McCloud named chief diversity and inclusion officer at UT-Martin

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver has appointed Dr. Mark McCloud as the chief diversity and inclusion officer. McCloud has served as the interim chief diversity and inclusion officer since August 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

McCloud earned a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from UT Martin and holds both a Master of Arts degree in higher education with an emphasis in student personnel services, as well as a doctorate in higher education from the University of Mississippi. McCloud previously served as the director of Career Planning and Development, a position that he has held since 2016.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

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

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

RIDING INTO SPRING — UT Martin Rodeo coach John Luthi told the Kiwanis group at a Zoom meeting Feb. 17 that the 53rd Annual UT Martin spring College Rodeo would be held April 15-17 but the venue, the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion, would be at one-third capacity because of COVID restrictions. Luthi, who is in his 24th year of coaching the Skyhawks and in his 40th year of coaching, explained the rodeo would be different from rodeos in the past but that much excitement and entertainment would still be a part of this event. The coach explained the 47-member team features 22 women and 25 men. He thanked Kiwanis members for continuing to support UT Martin athletics and the rodeo. Fifteen Kiwanis members were present for the Zoom meeting where Kiwanian Earl Wright introduced Coach Luthi after Kiwanis president Annie C. Jones welcomed the group.
UTM earns Tree Campus Higher Education status

The Arbor Day Foundation has awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin the 2020 Tree Campus Higher Education recognition for its dedication to effective forest management and promoting student engagement in conservation practices.

In order to obtain the distinction, UT Martin met five required standards for sustainable campus forestry, including establishing a tree advisory committee and a campus tree care plan; allocating annual expenditures for the tree program; hosting an Arbor Day observance; and sponsoring student service-learning projects.

"Tree Campuses and their students set examples for not only their student bodies but the surrounding communities showcasing how trees create a healthier environment," Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation said. "Because of UT Martin's participation, air will be purer, water cleaner and students and faculty will be surrounded by the shade and beauty trees provide."

UT Martin is also designated as a Level 1 Arboretum by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council for having at least 30 trees planted and identified on campus.

Through a partnership with the City of Martin, which is a designated Tree City, USA, the university continues to increase the number of trees and species planted on campus and supports their growth.

"This designation means several things for UT Martin," Dr. Eric Pelren, professor of wildlife biology and coordinator of the university's Center for Sustainability said. "First, it recognizes the efforts of our grounds crew and administration as outstanding stewards of the campus trees that we all love so much. Second, it provides us access to outstanding informational resources of the Arbor Foundation and its partners to continue and improve upon our good work sustainably managing our campus and its trees. It also keeps us on our toes and holds us to the high standards of tree care and educational outreach to which we have committed.

"New trees, and species, are being planted on our grounds every year, and we have every reason to be optimistic that our campus trees will continue to be there for teaching, research, outreach and enjoyment for generations to come," Pelren continued.

For more information about the UT Martin Campus Trees program, visit utm.edu/sustainability or contact Pelren at epelren@utm.edu.
Skyhawk RISE program aided by contribution

The University of Tennessee at Martin has received a donation from Reggie Hill, a 1977 alumnus, to fund the Skyhawk Retention, Inclusion, Student-Success and Equity — or RISE — program on campus.

The Skyhawk RISE Program was established to help create a strong foundation for incoming students from underrepresented communities through experiential learning, mentorship and continued support. The RISE program will begin fall 2021 and provide underrepresented students with connected classes, one-on-one mentoring, peer support, leadership opportunities as well as co-curricular activities to create a network of resources and community at UT Martin.

Mentors participating in the Skyhawk RISE Program are trained in implicit bias, diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging and other areas of cultural contingencies, according to Dr. Mark McCloud, chief diversity and inclusion officer.

Hill’s donation will help the pilot program as it begins in August and continue to support the students and mentors involved as the program grows.

“We’re living in a diverse world, and I hope the program will prepare students to live, work and succeed in a diverse world,” Hill said. “Learning from people who are different than themselves will help all our students succeed.”

Hill, of Paris, graduated from UT Martin in 1977

University Outreach offers ACT prep courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses to help students prepare for the test.

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

Registration for each workshop costs $30. Students will need access to a computer that can connect to Zoom through audio and video.

To register, visit utm.edu/actprep.

UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author Alex Beene will teach the courses.

Beene serves as a lead instructor for Tennessee Adult Education in three counties and works primarily with rising high school juniors and seniors needing academic help with standardized testing.

For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
Donation benefits accounting, finance students

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

The Wingetts met while studying at UTM in the 1980s and wanted to support the next generation of students who can benefit from the university.

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

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

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

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

"The scholarship endowment that he and his wife, Barbara, established for our accounting and finance students is a true reflection of the goodness of their hearts and the height of their giving spirits. We, the faculty, staff and students in the College of Business and Global Affairs, are so grateful for Jim and Barbara's continued support."
Nordberg selected as dean of library

Dr. Erik Nordberg has been named the dean of the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library. He is joining UT Martin from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he served as dean of the libraries.

