time is two hours ahead of our Central Time, she ex-
practicing—Spiegel tried out snowshoes for the first time during her time in Canada.

being farmed.

"The Tidal Bore was an amazing demonstration of nature's force as the highest tides in the world, from the Bay of Fundy funneling into the Salmon River at Truro, were moving forward like a huge, rolling wave."

Spiegel visited a maple syrup operation the last weekend before the season ended in March. "At the Maple Mist Farm, I saw the complex system of pipes and equipment that produce the delicious maple syrup. I had no idea about all that goes into the process." Spiegel explained there are miles of hoses attached to sugar maple trees, and then the syrup is boiled in huge vats, then it goes through an evaporator in the final stage.

"Another most-interesting observation was the deep respect shown to the First Nation peoples of Canada. At every public event, a recognition statement is made about being on the sacred land of the original inhabitants."

In Nova Scotia, it was the Mi'kmaq people. The very sincere effort to recognize diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) was present everywhere," Spiegel said.

"The Halifax Public Library had a large exhibit of both First Nations history in the area, and African American history." And, of course, there were many beautiful beaches. Spiegel recalled Lawrencetown, Rainbow Haven, Cow Bay, Crystal Crescent, Hirtle's Beach, LaHave, Martinique and many others. "At Lawrencetown, in the middle of the cold winter, I saw surfers and windsurfers out riding the waves! Nova Scotia is beautiful, and I plan to return — but not in the winter!"

"Before I knew it, though, the term ended. I will always remember my valuable experience of being in a different place and, in spite of the virus restrictions, meeting the lovely people of Nova Scotia, and discovering how much we have in common."
2020-21 WestStar class works through pandemic to complete program

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

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

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

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

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

Deal followed Carver’s remarks by presenting several awards, including the C.P. Boyd Leadership Award recipient chosen by the class to Dr. Jamie Mantooth and the Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award presented to 2014 program graduate Brooxie Carlton, director of federal programs with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in Nashville. Gemiah Bell, a UT Martin sophomore from Brownsville, received the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship. The program’s board of trustees then welcomed the 29 new graduates that included members representing 18 West Tennessee counties.
WESTSTAR LEADERSHIP CLASS GRADUATES HONORED — Members of the 2020-21 WestStar Leadership Program class graduated June 22 during a reception and ceremony at Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. Pictured following the graduation ceremony are: (front row, from left) Shalondria Shaw, Jessi Pruett, Jennifer Bane, Katelyn Spivey, Debbie Dunaway, Teresa Russell, Wendell Wainwright and Monica Heath; (middle row) Jamey Tosh, Monte Belew, Victor Parkins, Dakota Simpson, Dr. Cheryl Brown, Dr. Jamie Mantooth, Jessica Huff, Jason Compton, Barry Hutcherson and Jennifer Perryman; (back row) Lowell Beller, Kyle East, Andy Anderson, George Leake, Lee Mills, William Wooten, Chris Donaldson, Delaney Timberman and Ty Smithson. (Not pictured are Dr. Norma Gerrell and Mike Enoch.)

Mantooth receives C.P. Boyd Award

Dr. Jamie Mantooth received the 2021 C.P. Boyd Award from the WestStar Leadership Program during the organization’s graduation ceremony and reception June 22 in Jackson. Mantooth currently serves as executive director of enrollment services and student engagement for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The C.P. Boyd Award is named for the late Haywood County community leader and educator. It is awarded each year to recognize the member of each graduating class who best demonstrates compassion and leadership for West Tennessee, as selected by his or her classmates.

Mantooth serves on the board of directors for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students and as faculty leadership for NODA — Association for Orientation, Retention and Transition in Higher Education. He also serves on several UTM committees and the deacon board at First Baptist Church of Martin.

Applications for the WestStar class of 2022 will be accepted after Sept. 1, and class members will be announced later this fall.

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, which is sponsored by UT Martin, contact Virginia Grimes, assistant director, at 731-881-7787 or vgrimes@utm.edu.
4-H Roundup coming to UTM July 19-23

MARTIN, Tenn. — After missing 2020 due to the pandemic, the State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference is returning to the University of Tennessee, Martin, to celebrate the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. The event takes place July 19-23.

Approximately 300 high school age 4-H'ers from across Tennessee will meet for several days on the UT Martin campus. The 4-H'ers have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography and will now compete for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for this meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2021 is “The Great Comeback.”

“Although much of the year’s efforts were completed through virtual experiences, we are pleased that we can gather to celebrate our members’ accomplishments in person at Roundup and the All Star Conference. This is the 98th year we will gather, and I am looking forward to seeing my young friends and hearing about all their efforts,” said Justin Crowe, director and state 4-H program leader.

“While we honored our 4-H project winners virtually last year, we are excited to get to recognize our 2021 outstanding 4-H members in person this year! 4-H Roundup is one of Tennessee 4-H’s premier events,” said Lori Gallimore, UT Extension specialist in 4-H youth development. “4-H’ers who have spent years growing their skills and knowledge in their respective project areas come our annual 4-H Roundup event to compete in their project areas for scholarships, trips and awards. Roundup is also an opportunity for them to learn skills in leadership and citizenship and enjoy networking with other 4-H’ers from across the state.”

In addition to project competitions, delegates will participate in a number of activities, including the 4-H All Star Conference, Volunteer State Ceremony, the election of the 2021 State Council officers and a service-learning project.

