University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach offers Zoom ACT prep

By Kevin Morris - June 1, 2020

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is hosting two ACT prep classes from 5-7 p.m., June 1 and 3, via Zoom for students preparing for the test.

The first session, June 1, will focus on math and science reasoning, while the session on June 3 will work on English and reading. The lessons are two hours and will teach students time-saving strategies and comprehension tips.

Alex Beene, UT Martin Adjunct instructor and author, will instruct the course. Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students and continues to work as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties.

Each course costs $25 and students can register at www.utm.edu/actprep. For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.

UT Martin to Open Fall Classes August 17

MARTIN — Students attending fall semester classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin begin classes August 17 and finish classes by Thanksgiving. The condensed semester offers a combination of in-person and online classes and minimizes travel to and from the main campus and five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

In addition to the earlier start date of August 17, the semester includes classes on Labor Day, no fall break, classes to end Nov. 24 and final exams the week following Thanksgiving. A study day for final exams is observed Monday, Nov. 30, followed by online exams to close the semester.

Students will not return to the main campus or centers following the Thanksgiving holiday. Plans for fall commencement are not known following the university’s first-ever virtual commencement May 2.

UT Martin Summer Orientation and Registration and Transfer Orientation sessions are virtual as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The SOAR sessions are June 22 and 24, July 10 and 28 and Aug. 7. Transfer orientation sessions are June 29 and July 16.

“The safety of our students, faculty and staff remains our top concern,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “The university’s Reentry Task Force, along with our academic leadership, continue to plan for the best and safest educational experience possible under challenging circumstances.”

Fall move-in and move-out plans for residential students are being finalized and will be managed to minimize grouping of students and families. In-person classes include recommended spacing and appropriate safety measures. Faculty members continue to refine online course delivery by participating in a series of summer online teaching methodology workshops offered by the university.

“I’m grateful for how our faculty and staff continue to rally and make a UT Martin education what our students and families expect,” said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and chief academic officer. “We’re prepared to meet students online and in the classroom with whatever is needed to deliver a high-quality college experience.”

On May 6, UT President Randy Boyd announced all University of Tennessee campuses reopen with in-person classes this fall after transitioning to online classes in the spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All UT campuses and their advisory boards proposed no increase in tuition for the 2020-21 academic year. That proposal moves to the UT Board of Trustees in June.

Additional UT Martin fall semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.
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UTM Regional Centers offer hybrid MBA program

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Centers will offer a hybrid Master of Business Administration degree beginning in fall 2020. The MBA program will be hosted at all five UT Martin Centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

The 30-credit hour AACSB-accredited MBA program will include five Saturday class meetings per semester with the rest of the program being offered through Canvas, UT Martin’s online course delivery platform. The hybrid MBA program is designed to be completed in 18 months and will teach fundamental management techniques from finance and marketing to strategy and organizational theory.

For the fall 2020 semester, students will meet Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5. If potentially disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the courses will be taught through a distance-learning platform.

Applicants must include a current resume and official transcripts from all institutions attended. The GMAT or GRE test is not required if the applicant holds a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or a GPA of 3.0 their senior year of college. Those interested can apply at https://businesscas.org/apply/.

According to Erica Bell, director of the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs, the hybrid MBA program creates an accessible learning experience through the university’s regional centers.

“We are reaching a different target market with the hybrid MBA program. With this program, we are able to provide additional opportunities for working professionals who need to stay in their local community in addition to supporting local business and industry,” Bell said.

Dr. Christie Chen is the MBA coordinator and adviser for each participant in the program.

For more information, contact Bell at ebell@utm.edu.
ATTENDS CONFERENCE — Staff members of WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk” are featured with their awards during the annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Media Conference in March. Pictured (from left) are: Jessica Davis, Kayla Brooks, Jillianne Moncrief, Jonathan Kirkland and Anais Bocher.

WUTM-FM 90.3 ‘The Hawk’ brings home 20 IBS Awards

WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” the University of Tennessee at Martin student-run campus radio station, brought home 20 awards from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Media annual conference held March 6-8, in New York City, including the station’s 10th consecutive Platinum Award. This is the highest peer-reviewed award given by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

WUTM won four first-place awards, as well as 16 top-five finalist awards at the conference, including its designation as one of the top-five Best College Radio Stations with under 10,000 students enrolled. WUTM has earned a position in the top five for this category eight of the past nine years.

Of the 20 awards, Kayla Brooks, news director of WUTM from Dickson, was responsible for claiming 10 for the radio station. Her first-place awards include best community news and best television talk program for her show “For the Record.” She also received finalist awards in the categories best public affairs coverage, best public service promotion, best live broadcast, best political news coverage, best spot news coverage, best college radio news director, best news promotion in partnership with Kevin Bartholomew, of South Fulton, and best station blog in partnership with Jessica Davis, of Sharon.

Davis also received finalist awards for best underwriting spot and best support and development director.

Jillianne Moncrief of McLemoresville earned the national title of best college radio program director during the conference.

Other finalists include John Thornton of Atoka and Jordan Taylor of Jackson for best women’s basketball play-by-play; Thornton for best sports director; Anais Bocher of Orleans, France for best specialty show for her program “Lost in Translation”; the radio production class for best radio drama of “John Dillinger”; and Dr. Richard Robinson for best college radio faculty adviser.

“Year after year, our judges are continuously impressed with the quality of work from Dr. Robinson’s students at WUTM. Few programs in the country have consistently stayed at the top of their game year after year like they have,” said IBS President Chris Thomas.

Attending the conference to receive the awards were Brooks, Bocher, Davis, Moncrief, Robinson and Jonathon Kirkland, of Martin.

WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk” is produced by the Department of Communications. For more information, contact Robinson at 731-881-7555 or rrobins@utm.edu.
WestTeach adds teacher to class

By KAREN CAMPBELL
Special to the Press

WestTeach will welcome Greenfield native Kandace Jackson when the professional development program for teachers in the 21 counties of West Tennessee next convenes in August.

“At Greenfield, she is actively growing a business and marketing program that provides our students with professional opportunities after high school, and we are excited that she is has been selected by the WestTeach program allowing our students to further benefit from her teaching,” noted Jeff Cupples, Greenfield principal. Applicants must be recommended by their principals and directors of schools to participate in the program.

According to Virginia Grimes, coordinator of WestStar which launched the specific education-focused program in 2018, through WestTeach teachers gain insight into the economic needs and opportunities in West Tennessee, build links with industry and community leaders and get an out-of-the-classroom view of students’ lives from community child resource agents.

New to the Weakley County System in the 2019-2020 academic year, Jackson previously garnered recognition as South Fulton High School’s Teacher of the Year and earned the 5-Star Teacher designation. In her first year at Greenfield she has served as the FBLA Advisor, Yearbook Advisor, and on the Harvest Carnival Planning Committee. During the COVID-19 closure, she has volunteered with the meal distribution.

As a Career and Technical Education teacher, Jackson is looking forward to the collaboration and networking the WestTeach program affords.

“I hope to gain insight on the employment needs in West Tennessee so that I can take that information back to my classroom and prepare my students to meet the demands of the workforce when they graduate and leave Greenfield School whether they are headed on to a post-secondary institution or into the workforce,” she explained.

“I also would like to build connections and network with community leaders to ensure that I can take advantage of as many learning opportunities for my students as possible, whether that is through work-based learning or field trip experiences.”

“Community-minded people” are the targeted group of WestStar and its programs as they focus on public service endeavors. WestTeach applicants must be K-12 teachers who aspire to stay in the classroom but want to be leaders in their schools. Selection is also based on leadership achievements and potential to contribute to the region’s educational system.

Jackson has already shown her commitment to her community as she participated in the Adopt-a-Site program, park clean up and beautification of Martin, where she resides with husband Mark and children Molly and Ross. She has also coordinated annual food drives and toy drives to benefit the Carl Perkins Center in Huntingdon.

The new WestTeach class will come together in August for the first two days of their experience. First, they will receive an overview of West Tennessee agriculture and then be introduced to entrepreneurship in the area. In September, they will examine “The Humanity of Leadership.” During October they will look at education and economic development, in November they will participate in industry tours. The WestTeach experience culminates with a graduation banquet on Dec. 17.

Previous Weakley County participants in the program include Kimberly Elliott of Westview, and Brittan Knott, a fifth-grade teacher at Martin Elementary.

Editor note: Karen Campbell is the communications director for the Weakley County School System and may be contacted by email at karewn. campbell@wesl12m.net.
UT Martin grounds keeping is a labor of love

By Randy Cavin
Press Sports Editor

There is little doubt that UT Martin has one of the most breathtaking campuses in the state. It takes a lot of hard work and ingenuity to keep it that way.

The person in charge of that is UTM grounds manager Chris Virgin. He takes pride in his job and it shows. The campus is more like a garden with all of the foliage and the care that is given to it.

Virgin's favorite area on campus is his latest project, which is the landscaping around Paul Meek Library and near the University Center. That area was completed earlier this year and it had to look good for some important visitors to the campus.

He also had no choice but to re-landscape the area as several sections of concrete walkway at the University Center had to be removed for a new steam line.

"This area was originally done in 2006," Virgin said. "That landscape was getting kind of old. Fortunately, or unfortunately, they rerouted the steam line under the concrete all the way to the parking lot. So, we had to completely redo everything."

All of the work to install the steam line left the landscape in a mess. And, with dignitaries coming to campus, and with another campus in the UT system looking so good, he had his work cut out for him and his department.

"The timeframe on this made it whole lot more work," Virgin said. "We wanted it ready for when the UT Trustees came to town. You know, they are a bunch of billionaires. The chancellor told my boss they had been to the campus at Chattanooga and they said it looked really great. So, we wanted our campus to be that way."

"We planted 7,000 bulbs in our greenhouses. It was tulips, daffodils, and everything else for their March 28 visit. But we had been getting rain, it was freezing, and this area was a mudhole. Three days before they were going to be here you could sink a tractor in it.”

He had to pull all of the mud out with heavy equipment and get a farmer to put in fresh soil. Then the new soil had to have new sod put on it. There was a problem — none of his student workers were on campus because of it being off limits to students with the coronavirus taking a foot-
hold across the nation.
However, Virgin found the help he needed to get that job done.
"It was not just the grounds department," he said. "The steam plant and all of these other shops were over here helping us out. The contractor who did the steam line, he let us borrow his forklift and track-hoe. It all of that had not happened, it would never have looked like this."

The landscape around the library is so nice to look at that the Memorial Day ceremony is held there instead of the University Street side of the administration building. A battle cross was put there a year ago and this was the second straight year the ceremony was held at the library.

"That was an after-thought," Virgin said. "They knew we were redoing this, and they were having the statue dedication. They needed a place for it, so we said let us make a place for it and we put it there."

Virgin has been the UTM grounds manager for seven years and he came to the campus with the experience and education to do the job. His family was in the nursery business for many years.

"We owned Virgin's Nursery over in Union City," he said. "I had gone to Knoxville for architectural school and I came back to work with my dad for a little while. Then I got a master's degree in landscape architecture at LSU. Then I worked in Dallas for a landscape firm and then an architect firm. Then I came back to help my dad with the family business because his health was not the greatest. I had to sell it in 2012 after he had passed. So, then I came here, and now I have been here for seven years."

The library landscaping is his biggest project since he has been at UTM and one he is most proud of. He is not the only one who is proud of that area — UTM Chancellor Keith Carver also admires it.

"The best comment he made — he said he and his wife were out here and they were just looking at it," Virgin said. "Some kids came out of the University Center and they were walking along looking at their cell phones, and they looked up went like: 'Wow!' and then went back to their phones. It was something to distract them from their phones."

There are other areas on the campus he is proud of. One section of the campus is by the Sociology Building. A place outside of the building was designed by him and dedicated in 2018, which is the Michelle Horton Tribute Garden.

It is a place for students and faculty to sit with two benches, seat walls, and with all sorts of greenery and flowers. It provides a nice, shady spot on a warm summer morning.

"This is a memorial garden for one of the professors from the sociology department who passed away," Virgin said. "There are crepe myrtles here, but they are doing terribly this year. It is like back in the 1980s when they died in the ground. Pretty soon around here there will be nothing but suckers coming up. I think I counted 35 on campus that are destroyed."

"I really love these seat walls. What they are for is to define it and give you a place to sit down if you are waiting on somebody to come out of a class."

Another area that is getting a facelift is the courtyard at the Holland McCombs Center and Archives building. Work is currently ongoing there and students will get a nice surprise when they return to campus in the fall.

"They wanted more area here, so we reduced the bed size and removed a Japanese Maple tree that was dying," he said. "Now they have more seating and a water feature. The honors program provided the funding for this and the work is being done inhouse, so that reduces the cost."

Another new feature on the campus is the Unity Circle by Clement Hall. It is meant to bring unity to the campus and was dedicated by the PanHellenic Council.

"A group of nine fraternities and sororities, primarily African-American, this is a dedication to the nine we have on campus," Virgin said. "We are one of the few campuses that has this. We have plaques for all nine fraternities and sororities. We had to do this for under $100,000 and I think we did it for around $90,000. Just the plaques were $17,000. I think we were quoted the blocks of rocks. The stands the plaques are put on were $1,200-$1,400 a piece. I called a supplier in Arkansas to cut me some, and I think I paid $500 for all of them."

The UT Martin campus is wonderful place to take a stroll. There is ongoing construction on the campus, but that just means there will be even more beauty to look at in the near future. It really is great place to meander through with places to sit and plenty of scenery to enjoy.
Eight Obion County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin in recognition of their achievements in scholarship and citizenship during the 2019-20 academic year.

Among those honored were:

- Lonna Kennedy of Union City, recipient of the Outstanding Educational Studies Student Award.
- Abigail Simmons of Union City, recipient of the Outstanding Nursing Student Award.
- Audrey Adams of Union City, recipient of the Outstanding English Student Award.
- Brandon Beard of Union City, recipient of the Norman and Ruby Campbell Scholarship Award.
- Christina Bateman of Obion, recipient of the Computer Science Award.
- Madison Hicks of Union City, recipient of the Outstanding Upper Division Engineering Award.
- Brianna Hinton of Hornbeak, recipient of the League of Striving Artists Achievement Award.
- Benjamin Beard of Union City, recipient of the Harry Neal Memorial Award.

UT Martin hosts an annual Honors Day Program in the spring to recognize each award recipient; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s in-person ceremony was canceled and students were notified of their awards by the Office of the Chancellor.

UT music programs set

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

- Tonight — James Stephens, director of advocacy and educational resources, Music For All
- Thursday — Tim Rhea, director of bands and music activities, Texas A&M University

For a full calendar listing of events, visit utm.edu/music/events.
Local students receive Honors Day awards

Ten Gibson County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin in recognition of their achievements in scholarship and citizenship during the 2019-20 academic year.

Adrian Rodriguez, of Trenton, received the Outstanding Natural Resource Management Student Award.

Benjamin Allen, of Trenton, received the Outstanding Biology Student Award.

Abigail Allen, of Trenton, received the George and Ruth Horton Curricula Award.

Emily Campbell, of Trenton, received the Jim Burdette Memorial Award.

Samuel Walgren, of Milan, received the Coleman Family Legacy Award.

Chloe Cates, of Medina, received the Faculty Women’s Club Scholarship Award.

Bethany Eddings, of Kenton, received the Faculty Women’s Club Scholarship Award.

Logan Morris, of Trenton, received the William T. McCutchen Geology Award.

Sydney Blackburn, of Milan, received the Technical Writing and Business Communication Award.

Cody Kinniburgh, of Medina, received the Mathematics Award.

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Sierra MeKailyn Doaks
Parents: Sam M. Doaks, III and Toniya Collins
School: Louisiana State University
Activities: Air Force ROTC, Golden Key International Society, Transfer Student Mentor Program
Scholarships: Lt. Col. Trigg Wood III Memorial Scholarship, American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award
Future Plans: United States Air Force Officer

UT-Martins will hold summer orientation and registration sessions for summer

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The SOAR sessions are scheduled for June 22 and 24, July 10 and 28, and Aug. 7. Transfer Orientation sessions are scheduled for June 23 and July 16.

“With UT Martin early in the reentry phases, we decided it would be best to work with students for SOAR and orientation in online formats,” said Destin Tucker, Director of Undergraduate Admissions. “We are excited about helping students finalize their enrollment and will be here to address individual needs.”

Each session will begin online at 8:30 a.m., and incoming students will participate in informational meetings and student panels, meet orientation leaders, receive academic advising and register for classes.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will send out SOAR packets to all students registered to attend SOAR, including a SOAR book full of information for their session, a UT Martin T-shirt and student ID.

For more information, contact Tucker at dtuckel3@utm.edu or admissions at admitme@utm.edu.
UT-Martin sets plans for fall

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See UT MARTIN on Page 3
Above, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver delivers Biology 140 lab kits to Lily and Hagen Little, sibling Human Health and Performance majors from Martin, who are taking Dr. James Smart’s online biology course this summer. Below, Dr. Abigail Shelton, associate professor of chemistry, packs chemistry lab kits to send to UT Martin students taking her online Chemistry 121 summer course. The kits include the components needed for students to safely conduct experiments at home.