Nordberg earned his doctorate in industrial heritage and archaeology from Michigan Technological University, a master’s degree in library science from Wayne State University, a master’s degree in Anglo-Irish literature from Trinity College, and a bachelor’s degree in humanities from the University of Ulster.

Nordberg has also worked at Wayne State University and Michigan Tech in various library leadership roles and served as the executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council.

“I feel very fortunate to be here, and I’m excited to get started,” Nordberg said. “There is such a sense of pride in what is happening on this campus and a sincere belief by everybody from top to bottom in the mission of engaging and transforming our students. I’m impressed by the high level of academic quality and the excitement about where UTM is heading.”

Nordberg found his interest in archives and libraries while completing his undergraduate degree and has worked in academic libraries for 25 years. He says he is excited to help contribute to the Paul Meek Library’s dedication to serving students in their academic pursuits and intellectual transformation.

“I’m very pleased to welcome Dr. Erik Nordberg, the new dean of Paul Meek Library, to the UTM community,” wrote Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, in a campus-wide email.
UTM to offer online ACT prep

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses to help students prepare for the test. Students will need access to a computer that can connect to Zoom through audio and video.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students timesaving and strategic tips in a 2-hour Zoom session from 5-7 p.m. The math and science reasoning courses will be offered March 3 and April 6, and the English and reading courses will be taught March 5 and April 8.

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

Registration for each workshop costs $30. For more information, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu. To register, visit utm.edu/actprep.

THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY ENTERPRISE, RIPLEY, TENNESSEE, MARCH 4, 2021

UT Martin Offers ACT Workshop

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses to help students prepare for the test.

The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students timesaving and strategic tips in a two-hour Zoom session from 5 to 7 p.m. The Math and Science Reasoning courses will be offered March 3rd and April 6th, and the English and Reading courses will be taught March 5th and April 8th. Students will need access to a computer that can connect to Zoom through audio and video.

To register, visit utm.edu/actprep.

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

For more information, or registration fees, contact Debbie Mount, director of non-degree programs, at dmount@utm.edu.
Women’s History Month marked at UT Martin

In honor of Women’s History Month, the University of Tennessee at Martin Center for Women and Gender Equality is hosting a series of guest speakers to address this year’s theme “Imperfect, I’m Perfect: The Struggle for Positive Body Image.” The program event schedule is as follows:

- Thursday — Jean Kilbourne, Women’s Hall of Fame inductee and pioneer in the study of images of women in media, 7 p.m., “The Naked Truth: Advertising’s Image of Women.”
- March 16 — Aimee Jones, UT Martin lecturer of fashion merchandising, 12:15 p.m., “ Unrealistic: Societal Expectations of the Female Body.”
- March 23 — Lindsey Guile, body and fat-positive artist, 7 p.m., “Unapologetic: Altering the Narrative through Art.”

Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Women and Gender Equality, says the theme of the month’s programs stems from a deepening societal issue that effects people of all ages.

“I decided on the body image/body positivity theme after my daughter told me she didn’t like her body. She is only 8 years old. It crushed me to hear her say that. I had flashbacks of my own struggles with body image. I’m worried this could lead to anxiety, depression, eating disorders, self-hate and a host of other issues,” Dr. LaFleur said.

“To make that social change happen, we need to have conversations about where expectations for body images come from,” she continued.

“I want this conversation not just for my daughter but the campus community. If we talk about the sources of body images and talk about the importance of body positivity, perhaps we can change someone’s life or begin a change in our community about how we perceive body image.”

The events are open to the public at no cost, but participants are required to register at utm.edu/womenshistorymonth.

For more information about UT Martin’s Women’s History Month events, contact Dr. LaFleur at (731) 881-1658.

Vanguard to present 'Oedipus Rex'

The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will perform Sophocles’ play “Oedipus Rex” at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday in the Harriet Fulton Theatre, located in the Fine Arts Building. Seating is limited to 50 people per showing, and tickets must be reserved in advance. Masks and social distancing are required.

“Oedipus Rex” tells the story of Oedipus of Thebes, a tragic hero who seeks to find the cause of the plague affecting his city. As Oedipus learns more about the prophetic nature of his past actions and family history, he discovers he is the source of the contagion.

The Vanguard Theatre will not charge admission but is encouraging audience members to donate the usual ticket price, $15, to the UT Martin Support the ARTS fund at utm.edu/arts. Donations will be used to support arts programs at UT Martin and across West Tennessee.

To reserve seating, contact Karen Johnson, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts administrative assistant, by email at kjohnso6@utm.edu.
The senior art exhibit of Jasmine Williams — "One Day, One Life, One Death" — will open March 16 on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where Williams is a senior.

This exhibit will feature around the different stages of life and will use graphic design and clay ceramics to describe the different stages in an emotional and physical sense. For every stage of life, there will be one graphic design piece, one clay ceramic piece and one clay chime.

All pieces will be on sale to buy but will not be picked up until after the exhibit has concluded.

There is a possibility the show will not have an in-person opening but instead a Facebook Live opening. More details will be provided as the date comes closer.

"Come to experience a lifetime opportunity to witness life in one day," a press release states.