Delegates to the Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference will work to benefit two worthy causes. Some will meet with members of the 4-H Club on Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota to learn about life on the reservation and to gather school supplies to send for youth on the reservation. Roundup participants will also work to give their “hands to larger service” to benefit St. Jude Target House for families and patients of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis. 4-H clubs across the state sent needed items like hand sanitizers, laundry detergent and household supplies that the Roundup participants will package for delivery to the Target House.

“Service-learning opportunities are a very important component of the 4-H program,” said Crowe. “Each year, 4-H'ers statewide perform thousands of hours of service at an estimated economic impact of almost $14 million. Through the service-learning projects, our 4-H'ers learn that they can really make a difference in their communities.”

Of course, during Roundup the youth will take the time to have some fun. The group will visit Discovery Park of America in Union City.

The Division of Youth and 4-H is housed in the Institute of Youth, Family and Community at USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture and is conducted through the land-grant university extension 4-H offices. Additional support is provided to 4-H by the National 4-H Council (a private, non-profit organization).

In Tennessee, University of Tennessee Extension manages the program with cooperation from Tennessee State University. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and service learning to more than 180,000 Tennessee youth in the fourth through 12th grades.

4-H also has more than 5,000 adult volunteers in the state and numerous alumni, among them Governor Bill Lee. Many Tennessee 4-H alumni generously support the organization and Tennessee youth through the Tennessee 4-H Foundation.

Through its land-grant mission of research, teaching and extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture touches lives and provides Real Life. Solutions. utia.tennessee.edu.
Tennessee 4-H Roundup resumes in-person activities at UTM

MARTIN — After missing 2020 due to the pandemic, the State 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference has returned to the University of Tennessee at Martin this week to celebrate the outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments of senior high 4-H members. The event started Monday and ended Friday.

About 300 high school-age 4-H'ers from across Tennessee will meet for several days on the UT Martin campus. The 4-H'ers have completed local projects in areas such as communication and public speaking, livestock, computers and technology and photography and will now compete for statewide awards that include college scholarships and trips to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The theme for this meeting and for all 4-H programs in 2021 is “The Great Comeback.”

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Merit scholarships reinstated at UTM in response to pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged educators and students in multiple ways. For students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin who lost merit scholarships during the pandemic, some help is on the way.

Students who did not meet the grade point average requirement at the end of the 2021 spring semester to retain merit scholarships will have these scholarships reinstated to start the 2021-22 academic year. A total of 508 students will have their scholarships reinstated.

"So many students struggled last year because of the method of course delivery caused by the pandemic," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. "This will give students another chance to get on track."

Students are receiving direct emails about the reinstatement, which reads in part, "We believe in you and want to see you succeed, so here is a second chance to bring your GPA (grade point average) up to the minimum required to retain your scholarship(s) past the 2021-22 academic year."

"At this point, students will have a one-year grace period to bring their GPAs back up to above the scholarship thresholds," Cavalier added. "Last year will still have an effect on their GPA calculations, of course, but one extra academic year will help many of them."

Students and families who have questions can contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 731-881-7040 or by email at financialaid@utm.edu. Students suspended from financial aid at the end of the 2021 spring semester must file a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal before reinstatement of federal and state aid will be considered.

The university’s main campus and regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville will fully open Aug. 23 for in-person classes. The university uses Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for pandemic safety that include encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations, mask wearing for the unvaccinated, frequent handwashing and social distancing when possible.

The university offers related updates and informational resources at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.
Local leader graduates from WestStar program

George Leake of Obion County graduated from the WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2020-21 during the organization's graduation ceremony and reception June 22 in Jackson.

Leake, supervisor of secondary instruction for Obion County Schools, serves on the board of directors for the Obion County Chamber of Commerce and on the University of Tennessee Martin Educational Leadership Advisory Board.

He is a graduate of both Leadership Obion County and the Complete Tennessee Leadership Institute. He is also a recipient of the Pioneer Award, which recognizes service in career and technical education.

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

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program.

The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact assistant director Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7787.
Local Leaders Graduate from WestStar Leadership Program

Monica Heath, Carroll County, and Katelyn Spivey, Benton County, are recent graduates from the WestStar Leadership Program’s Class of 2020-21. The graduation ceremony and reception were June 22 in Jackson, following a month-long series of in-person and virtual seminars hosted throughout June focusing on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

Monica Heath is the executive director of the McKenzie Industrial Board and serves on the planning commission for the city of McKenzie. She is an economic coordinator and assistant Main Street director.

Katelyn Spivey is the marketing director at Carroll Bank & Trust and serves as president of the Camden Downtown Business Association. Katelyn, the marketing and social media events chair for the Carroll County Young Professionals, also volunteers with Benton County Leadership.

Monica and Katelyn were two of the 29 participants from 18 counties who participated in Tennessee’s oldest and largest regional leadership program. The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1989 and equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program provides members with a growing network of community-minded leaders committed to serving the area.
UT Martin Named Top Giving Company

UT MARTIN RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL CELEBRATION BREAKFAST — UT Martin was named one of United Way of West Tennessee’s Top 30 giving companies of the 2020-2021 campaign year at the organization’s annual Celebration Breakfast on June 25, 2021. Contributions from local organizations allowed United Way to invest over $850,000 back into local communities to improve life for people across West Tennessee. Established in 1941, United Way of West Tennessee is a nonprofit organization in Jackson that advocates for equity through uniting agencies in ways that improve each person's access to health, education, and financial stability. Pictured (L to R) are Chancellor Keith Carver; Ben Jones, director of development; and Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for university advancement.
Martin, Tenn. — The Conference of State Bank Supervisors named a University of Tennessee at Martin student team as winner of the 2021 Community Bank Case Study Competition. The team included four students from the College of Business and Global Affairs and one student from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The CSBS announced the competition results July 15 at www.csbs.org (http://www.csbs.org).