Science Faculty Members Prepare Lab Kit For Students in Online Summer Courses

MARTIN — As the University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members began preparing to host their summer courses online, Dr. James Smart, professor of biology, and Dr. Abigail Shelton, associate professor of chemistry knew they needed a plan for the Biology 140 and Chemistry 121 classes in order to ensure their students received the best hands-on learning experience, even if they could not utilize the respective labs on campus.

Their solution? Create lab kits containing the materials needed for their students to safely conduct their own experiments at home to supplement the corresponding lectures. The kits include the lab components each experiment will require, such as test tubes and graduated cylinders, microscopes, balances, atom and cell models, and even a few chemicals that were approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation to ship to each student.

"Part of what we were unwilling to compromise on with the transition to online was the hands-on tactile skills that are developed in lab," said Shelton. "The main things that are going out in these kits are not actually chemicals; they're glassware so the students can still work with and learn how to handle and measure with pipettes and graduated cylinders... We didn't want to send them on with our seal of approval for the course without teaching them those tactile skills, and so, we are shipping out, for free, a very substantial amount of glassware and metal samples."

Smart's Biology 140 class, Foundation of Cell and Molecular Biology, will require students to prep their experiments themselves, including a trip to Walmart's produce section. Instead of shipping groceries to his students, Smart hopes the preparation each student has to do for the experiments will encourage them to do their best.

"I'm asking them to do something that they would have had done for them: you just show up for lab and there's all the labeled bottles of this and that made for you," Smart said. "I think it's fair to say that there is going to be more expected of these kids because they're doing it on their own, but also they're doing it on their own. So, at the end of the day, they did it. There's no lab partner to hide behind... or somebody else's data to get. It's going to be their own individual ownership of it."

The lab kits, in conjunction with TDOT's safety regulations, were shipped out to students as they prepare for the first summer session to begin June 1.

However, four local students
enrolled in Biology 140 received their biology lab kits in an unusual way May 28.

Lily Little, a sophomore health and human performance major, and her brother Hagen, a junior health and human performance major, opened their front door to find UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver waiting on their porch with their biology lab kits and a few words of encouragement as they began the new semester.

Carver spent the morning personally delivering lab kits to their homes and enjoyed socially distanced fellowship with some UT Martin students that he hadn't seen since March.

"I am inspired by the creativity of our lab instructors! It's obvious that our faculty are working hard to stay connected to their students and provide innovative ways to teach them," said Carver in an email. "I enjoyed seeing the students and the limited interactions were able to have outside their homes! Students are the heart of UT Martin - and I loved being a part of the teaching and instruction process."

Lily ready for her class to begin, said "(The kit) will help me be more engaged in my class... I am a visual learner and a hands-on learner, ... so with this lab kit, it will help me better understand what's going on because I can see it right in front of me."

Lily also said it meant a lot to her that Carver was the one to drop off their kits as they had become friends during her time at UT Martin.

While there are several experiments the students will not be able to conduct at home that they normally would in lab because of the dangerous nature of the materials, both Shelton and Smart are confident that the students in their chemistry and biology labs will learn the importance of the subjects through the labs they have provided. The students will also have online labs to replace the ones they could not do by themselves at home.

"The only way I know to do science is to ask you to be a scientist. You're probably not going to find a cure for cancer in your own kitchen this summer, but we can also do real and meaningful things that will help kind of cement what we're doing in lecture," said Smart.

"A lot of their experiments are still going to be online entirely because those are the experiments that have the waste-streams or ventilation concerns, but what I also hope is the same that I would for a regular face-to-face class," said Shelton. "They, at the end of it, don't have to love chemistry; I don't expect all of them to love it, but that they have an appreciation for how it surrounds them in their day-to-day life. I hope that by sending them a kit, they can practice those same skills that they would if we were face-to-face so that they are better able to do the next step."

Both Smart and Shelton know the kits are not a cure-all solution to teaching hands-on science courses online but are hoping the trial experiment will create a precedent for how they can conduct hybrid courses if the pandemic continues.

"I'm ridiculously proud that my department chair and my dean saw the value of what we do in our (science) courses, such that they were willing to work through all of the concerns and the liability to help make this happen and to take on the potential financial constraints of it," said Shelton. "I think that's part of what this university is, of what we should be. We shouldn't be compromising on what these students get to learn in the face of a pandemic. These students need to get to do good, real chemistry and that's what we're offering. We're quite proud of what we're doing."

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
MARTIN, Tenn. — As universities struggle to prepare for on-campus teaching in the fall, many grapple with finances.

The same could be said for University of Tennessee at Martin, who conducted their sixth annual Captain’s Challenge, where they encourage donations from alumni.

"The money all goes to support student scholarships, all our different faculty, athletics and our sponsored programs," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

Last year they raised around $315,000. They made this year's goal $325,000. They blew it out of the water in a single day.

"Got the total from yesterday. We had around 1,200 people participate, and we raised $400,000, so we exceeded our goal by $75,000," Carver said.

The original challenge date was scheduled for April, but they pushed it back when COVID-19 shutdowns were put in place.

Carver thinks with everything happening, people want to help others more than ever.

"Those feelings of melancholy create a sense of wanting to do something. I think right now we all just want to do something and help someone," Carver said. "I think our alumni have strong attachment because of the relationships they build here."

Carver points to their alumni video series and outreach efforts as a reason for the big total. However, even he admits the number was surprising.

"We're just extremely blessed with everyone's generosity," Carver said.

School officials say 57 student scholarships will receive money from the fundraising total.
Orientation and SOAR At UT-M

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold all Summer Orientation and Registration and Transfer Orientation sessions virtually this summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SOAR sessions are scheduled for June 22nd and 24th, July 10th and 28th, and August 7th. Transfer Orientation sessions are scheduled for June 23rd and July 16th.

“With UT Martin early in the reentry phases, we decided it would be best to work with students for SOAR and orientation in online formats,” said Destin Tucker, director of undergraduate admissions. “We are excited about help students finalize their enrollment and will be here to address individual needs.”

Each session will begin online at 8:30 a.m., and incoming students will participate in informational meetings and student panels, meet orientation leaders, receive academic advising and register for classes.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will send out SOAR packets to all students registered to attend SOAR, including a SOAR book full of information for their session, a UT Martin T-shirt and student ID.

UT-M To Open For Fall Semester

Students attending fall semester classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin will begin classes August 17th and finish classes by Thanksgiving. The condensed semester will offer a combination of in-person and online classes and minimize travel to and from the main campus and five centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

In addition to the earlier start date of August 17th, the semester will include classes on Labor Day, no fall break, classes to end November 24th and final exams the week following Thanksgiving. A study day for final exams will be observed Monday, November 30th, followed by online exams to close the semester. Students will not return to the main campus or centers following the Thanksgiving holiday. Plans for fall commencement are not known following the university’s first-ever virtual commencement May 2nd.

UT Martin Summer Orientation and Registration and Transfer Orientation sessions will be held virtually as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The SOAR sessions are scheduled June 22nd and 24th, July 10th and 28th, and August 7th. Transfer orientation sessions are scheduled June 23rd and July 16th.

“The safety of our students, faculty and staff remains our top concern,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “The university’s Reentry Task Force, along with our academic leadership, continue to plan for the best and safest educational experience possible under challenging circumstances.”

Fall move-in and move-out plans for residential students are being finalized and will be managed to minimize grouping of students and families. In-person classes will be offered with recommended spacing and appropriate safety measures in place. Faculty members continue to refine online course delivery by participating in a series of summer online teaching methodology workshops offered by the university.

“I’m grateful for how our faculty and staff continue to rally and make a UT Martin education what our students and families expect,” said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and chief academic officer. “We’re prepared to meet students online and in the classroom with whatever is needed to deliver a high-quality college experience.”

On May 6th, UT President Randy Boyd announced that all University of Tennessee campuses would reopen with in-person classes this fall after transitioning to online classes in the spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All UT campuses and their advisory boards have also proposed a zero percent tuition increase for the 2020-21 academic year that will be presented to the UT Board of Trustees in June.

Additional UT Martin fall semester information is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.
UTM offers free self-paced courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering 10 free non-degree self-paced courses through University Outreach that include both hard and soft skills relevant to the current job market. The courses are open to the public and will be available for free until June 30. "We believe that having the right skills and knowing how to utilize them is vital for both job seekers and those currently employed," said Debbie Mount, director of Non-Degree Programs. "The courses can help individuals enter the workforce or advance their careers through professional development."

The self-paced courses include tutorials in creating web pages and WordPress websites; the fundamentals of supervision and management; conducting a successful job search; keys to effective communication; marketing a personal business online; personal finance; and individual excellence. Participants have three months to complete the course.

For course descriptions and registration, visit utm.edu/spc. For more information, contact Non-Degree programs at non-degree@utm.edu or Mount at dmount@utm.edu.

https://www.radionwtn.com/

UT MARTIN ELAM POOL CLOSED THROUGH JUNE

June 8, 2020 @ 8:47 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin Elam Center swimming pool will remain closed during the month of June. Beginning in July, university officials will evaluate the current COVID-19 conditions to determine the next steps toward safely reopening.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all traditional recreational swimming, swimming lessons and pool parties are suspended indefinitely. A decision to reopen at a later date in the summer may be decided; however, there is a possibility of the swimming pool being closed for the summer.

A July or later opening will allow only fitness-lap swimming and therapeutic exercise/swimming. Pool access will be limited to patrons 16 years of age and older, and the number of patrons will be limited according to social-distancing guidelines. All locker rooms will be closed according to CDC standards.

More information will be released after July 1. Visit www.utm.edu/coronavirus to view the latest COVID-19 pandemic updates for UT Martin.
LOCAL STUDENT RECEIVES UT MARTIN AWARD

From Staff Reports
Jun 9, 2020

MARTIN, Tenn. — A Lewis County student received an award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in recognition of departmental achievements during the 2019-20 academic year.

Savannah Metheny, of Weston, received the Outstanding Veterinary Science Student Award.

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

For more information about the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, contact Dr. Todd Winters, college dean, at winters@utm.edu. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
UT Martin names local students to spring semester Chancellor’s Honor Roll

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

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

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

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

-Gibson — Hope E. Newell, Highest Honors.

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

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

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

-Milan — Hannah E. Acuff, Highest Honors; Brittny N. Autry, Honors; Destiny Banks, Honors; Megan Black, Highest Honors; Sydney C. Blackburn, Highest Honors; Ashlyn C. Collins, High Honors; Madison C. Crocker, Highest Honors; Savannah L. Crone, Highest Honors; Abigail M. Dedmon, Honors; Samuel B. Fagin, High Honors; Karen M. Gantt, Highest Honors; Bailee R. Graves, High Honors; James E. Hatfield, Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, Highest Honors; Kellon K. Johnson, Highest Honors; Karsten L. Kyle, High Honors; Abigail M. Lewis, High Honors; Savannah G. Maxey, High Honors; Kelsey B. Morris, High Honors; Olivia J. Patrick, Highest Honors; Jonathan C. Prescott, Highest Honors; Tori B. Riggins, Highest Honors; John M. Ross, Honors; Daniel J. Schaefer, High Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Sarah E. Staley, Highest Honors; Jaxon D. Stringer, Highest Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, Honors; Samuel M. Walgren, Highest Honors; Austin H. White, Highest Honors; Carrie E. Willis, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Wilson, Highest Honors.

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

-Trenton — Abigail B. Allen, High Honors; Hannah G. Ball, Highest Honors; Taylan A. Barholomew, High Honors; Tyson I. Barholomew, Highest Honors; Desree B. Brooks, High Honors; Emily M. Campbell, Highest Honors; Morgan G. Campbell, High Honors; Joanna C. Ferguson, Highest Honors; Caleb A. Greene, Honors; Jadarius D. Harris, High Honors; Allyson M. Ingram, Highest Honors; Eli J. King, Highest Honors; John K. Lester, Highest Honors; Jake H. Lewis, High Honors; Wesley R. McCaskill, High Honors; Cade E. Milligan, High Honors; Adrian M. Rodriguez, Highest Honors; Martina A. Roznosky, High Honors; Makayla N. Walters, High Honors.

-Yorkville — Brennan T. Lownsdale, High Honors.

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

-Jackson — Grace N. Abbott, Highest Honors; Carlton Childs, High Honors; Brittlee A. Crosser, Highest Honors; Lawson C. Mann, Honors.


-Murfreesboro — Daivion Shepherd, High Honors.

-Union City — Alyssa N. Burrous, Honors.

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Atwood — Joseph R. Barnes, Highest Honors

Bruceston — Marissa N. Crafton, High Honors; Anna M. Hopper, High Honors; Matthew R. Kitzmire, High Honors; Cody J. Knutella, High Honors; Olivia B. Lowry, High Honors; Rachel A. Smith, High Honors; Trent M. Taylor, Honors.

Buena Vista — Garrett T. Graves, High Honors.

Cedar Grove — Jadja D. Harris, High Honors; Conner B. King, Honors; Gracie L. Renfro, High Honors; Noah W. Rogers, Highest Honors; Christopher W. Wood, High Honors.

Hollow Rock — Autumn H. Blankenship, Honors; Kaitlyn E. French, Honors; Channa L. Ragsdale, Highest Honors; Ashley B. Welsh, High Honors.


Huntingdon — Madison G. Angelos, Highest Honors; Jessica J. Berry, Highest Honors; Trent J. Boyd, Honors; Anna E. Burden, Highest Honors; Morgan E. Cagle, Highest Honors; Brayden A. Campbell, High Honors; Katie L. Chase, Highest Honors; Amy R. Craig, Highest Honors; Grant J. Davis, Highest Honors; Carson E. Ensley, Highest Honors; Corbin L. Kirkland, Highest Honors; Caillen E. Krenziger, Honors; Kerr T. Maddox, Highest Honors; Kelsey M. Mann, Honors; Mary K. McGee, High Honors; Haidyn B. Mclemore, Highest Honors; Kelby B. Pearson, High Honors; Joseph T. Richardson, Highest Honors; Emily A. Sanford, Highest Honors; Wyatt C. Stokes, Honors; Molly B. Sturgis, Highest Honors; Deja H. Williams, Highest Honors; Kaitlyn E. Williams, High Honors; Holly D. Wood, Highest Honors; Allison L. Young, High Honors.

Lavinia — Dalton R. Hibner, High Honors; Trisha D. Ward, Highest Honors.

McKenzie — Christine G. Aden, Highest Honors; Alexia J. Allen, High Honors; Madison G. Barker, Highest Honors; Tyler J. Berryman, High Honors; Emily A. Bolin, Highest Honors; Lexie N. Bolin, Highest Honors; Mikayla E. Boucher, Highest Honors; Nathan S. Brown, High Honors; Gabrielle S. Davis, High Honors; Amber E. Eason, High Honors; Pedro Flores Rodriguez, Honors; Julie A. French, Highest Honors; Hannah S. Hopkins, Honors; Austin J. Maxwell, Highest Honors; William T. McBride, High Honors; Mindy I. McCallum, Highest Honors; Mitchell L. Moore, Highest Honors; Jessica L. Pence, Highest Honors; Logan Priestley, Highest Honors; Maycie M. Rollins, Highest Honors; Zach D. Sadler, High Honors; Nathan D. Smith, Highest Honors; Morgan R. Spradlin, Highest Honors; Stuart T. Spring, Honors; Molly K. Tippit, Highest Honors; Lucas P. Waddell, Honors; Chloe J. Williams, Honors; Alejandro Zaragoza, High Honors; Grace J. Zheng, High Honors.

McLemoresville — Jackson C. Lawrence, Honors.

Trezvant — Lindsey L. Baker, High Honors; Kayteilyn F. Collins, Honors; Van M. Wedley, Honors.


Yuma — Madison L. McClure, High Honors; Sydney M. Roney, High Honors; Kelsie L. Singleton, High Honors.

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

Camden — Steven E. Mackinks, Highest Honors.

Martin — Brandyn T. Baker, Honors; Kaitlin A. Below, Highest Honors; Victoria M. Galloway, Highest Honors; Makenzie G. Matthews, Honors; Jillianne D. Moncrief, Highest Honors; Amanda J. Padilla, Highest Honors.

Purls — Morgan A. Klinzing, Highest Honors.

Union City — Courtney D. Saylor, High Honors.
AWARD WINNERS — Staff members of University of Tennessee at Martin radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk” are featured with their awards during the annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Media Conference. The winners include (from left) Jessica Davis, Kayla Brooks, Jillianne Moncrief, Jonathan Kirkland and Anais Bocher.

Student-run radio station wins awards

WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” the University of Tennessee at Martin student-run campus radio station, brought home 20 awards from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Media annual conference held recently in New York City — including the station’s 10th consecutive Platinum Award.

This is the highest peer-reviewed award given by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

WUTM won four first-place awards, as well as 16 top-five finalist awards at the conference, including its designation as one of the top five Best College Radio Stations with under 10,000 students enrolled. WUTM has earned a position in the top five for this category eight of the past nine years.

Of the 20 awards, Kayla Brooks, news director of WUTM from Dickson, was responsible for claiming 10 for the radio station. Her first-place awards include best community news and best television talk program for her show “For the Record.”

She also received finalist awards in the categories best public affairs coverage, best public service promotion, best live broadcast, best political news coverage, best spot news coverage, best college radio news director, best news promotion in partnership with Kevin Bartholomew of South Fulton and best station blog in partnership with Jessica Davis of Sharon.