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

Williams is a 21-year-old artist from Dresden who has an associate degree in art and will be graduating from UT Martin this spring with a bachelor's in Studio Arts with a credit equivalent of a minor in Graphic Design.

She has hopes of one day opening a ceramic shop and dreams of having pieces featured in art shows across the country.

She is currently a local reporter and graphic designer for her hometown newspaper.

PARADE READY — Members of the UTM Rodeo Team line up to participate in Sunday's parade to celebrate Gracin Davidson's 16th birthday. The parade traveled through downtown Martin right by her house. For more pictures see page 2 of today's Weakley County Press.
University of Tennessee-Martin releases new specialty license plate

Special to the State Gazette

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

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

“The new UT Martin specialty plate provides our alumni and friends with yet another opportunity to display their UT Martin pride,” said Chancellor Keith Carver.

“The new UT Martin specialty plate provides our alumni and friends with yet another opportunity to display their UT Martin pride,” said Chancellor Keith Carver.

“I'm eager to fill the highways and byways with a Skyhawk fleet of cars and trucks across Tennessee.”

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

For more information about the UT Martin specialty plate, visit the Tennessee Department of Revenue website or contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Intelligent.com Announces Best The Most Affordable Colleges for 2021

By Intelligent.com
Mar 10, 2021

SEATTLE, March 10, 2021 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ -- Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for online degree rankings and higher education planning, has announced the Top 50 The Most Affordable Colleges for 2021. The comprehensive research guide is based on an assessment of 17,169 accredited colleges and universities in the nation. Each program is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment.

The 2021 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third party evaluations. Intelligent.com analyzed 17,169 schools, on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 50 making it to the final list. The methodology also uses an algorithm which collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to easily compare each school.

Students who pursue any one of these programs can expect to gain employment much quicker in comparison to candidates without a degree. In addition to accessibility and cost, the steady job growth in this market is one of the many reasons Intelligent.com researched and ranked the Top The Most Affordable Colleges. To access the complete ranking, please visit: https://www.intelligent.com/most-affordable-colleges/

2021 The Most Affordable Colleges featured on Intelligent.com (in alphabetical order):

Berea College

California State University, Fresno

California State University, Fullerton

California State University, Long Beach

California State University, Los Angeles

City College of New York

City University of New York, Baruch College

City University of New York, Brooklyn College

City University of New York, Hunter College

City University of New York, Queens College

Dickinson State University

Dine College

Drury University

East Central University

Elizabeth City State University
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Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides which include the best degree programs as well as information about financial aid, internships and even study strategies. With comprehensive, user-friendly guides and hundreds of program rankings, Intelligent.com is a trusted source among students and prospective students. To learn more, please visit https://www.intelligent.com/.
UTM Hosting Women’s History Month Events

MARTIN (March 1) — In honor of Women’s History Month, the University of Tennessee at Martin Center for Women and Gender Equality is hosting a series of guest speakers to address this year’s theme “Imperfect, I’m Perfect: The Struggle for Positive Body Image.”

The program event schedule is as follows:

- March 11: Jean Kilbourne, Women’s Hall of Fame inductee and pioneer in the study of images of women in media; 7 p.m.; “The Naked Truth: Advertising’s Image of Women”
- March 16: Aimee Jones, UT Martin lecturer of fashion merchandising; 12:15 p.m.; “Unrealistic: Societal Expectations of the Female Body”
- March 23: Lindsey Guile, body and fat-positive artist; 7 p.m.; “Unapologetic: Altering the Narrative through Art”

Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Women and Gender Equality, says the theme of the month’s programs stems from a deepening societal issue that affects people of all ages.

“I decided on the body image/body positivity theme after my daughter told me she didn’t like her body. She is only eight years old. It crushed me to hear her say that. I had flashbacks of my own struggles with body image. I’m worried this could lead to anxiety, depression, eating disorders, self-hate and a host of other issues,” LaFleur said.

“To make that social change happen, we need to have conversations about where expectations for body images come from,” LaFleur continued. “I want this conversation not just for my daughter but the campus community. If we talk about the sources of body images and talk about the importance of body positivity, perhaps we can change someone’s life or begin a change in our community about how we perceive body image.”

The events are open to the public at no cost, but participants are required to register at utm.edu/womenshistorymonth.

For more information about the Women’s History Month events, contact LaFleur at 731-881-1658.
Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin hosted author Jim Rooney via Zoom on Thursday.

Rooney wrote "A Different Way to Win: Dan Rooney’s Story from the Super Bowl to the Rooney Rule."

It’s about his father, who was the former chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

While giving the students unique tips on leadership, Rooney also gave his thoughts about women’s voices changing the industry.

“I think we’re creating an environment now, where people will more and more feel like they have a sense of belonging. That psychological safety that’s required to really be a powerful influencer and decision maker is coming,” Rooney.

Rooney says he hopes the students realize how small choices lead to good leadership in the fight for equality.
MUSICAL EVENTS — A past “Live From the Tent” performance is shown in this image taken near Pacer Pond on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. Upcoming concerts in March and April will be aired over WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” so audiences can enjoy live music from inside their vehicles. More information is available by contacting the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.