The team included Benjamin Beard of Union City and Refugio Palacios, Dyersburg.

The annual competition is open to undergraduate students in all fields of study as an opportunity to gain valuable first-hand knowledge of the banking industry. This year's case studies submitted to the competition examined how local community banks navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and what they are doing to encourage greater diversity and inclusion.
"This competition underscores the importance of banking education and helps undergraduate students learn about the value of community banking. The exceptional analysis and quality of work of the top three teams tell me we are building a strong workforce of tomorrow," said CSBS Executive Vice President Jim Cooper.

The winning UT Martin team members were Benjamin Beard, finance and accounting major, Union City; Seth Bishop, finance and accounting major, Adamsville; Refugio Palacios, finance major, Dyersburg; Savannah Pham, business communication and information systems major, Halls; and McKenzie Reagor, agricultural business major, Karnak, Illinois.

John Clark, interim chairholder for the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking; Dr. Mark Farley, assistant professor of finance; and Dr. Lajuan Davis, professor of business communication, were the team’s faculty advisers. Clark’s administrative support assistant, Traci Crawford, also assisted team members as they prepared for the competition, and TriStar Bank, based in Dickson, Tennessee, was the team’s community bank partner. The team advanced through three rounds of judging by banking professionals and overcame a pool of 35 student teams representing 29 colleges and universities. (more)

“This is a very important national competition for universities and students interested in community banking," Clark said. “This year was our fourth year to compete. We’ve done well in the competition each year, with the best success until this year being third place in 2019. This is a significant accomplishment by these five extraordinary students.”

“I am truly proud of our outstanding students and their faculty advisers Mr. John Clark, Dr. Mark Farley and Dr. Lajuan Davis for such a monumental accomplishment," said Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, College of Business and Global Affairs dean. “Their partnership with the TriStar Bank and their case study on ‘How Community Banks Have Responded to Major Forces that Impacted the Nation’ reflect their commitment to the continuous improvement of the business community and the economic development of the region."
Each UT Martin team member will receive a $1,000 scholarship for the first-place finish. The team will also be invited to present at the CSBS-Federal Reserve Community Banking-FDIC sponsored Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference and will have their work published in the CSBS Journal of Community Bank Case Studies.

Teams representing the University of Arkansas and Southeastern Louisiana University placed second and third respectively. These teams will receive $500 and $250 scholarships for their respective finishes and have their works also published in the CSBS journal. The winning papers from UT Martin, Arkansas and Southeastern Louisiana are available online at www.csbs.org (http://www.csbs.org) by selecting the competition press release under “latest news.”

For more information on the 2021 Community Bank Case Study Competition, visit www.csbs.org/bankcasestudy (http://www.csbs.org/bankcasestudy).

Photo: The winning UT Martin team members were (l to r) Seth Bishop, finance and accounting major, Adamsville; Benjamin Beard, finance and accounting major, Union City; Savannah Pham, business communication and information systems major, Halls; McKenzie Reagor, agricultural business major, Karnak, Illinois; and Refugio Palacios, finance major, Dyersburg.
Three Henry Countians graduated from the WestStar Leadership Program for 2020-21 during a ceremony and reception June 22 in Jackson.

Monte Belew, Norma Gerrell and Jamey Tosh took part in the program, joining 26 other participants from 18 counties at a series of both in-person and virtual seminars held through June that focused on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

Belew, director of public safety at the University of Tennessee at Martin, serves as the chairman of the Henry County Prevention Coalition and the National Wild Turkey Federation Jakes program for Henry County. He was Henry County sheriff from 2006-20 and received the Tennessee State Trooper of the Year Award for the 8th District in 1988.

Gerrell, director of schools for the Paris Special School District, serves on the boards of the Rhea Public Library, the Obion County River Regional Library System, Henry County 911 and the UTM Educational Leadership Advisory Council. Gerrell is a Leadership Henry County graduate and a recipient of both the Northwest Supervisor of the Year Award and the Union University Distinguished Alumni Award in the field of education.

Tosh, owner and partner of Tosh Farms, is a recipient of the University of Tennessee Horizon Award. He currently serves on the board for Henry County Medical Center and the UT President's Council.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides members with a growing network of community-minded people committed to serving the area.

For more information about the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, assistant director, at 731-881-7787.
Donaldson, Simpson graduate from WestStar Leadership Program

MARTIN, Tenn. – Chris Donaldson and Dakota Simpson, both of Dyer County, graduated from the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2020-21 during the organization’s graduation ceremony and reception June 22 in Jackson.

Donaldson, owner and operator of Tencom Services, serves on the boards of the Lifebeat Family Resource Center, Dyer County Chamber of Commerce and TCAT-Newbern. He is also a recipient of the Distinguished Man of the Year award for Dyer County. Donaldson is a Leadership Dyer County graduate.

Simpson, special projects manager at the Tennessee Department of Human Services, has served on the board of the Dyersburg YMCA and was a member, diplomat and employee of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Leadership Dyer County and the Tennessee Accelerated Leadership Institute.