Ms. Davis also received finalist awards for best underwriting spot and best support and development director.

Jillianne Moncrief of McMinnsville earned the national title of best college radio program director during the conference.

Other finalists include John Thornton of Atoka and Jordan Taylor of Jackson for best women’s basketball play-by-play; Thornton for best sports director; Anais Bocher of Orleans, France, for best specialty show for her program “Lost in Translation”; the radio production class for best radio drama of “John Dillinger”; and Dr. Richard Robinson for best college radio faculty adviser.

“Year after year, our judges are continuously impressed with the quality of work from Dr. Robinson’s students at WUTM. Few programs in the country have consistently stayed at the top of their game year after year like they have,” said IBS president Chris Thomas.

Attending the conference to receive the awards were Ms. Brooks, Ms. Bocher, Ms. Davis, Ms. Moncrief, Robinson and Jonathan Kirkland of Martin.

WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk” is produced by the Department of Communications.
University’s lecturer of history featured on The History Channel

University of Tennessee at Martin lecturer of history Dr. Timothy Smith was recently featured in a three-night miniseries on The History Channel as an expert historian on Civil War general and 18th U.S. president Ulysses S. Grant. The miniseries was titled “Grant.”

Smith, who has authored numerous Civil War books, focused predominantly on Grant’s strategy and success at the Battle of Shiloh. While the battle only lasted two days, it was the bloodiest and most costly battle in the Civil War.

“My major area of research is the Civil War in the Mississippi Valley, which includes Grant’s early war activity, so I’ve studied Grant thoroughly at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh and on down to Vicksburg,” Smith said. “Plus, I’m co-editor, with John F. Marszalek at Mississippi State University’s Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, of a book series with Southern Illinois University Press entitled ‘The World of Ulysses S. Grant.’ So, I’ve been studying and working on Grant a while now.”

Smith was flown to New York City in 2018 and interviewed by producers of the show about Grant’s life and career. He did not know how much information he provided would be used in the series but was satisfied to see his contribution played out on screen in May. He was featured in all three episodes of “Grant.”

“I hope the everyday American will take away a renewed appreciation of Grant. Obviously, he was the main factor in the military victory in the Civil War, but he was also not as bad a president as many believe. Grant was one of the greats in American history, and it is fitting that he is getting this attention now,” Smith said.

While Smith says many of the scenes were dramatized for effect, the overall message of who Grant actually was, not as many perceive him in history, was well delivered during the series.

“Reenactors and technical folks who know all the details are going to pick everything apart, but for the intended audience, which was the general public who knows little to nothing of Grant, I think it served as a good introduction and counterpoint to the accepted idea that Grant was a only a drunk, butcher and a corrupt president.”

All three episodes of “Grant” can be viewed on The History Channel’s website at https://www.history.com/shows/grant/season-1.
UCHS educator selected to participate in WestTeach

Union City High School teacher J.B. Suiter has been chosen to participate in the 2020 Class of WestTeach. Suiter will become the third UC School System teacher in as many years to be involved in the program for West Tennessee teachers that builds links with industry and community leaders.

In all, 18 teachers from 13 West Tennessee counties will be represented in this year’s class that will provide those participants an out-of-the-classroom view of students’ lives from community child resource agents.

UCHS principal Jacob Cross nominated and endorsed Suiter — who also serves as the school’s head softball coach and has spent five of his 13 years in the education system at Union City — for the program.

WestTeach’s official mission is “to engage and equip West Tennessee teachers with tools and leadership skills for success in and outside the classroom.”

The development program and workshop series were founded in 2017 by The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership program as an extension of its mission to equip West Tennessee’s community leaders with skills and tools needed to support the region.

All teachers who applied to participate in the program were asked to get a recommendation letter from either their principal or director of schools to complete the application form.

A variety of topics is on the agenda for this year’s class, including:

• West Tennessee Agriculture — Aug. 27 (Martin).
• Entrepreneurship in West Tennessee — Aug. 28 (Union City).
• The Humanity of Leadership — Sept. 23 (Jackson).
• Creating Partnership for Economic Development — Oct. 22 (Dyersburg).
• Industry Tours/Building Communities — Nov. 19 (Brownsville).

A class graduation banquet is scheduled for Dec. 17.

Sponsors of the program include Alexander, Thompson & Arnold LLC; Security Bank, Dyersburg; First Management; TRANE Company, Tennessee District; and West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation.

UT Martin far exceeds goal for the Captain’s Challenge

The University of Tennessee at Martin exceeded its $325,000 fundraising goal for the sixth annual “Captain’s Challenge—Back to the Future Edition” in less than 24 hours Wednesday, successfully returning Captain Skyhawk to present time after becoming trapped in 1995.

This year’s theme, “Back to the Future,” saw Captain Skyhawk traveling back in time to April 25, 1995, the day the Skyhawk was originally introduced to UT Martin, in chancellor Keith Carver’s Jeep fitted with a flux capacitor.

The flux capacitor was powered by the funds raised during the Captain’s Challenge fundraiser in 2019; however, once the funds ran out, Captain was trapped in 1995. Through the efforts of the UT Martin community, over $325,000 was raised in order to charge the flux capacitor and bring Captain home.

“Thank you to our alumni and friends that have made this day exceed our expectations. We appreciate our UT Martin community who continues to support the success of UTM students,” said Jackie Johnson, assistant vice chancellor of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving.

The UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations tracked donations by students, alumni, faculty, staff and community donors during the event at https://challenge.utm.edu/ and reached the goal before 4 p.m., effectively bringing Captain home. As of 5 p.m., over $340,000 had been donated to various university departments, organizations and scholarship funds.
At the college level

Two Obion County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in recognition of departmental achievements during the 2019-20 academic year.

Maddison Shaw of Obion received the Outstanding Veterinary Health Technology Student Award.

William Thralls of Union City received the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award, the American Veterans of World War II Award, the USAA Spirit Award and the National Defense Transportation Association Award.

University’s swimming pool to stay closed for rest of June

The University of Tennessee at Martin Elam Center swimming pool will remain closed during the month of June.

Beginning in July, university officials will evaluate the current COVID-19 conditions to determine the next steps toward safely reopening.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all traditional recreational swimming, swimming lessons and pool parties are suspended indefinitely.

A decision to reopen at a later date in the summer may be decided; however, there is a possibility of the swimming pool being closed for the summer.

A July or later opening will allow only fitness-lap swimming and therapeutic exercise/swimming.

Pool access will be limited to patrons ages 16 and older, and the number of patrons will be limited according to social distancing guidelines.

All locker rooms will be closed in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards.

More information will be released after July 1.

Anyone interested may go online to www.utm.edu/coronavirus to view the latest COVID-19 pandemic updates for UT Martin.

UT music programs set

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

- Tonight — Ralph Hicks, founder and executive director, Let Them Drum
- Thursday — Carl Fischer, lead trumpet for Billie Joel

For a full calendar listing of events, visit utm.edu/musicevents.
UTM ‘Captain’s Challenge’ exceeds goal

The University of Tennessee at Martin exceeded its $325,000 fundraising goal for the sixth annual “Captain’s Challenge—Back to the Future Edition” in less than 24 hours. This year’s theme saw UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver sending Captain Skyhawk back in time to 1995, the year the Skyhawk was introduced to UT Martin.

CAPTAIN’S CHALLENGE — The 2020 “Captain’s Challenge: Back to the Future Edition” fundraiser exceeded its $325,000 goal in less than 24 hours. This year’s theme saw UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver sending Captain Skyhawk back in time to 1995, the year the Skyhawk was introduced to UT Martin.

UTM offering flexible admission for fall 2021

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions will offer test-flexible admission for students applying for the fall of 2021. As ACT/SAT scheduled tests are being canceled because of the coronavirus, UT Martin will accept applications based on high school GPA and courses taken.

Students will have to submit an ACT or SAT score prior to enrolling at UT Martin but can be admitted without a score.

For merit-based scholarships consideration, an ACT or SAT score is necessary. UT Martin will begin awarding merit scholarships in November.

The admissions application for fall of 2021 will open July 8 and can completed at www.utm.edu/apply.

“We know that Class of 2021 students have not had the same access to take ACT and SAT tests, and we do not want to delay the college admissions process during this uncertain time,” said Destin Tucker, director of admissions. “We are ready to accept qualified students now,” Tucker added.

For more information, contact admissions at admitme@utm.edu or 731-881-7020. Admission information can also be found on the university’s official website at www.utm.edu.
UT Martin Regional Centers Offer Hybrid MBA Program

The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Centers will offer a hybrid Master of Business Administration Degree beginning in Fall 2020. The MBA Program will be hosted at all five UT Martin Centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville.

The 30-credit hour AACSB-accredited MBA Program will include five Saturday Class Meetings per semester with the rest of the program being offered through Canvas, UT Martin’s online course-delivery platform. The hybrid MBA program is designed to be completed in 18 months and will teach fundamental management techniques from finance and marketing to strategy and organizational theory.

For the Fall 2020 Semester, students will meet Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5. If potentially disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the courses will be taught through a distance learning platform.

Applicants must include a current resume and official transcripts from all institutions attended. The GMAT or GRE test is not required if the applicant holds a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or a GPA of 3.0 their senior year of college. Those interested can apply at https://businesscas.org/apply/.

According to Erica Bell, director of the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs, the hybrid MBA program creates an accessible learning experience through the university’s regional centers.

"We are reaching a different target market with the hybrid MBA program. With this program, we are able to provide additional opportunities for working professionals who need to stay in their local community, in addition to supporting local business and industry," Bell said.

Dr. Christie Chen is the MBA Coordinator and Adviser for each participant in the program.

For more information, contact Bell at ebell@utm.edu.

UTM offers test flexible admissions

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The admissions application for fall of 2021 will open July 8 and can be completed at www.utm.edu/apply.

"We know that Class of 2021 students have not had the same access to take ACT and SAT tests, and we do not want to delay the college admissions process during this uncertain time," said Destin Tucker, Director of Admissions. "We are ready to accept qualified students now."

For more information, contact admissions at admime@utm.edu or 731-881-7020.
Fulton County’s Yates named Outstanding Ag student

Fulton County student Preasley Yates of Fulton received the Outstanding Agricultural Education Student Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in recognition of departmental achievements during the 2019-20 academic year.

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor’s degree programs and five master’s degree programs.

The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of four primary UT campuses.

For more information about the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, contact Dr. Todd Winters, college dean, at winters@utm.edu.

University of Tennessee, Martin

Chancellor’s Honor Roll includes local students

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

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

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

South Fulton residents making the Chancellor’s Honor Roll included Logan P. Brimm, Honors; Alyssa N. Burrous, Honors; Hannah G. Carlisle, Honors; Trajin A. Cheirs, High Honors; Benjamin R. Davis, High Honors; Riley K. Davis, High Honors; Sarah K. Hester, Highest Honors; Audria A. Hill, Honors; Madelyn N. Hogan, High Honors; Taylor P. Holley, High Honors; Blake A. Johnson, High Honors; Maegan M. Johnson, High Honors; Ryanne B. Kessel, Highest Honors; Ariabella E. Kinney, High Honors; Arianna M. Kinney, High Honors; Slade C. Murray, Highest Honors; Michelle L. Nicholson, Highest Honors; Austin D. Puckett, Highest Honors; Kristen T. Roach, Highest Honors; Justin B. Sowell, Honors; Howard K. Stubblefield, Highest Honors; Erin P. Tucker, Highest Honors; and Kelly A. Whitesell, Highest Honors.

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

June 11, 2020 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering a summer program in coding for third through fifth grade students.

According to a news release the Captain Skyhawk's Coding Crew will be an online program for students from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. June 22 through June 26 and July 6 through July 10.

Students will learn to create games and projects through sequencing, functions, conditionals, variables and other topics through interactive games such as Angry Birds and Minecraft, the release says.

Students will need access to a computer with an internet connection, as well as pencils and paper.

Registration is $25 and can be done here (http://www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/coding.php).

For more information, contact Debbie Mount at dmount@utm.edu.

The Camden Chronicle Thursday, June 11, 2020

UTM names area students to Chancellor's Honor Roll

At the close of the spring 2020 semester, UTM reported that 91 students with ties to Benton County were named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll. Congratulations to these students!

HIGHEST HONORS

HONORS
By ERIN CHESNUT  
Special to The Messenger  

Adrift for seven days.  
One hundred miles from shore. Followed by a shark.  

Not an ideal scenario for most people, but for 2012 University of Tennessee at Martin graduate Kesley Gibson, it was a dream come true.  

Ms. Gibson, originally from Martin, is now a post-doctoral research associate in the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.  

“I am an artificial reef ecologist with a specialty in sharks,” she said. “I study about marine fisheries and how those species use their habitat(s) and what their migration patterns are.”  

After earning her bachelor’s degree in biology from UT Martin in 2012, Ms. Gibson went on to complete a master’s degree in environmental science from Troy University in Alabama and her doctoral degree in Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.  

“I don’t think I could have picked a better institution than (UT) Martin. It’s a small enough campus that faculty know your name when you walk in and you have a problem, or you want to get experience with undergrad research. That’s doable. You’re not having to compete against thousands to do that. You have that ability to do specialized projects and get that experience,” she said.  

Ms. Gibson spent many childhood vacations at the beach, and her father, a geology professor, nurtured her love of the ocean and the creatures that live in it. Later, as an undergraduate, she was able to test being a marine biologist through UT Martin’s association with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Miss.  

“I think (UT) Martin has positioned itself and made the right connections to help its students figure out what they want to do and give them the support to get there,” she said.  

And “there” — for Ms. Gibson — is adrift in the ocean followed by a shark.  

Her week at sea was part of a research study featured on Discovery Channel’s “Shark Week” in 2017 during an episode called “The Lost Cage.” While the rest of the team of marine biologists hoped to discover if any sharks would follow a drifting artificial habitat connected to their raft, Ms. Gibson used the experience to learn more about the habits of the shortfin mako shark.  

“This is the shark that you see on Shark Week all the time that is flip-ping in the air and breaching. It’s one of the fastest sharks in the ocean,” she said. “We were filming for Shark Week when the largest shark I have ever seen was hooked, and she was a shortfin mako. At 11.5 feet, she was estimated to weigh close to 1,000 pounds, and we couldn’t let her go without finding out where she was going. Luck got me hooked on makos, but since then, the excitement and wonder has kept me going.”  

The shortfin mako in the North Atlantic has been listed as “overfished and undergoing overfishing,” which means too many have been harvested to sustain the population.  

“We’re still pulling out too many. Scientists did the math, and if we stopped and no (shortfin mako sharks) were caught, we have a 50 percent chance of the population recovering by 2070,” Ms. Gibson said.  

A doctoral candidate at the time of the Shark Week filming, Ms. Gibson’s dissertation focused on movement patterns and habitat use for various species, including the shortfin mako. Now, she spends her time tagging Mako sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and learning where they go, why they migrate and what they need in an ideal habitat.  

TAG TEAM — Kesley Gibson tags a mako from the man-overboard ladder (photo at left) with captain Chad Banks, as well as an 11.5-foot female mako (photo at right) off the Scat Cat during Discovery Channel’s Shark Week filming in 2017. Ms. Gibson, originally from Martin, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in biology. It was followed by a master’s degree in environmental science from Troy University in Alabama and a doctoral degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is now a postdoctoral research associate in the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation.
“We’re looking at where these sharks are going, because even if we can protect them in U.S. waters, they are traveling through other international jurisdictions. Just because we may have a stricter regulation here, what are they being subjected to there? Why are they leaving here? What are we not providing here? Why do they need to go somewhere else?” she said.

So far Ms. Gibson and other researchers have found a potential mating group in the Gulf of Mexico, especially off the coast of Texas. Some females and smaller male sharks remain in the area, while larger male sharks leave and return year after year.

“We’ve started noticing bite marks down the body of the females that we were catching, ... which would suggest that the sharks are mating here, which would indicate that this could be an essential fish habitat something that they need for their species to survive,” she explained.

Once Ms. Gibson and her fellow researchers can determine what makes a habitat ideal for the shortfin mako, they can work to locate and protect those areas and the individuals that frequent them.

Ms. Gibson said there are two components to preventing the extinction of the shortfin mako population: first, to conserve the type of environment they need to grow and thrive and multiply; and second, to promote sustainable harvesting of the species.

“We can’t really encourage them (to return) other than just making sure that we’re maintaining and conserving the habitat that they need. What we can do is try to help protect the individuals that are coming here,” she said. “Right now, shark science is still in its infancy. You think about all the things (scientists discover) every year, and we still don’t know where sharks go half the time.”

As far as preventing overfishing, Ms. Gibson says the United States does not have a commercial fishery for shortfin mako sharks; however, many other countries do. The shortfin mako, among other sharks, are considered a delicacy and are harvested for their fins to make short-fin soup.

“Here in the United States, ... (shortfin makos) are predominately caught as a by-catch in the tuna fishery or the swordfish fishery, but because they are so highly prized, they are retained once they are on the longlines. Recreationally they are targeted because they are very acrobatic when they jump. You hook them, and they do the flips, and everybody enjoys that fight. Unfortunately, a lot of people do still retain them because they are good to eat.”

However, Ms. Gibson hopes that if she and her fellow marine biologists can advocate for the conservation of additional and similar habitats that support the shortfin makos, the species will be able to thrive once again.