‘Live From the Tent’ music events to continue on UT Martin campus

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music is hosting new events for the “Live From the Tent” series, which features live performances near the Pacer Pond parking lot on the main campus. The concerts will be aired over WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk,” so audiences can enjoy live music from inside their vehicle.

The dates and times for the “Live From the Tent” performances are as follows:
- Tuesday: Wind Ensemble & Choir Concert, 6 p.m.
- March 25: Small Jazz Group, 6 p.m.
- April 10: Northwest TN Arts Festival, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- April 13: Spring Choral Concert, 6 p.m., part of UTM Voice Week
- April 15: Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, 6 p.m.
- April 20: Big Band Concert, 6 p.m.

The scheduled dates for these events are subject to change depending on weather conditions and the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the full “Live From the Tent” schedule, visit www.utm.edu/musicevents.

Additional information is also available by contacting the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series to feature singer Raul Malo

The University of Tennessee at Martin Ed Sargent Guest Series, hosted by the Department of Music, will feature a virtual performance by Raul Malo, lead singer of the Mavericks, at 7 p.m. Sunday.

The Mavericks formed in 1989 and found success as a country music group. In 2003, the group began a nine-year hiatus before reuniting in 2021, during which time Malo began a solo career. In their latest album released in 2020, “En Español,” the Mavericks enter new territory by mixing country and rock ‘n’ roll with Latin genres like salsa, ska, norteño and mariachi to create a unique sound.

The event will be streamed live through the UTM Music Facebook page. For more information about the Mavericks, visit themavericksband.com.

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

For more information about the event, contact the UT Martin Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
UT Martin’s Music Department continues music series

March 14, 2021 by Nikita Dennis

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

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

The university invited special guest Raúl Malo, lead singer of country music band ‘The Mavericks.’

“Really if you expose them to good music early on, chances are they’re going to gravitate toward interesting and really great music,” said Malo.

The Music Department will continue its series throughout the month of March.
It took less than 24 hours for tickets to sell out for this year's UT Martin Spring College Rodeo.

Tickets went on sale Monday night at 6:00 and were sold out by Tuesday morning.

Because of high demand, fans were encouraged to buy tickets early as attendance is operating on a third capacity for all three nights.

This year's rodeo will be Thursday, April 15 through Saturday, April 17 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion.

For fans who didn't get tickets for the rodeo, there's an online streaming option (performance or slack), which is available for $10 dollars per night. The streaming link is available at utmsports.com/rodeo/tickets.

Kevin Bartholomew and David Brewer will also call all three nights of rodeo action on STAR 95.1.

Annually considered one of the biggest events on campus, UT Martin has received "Rodeo of the Year" honors by the Ozark Region in 13 out of the last 14 years.
Tickets now on sale for 53rd UTM Rodeo

Fans can purchase tickets for the highly anticipated University of Tennessee at Martin 53rd annual Spring College Rodeo online. This year's event takes place on Thursday, April 15 through Saturday, April 17 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion.

Because of high demand, fans are encouraged to buy their tickets early as attendance is operating on 1/3rd capacity for all three nights. Following COVID-19 protocols set by the National Finals Rodeo, tickets must be purchased in blocks of two or four. Admittance for each session this year are $15 per ticket and must be purchased online (no night-of walkup sales) at this link: http://www.utmsports.com/rodeotickets. Ages five and under get in free but are required to sit in an adult's lap.

For the first time this year, there is also an online streaming option (performance or slack), which is available for $10 per night. The streaming link is also available at the link above. Annually considered one of the events on campus, UT Martin has received "Rodeo of the Year" honors by the Ozark Region in 13 out of the last 14 years. Head coach John Luthi is in his 24th season in charge of the program, as he has guided the men's team to 19 combined Ozark Region championships (14 men's, five women's) – including the men's team's 2014 national championship.

Neley Dalton competing in the barrel racing event

Weststar hosts first ALStar African American youth leadership conference

The University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program recently hosted 115 high school sophomores from 16 West Tennessee school districts virtually for the inaugural ALStar African American Youth Leadership Summit.

The ALStar Summit provided African American students in West Tennessee the opportunity to learn from businessmen and women, including several UT Martin alumni, who have made successful careers for themselves in a variety of fields. Students learned about careers in medicine, technology, social work, politics, nursing, law enforcement, communications among others, as well as the soft skills to help them become well-rounded professionals in whatever career they choose.

"We're thrilled to have a regional event focus on educating the whole child," said Dr. Marlon King, Jackson Madison County School System superintendent. "Learning opportunities that happen outside of the classroom, like the Virtual African American Youth Leadership Summit, are oftentimes the spark needed to propel students to dream and set goals. If we want them to be different, we have to show them something different." Several students representing the Jackson Madison County School System attended the conference.

The inaugural youth summit featured Jerry Reese, 1987 UT Martin alumnus and former general manager for the New York Giants, as the keynote speaker. While students and participants enjoyed hearing about his experiences at UT Martin and with the New York Giants, Reese also made sure to remind students how important it is to do their best in everything they do. Through examples students could relate to, such as home life and school, Reese encouraged them to be effective and intentional in everything they do to help prepare them for life after high school.