Donaldson and Simpson joined 27 other participants from 18 counties at a series of both in-person and virtual seminars held through June that focused on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

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Continued from Page 1
Carlton recognized with WestStar Alumni Award

Brookie Carlton (right), recipient of the 2021 Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award, is pictured with Dr. Charley Deal, secretary of the board for WestStar Leadership, and vice chancellor for institutional advancement, UT Martin.

MARTIN, Tenn. – Brookie Carlton, deputy assistant commissioner of rural and community development for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, received the 2021 Jimmy Daniel Make-A-Difference WestStar Leadership Alumni Award during the organization's graduation ceremony and reception June 22 in Jackson. Carlton is a member of the WestStar class of 2014.

The award is named for the late Jimmy Daniel, a 1990 WestStar graduate, founding program trustee member and a field representative during the Gov. Don Sundquist administration. Award recipients must be WestStar graduates who have had positive impacts in their city or county during the past five years and possess strong records of leadership in West Tennessee.

Carlton serves as Governor Bill Lee's alternate to the boards of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority. A native of Dyersburg, she also works with the Tennessee Main Street, ThreeStar and SelectTN programs.

For more information on the WestStar Leadership Program, which is sponsored by UT Martin, contact Virginia Grimes, assistant director, at 731-881-7787 or vgrimes@utm.edu.
Three local residents graduate from UT Martin

From staff reports
Jul 24, 2021

Three local students earned degrees at the commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee Martin in May 2021. Grace Meredith Gentry of Friendsville and Holly Kathryn Faulkner of Maryville earned undergraduate degrees. Elise Harris of Maryville earned a graduate degree.

Agricultural finance conference returning to UT Martin Aug. 11

The 23rd Annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held Aug. 11 at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The conference will run from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and will feature up-to-date information and insights on global economics, trade, agricultural markets, weather and climate change, and how these factors impact business. The conference is hosted by the university’s Horace and Sarah Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Registration is open through Aug. 4. The registration fee is $200 for lenders, $100 for farmers and producers, and $50 for students and spouses. To register, go to www.utm.edu/agconference.

Featured speakers include Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech University; Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock Associates; and Dr. Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist at Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Kohl will serve as keynote speaker, a role he has held every year since the conference’s inception in 1999.

For more information, contact Traci Crawford, Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference program coordinator, at tcrwfl9@utm.edu or 731-225-7350.
Grow like a ‘Guy’: Guy Robbins’ horticulture legacy

By Shannon Taylor
Press Reporter

Guy Robbins considers himself a common individual and never dreamed he would travel the world and see and do as much as he has in his 89 years.

He has seen horticulture around the world. He stood on a private patio in Bavaria and watched Hitler and his troops; visited a German garden show and was invited inside a German palace. He’s been to Diamond Head in Hawaii, climbed the Eiffel Tower and visited the Schönbrunn Palace in Austria. He’s traveled to Canada, Alaska, and the list could go on. In his words, he’s been around.

Robbins has created a legacy with his hundreds of plants on his little oasis located in Martin. He is the owner of Robbins Nursery in Martin. He holds a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from UTM and a master’s in horticulture from Mississippi State. He has lived in Martin since 1970 and has done nothing but add to the beauty of Martin ever since. He was a charter member of the Martin Tree Board, serving as vice president of the group for many years.

Before coming to Martin, he was the senior horticulturist with the Memphis Park Commission and director of the Memphis Botanic Garden. He was the grounds caretaker at UTM for 25 years, and he and UTM received a Grand Award in 1994 for outstanding grounds maintenance and beauty from the Professional Grounds Management Society, which is the highest award they give.

Robbins has been recognized by the National Federation of Garden Clubs for outstanding contribution to horticulture. He provided landscaping for Central Baptist Church, which won the Martin Beautiful 2010 Church award. He was a speaker at the Dyer.

Robbins spends the majority of his day outside working with plants and just walking around staying busy. “I have peace and tranquility from being out here every day surrounded by these plants,” he said. “There’s so very many people that don’t have that or find it. I can’t wait to get up every morning and start tilling the soil.”

Robbins so much credit for helping to get them started. He said he has sold truckload after truckload of plants for them and that “it is a really beautiful place, and everyone should see it.”

Robbins said plants have helped so many people in so many different and wonderful ways. He met with a lady that he said worked at a mental institution and had many patients who she could not do anything with medically or otherwise, but she got them outside working in them — these natural botanical miracles — and that helped me.”

Guy Robbins considers himself a common individual and never dreamed he would travel the world and see and do as much as he has in his 89 years.
He said he has plants that put on a show of foliage all year long, so his property is always lively with colors and plant life. He said people come from all over to see his ornamental grasses. He has sold about 450 Hostas so far this year and said he is about out of them.