“Ideally, if I had my way, harvest would only be for sharks that were dead on haul-back — so, sharks that didn’t survive the fishing process. It would be a catch-and-release fishery like the white shark fishery is, at least until we can get the population stable and flourishing,” she said.

“I’m all for harvesting, but you should harvest sustainably, and we’re currently not able to do that.”

Until then, Ms. Gibson will continue to tag and track sharks in the Gulf with the help of local fishermen and fishing captains who encourage their customers to return caught sharks to the sea.

For more information on shortfin mako sharks, visit https://www.florida-sea-museum.ufl.edu/discovery-fish/species-profiles/isurus-oxyrinchus/

Editor’s note: Erin Chesnut formerly worked as staff writer and addenda editor in the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This story appeared in the spring edition of Tennessee Alumni magazine.
PLAYING TAG — Kesley Gibson, a Martin native and a 2012 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, tags a 12.5-foot female mako, nicknamed “Martie,” off the Scat Cat boat. She is a postdoctoral research associate in the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. (See related Friends & Neighbors feature, Page 18.)

WATER WORK — University of Tennessee at Martin graduate Kesley Gibson tags a shortfin mako shark, named Chancellor Shark after chancellor John Sharp of the Texas A&M University System, in February 2019. The 2012 UT Martin graduate studies shortfin makos as a postdoctoral research associate at Texas A&M.
Test Flexible For UT-M Admission

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions will offer test-flexible admission for students applying for the fall of 2021. As ACT/SAT scheduled tests are being canceled because of the coronavirus, UT Martin will accept applications based on high school grade point average and courses taken.

Students will have to submit an ACT or SAT score prior to enrolling at UT Martin but can be admitted without a score. For merit-based scholarships consideration, an ACT or SAT score is necessary. UT Martin will begin awarding merit scholarships in November.

The admissions application for fall of 2021 will open July 8th and can completed at www.utm.edu/apply.

“We know that Class of 2021 students have not had the same access to take ACT and SAT tests, and we do not want to delay the college admissions process during this uncertain time,” said Destin Tucker, director of admissions. “We are ready to accept qualified students now.”

For more information, contact admissions at admitme@utm.edu or 731-881-7020.
UT MARTIN TO OFFER ONLINE CODING CLASS FOR THIRD–FIFTH GRADERS

June 12, 2020 @ 9:10 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin Outreach is offering Captain Skyhawk’s Coding Crew, an online summer program for students in third through fifth grade to learn about coding, from 9-9:45 a.m., June 22-26 and July 6-10.

Students will create games and projects through lessons about sequencing, functions, conditionals, variables, loops and sprites through interactive games such as Angry Birds and Minecraft. They will also learn how to create algorithms, organize and analyze data, and implement problem-solving skills in their projects.

Jill Warren, who teaches technology and computer skills, will instruct the course. Students will need access to a computer with internet connection and pencils and paper.

Registration can be found at www.utm.edu/nondegree/coding and will cost $25.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of Non-Degree Programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
The University of Tennessee at Martin released its chancellor's honor roll list on Friday, including many local students. In order to be eligible for the chancellor's honor roll, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit in a semester and achieve at least a 3.2 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Students are able to make the list with honors, in the case of a 3.2-3.49 GPA; high honors, 3.5-3.29 GPA; or highest honors, 3.8-4.0 GPA.

Local students who made the list include:

**HIGHEST HONORS**

**HIGH HONORS**
- John T. Bomar, Coleman T. Davis, Cason L. Hight, Emily A. Hudgins, Hannah J. Hughes, Kelsey L. Peoples, Autumn R. Price and Jared M. Pugh, all of Paris; Sarah N. Ngernwathana and Elaina R. Wood, both of Buchanan; Caleb M. Akers, Cottage Grove; Jasmine L. Al-Ahmad, Henry; Kelsey L. Grooms, Baylee D. Pafford and Bryan E. Parkhill, all of Puryear; Dillon M. French of Springville.

**HONORS**

Two Robertson County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in recognition of departmental achievements during the 2019-20 academic year.

- Peyton Judkins, of Cross Plains, received the American Legion Award for Scholastic Excellence and the BG G.H. Weems Memorial ROTC Scholarship.
- Dalton Worley, of White House, received the Reserve Officers Association Award.

For more information about the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, contact Dr. Todd Winters, college dean, at winters@utm.edu. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
UT Martin names local students to spring chancellor's honor roll

From Contributed Reports
Jun 14, 2020

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

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

- Morristown – Noah R. Carter, High Honors; Samuel F. Ward, Honors.
- Talbott – Hunter R. Hall, Honors.

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

UTM Skyhawk masks on sale now to the public

June 15, 2020 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin's athletic department announced Monday they are making their one-of-a-kind Skyhawk masks available for purchase.

The navy face covering features the orange and white beak design from the official Skyhawk logo.

To order, submit an email request to Danelle Fabianich at danellef@utm.edu. The masks are $10 each for cash payments and in-person pickup at the Skyhawk Athletics Suite, located in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. If masks need to be mailed, they are available for $12 each.

Credit card payment is also an option. The buyer will need to provide a phone number in their initial email correspondence with Fabianich and card information will be collected over a phone call.
Local universities plan for fall semester

June 16, 2020 by Julia Ewoldt

JACKSON, Tenn. — What will college look like in the fall? That’s what many people are asking.

There are nine higher education institutions in the area, and each one has a different plan for reopening.

Bethel University plans to reopen August 10, a week earlier than usual. The semester will end before Thanksgiving, and graduation will be held November 21. The university said they are still working on the logistics of campus life.

Dyersburg State Community College is currently offering summer courses online. No word on the fall semester yet.

Freed-Hardeman University will start in-person classes August 10, ending before thanksgiving as well. They plan on moving students in over the course of five days, with drive-thru registration.

Jackson State Community College plans on teaching in a flex format next semester, starting August 24. It’ll be a hybrid of online and face-to-face learning.

Lane College plans on having classes in the fall, but it’s unclear whether it’ll be online, in-person, or a hybrid. They do have a team to help make the decision. Campus will reopen July 1.

Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Jackson has classes going on right now, but they have a limit on nine people per class. The fall term calendar is September 1 through December 16, removing the fall break in order to complete as much on-ground instruction as possible by Thanksgiving. Instruction will be delivered in a hybrid format with a combination of online instruction and on-ground instruction. The on-ground instruction will "staggered" with multiple student groups rotating in and out of the program with a 9-to-1 student/teacher ratio limit.

Union University plans on starting class August 18. They said they are still working on the logistics for campus life, but there are private bedrooms for all students.

University of Memphis-Lambuth currently has plans to return to campus August 17. Right now all classes are online. They expect to announce additional plans in coming weeks.

And UT Martin plans to have a condensed semester on campus, starting August 17 and ending by Thanksgiving. They are still finalizing plans for move in and move out plans.

We’ll continue to update you on campus plans as they’re announced.
MARTIN — As the University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members began preparing to host their summer courses online, Dr. James Smart, professor of biology, and Dr. Abigail Shelton, associate professor of chemistry, knew they needed a plan for the Biology 140 and Chemistry 121 classes in order to ensure their students received the best hands-on learning experience, even if they could not utilize the respective labs on campus.

Their solution? Create lab kits containing the materials needed for their students to safely conduct their own experiments at home to supplement the corresponding lectures. The kits include the lab components each experiment will require, such as test tubes and graduated cylinders, microscopes, balances, atom and cell models, and even a few chemicals that were approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation to ship to each student.

"Part of what we were unwilling to compromise on with the transition to online was the hands-on tactile skills that are developed in lab," said Shelton.

"The main things that are going out in these kits are not actually chemicals; they're glassware so the students can still work with and learn how to handle and measure with pipettes and graduated cylinders... We didn't want to send them on with our seal of approval for the course without teaching them those tactile skills, and so, we are shipping out, for free, a very substantial amount of glassware and metal samples."

Smart's Biology 140 class, Foundation of Cell and Molecular Biology, will require students to prep their experiments themselves, including a trip to Walmart's produce section. Instead of shipping groceries to his students, Smart hopes the preparation each student has to do for the experiments will encourage them to do their best.

"I'm asking them to do something that they would have had done for them: you just show up for lab and there's all the labeled bottles of this and that made for you," Smart said. "I think it's fair to say that there is going to be more expected of these kids because they're doing it on their own, but also they're doing it on their own. So, at the end of the day, they did it. There's no lab partner to hide behind... or somebody else's data to get. It's going to be their own individual ownership of it."

The lab kits, in conjunction with TDOT's safety regulations, were shipped out to students as they prepare for the first summer session to begin June 1.

However, four local students enrolled in Biology 140 received their biology lab kits in an unusual way May 26.

Lily Little, a sophomore health and human performance major, and her brother Hagen, a junior health and human performance major, opened their front door to find UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver waiting on their porch with their biology lab kits and a few words of encouragement as they begin the new semester.

Carver spent the morning personally delivering lab kits to their health and enjoyed socially distanced fellowship with some UT Martin students that he hadn't seen since March.

"I am inspired by the creativity of our lab instructors! It's obvious that our faculty is working hard to stay connected to their students and provide innovative ways to teach them," said Carver in an email. "I enjoyed seeing the students and the limited interactions we were able to have outside their homes! Students are the heart of UT Martin - and I loved being a part of the teaching and instruction process."

Lily, ready for her class to begin, said "(The kit) will help me be more engaged in my class... I am a visual learner and a hands-on learner... so with this lab kit, it will help me better understand what's going on because I can see it right in front of me."

Lily also said it meant a lot to her that Carver was the one to drop off their kits as they had become friends during her time at UT Martin.

While there are several experiments the students will not be able to conduct at home that they normally would in lab because of the dangerous nature of the materials, both Shelton and Smart are confident that the students in their chemistry and biology labs will learn the importance of the subjects through the labs they
have provided. The students will also have online labs to replace the ones they could not do by themselves at home.

"The only way I know to do science is to ask you to be a scientist. You're probably not going to find a cure for cancer in your own kitchen this summer, but we can also do real and meaningful things that will help kind of cement what we're doing in lecture," said Smart.

"A lot of their experiments are still going to be online entirely because those are the experiments that have the waste-streams or ventilation concerns, but what I also hope is the same that I would for a regular face-to-face class," said Shelton. "They, at the end of it, don't have to love chemistry; I don't expect all of them to love it, but that they have an appreciation for how it surrounds them in their day-to-day life. I hope that by sending them a kit, they can practice those same skills that they would if we were face-to-face so that they are better able to do the next step."

Both Smart and Shelton know the kits are not a cure-all solution to teaching hands-on science courses online but are hoping the trial experiment will create a precedent for how they can conduct hybrid courses if the pandemic continues.

"I'm ridiculously proud that my department chair and my dean saw the value of what we do in our (science) courses, such that they were willing to work through all of the concerns and the liability to help make this happen and to take on the potential financial constraints of it," said Shelton. "I think that's part of what this university is, of what we should be. We shouldn't be compromising on what these students get to learn in the face of a pandemic. These students need to get to do good, real chemistry and that's what we're offering. We're quite proud of what we're doing."

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7618.

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**UT-Martin Offers Online Summer Coding Program for Youth**

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin University Outreach is offering Captain Skyhawk's Coding Crew, an online summer program for students in third through fifth grade to learn about coding, from 9:30 a.m., June 22-26 and July 6-10.

Students will create games and projects through lessons about sequencing, functions, conditionals, variables, loops and sprites through interactive games such as Angry Birds and Minecraft. They will also learn how to create algorithms, organize and analyze data, and implement problem-solving skills in their projects.

Jill Warren, who teaches technology and computer skills, will instruct the course. Students will need access to a computer with internet connection and pencils and paper.

Registration can be found at www.utm.edu/ndegree/coding and will cost $25.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of Non-Degree Programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
Four-year graduation rates increase after ‘Soar in Four’

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s four-year graduation rate has increased 10.8 percent since proposing “Soar in Four” — the tuition model that encourages students to take at least 15 hours per semester in order to graduate in four years — in 2015.

The “Soar in Four” tuition program began in the fall 2016 semester and saw its first four-year graduating class May 2.

During the Feb. 19 University of Tennessee Board of Trustees meeting, a presentation concerning graduation and retention rates for the UT System showcased UT Martin as having the highest graduation rate not only in the UT System, but also when compared to aspirational peers and locally governed institutions such as the University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, East Tennessee State University and Tennessee Tech, by at least 5 percent.

“When you look at a four-year window, we are (10.8) percentage points better. I like that trend and we have to keep pushing and improving that,” UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. “It’s really exciting to think about.”

When originally implemented, the “Soar in Four” program increased tuition and mandatory fees to fund extracurricular programs that promote graduating within four years and student well-being.

Before 2016, UT Martin did not charge for additional hours taken exceeding the full-time minimum of 12 credit hours.

While 12 hours is still the minimum number of credit hours a student can take to be considered full-time, “Soar in Four” mandated a flat rate tuition which charges for 15 hours to encourage students to take the average number of credit hours needed to graduate in four years.

The funding allowed for more faculty and staff hires in departments with bottlenecks and prerequisite courses that could not account for the number of students who were required to take the course; student success counselors who are responsible for providing resources to help students achieve academic excellence; living-learning communities, which group freshmen in residence halls by major; and an upgraded Career Planning and Development office to assist students’ transition from college to employment through interview training, résumé building and job fairs.

In 2015, UT Martin’s four-year graduation rate was 23.5 percent. It increased to 34.3 percent in 2019, and while Dr. Carver says “Soar in Four” cannot take complete responsibility for the increased rate, it is a major factor when evaluating the success of retention in the past four years.

“Soar in Four” is re-evaluated every summer in order to distribute funds where support is most needed and to reassess the effectiveness of the programs implemented by the initiative.

“UT Martin really is committed to retention and graduation; we want our students to persist and graduate,” Dr. Carver said.

For more information about the “Soar in Four” tuition program, go online to utm.edu/departments/careers/soarinfour.

SOAR, transfer orientation to be conducted virtually

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold all Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and transfer orientation sessions virtually this summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SOAR sessions are scheduled for Monday and June 24; July 10 and 28; and Aug. 7. Transfer orientation sessions are scheduled for June 23 and July 16.

Each session will begin online at 8:30 a.m., and incoming students will participate in informational meetings and student panels, meet orientation leaders, receive academic advising and register for classes.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will send out SOAR packets to all students registered to attend SOAR, including a SOAR book full of information for their session, a UT Martin T-shirt and student ID.

Three Obion County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications in recognition of departmental achievements for the 2019-20 academic year.

Emma Bruner of South Fulton received the M. Sue Kahle Excellence in Leadership Award, given by Dr. Teresa Collard.

Alexis Millsaps of Union City received the Swafford Public Relations Scholarship, which is awarded to a junior or senior public relations student, and the Dorothea and Robert Norton Scholarship, given to outstanding public speaking or voice and diction students who show uncommon persistence to graduate.

Jasmine Youngblood of Union City received the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Award, given to an outstanding broadcasting student.
Twins excel at UTM, prepare for grad school

From the womb to commencement, the five sets of twins who graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin last month have spent very little of their lives apart from each other. However, one pair is about to embark on their own journeys to graduate schools over 800 miles away from each other.

Emma Fieser, a UT Martin philosophy graduate, will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago's philosophy Ph.D. program with the aspirations to teach, while her sister Michelle Fieser, a UT Martin history graduate, will be attending the University of South Carolina's history Ph.D. program to work in public history.

Even though this is the farthest apart the sisters will have ever been for an extended period of time, their experiences together at UT Martin have prepared them for their respective adventures ahead.

For the Martin natives, if they ever doubted their decision to stay at home and attend UT Martin, the opportunities they received through multiple departments on campus reassured them UT Martin was the right college to build their educational foundation, Michelle said.

From participating in multiple travel studies, playing in the UT Martin Orchestra, being presidents of multiple organizations, to finding support for their goals from friends and faculty alike, Emma and Michelle believe UT Martin has fostered their academic creativity through their studies and extracurricular activities.

"It's been a very good experience. I don't think we would have had such a positive experience at any other university," Emma said. "We've always had very good interactions with different departments around campus. The professors in our department, especially, are all so generous and kind with their time and really supportive of everything you do."

One of those professors even happens to be their father, Dr. Jim Fieser, professor of philosophy, who has always encouraged all four of his children to capitalize on opportunities like the ones offered at UT Martin. He also had the chance to teach Emma in his upper-division philosophy courses this past semester, making the classroom "feel homey" to him.

"We did indeed want them to attend UT Martin since we knew exactly the quality of instruction here and the variety of character-building opportunities such as travel studies, internships, skilled campus employment and club leadership," he said.

Emma and Michelle participated in multiple organizations, such as the League of Striving Artists, Philosophy Forum Club, the International Honor Society for Philosophers, French Club, History Club and Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, many of which the pair served as organization or club presidents; attended travel studies to France, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Italy and along the coast of New England; and completed internships through UT Martin and the state.

"If you reach out into your departments, you can really kind of craft what kind of education you want," Emma said.

"We were able to really do well in the (Department of History and Philosophy), we put a lot of effort into it and we got out of it what we put into it," Michelle said. "... It is really one of the high points of UT Martin. It's really flexible and it depends on you. You can make out of it what you want. There are just endless opportunities at UT Martin if you look for them."