"Best" is when you give 100% to whatever you're doing; 100% of your effort in whatever you're trying to do," Reese said. "'Best' is different from good. 'Good' is the enemy of 'best.' Why settle for 'good' when 'best' is available? 'Best' is always available because you always have the control of giving 100% of your effort. ... This is where your character will be built. Be the best person you can be 100%.

Other presentations were given by Kameron Echols, assistant director of the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development, and Dr. Annie Jones, career counselor; as well as Matthew Marshall, president and CEO of United Way of West Tennessee; Sharron Murden, Northwest district manager of CB&S Bank; Tyreece Miller, United States Marshall; and more. The event was emceed by Civil Watkins Miller, UT Martin alumna and WestStar class of 2019 graduate.
Senior thesis exhibitions at UT-Martin

BAILEY RADNITZER'S SWEETPEA

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin will be presenting two senior thesis exhibitions in the Fine Arts Building Gallery. Senior Bailey Radnitzer’s show is entitled “Happy H(you)man.” Senior Jasmine Williams’ show is entitled “One Day, One Life, One Death.” The exhibitions will be held from March 16 through April 9 at the UT Martin campus located at 103 Fine Arts Building and will be open to the public on weekdays, 1-5 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 17. Facebook Live events will be held online Thursday, March 18, for Ms. Williams and Tuesday, March 23, for Ms. Radnitzer. The public is invited. Masks and social distancing required. For more information, contact Lane Last at 731-881-7489.
DYERSBURG STUDENT RECEIVES MINORITY LEADER'S SCHOLARSHIP AT UT MARTIN

March 17, 2021 @ 8:31 am. Shannon McFarlin

Refugio Polaclos, a junior University of Tennessee at Martin finance major from Dyersburg, is the first recipient of the Minority Leader's Scholarship, sponsored by Commercial Bank and Trust Company in Paris.

The scholarship was created to identify young minority students with strong leadership skills and provide resources to help prepare them for future careers in finance. Scholarship recipients are provided with a monetary reward, as well as training and internship opportunities, which allow students to experience a financial career firsthand.

In photo, from left are Greg Dozier, vice president and loan officer at the Union City branch of Commercial Bank and Trust Company; Tim Shanks, community president at the Union City branch of Commercial Bank and Trust Company; Palacios; Clint Davis, president/chief operating officer at the Paris branch of Commercial Bank and Trust Company; and John Clark, interim director of the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. For more information about the Minority Leader’s Scholarship, contact Clark at 731-881-7324 or jclar138@utm.edu (mailto:jclar138@utm.edu).
UTM business professor says education will help in the fight against Asian American hate crimes

Temi Adeleye
Mar 17, 2021

PADUCAH — Hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are not new, but reported cases have grown since the start of the pandemic.

The Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate Coalition tracked incidents of violence and harassment, and found 3,800 reported acts of discrimination against Asians in the past year.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up about 2% of the population of Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. In Illinois, they make up 6% of the population.

While Asian Americans may not make up a large portion of the population in the Local 6 area, they are our neighbors, and they are seeing the reports of these crimes.

Dr. Christie Chen is a business professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Chen was born in China, later moving to Texas, before moving to Tennessee with her husband.

"It's less diverse here, but people accept me, welcome me, feel I fit in here," said Chen.

She and her husband have seen the news of hate crimes and the protests across the nation.

Her experience in Tennessee is different, seeing kinder and open minded individuals, but there are ways communities can help.

"News can be, showing more positive side about American and Asian people work together, working together," said Chen.

It starts with education.

"We need to teach kids to be to be more open minded, to accept other people," said Chen.

Paducah-McCracken County Second Vice President Corbin Snardon said we should support each other.
"Unfortunately, this isn’t the first time Asian Americans have been discriminated against in this country, and I hate to see a wave of this coming back," said Snardon. "So, I would hope that Black Lives Matter and other movements come together in solidarity to show that this is also wrong, and we need to support our Asian Americans against discrimination."

Chen said it is important to set good examples for children, who are not born with hate in their hearts.

"We have American students that love Korean shows, OK, so they love other cultures, the internet can really help them to improve their view," said Chen.

The change starts with each individual. Snardon said you need to educate yourself.

"I would definitely say get your information straight from the source. Listen twice as much as you speak, or don't speak at all. Pay attention to the things that are going on," said Snardon. "Treat others the way that you would want to be treated. They're not bothering you. They're living their life. If they're doing something that a good American citizen is supposed to be doing, leave them alone."

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up less than 1% of the population in Paducah. Many of those individuals own businesses in the community.

Chen and Snardon said education is the place to start when trying to figure out how to better support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

For more information on where you can find resources on how to support Asian Americans, click the links below.
Nordberg Named Dean Of Paul Meek Library

Dr. Erik Nordberg

Dr. Erik Nordberg has been named the dean of the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library.