Robbins also makes a "compost tea" that he says makes his plants grow fast, big and sturdy. Northwest Tennessee Master Gardeners and the Southwest Kentucky Master Gardeners paid a visit to Robbins last week just to look around his property. Robbins stated that he just loves to show people around, and people are thrilled to come walk his property and be amazed at all the rare varieties of plants he has. He said he has one of the largest boxwood trees in the United States. He said he has a huge boxwood collection of all different varieties and that he does not know of another boxwood collection in the country that comes close to his own. Bluebank Resort in Reelfoot Lake has given a garden, and it got them in a certain place where they could help them. He said that this is just one of the many ways that being around plants and being in nature can help people. He said he knows that he is always outside doing something with his plants and that his neighbors probably think he is crazy, but he said, "If they only knew how happy, how at peace I really am because so many people don't find that." He said he has helped so many people get into plants and that his neighbors probably think he is crazy, but he said, "If they only knew how happy, how at peace I really am because so many people don't find that." He said he has helped so many people get into plants and that his neighbors probably think he is crazy, but he said, "If they only knew how happy, how at peace I really am because so many people don't find that." He said he has helped so many people get into plants and that his neighbors probably think he is crazy, but he said, "If they only knew how happy, how at peace I really am because so many people don't find that." 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ABOVE — Even at 89 Guy Robbins still works outside with his plants every day. He has one of the largest boxwood trees in the United States.

RIGHT — Robbins has been recognized for his contributions to horticulture and was a charter member of the Martin Tree Board.

"I feel like I have helped mankind by getting so many people interested in plants."
Dr. Harriss to present

Dr. Elaine Harriss, pianist, will present a program of arrangements of well-known hymns Sunday afternoon, Aug. 8, at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. Harriss will play works in a variety of styles by some of her favorite arrangers, including Victor Labenske, Joseph Martin, Mary McDonald, Glenda Austin, Eugenie Rocherolle and Matt Limbaugh. Well-known hymns to be performed include "As the Deer," "When Morning Guilds the Skies," "There Is Power in the Blood," "Down to the River to Play," "No-body Knows the Trouble I've Seen" and others. The program will conclude with three versions of "Amazing Grace," America's most favorite hymn.

Dr. Harriss is professor of piano at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She also maintains a private piano studio and serves as pianist for Trinity Presbyterian Church. It was through her years of service to Trinity that she uncovered a wealth of well-written arrangements, which she wishes to share with the public. Trinity Presbyterian is located at 145 Hannings Lane in Martin. The program will last under an hour, is open to the public and is without charge.
UT Martin students finish first in bank case study competition

MARTIN — The Conference of State Bank Supervisors named a University of Tennessee at Martin student team as winner of the 2021 Community Bank Case Study Competition.

The team included four students from the College of Business and Global Affairs and one student from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. The CSBS announced the competition results July 15 at www.csbs.org.

The annual competition is open to undergraduate students in all fields of study as an opportunity to gain valuable first-hand knowledge of the banking industry.

This year’s case studies submitted to the competition examined how local community banks navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and what they are doing to encourage greater diversity and inclusion.

“This competition underscores the importance of banking education and helps undergraduate students learn about the value of community banking. The exceptional analysis and quality of work of the top three teams tell me we are building a strong workforce of tomorrow,” said CSBS executive vice president Jim Cooper.

The winning UT Martin team members were Benjamin Beard, finance and accounting major, Union City; Seth Bishop, finance and accounting major, Adamsville; Refugio Palacios, finance major, Dyersburg; Savannah Pham, business communication and information systems major, Halls; and McKenzie Reagor, agricultural business major, Karnak, Ill.

John Clark, interim chairholder for the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking; Dr. Mark Farley, assistant professor of finance; and Dr. Lajuan Davis, professor of business communication, were the team’s faculty advisers. Clark’s administrative support assistant, Traci Crawford, also assisted team members as they prepared for the competition, and TriStar Bank, based in Dickson, was the team’s community bank partner. The team advanced through three rounds of judging by banking professionals and overcame a pool of 35 student teams representing 29 colleges and universities.

“This is a very important national competition for universities and students interested in community banking,” Clark said. “This year was our fourth year to compete. We’ve done well in the competition each year, with the best success until this year being third place in 2019. This is a significant accomplishment by these five extraordinary students.”

“I am truly proud of our outstanding students and their faculty advisers Mr. John Clark, Dr. Mark Farley and Dr. Lajuan Davis for such a monumental accomplishment,” said Dr. Ahmad Toootoonchi, College of Business and Global Affairs dean.

“Their partnership with the TriStar Bank and their case study on ‘How Community Banks Have Responded to Major Forces that Impacted the Nation’ reflect their commitment to the continuous improvement of the business community and the economic development of the region.’”

Each UT Martin team member will receive a $1,000 scholarship for the first-place finish. The team will also be invited to present at the CSBS-Federal Reserve Community Banking-FDIC sponsored Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference and will have their work published in the CSBS Journal of Community Bank Case Studies.

Teams representing the University of Arkansas and Southeastern Louisiana University placed second and third respectively. These teams will receive $500 and $250 scholarships for their respective finishes and their works also published in the CSBS journal. The winning papers from UT Martin, Arkansas and Southeastern Louisiana are available online at www.csbs.org by selecting the competition press release under “latest news.”

For more information on the 2021 Community Bank Case Study Competition, visit www.csbs.org/bank-case-study.

The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) is the national organization of bank regulators from all 50 states, American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. State regulators supervise roughly three-quarters of all U.S. banks and a variety of non-depository financial services. CSBS, on behalf of state regulators, also operates the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System to license and register non-depository financial service providers in the mortgage, money services businesses, consumer finance and debt industries.
Program of sacred music to be presented

Dr. Elaine Harriss, pianist, will present a program of arrangements of well-known hymns Aug. 8 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

Dr. Harriss will play works in a variety of styles by some of her favorite arrangers, including Victor Labenske, Joseph Martin, Mary McDonald, Glenda Austin, Eugenie Rocherolle and Matt Limbaugh. Well-known hymns to be performed include “As the Deer,” “When Morning Guilds the Skies,” “There Is Power in the Blood,” “Down to the River to Play,” “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen” and others. The program will conclude with three versions of “Amazing Grace,” America’s most favorite hymn.