Both sisters expressed their confidence in their respective undergraduate degree programs, saying their upper-division classes prepared them for their next step toward graduate school and their future careers.

"As they leave UT Martin, I hope they will seek out rewarding opportunities the way that they have here," their father said. "Also, after living for so long within UT Martin's small yet diverse community, I hope that they will take with them an appreciation of the uniqueness and value of each person that they encounter within their future professional lives."
HOME DELIVERY — University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver recently delivered Biology 140 lab kits to Lily Little and Hagen Little, siblings receiving human health and performance majors from Martin, who are taking Dr. James Smart’s online biology course this summer.

Science faculty members prepare student lab kits

As University of Tennessee at Martin faculty members began preparing to host their summer courses online, biology professor Dr. James Smart and chemistry associate professor Dr. Abigail Shelton knew they needed a plan for the Biology 140 and Chemistry 121 classes in order to ensure their students received the best hands-on learning experience — even if they could not utilize the respective labs on campus.

Their solution? Create lab kits containing the materials needed for their students to safely conduct their own experiments at home to supplement the corresponding lectures.

The kits include the lab components each experiment will require, such as test tubes and graduated cylinders, microscopes, balances, atom and cell models, and even a few chemicals that were approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation to ship to each student.

“Part of what we were unwilling to compromise on with the transition to online was the hands-on tactile skills that are developed in lab,” Dr. Shelton said. “The main things that are going out in these kits are not actually chemicals; they’re glassware so the students can still work with and learn how to handle and measure with pipettes and graduated cylinders. ... We didn’t want to send them on with our seal of approval for the course without teaching them those tactile skills, and so we are shipping out, for free, a very substantial amount of glassware and metal samples.”

Dr. Smart’s Biology 140 class, Foundation of Cell and Molecular Biology, will require students to prep their experiments themselves, including a trip to Walmart’s produce section. Instead of shipping groceries to his students, he hopes the preparation each student has to do for the experiments will encourage them to do their best.

“I’m asking them to do something that they would have had done for them; you just show up for lab and there’s all the labeled bottles of this and that made for you,” Dr. Smart said. “I think it’s fair to say that there is going to be more expected of these kids because they’re doing it on their own, but also they’re doing it on their own. So, at the end of the day, they did it. There’s no lab partner to hide behind ... or somebody else’s data to get. It’s going to be their own individual ownership of it.”

The lab kits, in conjunction with TDOT’s safety regulations, were shipped out to students as they pre-
prepared for the first summer session which began June 1.

However, four local students enrolled in Biology 140 received their biology lab kits in an unusual way May 28.

Lily Little, a sophomore health and human performance major, and her brother Hagen, a junior health and human performance major, opened their front door to find UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver sitting on their porch with their biology lab kits and a few words of encouragement as they begin the new semester.

Dr. Carver spent the morning personally delivering lab kits to their homes and enjoyed socially-distanced fellowship with some UT Martin students he hadn’t seen since March.

“I am inspired by the creativity of our lab instructors! It’s obvious that our faculty are working hard to stay connected to their students and provide innovative ways to teach them,” Dr. Carver wrote in an email. “I enjoyed seeing the students and the limited interactions we were able to have outside their homes! Students are the heart of UT Martin — and I loved being a part of the teaching and instruction process.”

Lily, ready for her class to begin, said, “The kit will help me be more engaged in my class. … I am a visual learner and a hands-on learner, … so with this lab kit, it will help me better understand what’s going on because I can see it right in front of me.”

Lily also said it meant a lot to her that Carver was the one to drop off their kits as they had become friends during her time at UT Martin.

While there are several experiments the students will not able to conduct at home that they normally would in lab because of the dangerous nature of the materials, both Dr. Shelton and Dr. Smart are confident that the students in their chemistry and biology labs will learn the importance of the subjects through the labs they have provided. The students will also have online labs to replace the ones they could not do by themselves at home.

“The only way I know to do science is to ask you to be a scientist. You’re probably not going to find a cure for cancer in your own kitchen this summer, but we can also do real and meaningful things that will help kind of cement what we’re doing in lecture,” Dr. Smart said.

“A lot of their experiments are still going to be online entirely because those are the experiments that have the waste-streams

or ventilation concerns, but what I also hope is the same that I would for a regular face-to-face class,” Dr. Shelton said. “They, at the end of it, don’t have to love chemistry; I don’t expect all of them to love it, but that they have an appreciation for how it surrounds them in their day-to-day life. I hope that by sending them a kit, they can practice those same skills that they would if we were face-to-face so that they are better able to do the next step.”

Both Dr. Smart and Dr. Shelton know the kits are not a cure-all solution to teaching hands-on science courses online but are hoping the trial experiment will create a precedent for how they can conduct hybrid courses if the pandemic continues.

“I’m ridiculously proud that my department chair and my dean saw the value of what we do in our (science) courses, such that they were willing to work through all of the concerns and the liability to help make this happen and to take on the potential financial constraints of it,” Dr. Shelton said.

“I think that’s part of what this university is, of what we should be. We shouldn’t be compromising on what these students get to learn in the face of a pandemic. These students need to get to do good, real chemistry and that’s what we’re offering. We’re quite proud of what we’re doing.”
Virtual SOAR sessions set

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold all Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and transfer orientation sessions virtually this summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SOAR sessions are scheduled for June 22 and 24, July 10 and 28, and Aug. 7. Transfer orientation sessions are scheduled for June 23 and July 16.

Each session will begin online at 8:30 a.m., and incoming students will participate in informational meetings and student panels, meet orientation leaders, receive academic advising and register for classes.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will send SOAR packets to all students registered to attend SOAR, including a SOAR book full of information for their session, a UT Martin T-shirt and student ID.

For more information, contact dtuckel3@utm.edu, or admissions at admitme@utm.edu.

https://www.dothaneagle.com/

UT Martin names local student to honor roll

Jimmy Sailors
Jun 17, 2020

Jackson T. Knight of Dothan was named to the Spring 2020 Chancellor’s Honor Roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Knight made the roll with high honors (3.5 through 3.79 grade point average).
Chancellor Carver Discusses The New UTM Fall Experience

BY JASMINE WILLIAMS
enterprise@dresdenenterprise.com

There will be many changes to the fall semester for students returning to UT-Martin but the health and safety of the faculty and the students is the top priority for the fall.

UT-Martin’s Chancellor Keith Carver talked to the Enterprise about changes and new protocols for the fall semester affecting every student and worker.

UTM decided that for this upcoming fall, the semester’s schedule will be more condensed compared to the previous year. The semester begins later on August 17, there will be no break for Labor Day or fall break. The in-person portion of the semester will be completed before the Thanksgiving holiday. All courses will also have an option for finals to be done online after Thanksgiving and students will not be expected to return until the spring semester.

With the condensed semester, students will not be facing any penalties on grants and scholarships due to these COVID-19 related changes. Deadlines for UT-Martin scholarships and grants will also be changing their guidelines to better fit with students.

Incoming freshmen are also entering UT-Martin without an ACT score which will be done at a later date due to cancellations earlier in the year.

The university is using the summer to look at things the college offers and make students feel safe.

Carver said this about the planning process for the fall semester, “How can we still deliver a high-quality intimate educational experience with the new normal that we are living in? And we have devoted the summer to look into these activities, how we can provide what UT-Martin has been known to be. A small campus with an intimate learning experience, taught by faculty and how we can do that in the COVID life now.”

See UTM on Page 3
Students and faculty on campus must wear a mask at all times in the fall semester. Masks will be made available to be used by students and faculty who do not already bring a mask with them. Carver said this about individuals who might not want to wear a mask, "As a community, it is our responsibility to keep folks safe. So we are asking everyone to wear a mask and the expectation is that they will abide by that. If not, hopefully, a reminder on protocols can be made."

Some places on campus will have Plexiglas installed in various offices and classrooms to have smaller spaces to further protect not only the workers but students who will come in contact with them. Public spaces such as administration offices could have Plexiglas installed for the fall semester. The university is also reaching out to each administrative office to ensure every place that could need Plexiglas installed does so before the start of the semester.

The university officials are also looking to ensure they have enough supplies ready for personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies for the fall semester.

With cleaning on campus there will be more in-depth cleaning guidelines that will be mandated this fall. New equipment has been purchased by the university to ensure the best cleaning. Carver spoke about his feelings on having more guidelines for cleaning in place for the better health of everyone on campus, "One good thing about this is showing us new ways to clean for the safety of our students and staff."

There will be a more frequent cleaning schedule on campus during the semester. With the new cleaning guidelines, there is currently no talk about hiring additional workers for cleaning. Carver said the cleaning staff at Martin has an exceptional work ethic and will be doing their best in the fall.

Even with these new cleaning guidelines, if students and staff who feel that in-person classes and work might not be the best option for their health, there will still be many ways to ensure the highest quality of education.

Professors who feel they have compromised health can offer classes online as needed. Students will also have more online options for classes in the fall. The university is planning for classes and a number of online options. Chancellor Carver did state every worker is planning for an instance that there is a spike in COVID cases. This will result in the university converting to entirely online classes. This is to ensure that in the event of a spike, there will be a much smoother transition to online classes compared to the previous spring semester.

For professor-student advising for the upcoming academic semester, it will differ for each individual. Some professors may choose to do all advising through emails or phone calls while others will want in-person meetings.

With class sizes and seating, there will also be changes. The State of Tennessee and Tennessee Higher Education Commission implemented new guidelines that all universities and colleges will be asked to follow in the fall. In-person classes will need to be only ten people inside at a time and those students will need to be spread throughout the classroom to reduce the spread of germs. Other classes that are completely online will be able to have more students enrolled. There could also be classes that operate with some students viewing the class online and some coming in-person and alternating on different days or weeks.

Carver said, "The faculty really has some real creativity with how they design their classes, but at the forefront in keeping the safety of the students and the faculty."

For students who have already made their schedules for the fall will be contacted by their professors about changes to the classes that have been made. Students will also be able to contact their professors for any questions regarding classes and guidelines put forth by each professor.

For on-campus student life, housing will not be at full capacity to keep students from being in close corners and the event that space is needed for overflow.

With dining, the food court will not be allowed to fill at full capacity either. Some tables will be moved or have a sign on it to prevent students from sitting in large groups. Food workers will be following CDC guidelines for food preparation, table cleaning, and will be wearing masks at all times. Students can also have a grab-and-go option for ordering food to allow them to eat at other places on campus.

Sporting events at UTM will also have changes, there are currently discussions over the specifics for fan attendance. Carver did say more specific guidelines for sporting events will be released by July. Currently, the main agreement is seating areas will not be at full capacity.

For the library and other places that students normally gather are being looked at for when the busy and slow times are. Using that information the university can better plan how many can be inside at one time.

Carver said, as the start of the semester draws closer, students will be informed about all the new changes on campus with classes, eating and housing.

Currently, the university is not hosting large in-person gatherings, such as orientations for incoming students. Carver stated that if the current restrictions on the size of gatherings remain, then it will not be possible to host large events, such as homecoming and commencement at least in their traditional format.

For student organizations, there will be guidelines with student meetings. Organizations will not be able to have large gatherings in small spaced rooms. The person-to-space ratio is another topic currently being discussed by those at UT-Martin to ensure clubs and organizations are still able to operate and function in a manner that protects those members. Some organizations have already planned to meet through online video apps.

Greek organizations, such as sororities and fraternities, will also be following the guidelines and will have recruitment virtually as an option.

For school and organization sponsored domestic and international trips will not occur in the fall. There will not be any travel studies in the fall and trips planned for New York or Washington D.C. will not take place. This change is not only for UT-Martin but for many colleges and universities all over the country.

In the event of a second wave and the school has to completely be online again, the university is taking steps to make sure every student has access to their classes. New wifi hot spots have been purchased. Students will be able to have internet access and materials from the library as they need it no matter where they are on campus.
UT-Martin Lecturer Featured on History Channel

MARTIN — Dr. Timothy Smith, lecturer of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was featured in a three-night miniseries on The History Channel titled “Grant” as an expert historian on Civil War General and 18th President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant.

Smith, who has authored numerous Civil War books, focused predominantly on Grant’s strategy and success at the Battle of Shiloh. While the battle only lasted two days, it was the bloodiest and most costly battle to date in the Civil War.

“My major area of research is the Civil War in the Mississippi Valley, which includes Grant’s early war activity, so I’ve studied Grant thoroughly at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh and on down to Vicksburg,” said Smith. “Plus, I’m co-editor, with John F. Marszalek at Mississippi State University’s Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, of a book series with Southern Illinois University Press entitled ‘The World of Ulysses S. Grant.’ So, I’ve been studying and working on Grant a while now.”

Smith was flown to New York City in 2018 and interviewed by producers of the show about Grant’s life and career. He did not know how much information he provided would be used in the series but was satisfied to see his contribution played out on screen in May 2020. He is featured in all three episodes of “Grant.”

“I hope the everyday American will take away a renewed appreciation of Grant. Obviously, he was the main factor in the military victory in the Civil War, but he was also not as bad a president as many believe. Grant was one of the greats in American history, and it is fitting that he is getting this attention now,” said Smith.

While Smith says many of the scenes were dramatized for effect, the overall message of who Grant actually was, not as many perceive him in history, was well delivered during the series.

“Reenactors and technical folks who know all the details are going to pick everything apart, but for the intended audience, which was the general public who knows little to nothing of Grant, I think it served as a good introduction and counterpoint to the accepted idea that Grant was a only a drunk, butcher and a corrupt president.”

All three episodes of “Grant” can be viewed on The History Channel’s website at https://www.history.com/shows/grant/season-1.

For more information, contact Smith at tms@utm.edu.

UT-Martin Offers Online Summer Coding Program for Youth

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin University Outreach is offering Captain Skyhawk’s Coding Crew, an online summer program for students in third through fifth grade to learn about coding, from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., June 22-26 and July 6-10.

Students will create games and projects through lessons about sequencing, functions, conditionals, variables, loops and sprites through interactive games such as Angry Birds and Minecraft. They will also learn how to create algorithms, organize and analyze data, and implement problem-solving skills in their projects.

Jill Warren, who teaches technology and computer skills, will instruct the course. Students will need access to a computer with internet connection and pencils and paper.

Registration can be found at www.utm.edu/nondegree/coding and will cost $25.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of Non-Degree Programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
So. Fulton’s Bruner is UTM award recipient

Three Obion County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications in recognition of departmental achievements for the 2019-20 academic year.

Emma Bruner, of South Fulton, received the M. Sue Kahle Excellence in Leadership Award, given by Dr. Teresa Collard.

Alexis Millsaps, of Union City, Tenn., received the Swafford Public Relations Scholarship, which is awarded to a junior or senior public relations student, and the Dorotha and Robert Norton Scholarship, given to outstanding public speaking or voice and diction students who show uncommon persistence to graduate.

Jasmine Youngblood, also of Union City, received the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Award, given to an outstanding broadcasting student.

The Department of Communications is housed in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. For more information about the department, contact Dr. Robert Nanney, chair, at nanney@utm.edu. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.

Walker on Chancellor’s Honor Roll at UT-Martin

UT-Martin
Jun 18, 2020

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

James A. Walker of Eufaula was recognized with honors for being named to the Spring 2020 chancellor’s honor rolls.

To be eligible for the chancellor’s honor roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).
Students attending fall semester classes at UTM will begin classes Aug. 17 and finish classes by Thanksgiving. The condensed semester will offer a combination of in-person and online classes to minimize travel to and from the main campus and regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, and Somerville.

UTM summer orientation and registration (SOAR) and transfer orientation sessions will be held virtually as response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The SOAR online sessions are scheduled June 22 and 24, July 10 and 28, and Aug. 7. Online transfer sessions are scheduled June 23 and July 16. Each online session will begin at 8:30 a.m. Incoming students will participate in informational meetings and student panels, meet orientation leaders, receive academic advising, and register for classes.

Fall move-in and move-out plans for residential students are being finalized and will be managed to minimize grouping of students and families. In-person classes will be offered with recommended spacing and appropriate safety measures in place. Faculty members continue to refine online course delivery by participating in a series of summer online teaching methodology workshops offered by the university.

In addition to the earlier start date of Aug. 17, the semester will include classes on Labor Day, no fall break, classes to end Nov. 24, and online final exams to be held the week after Thanksgiving. Students will not return to campus following the Thanksgiving holiday. Plans for fall commencement have yet to be finalized.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will send out packets to all students registered to attend SOAR, including an information booklet, a UTM T-shirt, and student ID. For more information on SOAR, email admissions at admitme@utm.edu. Additional information on the UTM fall semester is available by calling the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at 731-881-7012.
Carver says safety will be paramount for UTM sports return

This COVID-19 pandemic continues to garner a lot of media attention, which is to be expected.

In the college sports world, there is a lot of talk about college football and the major sports, how they will be funded. For the Southeastern Conferences of the world, finances, in the short term, won't be a problem.

For the not-so-big universities, which don’t collect the big television payday, there might be a problem.

University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver knows this all too well. Yes, he has a capable and qualified athletics director in Kurt McGuffin to guide the Skyhawks through these turbulent waters, but, ultimately, Carver is the guy who has to make the decisions.

With the closure of the campus, the altered graduation, the change in athletic schedules and practices, not to mention the upcoming season, Carver has had a full plate in front of him. But, these are challenges he embraces with a smile.