Nordberg is joining UT Martin from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he served as dean of the libraries. He earned his doctorate in industrial heritage and archaeology from Michigan Technological University, a master's degree in library science from Wayne State University, a master's degree in Anglo-Irish literature from Trinity College, and a bachelor's degree in humanities from the University of Ulster. Nordberg has also worked at Wayne State University and Michigan Tech in various library leadership roles and served as the executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council.

"I am very fortunate to be here, and I'm excited to get started," Nordberg said. "There is such a sense of pride in what is happening on this campus and a sincere belief by everybody from top to bottom in the mission of engaging and transforming our students. I'm impressed by the high level of academic quality and the excitement about where UTM is heading."

Nordberg found his interest in archives and libraries while completing his undergraduate degree and has worked in academic libraries for 25 years. He says he is excited to help contribute to the Paul Meek Library's dedication to serving students in their academic pursuits and intellectual transformation.

"I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Erik Nordberg, the new dean of Paul Meek Library to the UTM community," wrote Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, in a campus-wide email. For more information about Nordberg's appointment as dean of the Paul Meek Library, contact Nordberg at nordber@utm.edu.

‘Live From the Tent’ Music Events at UT Martin

A past "Live From the Tent" performance is pictured in this image taken near Pacer Pond on the UT Martin campus. Upcoming concerts in March and April will be aired over WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," so audiences can enjoy live music from inside their vehicles. More information is available by contacting the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.

MARTIN (March 9) — The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music is hosting new events for the "Live From the Tent" series, which features live performances near the Pacer Pond parking lot on the main campus. The concerts will be aired over WUTM 90.3 FM "The Hawk," so audiences can enjoy live music from inside their vehicle.

The dates and times for the "Live From the Tent" performances are as follows:

- March 25: Small Jazz Group, 6 p.m.
- April 10: Northwest TN Arts Festival, 11 a.m.
- April 13: Spring Choral Concert, 6 p.m., part of UTM Voice Week
- April 15: Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, 6 p.m.
- April 20: Big Band Concert, 6 p.m.

The scheduled dates for these events are subject to change depending on weather conditions and the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the full "Live From the Tent" schedule, visit www.utm.edu/music/events.

Additional information is also available by contacting the UT Martin Department of Music at 731-881-7402.
From Dust to Dust –

UTM’s Gale Dedicates Life to Soil Science

BY SARAH KNAPP
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN — The impact of her 25 years’ worth of service and dedication to the University of Tennessee at Martin, its students, the community and to scientific research can be found sitting in baskets on the coffee table in Dr. Paula Gale’s home. Each letter and card of appreciation from students, colleagues and friends detailing the influence she had on their lives has brought an unexpected amount of joy to the retired soil scientist as she reflects on her career as a UT Martin faculty member.

While Gale originally studied soil science to work in lab research, a chance to team-teach a soils class while completing her post-doctorate work in Florida led her to a career in higher education she never imagined she would enjoy so much.

“(Teaching) just kind of grew on me. The more students I worked with, the more I liked it,” said Gale. “My favorite part of teaching is the students. They have always been fun, just watching people figure something out or get excited about something. You know, I can take a group of students out and get them excited about a hole in the ground. That’s the fun part about soils is there are those easy entertainment opportunities.”

As a scientist, Gale has dedicated her life to educating students on the importance of soil and has encouraged an entire new generation of soil scientists to discover for themselves the passion she found in her research. Her love of the subject, which encompasses some of her favorite things: the outdoors, chemistry, math and research, is evident in each class she teaches.

“(Soil) is the foundation for everything — we are born from dust, and we will return to dust! Even though we have contact with it every day, it is one of the last great frontiers,” Gale explained.

The exploration of the “last great frontier” has found Gale, and often times her students, in incredible places to discover soils not found in West Tennessee. From Japan to New Zealand to San Antonio and Rhode Island, Gale is sure to gather soil samples where she is allowed to and incorporates it into her classes to enrich each lesson she teaches. She says her most memorable trips with students always include soil judging competitions where they receive hands-on training.

“My favorite thing to do was soil judging because we were outside for the whole week in the fall. The weather is gorgeous, you’re working sunrise to sunset outside. I always look up during that week and go, ‘Gosh, I’m paid to do this!’” Gale said. “It was always fun traveling with students while soil judging. A lot of those trips we have a lot of good stories from.”

While she has traveled the world, including 47 of the 50 U.S. states, she says her favorite soil, just like her home, will always be found right here in West Tennessee.

As the first tenure-track female faculty member in the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, Gale says she is thankful for the support of the university while overcoming challenges as her confidence in her teaching style and her students grew.

However, the biggest challenge Gale has had to face began in 2011 when she was diagnosed with cervical cancer that had metastasized. After a decade-long fight and numerous diagnoses, Gale says learning to rely on the support of her students, colleagues and the university helped her realize what she was capable of achieving.

Having dedicated students working in the soil lab and fellow faculty members helping her continue teaching encouraged her during the hard times and helped her prevail.

“My biggest challenge was probably underestimating myself or my students. There’s been lots of opportunities even with cancer. I’ve been battling it since 2011, but the university has been
great as far as supporting me through the different hurdles that we’ve had to go through with this. Even my colleagues outside of the university have helped me get things done that I had needed to do. So really, I was probably my biggest limitation thinking I couldn’t do something,” said Gale.