Dr. Harriss is professor of piano at the University of Tennessee at Martin, maintains a private piano studio and serves as pianist for Trinity Presbyterian Church. It was through her years of service to Trinity that she uncovered a wealth of well-written arrangements which she wishes to share with the public.

The program will last less than an hour, is open to the public and is without charge.

Trinity Presbyterian is located at 145 Hannings Lane in Martin.

TO PERFORM — Dr. Elaine Harriss will perform a program of well-known hymns Aug. 8 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. The program is free to attend.
Savannah Pham part of UTM winning team

A University of Tennessee at Martin student team won the Community Bank Case Study Competition recently. The annual competition is open to undergraduate students in all fields of study as an opportunity to gain valuable first-hand knowledge of the banking industry. Savannah Pham of Halls, back row, center, business communication and information systems major, was part of the team.

UTM team takes top spot in competition

The Conference of State Bank Supervisors named a University of Tennessee at Martin student team as winner of the Community Bank Case Study Competition. The team included four students from the College of Business and Global Affairs and one student from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

The annual competition is open to undergraduate students in all fields of study as an opportunity to gain valuable first-hand knowledge of the banking industry. This year's case studies submitted to the competition examined how local community banks navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and what they are doing to encourage greater diversity and inclusion.

“This competition underscores the importance of banking education and helps undergraduate students learn about the value of community banking. The exceptional analysis and quality of work of the top three teams tell me we are building a strong workforce of tomorrow,” said CSBS Executive Vice President Jim Cooper.

The winning UT Martin team members were Benjamin Beard, finance and accounting major, Union City; Seth Bishop, finance and accounting major, Adamsville; Refugio Palacios, finance major, Dyersburg; Savannah Pham, business communication and information systems major, Halls; and McKenzie Reagor, agricultural business major, Karnak, Ill.
Several locals earn degrees from UTM

Several Lauderdale County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies held May 7 and May 8.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted four in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of spring 2021’s accomplishments. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Hunter Lynn Haislip, Brooklyn Miles Langley, Violet Rae Scott, and Matthew Connor Stanley of Gates; Laura Katherine Texas Culver, Mario Antonial Fulton, II, Jeremy Kyle Jackson, Seeley Ashton Layne, Sarah Marie Perry, and Madison Alexis Preciado of Ripley.

The students receiving graduate degrees were Heather Damons of Ripley, and Felicia Latasha McCloud and Ashley White.

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

So. Fulton residents receive UTM degrees

Several South Fulton residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies held May 7 and May 8.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted four in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of spring 2021’s accomplishments. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were Arianna Marie Kinney.


Brianna Ariel Rinker received a graduate degree.
Abby, Kruzan is a University of Tennessee at Martin alumna from the class of 2020. She received her degree in elementary education and is now a first grade teacher at Buckley Carpenter Elementary School.

Prior to becoming a student at the UTM Somerville Center, she attended Southwest Tennessee Community College. Kruzan says, "The center helped me by orienting me on where to go. I also took some courses at the Somerville Center because they were not offered here yet, but I got guidance from the Somerville Center with getting my bachelor's degree."

Kruzan is excited for the upcoming school year and what it will bring her and her students. "I love teaching kids and working with them. I love seeing them understand and learn new things, seeing the 'light bulb' turn on and their excitement for learning." She recalls one particular student in her class. "There was a little boy I worked with one-on-one, we practiced sight words. It made me so happy when he would get excited when he learned a new word."

In her past year of teaching, she has grown fond of teaching first grade students. "They're like my children, there's 21 kids and I call them my 21 kids. I also love the people I work with. We're a big family, I love my job. When I leave for work I tell my husband I'm going to hangout with my little humans because that's what it feels like to me."

In the future, Kruzan aspires to receive her master's degree in education leadership and become a principal.

Local Residents Receive Degrees From UT Martin

Several Fayette County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during Spring Commencement Ceremonies held May 7 and May 8, 2021.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Rossville-Kameron Williams
- Somerville-Reagan Marie Adkins; DeAndra Markus Boyd; Tommy Lee Brooks;
- Amber Marie Johnson.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Oakland-Haley Duffey
- Somerville-Jacob Greene
- Williston-Demetric Mabone

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.
Local Leaders Graduate from WestStar Leadership Program.

Class of 2020-21

Dr. Cheryl Browne and Wendell Wainwright, all of Fayette County, graduated from the WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2020-21 during the organization's graduation ceremony and reception June 22 in Jackson.

Browne, a retired physician in Fayette County, serves on the boards of the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Leadership Fayette County. Browne is a Leadership Fayette County graduate and a recipient of the Physician's Exceptional Contribution Award, Professional Achievement Award, Guardian of Health Award, Everyday Hero Award, Robert J. Erickson Diversity Award and Service Excellence Award.

Wainwright, chairperson pro temp of the Fayette County Public Schools District, serves on the boards for Fayette County Citizens for Progress, Leadership Fayette and the Fayette County Chapter of AARP. Wainwright is a Leadership Fayette County graduate and a recipient of the TSBA Broadmanship award. He was also recognized as Social Worker of the Year in 2002.