Carver’s not your garden-variety school exec. For example, on the first day of school, he offered donuts and coffee to the first-day students and actually chauffeured some of the commuters to their classes in his jeep.

“His the first time I’ve had a chance to be a college president or chancellor and so I don't know how I’m supposed to act, but I have a love for UT Martin,” Carver said. “I love people and really appreciate the students’ decision to come to college and finish with their degree.”

Carver is very visible to his students, often meeting with them while walking across campus, going to the cafeteria or strolling through the library. He also uses social media effectively.

“What social media has done in the last 10 years has made you much more accessible. Social media makes me a lot more present,” he said. “I don’t think I’m that much different than anyone else who's been here before, but social media makes me a lot more accessible to the students.”

The rural environs of UTM is a challenge in itself. There isn't a nearby interstate highway, but the campus' remoteness can be considered an asset, Carver said.

“Being in a rural, remote area, I tell kids and their parents if they tour campus, and tell them what a great small town experience we have here, we have a good shot at them coming here,” he said. “You have to figure out how to create excitement in people who aren’t from here.”

Social media really came to the forefront when the COVID-19 pandemic shut everything down. It changed the paradigm for the UTM administration, staff, and faculty.

“I’ll never forget March 12, the point we realized that things were really going to change. The Corona virus was going to make us pivot from being a campus to an online environment,” he said.
"In a 48-hour period, our staff and faculty made it happen. It showed us that there are a lot of ways to disseminate courses. It really showed me that there's always going to be a place for students to learn on a college campus, too. It has shown us that kids miss the campus experience, their study groups and things like that. It shows us there's always going to be a place for a residential, 4-year experience, but it shows us, too, that there are other ways to deliver classes and information."

Carver said the decision to shut down spring sports hurt and he isn't sure what lies ahead for fall. Nobody does.

"When you think about our student athletes, they are coming for an education, but they want to play sports, too. We have over 490 student athletes, the highest we have ever had, and our student athletes had the highest GPA in school history last year," said Carver, proudly. "We were scheduled to play Alabama and Memphis in football next season. When you start taking about payouts, that's $900,000. If they can't play us or won't play us, that's a big part missing from our budget. But for Skyhawk fans, it's fun to go to Gainesville like we did last year and go toe-to-toe with Florida. Our student athletes enjoy that challenge. Playing those Power Five teams is a really good thing, because the kids and fans really enjoy it."

Next year, Carver said phasing in a safe environment for students and athletes to return will be predicated on the science and research involved in coralling this virus and how things are trending.

"One of the things we've learned is how should be cleaning? Should we be using anti-bacterial foggers in our weight rooms and classrooms? Maybe this is something we should have been doing for the past 15 years," Carver said. "I think, as a result of this pandemic, we're going to learn things about our institution and we're going to be better for it."

But safety will be paramount. "You want to operate from a basis of safety - what's safest for students. From a basis of risk, you have to wonder how much you want to manage. When you bring in 7,300 students, there is inherent risk with that many students," Carver said. "You have to make sure of your protocols. Is everybody going to be tested? There's just a whole new level of planning. We've been working on this the last two months, and we'll keep working on it to make sure we get it right."
Animal Sciences graduate assembles equine skeleton

BY SARAH KNAPP  
UTM UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

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

When the pre-veterinary student was asked if she wanted to help rebuild a fully articulated equine skeleton, she knew she could not pass up such an opportunity.

The chance to disassemble, clean and rebuild a horse's skeleton was, according to Metheny, an invaluable experience that solidified her decision to become an equine orthopedic surgeon.

"There are so many things that I have already seen differently after this," she said.

"I've held each portion of the horse in my hand and turned it around to make it fit where it was supposed to go, then put it back together.

"So, I've literally taken everything apart and then put it back together piece by piece. As a future equine surgeon, it's going to be priceless, truly... It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Metheny and Dr. Diana Watson, veterinary sciences lecturer, spearheaded the project of rebuilding "Ron," the 28-year-old thoroughbred, to create a teaching model for UT Martin's animal science classes.

With no instructions or guide for how to reassemble Ron, the pair creatively reconstructed the horse in eight months from the ground up, after having the soft tissue and cartilage cleaned off the bones by flesh-eating beetles.

"The beauty of this whole project is trial and error, and just learning what works and what doesn't," Metheny said.

"We were very innovative with it all; there wasn't a textbook way to do it.

"What was guiding this project was just to see if we could do it. It was an educational endeavor that was just for fun.

"We said 'great' if we could make it work for students as a teaching modality and if not, at least we tried and learned something. I think that's the beauty of education."

"I guess we always surprised ourselves as we went through it...", Metheny continued.

"We sat there and would think and think and flip everything around and go through all of the possibilities.

"Then we would decide on one way to do something, and it worked every time."

Ron now stands 7'-1/2 feet tall in the Veterinary Science Lab and will be used to teach equine anatomy.

Through creative measures, his roughly 200 bones are held together with high-tensile wire, fishing line, glue, epoxy, threaded rods, a little bit of tape and, according to Watson, a few prayers.

Through collaboration with the departments of engineering and biology, the 75-pound structure is fixed on an in-house-designed platform, which holds the horse upright.

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

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

"I had seen anatomy in different ways, but never like this and in that much detail. You have a bone in front of you, and you have to flip it around six different ways to get it into the proper position... So just
"It's just been such an incredible opportunity that I think really is a testament to the education this university provides, to the faculty, to the staff... and the kind of opportunities you can have as a student here if you seek them out."

Metheny, originally from Weston, W.Va., came to UT Martin for the equestrian team and pre-veterinary program. She said her grandfather began teaching her how to ride as soon as she could sit up, and knew one day she would compete on an NCAA Division I sports team.

Her passion for all things equine-related has led her to a career in which she knows she can help make a difference for these animals.

"As someone that has ridden many horses and seen how powerful they can be, they are also very fragile," Metheny said. "Show jumping and sport horses have been my absolute love since I was 7."

"There's nothing better to me than watching a horse that has been successfully rehabbed... As an equine surgeon, there are modalities to help get them back and to help them do that so they can be the best they can be, to do what they were bred to do."

"That's what pushes me every day to keep learning, keep getting better and help those horses compete at the highest level of competition."

Metheny participated on the UT Martin equestrian team as a four-year starter in the equitation over-fences event.

She says that while every competition was memorable, her very first competition was the defining moment of her collegiate career, as she can still remember the smell of the arena as she prepared to ride in competition, with her hand over her heart as the national anthem played over the speakers.

Additionally, Metheny was recognized as a Farnam NCEA All-Academic First Team equestrian athlete and graduated summa cum laude in May.

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

"Don't be afraid to own your education, to think outside of the box. I would encourage (students) to come in with an open mind and to never stop learning, to embrace each day's opportunity because you never know what might happen.

Work hard, be grateful and just relish the opportunity to learn at this university, because it is unique and it's a gem. The faculty and staff, they're all there to help you, and there's not a better place that I could think of to do my undergraduate education."

As Metheny prepares to leave Martin and continue her education at Virginia Tech, she said she will continue on in her career, confident she capitalized on every adventure she could have at UT Martin.

"I've always followed the horses, and they've never steered me wrong."

For more information about Ron, contact Watson at dwatson@utm.edu.
Four named to chancellor’s honor roll at UT Martin

Jun 20, 2020

Four students from Blount County were named to the spring 2020 chancellor’s honor roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Michael B. Davis and Robert A. Kite, both of Maryville, received honors; Justin C. Sailors, of Maryville, received high honors; and Makara L. McDonald, of Walland, received highest honors. To be eligible for the chancellor’s honor roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the chancellor’s honor roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

SOAR Begins for UT-Martin Today

Posted on June 22, 2020 by Charles Choate

The University of Tennessee at Martin’s Summer Orientation and Registration and Transfer Orientation begins today.

Due to COVID-19, the sessions will be held online.

The SOAR sessions are scheduled for today thru Wednesday, along with the dates of July 10th and 28th, and on August 7th.

Transfer Orientation sessions are scheduled for tomorrow and on July 16th.

Destin Tucker, the director of undergraduate admissions, said with UT-Martin still in the reentry phases, it was decided to work with students for SOAR and orientation in online formats.

Sessions will begin at 8:30, and incoming students will participate in informational meetings and student panels, meet orientation leaders, receive academic advising and register for classes.
The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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


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

By CHRIS MENEES
Special to The Press

Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and the University of Tennessee at Martin enjoy an excellent partnership.

Their working relationship could become even better in the future with expanded involvement.

Airport board chairman Wayne McCreight and airport manager Chris Rodgers recently met with UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver regarding their partnership.

“He is very, very interested in not only continuing UTM’s involvement, but expanding that,” McCreight told the airport board at its monthly session Thursday morning.

The board met in the hangar recently leased to the newly-formed Full Stop Aviation Services. Gathering in the spacious hangar gave board members and visitors ample space to adhere to COVID-19 social-distancing guidelines.

In his monthly report, McCreight said Dr. Carver has introduced airport officials to begin conversations with UT Martin’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) “to cooperate with them involving flight instruction and flight training.”

ROTC — one of the best leadership courses in the nation — is a group of college- and university-based officer training programs for training commissioned officers of the U.S. Armed Forces.

McCreight said progress is moving a bit slower than they’d like due to the current situation and the effect COVID-19 has had on the education system, but they hope to gain momentum with their partnership heading into the fall.

“We’re working hard to bring UTM a little more involved in what we’re doing here, more than they are now. They’re very involved,” he said.

Among the most recent successful collaborations between Everett-Stewart and UT Martin in recent months have been a senior capstone project for public relations majors and enlisting the help of college students in producing a high-quality airport newsletter.

In other action during Thursday morning’s 25-minute meeting, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, the airport board:

• Heard a monthly projects update from Brian Vogt of Barge Design Solutions.

He reported an online scoping meeting was held April 16 for the 80-by-80 hangar, which is being constructed with an Economic Development Fund Grant for airport-based aircraft maintenance business WillAero.

Preliminary design work has begun involving architectural, structural and civil aspects.

In a separate project, the TDOT airfield pavement and markings maintenance project has a tentative schedule that includes crack and seal in late June, with seal-coat and markings to be announced.

Everett-Stewart is included with 17 other airports in the first phase of the statewide contract, which is 100 percent funded and requires no local funding.

• Learned some year-end transfers will have to be made as the 2019-20 budget year is closed out. The airport’s 2020-21 budget has been presented to both Obion County and Weakley County government for consideration and approval.

• Was updated on applications which have been submitted for grant funding for maintenance equipment, which happens once every six years; and CARES Act funding, which will provide the airport with up to $30,000 for operational expenses.

• Learned the U.S. Unlimited Aerobatic Team will be back at Everett-Stewart for practice camps three different times over the summer.

• Was informed the airport testing center has been steadily busy, averaging 10 tests per month.

• Was told there are one or two students in Obion County Central High School’s aviation program who have expressed an interest in the work-based learning program at the airport.

Airport board members Jim Bondurant, Roger Donaldson and Mike Holman were absent from Thursday’s brief meeting.

Editor’s note: Chris Menees is senior staff reporter at The Messenger in Union City. She may be contacted by email at cmenees@ucmessenger.com.
Randy Boyd Talks Leadership During Times of Crisis

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

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

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

Boyd provided his four keys to leadership in times of crisis:

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

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

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

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

He commented on his personal businesses that include Radio Systems Corp, a Knoxville-based business with more than 800 employees producing pet-related products. He serves as chairman of Boyd Sports and is the owner of the Tuskes Smokies, Johnson City Cardinals, Greeneville Reds, and Elizabethton Twins. Boyd explained how his pet business has increased by 65% since May due to people being at home and shopping online. While Radio System Corp. is having a fantastic financial uptick, his minor league baseball teams are facing financial difficulties because they have received zero dollars since all minor league baseball has been canceled for 2020. He added his teams have not produced any revenue in 18 months.

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

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

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

UT Martin Outreach Offers Zoom Act Prep Classes

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is hosting two ACT prep classes from 5-7 p.m., July 6 and 8, via ZOOM for students preparing for the test. The first session, July 6, focuses on math and science reasoning, while the session on July 8 works on English and reading.

The lessons are two hours and teaches students time-saving strategies and comprehension tips.

Alex Beene, UT Martin Adjunct instructor and author, will instruct the course. Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students and continues to work as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties.

Each course costs $25 and students can register at www.utm.edu/actprep. Students will need access to a computer that connects to ZOOM with video and audio.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
UT Martin hosts Future Skyhawk Roadshow for incoming students

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions is hosting the Future Skyhawk Roadshow during June and July and will travel to 16 cities across Tennessee to aid incoming freshman and transfer students who need assistance completing their enrollment. Representatives from admissions, housing, financial aid and student success will be present to help students during the event.

The dates and locations for the Future Skyhawk Roadshow are as follows:

June 29: Jackson, 8-10 a.m., at the Madison County UT Extension Office; Ripley, 12-2 p.m., at the UT Martin Ripley Center; and Somerville, 4-6 p.m., at the UT Martin Somerville Center.

June 30: Arlington/Bartlett, 8:30-11 a.m., at the Love Worth Finding Ministries; and Midtown/Whitehaven, 2-4:30 p.m., at the City University Schools.

July 1: Selmer, 8-10 a.m., at the UT Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center; Parsons, 12-2 p.m., at the UT Martin Parsons Center; and Lawrence County, 4-6 p.m., at the E.O. Coffman Middle School.

July 6: Gibson County, 8-10 a.m., at Gibson County High School; Paris, 12-2 p.m., at the Paris Civic Center; and Clarksville, 4-6 p.m., at the F&M Bank.

July 7: Union City, 9-11 a.m., at the Obion County Public Library; and Martin, 1-3 p.m., at the UT Martin Boling University Center.

July 13: Chattanooga, 2-4 p.m., at the Council Fire Clubhouse.

July 14: Knoxville, 8-10 a.m., at the UT Federal Credit Union; and Murfreesboro 4-6 p.m., at the Rutherford County UT Extension Office.

UT music programs set

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

- Thursday — Steven Snowden, “Sounds from home: Creativity & Collaboration at a Distance”

For a full calendar listing of events, visit utm.edu/music/events.
SKELETON CREW — University of Tennessee at Martin graduate Savannah Metheny has left at the University of Tennessee at Martin casts a tall shadow.

In fact, it is 17-hands tall.

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

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

Ms. Metheny and Dr. Diana Watson, veterinary sciences lecturer, spearheaded the project of rebuilding "Ron," the 28-year-old thoroughbred, to create a teaching model for UT Martin's animal science classes.

With no instructions or guide for how to reassemble Ron, the pair creatively reconstructed the horse from the ground up, after having the soft tissue and cartilage cleaned off the bones by flesh-eating beetles, in eight months.

"The beauty of this whole project is trial and error and just learning what works and what doesn't. We were very innovative with it all; there wasn't a textbook way to do it," Ms. Metheny said. "What was guiding this project was just to see if we could do it. It was an educational endeavor that was just for fun. We said 'great' if we could make it work for students as a teaching modality and if not, at least we tried and learned something. I think that's the beauty of education."

"I guess we always surprised ourselves as we went through it; we sat there and would think and think and flip everything around and go through all of the possibilities. Then we would decide on one way to do something, and it worked every time."

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

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

Of the eight veterinary schools Ms. Metheny was accepted to attend, she chose the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, and is excited to see how this unique research opportunity will help her succeed in her veterinary program.
"I had seen anatomy in different ways, but never like this and in that much detail. You have a bone in front of you, and you have to flip it around six different ways to get it into the proper position... So just seeing it that in-depth, there's no better way to learn it," she said. "It's just been such an incredible opportunity that I think really is a testament to the education this university provides, to the faculty, to the staff... and the kind of opportunities you can have as a student here if you seek them out."

Ms. Metheny, originally from Weston, W.Va., came to UT Martin for the equestrian team and pre-veterinary program. She says her grandfather began teaching her how to ride as soon as she could sit up and knew one day she would compete on an NCAA Division I sports team.

Her passion for all things equine-related has led her to a career in which she knows she can help make a difference for these animals.

"As someone that has ridden many horses and seen how powerful they can be, they are also very fragile," Ms. Metheny said. "Show jumping and sport horses have been my absolute love since I was 7. There's nothing better to me than watching a horse that has been successfully rehabbed... As an equine surgeon, there are modalities to help get them back and to help them do that so they can be the best they can be, to do what they were bred to do. That's what pushes me every day to keep learning, keep getting better and help those horses compete at the highest level of competition."

Ms. Metheny participated on the UT Martin equestrian team as a four-year starter in the equitation over fences event. She says that while every competition was memorable, her very first competition was the defining moment of her collegiate career as she can still remember the smell of the arena as she prepared to ride in competition with her hand over her heart as the national anthem played over the speakers.

Additionally, Ms. Metheny was recognized as a Farnam NCEA All-Academic First Team equestrian athlete and graduated summa cum laude in May.

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

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

As she prepares to leave Martin and continue her education at Virginia Tech, she says she will continue on in her career confident she capitalized on every adventure she could have at UT Martin.

"I've always followed the horses, and they've never steered me wrong," she said.

― UTM graduate Savannah Metheny
Future Skyhawk Roadshow aids incoming UTM freshmen

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions is hosting the Future Skyhawk Roadshow during June and July.