“(I realized) that there were people to help me. I’ve got a quote written on my bulletin board upstairs, and it’s something like, ‘Lord give me the strength to let others help me,’” she continued. “There are times when we can be leaders, but there are lots of times when we need other people’s help, that’s probably the biggest thing I’ve learned.”

Now that Gale has fully retired from teaching because of continued health complications, she hopes the 25 years-worth of students she has taught at UT Martin have ultimately become productive and respectful citizens who recognize the importance of soil, regardless of if they pursued a career in agriculture or not.

“It’s fun to see them get jobs in the field, but it’s just fun to see them being good citizens, too, starting a life of their own,” Gale said.

Through the abundance of letters and cards she has received from her students and colleagues, Gale is able to see what kind of lives they have made for themselves and her direct impact on them through her influence and inspiration as an educator and friend.

“These letters... They just say so much. I had no idea,” Gale said. “Oh, I’ve gotten more than I ever dreamed of. I hope it was fun. That shows in these letters.”

As Gale continues to receive and read the heartfelt letters from those in her life, she is thankful for the opportunity to reminisce about the career she loves and the people who have made it memorable.

WestStar Hosts ALStar Summit Conference At UTM

MARTIN (March 4) - The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program hosted 115 high school sophomores from 16 West Tennessee school districts virtually for the inaugural ALStar African American Youth Leadership Summit on March 4.

The ALStar Summit provided African American students in West Tennessee the opportunity to learn from businessmen and women, including several UT Martin alumni, who have made successful careers for themselves in a variety of fields.

Students learned about careers in medicine, technology, social work, politics, nursing, law enforcement, communications among others, as well as the soft skills to help them become well-rounded professionals in whatever career they choose.

“We’re thrilled to have a regional event focus on educating the whole-child,” said Dr. Marlon King, Jackson Madison County School System superintendent.

“Learning opportunities that happen outside of the classroom, like the Virtual African American Youth Leadership Summit, are oftentimes the spark needed to propel students to dream and set goals. If we want them to be different, we have to show them something different.” Several students representing the Jackson Madison County School System attended the conference.

The inaugural youth summit featured Jerry Reese, 1987 UT Martin alumnus and former general manager for the New York Giants, as the keynote speaker.

While students and participants enjoyed hearing about his experiences at UT Martin and with the New York Giants, Reese also made sure to remind students how important it is to do their best in everything they do.

Through examples students could relate to, such as home life and school, Reese encouraged them to be effective and intentional in everything they do to help prepare them for life after high school.

“‘Best’ is when you give 100% to whatever you’re doing; 100% of your effort in whatever you’re trying to do,” Reese said.

“‘Best’ is different from good. ‘Good’ is the enemy of ‘best’. Why settle for ‘good’ when ‘best’ is available?

“’Best’ is always available because you always have the control of giving 100 percent of your effort... This is where your character will be built. Be the best person you can be 100 percent.”

Other presentations were given by Cameron Echols, assistant director of the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development, and Dr. Annie Jones, career counselor, as well as Matthew Marshall, president and CEO of United Way of West Tennessee; Sharron Murden, Northwest district manager of CB&S Bank; Tyrreece Miller, United States Marshall; and more.

The event was emceed by Civil Watkins Miller, UT Martin alumna and WestStar class of 2019 graduate.

For more information about the ALStar Summit, contact Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator, at vggrimes@utm.edu.
UT Martin to open in-person for Fall 2021 semester

The University of Tennessee Martin's main campus and the university's five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley will open fully in-person for the Fall 2021 semester. (Source: KFVS)

By Ashley Smith | March 18, 2021 at 2:12 PM CDT - Updated March 18 at 2:12 PM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee Martin's main campus and the university's five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley will open fully in-person for the Fall 2021 semester.

“We've learned to operate the university safely in this pandemic, and I'm confident in our ability to offer in-person classes and activities as we move forward,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

Additional 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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UT Martin to reopen for in-person classes this fall

March 18, 2021 by Maranda Faris

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin announced plans Thursday for students to return to in-person classes for Fall 2021.

The in-person option for the fall semester applies to the main campus and the regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley, according to a news release.

The university will also host an in-person Spring Preview Day for junior and senior high school students on April 10, the release says. That will be held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The university will also hold Future Skyhawk receptions for students who have been admitted to the university. Those will be held in April in Jackson, Dyersburg, Franklin, Memphis and Martin, the release says.

In-person Summer Orientation and Registration events will begin May 24 and continue through July, according to the release.

Additional information is available through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or the Office of Graduate Studies at (731) 881-7012.
Chamber continues college roundtables

University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor Keith Carver answers questions Wednesday morning during an education roundtable at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. Carver spoke to a group of local education and government leaders for 45 minutes, discussing Henry County students and the collegiate experience in Martin. The chamber will host another education roundtable at 10 a.m. today with Lane College President Logan Hampton as speaker.
The University of Tennessee at Martin has plans to host their seventh annual "I Heart UTM" week from April 5 through April 11, according to a news release.