Browne and Wainwright joined 27 other participants from 18 counties at a series of both in-person and virtual seminars held through June that focused on topics such as economic development, public policy, education and technology.

The WestStar Leadership Program was founded at UT Martin in 1989 and is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program. The program equips regional leaders with new skills and knowledge designed to impact the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee. The program also provides mem-
Kid College at the UTM Somerville Center

The University of Tennessee at Martin Somerville Center held Kid College for high achieving students sponsored by Fayette County Public Schools entering the third grade on July 12-16. The students attended classes at the center to give them a unique college experience. The classes were instructed by college professors in biology, music, and history. Students were able to engage in creative learning activities such as song writing, identifying nature's biodiversity, exploring historical events, and career discovery. Throughout the five days, children gained a greater understanding of college education. Molly McCarley, the principal of Kid College, says, "This was a fun and exciting week for the third grade students from the Fayette County schools to learn about educational opportunities that are available in Somerville." By encouraging and promoting the importance of education, children are enriched and equipped for their futures. (By: Sinah Carrizales)
Alumni Spotlight Project

Demetric Mabone is a University of Tennessee at Martin alumna from the class of 2021. She earned her bachelor of integrated studies in 2019 and her master's degree in science in education this past May. Mabone studied interdisciplinary studies at the UT Martin Somerville Center. Mabone says, "The location is convenient, it's close to home and you receive a great education. I liked the sizes of the classes, you're able to make deeper connections that way. Kara (the center's director) is amazing; she is very supportive. She helped me with things like scheduling and registering for classes."

Mabone is pursuing a kindergarten through second grade teaching job. She has been a student teacher for second grade, and loved teaching and engaging the children. Mabone enjoyed working with them through educational activities and getting them more comfortable with the material they were learning. "My goal is to contribute to the educational environment. I hope to help kids excel to the highest level," says Mabone. (By Sinahi Carrizales)

23rd Annual Mid-South Ag Conference Slated at UTM

MARTIN (July 24) – The 23rd Annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held Wednesday, August 11, at the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

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

Registration is open through August 4. The registration fee is $200 for lenders, $100 for farmers and producers, and $50 for students and spouses. To register, go to www.utm.edu/agconference.

Featured speakers include Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech University; Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock Associates; and Dr. Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist at Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Kohl will serve as keynote speaker, a role he has held every year since the conference’s inception in 1999.

For more information, contact Traci Crawford, Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference program coordinator, at tcrawfl9@utm.edu or 731-225-7350.
Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

MARTIN (July 21) — Several Weakley County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies held May 7 and May 8, 2021.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

Dresden — Racheal Mignon Dunlap; Carrie Alisann Hardin; Shannon M. Merrell; Dena Denise Morris; Kirsti Sierra Nordstrom; Katherine Grace Rea; Alexandra Maria Watson; Jasmine Alexus Williams; Dresser Harris Winn.

Gleason — Kayley Elizabeth Brooks; Michael Wayne Hicks; Wade Williamson Moran; Julie Thomas Shankle.

Greenfield — Brett Michael Capps; Mary Cooper; Paige Christen Huggins; Jeremy Samuel Lannom; Mattilyn Jo Sellers; Jamion Shane Shelton; Taylor Alderson Stout; Hannah Elisabeth Trimble.

Martin — Audrey Michelle Adams; Joseph Aguilar; Hassan Yousef Alhash; Toqa Alhasawi; Mason Browning Arant; Brandon T. Baker; Mason M. Baker; Shelbie Grace Barton; Ali Elizabeth Beverly; Shaylor Bishop; Avery Nicole Blanchard; Aubrey T. Bynum; Allie McCall Cantrell; John Alex Carr; Samantha I. Abston; Summer M. Goble; Peyton Ray Dailey; Blake Walker Daniels; Matthew Craig Dilday; Carlie Dawn Dunlap; Carly Jean Fowler; Jillian Paige Gunter; Holley Danielle Harstine; Haven Gabrielle Hart; Tyler John Hopkins; Terry Joseph Howell; Jennifer Ruth Hueglin; McKenzie Kayte Hurst; Cory Wayne Hussy; Emily Maudena Jeffers; Emma Grace Kelly; Thomas Shaw Logan Jr.; Cassidy Nicole Lowry; Robert Joseph Mahlhorn; Alexis Victoria Millsaps; Danielle Moody; Mindy Ann Paschall; Abigale Lee Plunk; Stephen Grant Porter; Jamie Lynn Rys; Taylor Danielle Sanders; Kaitlin Belew Scott; Halley Marie Seguna; Chloe Morgan Smotherman; Tamara Lynn Stewart; Tristan Michael Turner; Amber Nicole Vincent; Jonathan Rasmussen Wilbert; Shelby Renee Willett; Luke Arthur Winters; Erik Sean Worley; Tyshawn Orion Young; Enrico Zoboli.

Palmersville — Noah Copeland.

Sharon — Kinlee Danielle Moore.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:

Dresden — Timothy Merritt Spence.

Gleason — Holly Martina Harris.

Greenfield — Darian Lenae Black; Shelley Carol Featherston.

Martin — Christopher Austin Avallone; Kameron R. Echols; Brandi Gamble; Destin L. Johnson; Sarah Kent; Grace Bruner Luker; Katie E. Smith; Kaasi Lynn Wright.

Sharon — Rachel Lauren Roberts.
Program of Sacred Music to Be Presented

Dr. Elaine Harriss, pianist, will offer church-goers a program filled with well-known hymns Sunday, August at 2 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, located at 145 Hannings Ln., Martin. The public is invited to attend.