It will travel to 16 cities across Tennessee to aid incoming freshmen and transfer students who need assistance completing their enrollment.

Representatives from admissions, housing, financial aid and student success will be present to help students during the event.

The dates and locations for the Future Skyhawk Roadshow are:

- Monday — Jackson from 8-10 a.m. at the Madison County UT Extension Office; Ripley from noon-2 p.m. at the UT Martin Ripley Center; and Somerville from 4-6 p.m. at the UT Martin Somerville Center.
- June 30: — Arlington/Bartlett from 8:30-11 a.m. at Love Worth Finding Ministries; and Midtown/Whitehaven from 2-4:30 p.m. at the City University Schools.
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- July 7 — Union City from 9-11 a.m. at the Obion County Public Library; and Martin from 1-3 p.m. at the UT Martin Boling University Center.
- July 13 — Chattanooga from 2-4 p.m. at the Council Fire Clubhouse.
- July 14 — Knoxville from 8-10 a.m. at the UT Federal Credit Union; and Murfreesboro from 4-6 p.m. at the Rutherford County UT Extension Office.

The Future Skyhawk Roadshow is free, and all students interested in attending must register for an appointment at www.utm.edu/roadshow.

Students attending the roadshow for enrollment assistance still need to participate in a virtual Summer Orientation and Registration session.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all UT Martin representatives will wear face masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines. All participants are encouraged to wear masks for the safety of themselves and UT Martin employees.

For more information, contact admissions at admitme@utm.edu or call (731) 881-3020.
UTM confirms in-person component for fall classes

June 24, 2020 by WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News Staff

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin has confirmed almost half the classes being offered during the fall semester will have an in-person component.

According to a news release, UT Martin classes will begin on Aug. 17 at the main campus, as well as the Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville centers. Those classes will end by Thanksgiving, and will combine online, hybrid and in-person classes to curb travel and minimize the spread of COVID-19, the release says.

Students will need to check their schedules to verify the course delivery for each class.

The semester will also include classes on Labor Day, and there will be no fall break. Classes are scheduled to end on Nov. 24, and exams will be the week following Thanksgiving.

For courses with an in-person component, faculty members are aligning course delivery with recommended spacing and safety measures, the release says.

Hybrid classes can be offered in a variety of ways, including dividing classes of 30 or fewer students and alternating in-person and online sessions, the release says.

Fall move-in for students in residence halls will be done on a staggered schedule, with residents assigned move-in dates between July 27 and Aug. 12 to minimize contact, the release says. Residents are still encouraged to return home after moving in, and can return to campus on Aug. 13, the release says.

UT Martin's Summer Orientation and Registration, and the Transfer Orientation sessions, will be held virtually.

For more information, call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at (731) 881-7012.
Almost half of the classes offered this fall by the University of Tennessee at Martin will include an in-person component as part of the university's reentry plan. (Source: UT Martin)

By Jessica Ladd | June 24, 2020 at 4:28 PM CDT - Updated June 24 at 4:28 PM

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

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

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

The condensed semester combination of online, hybrid and in-person classes is designed to curb travel to and from the main campus and five centers to minimize spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Students should check their individual schedules to verify the course-delivery method for each class.

In addition to the earlier start date, the semester will include classes on Labor Day and no fall break.

Classes will end Tuesday, Nov. 24, and final exams will be administered the week following Thanksgiving. A study day for final exams will be observed Monday, Nov. 30, followed by online exams to close the semester.

For courses that have an in-person component, faculty members are aligning course delivery with recommended spacing and safety measures.

All university safety measures for fall reentry follow guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including required wearing of masks by all who are on the main campus or at the five centers, enhanced cleaning procedures and campus visitation restrictions.

Fall move-in to residence halls will feature a staggered schedule with residents assigned a date between July 27 and Aug. 12 to minimize person-to-person contact.

UT Martin Summer Orientation and Registration and Transfer Orientation sessions in preparation for fall semester will be held virtually.
SUMMER ORIENTATION AND SOAR SESSIONS TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold all Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and Transfer Orientation sessions virtually this summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SOAR sessions are scheduled for June 22 and 24, July 10 and 28, and Aug. 7. Transfer Orientation sessions are scheduled for June 23 and July 16. 

"With UT Martin early in the reentry phases, we decided it would be best to work with students for SOAR and orientation in online formats," said Destin Tucker, director of undergraduate admissions. "We are excited about helping students finalize their enrollment and will be here to address individual needs."

Each session will begin online at 8:30 a.m., and incoming students will participate in informational meetings and student panels, meet orientation leaders, receive academic advising and register for classes.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will send out SOAR packets to all students registered to attend SOAR, including a SOAR book full of information for their session, a UT Martin T-shirt and student ID.

For more information, contact Tucker at dtuck33@utm.edu, or admissions at admitme@utm.edu.

UT Martin Honor Roll

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

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

** Moscow-James J. Avant, Honors; Winter J. Cleveland, Honors; Frankiel D. Henderson, Highest Honors.

** Oakland-Katlyn C. Bryant, High Honors; Arielle Y. Davidson, High Honors; Courtney M. Gilgen, High Honors; Rochelle N. Hunter, Highest Honors; Dillan L. Meggo, High Honors; Robert D. Robison, Highest Honors; Julie Russell, Highest Honors; Taylor E. Simmons, Honors; McKenzie R. Tatum, Highest Honors.

** Rossville-Tristan F. Johnson, Honors.

** Somerville-Abby M. Bishop, Honors; Tommy L. Brooks, Highest Honors; Sinahi Carrizales, Highest Honors; ShaQuitta M. Fields, Highest Honors; Abbey G. German, Highest Honors; Jacob Greene, Highest Honors; Sierra T. Hastings, Highest Honors.

** Grand Junction-Gabrielle D. Sales, Highest Honors.

** Humboldt-Kaitlynn R. Burkett, Highest Honors.

** Piperton-Alexis C. Smith, Highest Honors; Sharon H. Renner, Highest Honors.

Local Student Ears Awards

A Fayette County student received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications in recognition of departmental achievement for the 2019-20 Academic Year.

** Sinahi Carrizales of Somerville, received the Nanney-Segebarth Scholarship, given to an outstanding communications student in memory of Dr. Robert and Jeanie Nanney's parents, and the Junior Communications Scholarship.
UT-Martin Offers Online ACT Prep Classes

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is hosting two ACT prep classes from 5-7 p.m., July 6 and 8, via Zoom for students preparing for the test.

The first session, July 6, focuses on math and science reasoning, while the session on July 8 is on English and reading. The lessons are two hours and will teach students time-saving strategies and comprehension tips.

Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct instructor and author, is the instructor for the course. Beene has mentored more than 1,000 students and continues to work as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties.

Each course costs $25 and students can register at www.utm.edu/actprep. Students will need access to a computer that connects to Zoom with video and audio.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.

Local Students Earn UT-Martin Communications Awards

MARTIN — Seven Weakley County students received awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Communications in recognition of departmental achievements for the 2019-20 academic year. All recipients are Martin residents unless otherwise noted.

Skylar McCroskey received the Duke Drumm-WCMT Scholarship, which is awarded to an outstanding broadcasting student.

Dylan Ingram received the Terry and Mitzi Halley Award, given to an outstanding communications major involved in broadcasting.

Anna Barnes received the Media Design Award, given to an outstanding media design major. This award is funded by Drs. Teresa Collard, Tracy Rutledge and Robert Nanney, all UT Martin communications faculty members.

Trevor Holcomb received the Media Design IDEA Award or the Information Design Excellence Award.

Bentley Gordon, of Greenfield, received the Swafford Public Relations Scholarship, which is awarded to a junior or senior public relations student.

Jonathan Kirkland received the Kent Landers PR Internship Scholarship, which is awarded to an outstanding public relations student who intends to complete a national or international public relations internship.

Marissa Laws, of Gleason, received the Incoming Freshman Scholarship, which is awarded to an incoming UT Martin freshman communications major.

For more information about the department, contact Dr. Robert Nanney, chair, at rnanney@utm.edu. For more information about UT Martin, visit utm.edu.
UT trustees approve fall reopening guidelines; No tuition increase planned for students in 2020-21 school year

The Board of Trustees is meeting this week virtually to review the budget for the 2020-21 year. They heard plans on how campuses are dealing with the coronavirus.

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee — Virus challenges aside, students in the University of Tennessee System can look forward to no tuition increase when classes start this August, system officials said Thursday.

The UT Board of Trustees is meeting Thursday and Friday virtually. Committees met Thursday and the full board voted Friday.

Trustees unanimously approved a resolution Friday that set certain guidelines for reopening in fall 2020. The guidance will allow each campus within the system to implement a plan that best fits their students and faculty.

The Tennessee Board of Regents voted earlier this month to keep tuition and fees for students at community colleges and colleges of applied technology at the same rate. For the state's community colleges it's the first time in nearly 30 years that there hasn't been a tuition increase, according to the board.

The COVID-19 pandemic has jolted the national economy and forced governments and services to recalibrate how they do business.

Trustees also Thursday heard updates from campus chancellors about how they're getting ready for fall classes amid the ongoing spread of the coronavirus.

In-person classes ended in mid March; shifting to online instruction for the balance of the semester.

In Knoxville, classes will begin Aug. 19. The campus will be open Labor Day and skip a fall break.

The last day of instruction for the fall semester will be Nov. 24. Exams will be administered online Dec. 2-9.

Chancellor Donde Plowman said UTK is communicating with the Knox County Health Department to ensure they know what's planned.

Social distancing will be the norm. Classes will be conducted later into the day, with the last class ending about 8 p.m., she said.

Administrators are working with faculty to create the schedule, she said.

There'll be more time between classes. Wherever students normally congregate, they'll see signs reminding them about safe practices.
Students living in dorms will be required to go through training before coming back to campus, according to UTK. As part of being prepared to deal with possible exposure, they'll be expected to take their temperature every day through an app. A high temperature could be a sign they're infected.

UTK plans to isolate students who may get sick. About 250 living spaces are being set aside for the quarantine process, Plowman said.

In the classroom, faculty members will keep extra masks on hand if a student forgets theirs or doesn't have one, according to the university.

One telling sign of the virus from this spring – demand for mental health services rose, according to the chancellor. UT's student health services will be ready to help students who may need assistance, according to UTK.

The resolution includes changing the academic calendars for each campus and providing in-person, hybrid and remote instruction methods. System President Randy Boyd will be allowed to take actions to keep students and faculty safe, including suspending in-person instruction again if necessary.

The board also approved the 2020-2021 budget Friday.

Financial administrators briefed trustees Thursday afternoon on the system's fiscal outlook. The overall projected 2020/21 budget for system campuses is $2.52 billion, figures show, with UT Knoxville representing $1.24 billion of that.

The unrestricted and general operating part of the system budget is $1.53 billion, a decrease of about 1.2 percent.

Among the few major capital projects that will be sought is a rehab and addition for the nursing building on the UT Knoxville campus, costing about $65 million.

The system includes UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Martin.

News of the stable tuition rate was not unexpected. The full board votes on the budget Friday.
University of Tennessee board approves no tuition increase, fall re-opening guidelines

Monica Kast, Knoxville News Sentinel  Published 11:35 a.m. ET June 26, 2020  Updated 11:53 a.m. ET June 26, 2020

Students at all campuses of the University of Tennessee will not see a tuition increase, the board of trustees voted on Friday.

In an effort to keep costs low for students and families because of economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, no UT campuses will raise tuition or fees. This is the first time in the university’s history that all four campuses — Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and the Health Science Center in Memphis — have not increased tuition in the same year.

Among other things, the board also approved plans for returning to campus in the fall and changes that will be implemented, including a new rule requiring students and employees to get a flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine, if one is developed.

"Our students across the state are struggling financially because of the pandemic. " UT System President Randy Boyd said. "We had to put our students and their families first, and that's why I am recommending a 0% tuition increase at all campuses for the upcoming year."

No tuition increases

The flat tuition was included as part of a roughly $2.5 billion budget for the university system. Trustees said they were encouraged that the budget was relatively flat, when other states and universities have seen cuts as a result of COVID-19.

A 0% tuition increase at the Health Science Center was approved by the trustees earlier this year.

Last year, UT campuses had a slight tuition increase. The Knoxville campus had a 2% increase and the Chattanooga and Martin campuses each had a 2.5% increase, amounting to increases between $216 and $258.

COVID-19 response, plans for fall

In a special committee meeting on Thursday, trustees approved the university's re-opening plan for the fall semester, in response to COVID-19.

Students will be required to wear a mask in all classrooms and anytime they are on campus in groups. Masks will be available to distribute in each classroom, in case a student comes to class without a mask. UT is also 3D-printing clear, plastic face shields that will be distributed to faculty as an option to wear when teaching, UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman said on Thursday.

Boyd said he views these changes as an opportunity to improve each campus.

Randy Boyd, photographed in his campus office Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at the University of Tennessee, shortly before officially being named president. (Photo: Brianna Paciorka/Nashville)
"This is not going to be a new normal, but a better normal," Boyd said.

Adjustments will be made to dining on-campus, including to-go options and ordering ahead through an app. Students will also "self-test" daily through an app, where they answer a questionnaire about any symptoms related to COVID-19, Plowman said.

"We believe we're going to be able to manage risk, keep our students safe and healthy, and at the same time, create a better normal," Boyd said.

Campuses are utilizing Plexiglass shields and cubicles when social distancing is not possible in classrooms or research laboratories.

Campuses are also evaluating what space they have available, and how many people can safely social distance in classrooms, Plowman said. For example, a classroom that used to hold 40 students may only be able to hold 12 to 15 students who are socially distancing.

**New immunization requirements**

The board also voted to approve an immunization requirement for all students. They will be required to have vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Tennessee Department of Health, including a flu shot and, if it is developed, a COVID-19 vaccine. The university will also require all employees to get those immunizations as well.

"To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on university campuses in fall 2020, several public health experts recommend that students have the seasonal flu and other immunsations," UT General Counsel Ryan Stinnett said.

Students with medical or religious exemptions are not required to get the vaccines, as well as students who attend UT online. Students would be required to get the vaccines as they become available. For example, the flu shot might not be available until later in the fall, at which point students would have to get it, Boyd said.

This rule "is in the best interest of our students," Boyd said.

The university will "establish a timeframe for providing proof of such immunization," according to the meeting agenda. This new requirement is considered an emergency rule and will be in place for 180 days, but would become a permanent requirement, Boyd added.

The board also approved John Compton to serve a second term as board of trustees chair. Compton will serve as board chair through June 30, 2022.

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**UT Martin students required to get flu vaccine**

Posted on June 26, 2020 by Steve James in Local News

UT Martin students will have to get their flu shot this fall, and if a vaccine becomes available, be immunized for COVID-19, under an emergency rule unanimously approved Friday by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

The university system went to online classes because of the coronavirus pandemic on March 16, which was extended April 1 through the summer.

The university system plans to have students on campuses for the fall semester with this new rule.

UT President Randy Boyd said this is an emergency rule for now but the state legislature will be asked to make it permanent.
UT board approves guidelines for fall

Monica Kast Knoxville News Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Students at all campuses of the University of Tennessee will not see a tuition increase next school year, the board of trustees voted on Friday.

In an effort to keep costs low for students and families because of economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, no UT campuses will raise tuition or fees. This is the first time in the university’s history that all four campuses — Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and the Health Science Center in Memphis — have not increased tuition in the same year.

Among other things, the board also approved plans for returning to campus in the fall and changes that will be implemented, including a new rule requiring students and employees to get a flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine, if one is developed.

“Our students across the state are struggling financially because of the pandemic,” UT System President Randy Boyd said. “We had to put our students and their families first, and that’s why I am recommending a 0% tuition increase at all campuses for the upcoming year.”

No tuition increases

The flat tuition was included as part of a roughly $2.5 billion budget for the university system. Trustees said they were encouraged that the budget was relatively flat, when other states and universities have seen cuts as a result of COVID-19.

A 0% tuition increase at the Health Science Center was approved by the trustees earlier this year.

Last year, UT campuses had a slight tuition increase. The Knoxville campus had a 2% increase and the Chattanooga and Martin campuses each had a 2.6% increase, amounting to increases between $216 and $258.

Around the state, other colleges and universities have announced similar plans. Middle Tennessee State University, East Tennessee State University, the University of Memphis and community and technical colleges in the state will also keep tuition flat.

COVID-19 response, plans for fall

In a special committee meeting on Thursday, trustees approved the university’s re-opening plan for the fall semester, in response to COVID-19.

Students will be required to wear a mask in all classrooms, and anytime they are on campus in groups. Masks will be available to distribute in each classroom, in case a student comes to class without a mask. UT is also 3D-printing clear, plastic face shields that will be distributed to faculty as an option to wear when teaching, UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman said on Thursday.

Boyd said he views these changes as an opportunity to improve each campus.

“This is not going to be a new normal, but a better normal,” Boyd said.

Adjustments will be made to dining on-campus, including to-go options and ordering ahead through an app. Students will also “self-test” daily through an app, where they answer a questionnaire about any symptoms related to COVID-19, Plowman said.

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The board also approved John Compton to serve a second term as board of trustees chair. Compton will serve as board chair through June 30, 2022.
UTM employees earn 2020 President’s Awards

University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd honored six employees throughout the system for 2020 President’s Awards for excellence — and two are at UT-Martin and two more have UTM ties.