MARTIN (August 8) - Dr. Elaine Harriss, pianist, will present a program of arrangements of well-known hymns Sunday, August 8, at 2 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. Harriss will play works in a variety of styles by some of her favorite arrangers, including Victor Labenske, Joseph Martin, Mary McDonald, Glenda Austin, Eugenie Rocherolle and Matt Limbaugh. Well-known hymns to be performed include "As the Deer," "When Morning Guilds the Skies," "There Is Power in the Blood," "Down to the River to Play," "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," and others. The program will conclude with three versions of "Amazing Grace," America's most-favorite hymn.

Dr. Harriss is professor of piano at the University of Tennessee at Martin, maintains a private piano studio, and serves as pianist for Trinity Presbyterian Church. It was through her years of service to Trinity that she uncovered a wealth of well-written arrangements, which she wishes to share with the public. Trinity Presbyterian is located at 145 Hannings Ln. in Martin. The program will last under an hour, is open to the public, and is without charge.
UT Martin reinstates merit scholarships in response to pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged educators and students in multiple ways. For students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin who lost merit scholarships during the pandemic, some help is coming. Students who did not meet the grade-point-average requirement at the end of the 2021 spring semester to retain merit scholarships will have these scholarships reinstated to start the 2021-22 academic year. A total of 508 students will have their scholarships reinstated.

"So many students struggled last year because of the method of course delivery caused by the pandemic," said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, University Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "This will give students another chance to get on track."

Students are receiving direct emails about the reinstatement, which reads in part, "We believe in you and want to see you succeed, so here is a second chance to bring your GPA (Grade Point Average) up to the minimum required to retain your scholarship(s) past the 2021-22 academic year."

"At this point, students will have a one-year grace period to bring their GPAs back up to above the scholarship thresholds," Cavalier added. "Last year will still have an effect on their GPA calculations, of course, but one extra academic year will help many of them."

Students and families who have questions can contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 731-881-7040 or by email at financialaid@utm.edu. Students suspended from financial aid at the end of the 2021 spring semester must file a Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal before reinstatement of federal and state aid will be considered.

The University's main campus and five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville will fully open Aug. 23 for in-person classes. The University uses Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for pandemic safety that include encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations, mask wearing for the unvaccinated, washing hands frequently and social distancing when possible. The University maintains a pandemic website at www.utm.edu/coronavirus.

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, JULY 29, 2021

UT GRADUATES

University of Tennessee at Martin held its spring graduation ceremony in May 7 and May 8, 2021. Students receiving undergraduate degrees include Laura Katherine Texas Culver, Mario Antonial Fulton II, Jeremy Kyle Jackson, Seeley Ashton Layne, Sarah Marie Perry, and Madison Alexis Preciado, all of Ripley, and Hunter Lynn Haislip, Brooklyn Miles Langley, Violet Rae Scott, and Matthew Connor Stanley, all of Gates.

Students receiving graduate degrees include Heather Damons, Felicia Latasha McClyde, and Ashley White, all of Ripley.
SAVANNAH PHAM, center, of Halls, a business communication and information systems major, along with her University of Tennessee Martin teammates, from left, Seth Bishop, of Adamsville, Benjamin Beard, of Union City, McKenzie Reagor, of Karnak, Ill.; and Refugio Palacios, of Dyersburg, won the 2021 Community Bank Case Study Competition. The Conference of State Bank Supervisors announced the win Thursday, July 15th.

John Clark, interim chairholder for the Horace; and Sara Dunagan, Chair of Excellence in Banking; Dr. Mark Farley, assistant professor of finance; and Dr. Lajuan Davis, professor of business communication, were the team's faculty advisers. Clark's administrative support assistant, Traci Crawford, also assisted team members as they prepared for the competition. TriStar Bank, based in Dickson, was the team's community bank partner.

The annual competition is open to undergraduate students in all fields of study as an opportunity to gain valuable first-hand knowledge of the banking industry. This year’s case studies examined how local community banks navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and what they are doing to encourage greater diversity and inclusion. The team advanced through three rounds of judging by banking professionals and overcame a pool of 35 student teams representing 29 colleges and universities. The team included four students from the College of Business and Global Affairs and one student from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE HELD FOR UTM STUDENT

July 29, 2021 @ 2:46 pm Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The UT Martin community came together for a candlelight memorial Wednesday evening for student Elliot McKeel. McKeel was 19 and died on campus. A large crowd was on hand for the memorial and was led by the Student Government Association, Student Life and Chancellor Keith Carver who said, “The entire Skyhawk community mourns the loss of our fellow student and friend.” A Celebration of Life will be held at 4 p.m. at the Church of Latter-Day Saints in Fulton on Sunday, August 1. (Chancellor Keith Carver photo).

With COVID cases rising, UT Martin still planning full opening

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

Steve James < HTTPS://WWW.THUNDERBOLTRADIO.COM/AUTHOR/STEVEJAMES/>  July 30, 2021

With COVID-19 cases increasing in the region and the emergence of the Delta Variant, UT Martin is moving forward with its full fall ser...

UTM Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver tells Thunderbolt Radio News...

(AUDIO)

The first day of fall classes for UT Martin will be August 23rd.

You can hear more from Dr. Carver on this weekend’s "30 Minutes" on WCMT, MIX 101.3, and STAR 95.1.