"As the president of this university, one of my greatest honors is to see the incredibly impactful work our employees do every day," Boyd said.

“This year’s six deserving employees, and the thousands of employees across the system, are the reason this will be the greatest decade in the history of this university.”

President’s Awards are the highest honor a UT employee can receive from the university and are intended to spotlight success and inspire excellence.

Honorees are selected each year from a systemwide pool of candidates nominated by campus and institute leaders. Winners receive commemorative plaques and monetary awards of $3,000.

This year’s winners with UTM ties, along with Boyd’s comments, are:

- **Educate Honoree** — Richard Robinson, a UT-Martin professor of communications, has made extensive contributions to the hands-on, experiential education of UT Martin’s communications department and university radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 “The Hawk,” the chief learning lab for broadcast students on campus.

  With decades of professional experience, Robinson brings mentorship and professionalism to his students in the broadcast and public relations fields.

  Robinson has led the radio station to a significant number of awards since he took helm in 2005. With 292 state and national recognitions in total, 76 of which were first-place awards, the radio station remains a beacon of opportunity for students to gain professional experience. Robinson delivers multiple professional development and broadcasting workshops each year while maintaining meaningful and long-lasting relationships with UT Martin students and faculty.

- **Support (Nonexempt) Honoree** — Davis Rash, UT-Martin senior heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) specialist, has diligently supervised the maintenance, programming, repairing and updating of the HVAC system for close to 30 years.

  Rash’s dedication ensures faculty and staff have a comfortable space to serve UT-Martin and allows students to live, work and study on campus.

  While it might be easy to overlook the importance of an efficient heating and cooling system when it’s working properly, Rash’s knowledge of the fine details of UT-Martin’s HVAC system allows efficient and timely repairs, saving the university thousands in technician fees and loss of instruction time.

  His personal effort to learn more on the intricacies of the UT-Martin HVAC system demonstrates his commitment to the success of the university and all those who call it home.

  Rash exemplifies the spirit of UT-Martin and frequently lends a helping hand to other employees and campus visitors. In 1998, Rash completed a bachelor’s degree in business administration at UT-Martin while working full-time.

  • Support (Exempt) Honoree — Ashlie Czyz, UT system executive recruiter and director of human resources programs, advances the hospitality and proactivity of the UT human resources department.

  During her time at UT, Czyz has led the successful recruitment of multiple senior positions, including the vice president for academic affairs and student success, the chief financial officer and the UT Martin chancellor.

  She serves as the welcoming first impression many candidates have of the university and embodies the professionalism and dedication necessary to the success of human resources.

  Described as kind, responsive, thorough, professional and detail-oriented, Czyz has been known to go above and beyond in her duties.

  She works to develop targeted recruitment strategies for the most well-qualified and diverse candidates while curating a strong network of professional contacts within the higher education community.

  • Diversity Honoree — Michael Alston, UT-Health Science Center assistant vice chancellor for equity and diversity and Title IX coordinator, has championed significant change across the UT system since the beginning of his career.

  Having served in leadership at UT-Martin, UT-Knoxville and currently the UT-Health Science Center, Alston’s entire professional career has been in service to UT.

  Alston works tirelessly to promote diversity and inclusion at the UT Health Science Center and continually creates and leads innovative programs to improve the climate on campus.

  Alston led the creation of the Diversity Certificate Program, a resource available to employees that is designed to enhance cultural competency and understanding of the latest research and best practices in the fields of diversity.

Since its inception, more than 160 faculty and staff have completed the program. He also expanded diversity celebrations on campus and created programming for Black History and National Hispanic awareness months.

Alston is continuously expanding opportunities for faculty, staff and students to actively engage with the diversity and inclusion efforts at UTHSC and across the state.

More information about the President’s Awards can be found at: https://president.tennessee.edu/awards. Photos of the winners are located at https://news.tennessee.edu/presidents-awards-honorees-2020.
Gibson County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

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

Zada Barr, of Milan, daughter of Tabitha Lupien and James Barr, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

Chia Pei (Carrie) Druetzler, of Humboldt, daughter of Carrie Druetzler, will be a freshman. She received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.

Mason Gamble, of Medina, son of Todd and Joanie Gamble, will be a freshman. He received the Deans Scholarship.

Trae Halford, of Kenton, son of Eric and Relina Halford, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.

Caitlin Phillips, of Trenton, daughter of Sandi Phillips and Benjamin Phillips, will be a sophomore. She received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.

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

The Mirror Exchange, Tuesday, June 30, 2020

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UT music programs set

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

- Tonight — Jerry Junkin, A Conversation with Jerry Junkin.
- Thursday — Er-Gene Kahng, Revisiting recording Florence Price: then and now.

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

At the college level

Several Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2020-21 academic year.

The recipients include:
- Brandon Beard of Union City, son of Ken and Jennifer Beard, a freshman who received the Norman and Ruby Campbell Memorial Scholarship.
- Claire Coleman of Union City, daughter of Gregory and Stephanie Coleman, a freshman who received the Dean's Scholarship.
- Isaac Copeland of Rives, son of Cindy Copeland and Johnny Copeland, a freshman who received the Chancellor's Scholarship.
- Logan Crabtree of South Fulton, son of Jason and Marla Crabtree, a freshman who received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Sam Ferguson of Obion, son of Ricky and Tabitha Ferguson, a freshman who received the Chancellor's Scholarship.
- Jacob Roberts of Union City, son of Rick and Mary Roberts, a junior who received the Elam Transfer Scholarship.
- Alli Shaw of Rives, daughter of Tim and Tracy Shaw, a junior who received the Robert G. and Elizabeth Latimer Scholarship.

ACT prep available via Zoom

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is hosting two ACT prep classes — from 5-7 p.m. Monday and July 8 — via Zoom for students preparing for the test.

The first session Monday will focus on math and science reasoning, while the session on July 8 will work on English and reading. The lessons are two hours and will teach students time-saving strategies and comprehension tips.

Alex Beene, an adjunct instructor and author, will instruct the course.

Each course costs $25 and students can register at www.utm.edu/actprep. Students will need access to a computer that connects to Zoom with video and audio.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
McElroy has continued working at UT Martin as an essential employee during the COVID-19 crisis further proving his qualifications for the award, according to Ted Council, McElroy’s supervisor and Environmental Health and Safety officer for UT Martin.

“Mr. McElroy has demonstrated a true commitment to the university by realizing the importance of ensuring that UTM’s safety equipment is maintained in proper working condition,” Council said. “He has shown leadership abilities by taking it upon himself to provide on-the-job training and close direction for new student employees, which goes above and beyond what his job requirements are. He sure leaves big shoes to be filled once he moves on to an exciting career in education.”

Rachel Stephens, assistant director of student life, said McElroy “has been invaluable during his time working to ensure the safety and security of the campus.”

Examples she gave of his key responsibilities included assuring safety protocols are being followed and that safety equipment is in good working order.

The award is given in honor of the late Beth Maloon, UT Martin director of budgeting and dedicated student employee advocate. A plaque and check are presented to a student each spring and fall semester.

“From my past experience of having the opportunity to work alongside Beth Maloon, I am positive she also would be proud for Mr. Justin McElroy to receive this Outstanding Student Award in her honor,” Council said.

Student employee honored at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin has named Justin McElroy as the recipient of the Spring 2020 Beth Maloon Outstanding Student Employee Award for his outstanding job performance, commitment to the university and exemplary work ethic.

McElroy is a senior education major from Puryear and has worked for the Office of Environmental Health and Safety on campus for three years.

As a student worker, he is responsible for maintaining the estimated 980 portable fire extinguishers, verifying the exit and emergency lights, checking emergency eyewashes and showers, ensuring that AEDs are operating, and performing monthly and yearly inspections of safety equipment on campus.

Video game design offered

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

The certificate includes 18 hours of computer science and graphic design courses that will teach students video game theory, design, construction and development.

Students earning the certificate will take courses such as graphic design, software development, 3D modeling and computer graphics, and video game design and development to produce their own computer video game.

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

The certificate was created in a joint effort by Dr. Windy Wang, associate professor of art education and program coordinator; Dr. Joshua Guerin, associate professor and chair of computer science; Dr. Carol Eckert, professor and chair of visual and theater arts; and Doug Cook, former chair of visual and theater arts.

Wang, who earned a master’s degree in Immersive Mediated Environments with a concentration in video game design and a Ph.D. in art education from Indiana University, will lead the program with the support of the computer science department.
UTM employees recipients of 2020 President’s Awards

From transforming the way the University of Tennessee approaches diversity and inclusion to championing biomedical research, recipients of the 2020 President’s Awards, including two UT Martin employees, Dr. Richard Robinson and Davis Rash, embody excellence throughout the UT System.

UT President Randy Boyd selected six employees to honor this year. “As the president of this University, one of my greatest honors is to see the incredibly impactful work our employees do every day,” Boyd said. “This year’s six deserving employees, and the thousands of employees across the System, are the reason this will be the greatest decade in the history of this University.”

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Robinson has led the radio station to a significant number of awards since he took helm in 2005. With 292 state and national recognitions in total, 76 of which were first place awards, the radio station remains a beacon of opportunity for students to gain professional experience. Several of the station’s top accolades include: the “Platinum Award” by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System for the past nine years; “Best College Radio Station in the Nation” in 2012; by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System and “Best College Radio Station in the South” from 2014-2017 by the Southeast Journalism Conference. Robinson delivers multiple professional development and broadcasting workshops each year while maintaining meaningful and long-lasting relationships with UT Martin students and faculty.

**Support (Nonexempt) Honoree:** Davis Rash, UTM senior heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) specialist, has diligently supervised the maintenance, programming, repairing and updating of the HVAC system for close to 30 years. His dedication ensures facility and staff have a comfortable space to serve UTM and allows students to live, work and study on campus. While it might be easy to overlook the importance of an efficient heating and cooling system when it’s working properly, Rash’s knowledge of the fine details of UTM’s HVAC system allows efficient and timely repairs, saving the university thousands in technician fees and loss of instruction time.

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More information about the President’s Awards can be found at https://president.tennessee.edu/awards/. downloadable photos of the winners are located at https://news.tennessee.edu/presidents-awards-honorees-2020.
UT System reports no tuition increases

KNOXVILLE — After listening to University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd and chancellors of campuses across the system discuss their plans for handling COVID-19 in the fall on Thursday, the UT Board of Trustees approved their plans as well as the University’s $2.5 billion budget for fiscal year 2020-21 during Friday’s annual meeting.

In approving the COVID-19 and Guiding Principles for Fall 2020 resolution, trustees authorized the UT administration to take the necessary actions to have in-person instruction for the fall 2020 semester.

The resolution also stated that the University should continue to make reasonable accommodations for students faculty and staff who are at-risk or live with individuals who are at-risk as identified by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Other parts of the resolution include:
- Changing the academic calendars for each campus
- Providing different in-person, hybrid and remote instruction
- Delegating Boyd to take actions he deems necessary for the health, safety and welfare of students, faculty and staff, including suspending in-person instruction if necessary.

During Thursday’s meeting, Boyd praised the work done by the University’s employees to prepare for fall classes.

“This will not be a new normal, but a better normal,” Boyd said to trustees. “I couldn’t be prouder of our organization. There’s been teamwork on every level,” he added.

On March 16, Boyd announced classes would be held online for the remainder of the semester and on April 1, Boyd announced summer classes would also be held online. Since then, a statewide task force announced best practices for reopening campuses that included education, managing the campus environment and reimagining classes. Campuses have also released their own specific plans.

Almost half of the classes offered this fall by the University of Tennessee at Martin will include an in-person component as part of the university’s re-entry plan. On May 6, Boyd announced that all UT campuses would reopen this fall with in-person classes as UT continues to address operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

In addition to the earlier start date, the semester will include classes on Labor Day and no fall break. Classes will end Nov. 24, and final exams will be administered the week following Thanksgiving. A study day for final exams will be observed Nov. 30, followed by online exams to close the semester. Students will not return to the main campus or centers following the Thanksgiving holiday. Plans for fall move-in and fall commencement are being developed.

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

“Each one of us wants to... maximize the core UTM educational experience, which is based on face-to-face instruction, interaction and mentoring,” said Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, the university’s chief academic officer, in a recent email to faculty members. “Anything we can do to contribute to that work during this uncertain period will ultimately benefit our students,” he added.

All university safety measures for fall re-entry follow guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including required wearing of masks by all who are on the main campus or at the five centers, enhanced cleaning procedures and campus visitation restrictions. Fall move-in to residence halls will feature a staggered schedule with residents assigned a date between July 27 and Aug. 12 to minimize person-to-person contact. Residents are encouraged to return home after completing their move-in and may return to campus starting Aug. 13.

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

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

On Thursday, chancellors shared decisions that included testing symptomatic students as well as those who are asymptomatic and have been identified through contact tracing to have had close contact with a COVID-19-positive person; requiring students, faculty and staff to wear masks; suspending all international travel; finishing classes before Thanksgiving break and conducting testing for finals online.

During Friday’s meeting, trustees also adopted a requirement for flu — and COVID when available — immunizations for all students, faculty and staff. They also adopted an emergency rule specifically for students to have these immunizations.

Trustees also approved a $2.5 billion operating budget for fiscal 2020-21 that includes no increase in tuition for students at all of the campuses — a first in UT’s history — and follows a record four years of increases at or below Tennessee Higher Education Commission’s recommendations.

Not increasing tuition this year was important even though the University’s budget is tight for the coming fiscal year, Boyd said.

“We think it’s important for our families and the state of Tennessee,” he said. “It’s the right thing.”

State appropriations for the University remained flat for the year and the legislature eliminated raises for most state employees due to declines in revenue collections and uncertainty about future revenues.
“We’re thankful to the governor and the legislature for our essentially flat state funding,” said David Miller, senior vice president and chief financial officer, noting that other universities were seeing budget cuts from their states.

Loewen informed the Board that the University is well positioned for this economic downturn and that it replenished its reserves after 2008 to 2012 Great Recession.

“This is cautious budget,” he said.

Miller also reported on the CARES Act and the COVID-19 fiscal impact.

Across the system, the campuses received $17.4 million in student grants and another $18.2 million in grants to offset institutional costs. So far, the campuses have distributed $15.7 million in grants to more than 18,000 students. COVID-19 had a total of a $69.4 million impact on the system through refunds, expenditures and lost revenue.

In his remarks to the Board, Boyd tackled another issue that has arisen this spring and summer: racism. Boyd said the University must lead in eliminating systemic racism in the state and the country. To do that, he said, requires communication, commitment and change. From listening to people of every background, ethnicity, nationality, religion and culture about their unique challenges and struggles to making sure everyone who steps on UT’s campuses is treated with respect, fairness, dignity, compassion and care, Boyd said the University has the power to enact change.

“We’ve got to commit to make change with more diverse leaders, faculty and procurement,” he said. “We can do things many others can’t. We have ways that we can physically make a difference.”

As an example, Boyd said the UT Institute for Public Service’s Law Enforcement Innovation Center just announced plans to develop a training program in conjunction with the Museum of Tolerance to minimize biased-based policing and will start the program with the UT police departments on each campus.

“We’re committed to change and being a beacon of light,” he said.

Trustees re-elected Compton as chairman of the UT Board of Trustees. He will serve for another two years.

“I would like to thank the committee chairs and all of the other trustees for their work to help lead the University of Tennessee,” he said.

**Students named to Dean’s List and receive scholarships to attend UTM**

Several Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships to attend UT Martin. They include:

- Jeffrey Allen of Greenfield, son of Jeff and Carla Allen, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

- Isaac Ivy of Martin, son of Beth Ivy, will be a freshman. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

- Christian McKeel of Martin, son of Jeremy and Kat McKeel, will be a freshman. He received the Band Scholarship, the Marching Band Scholarship and the Deans Scholarship.

- Destin McKeel of Martin, daughter of Jeremy and Kat McKeel, will be a freshman. She received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

- Shannon Merrell of Dresden will be a senior. She received the Kellie Jones English Scholarship.

- Dalton Moore of Martin, son of Brian and Kris Moore, will be a freshman. He received the Elam Transfer Achieve Scholarship.

- Stephen Richardson of Martin, son of Sam and Stephanie Richardson, will be a senior. He received the Chancellor’s Scholarship.

- Grant Roberts of Sharon, son of Anna Roberts, will be a freshman. He received the Sharon United Presbyterian Scholarship and the Achieve Scholarship.

- Bradley Thomas of Martin, son of Bonnie Thomas, will be a freshman. He received the Music Scholarship and the Achieve Scholarship.

- Tinley Winn of Dresden, daughter of Albert and Shelley Winn, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
County students receive UTM scholarships

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

- Aleisha Annis, of Huntingdon, daughter of Tracy and Greg Forrest, will be a freshman. She received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Caselyn Derryberry, of Huntingdon, daughter of Bobby and Amanda Derryberry, will be a freshman. She received the Achieve Scholarship.
- Braxton Hobson, of McKenzie, son of Craig and Renee Hobson, will be a freshman. He received the Harold Conner Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Scholarship.
- Haley Stout, of Atwood, daughter of Jeff and Tammy Stout, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

UT MARTIN INVESTIGATING VIDEO SHOWING STUDENTS MAKING RACIST STATEMENTS

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

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