The events will include in-person and virtual options for students, faculty, staff and alumni, the release says.

Events are currently set as follows:

- **Monday, April 5 – Philanthropy Day**
  - 10 a.m. to noon: SAC Canned Goods Drive
  - 11 a.m.: Flight Crew Pop-Up at the Boling University Center

- **Tuesday, April 6 – Thankful Tuesday**
  - 10 a.m. to noon: Donuts for Donors in the Boling University Center
  - 10 a.m. to noon: Props for Profs in the Boling University Center
  - 9:45 p.m.: Movie Night at Cine

- **Wednesday, April 7 – Hump Day**
  - Noon to 3 p.m.: Petting Zoo in the Quadrangle
  - Virtual Petting Zoom
  - 7 p.m.: SGA Softball Game at Skyhawk Softball Field

- **Thursday, April 8 – Senior Day**
  - 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Senior Drive-Thru at Dunagan Alumni Center
  - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Mr. and Miss UTM Election (this is an online event.)
  - Seniors of Social

- **Friday, April 9 – Community Day**
  - Noon: Skyhawk Creed Celebration at Boling University Center's North Patio
  - 7 p.m.: Skyhawks Got Talent virtual variety talent show

- **Sunday, April 11 – I Heart UTM Finale**
  - 1:30 p.m.: SAC Tailgating at Hardy Graham Stadium
  - Mr. and Miss UTM crowning at halftime
From dust to dust –
Gale dedicates life to soil science

By Sarah Knapp
Special to The Press

The impact of her 25 years-worth of service and dedication to the University of Tennessee at Martin, its students, the community and to scientific research can be found sitting in baskets on the coffee table in Dr. Paula Gale’s home. Each letter and card of appreciation from students, colleagues and friends detailing the influence she had on their lives has brought an unexpected amount of joy to the retired soil scientist as she reflects on her career as a UT Martin faculty member.

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“(Teaching) just kind of grew on me. The more students I worked with, the more I liked it,” said Gale. “My favorite part of teaching is the students. They have always been fun, just watching people figure something out or get excited about something. You know, I can take a group of students out and get them excited about a hole in the ground. ... That’s the fun part about soils is there are those easy entertainment opportunities.”

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After a decade-long fight and numerous diagnoses, Gale says learning to rely on the support of her students, colleagues and the university helped her realize what she was capable of achieving. Having dedicated students working in the soil lab and fellow faculty members helping her continue teaching encouraged her during the hard times and helped her prevail.

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SOIL SCIENTIST RETIRES — After 25 years of teaching soil science at UTM Dr. Paula Gale reflects on her career with affection and satisfaction.

Even my colleagues outside of the university have helped me get things done that I had needed to do. So really, I was probably my biggest limitation thinking I couldn’t do something,” said Gale.

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Martin, Tenn.

—Morton, the UT Martin campus therapy pup, is living his best life under the supervision of his human, Director of Public Safety Monte Belew. Belew is the former Henry County Sheriff and Morton was given to him by Hank Williams Jr. of Paris.

Chancellor Keith Carver noted on his Facebook page this morning that today is National Puppy Day. "Happy NationalPuppyDay (https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/nationalpuppyday? to Morton, our very own campus therapy pup! When you see Morton out on campus today, be sure to give him some extra love and attention (not that he's lacking for any attention...)."

UT Martin photo.

The Messenger, Union City Tennessee, Tuesday, March 23, 2021

RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP — Refugio Palacios, a junior University of Tennessee at Martin finance major from Dyersburg, is the first recipient of the Minority Leader's Scholarship, sponsored by Commercial Bank and Trust Company in Paris. The scholarship was created to identify young minority students with strong leadership skills and provide resources to help prepare them for future careers in finance. Scholarship recipients are provided with a monetary reward, as well as training and internship opportunities, which allow students to experience a financial career firsthand. On hand for the scholarship presentation were (from left) Greg Dozier, vice president and loan officer at the Union City branch of Commercial Bank and Trust Company; Tim Shanks, community president at the Union City branch of Commercial Bank and Trust Company; Palacios; Clint Davis, president/chief operating officer at the Paris branch of Commercial Bank and Trust Company; and John Clark, interim director of the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.
**Students drawn to ALStar summit held at UT Martin**

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The event was emceed by Civil Watkins Miller, UT Martin alumna and WestStar class of 2019 graduate.

For more information about the summit, contact coordinator Virginia Grimes at vgrimes@utm.edu.

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**UT Martin going all in-person for the fall**

The University of Tennessee at Martin will open fully in person for students who attend the university in the fall.

The in-person opening for fall semester applies to the main campus in Martin and the university’s regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

“We’ve learned to operate the university safely in this pandemic, and I’m confident in our ability to offer in-person classes and activities as we move forward,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

In addition to an in-person fall semester, the university will host an in-person Spring Preview Day for junior and senior high school students at 8:30 a.m. April 10, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is also holding Future Skyhawk Receptions for admitted students during April in Jackson, Dyersburg, Franklin, Memphis and Martin. In-person Summer Orientation and Registration events will begin May 24 and continue through July.

Additional 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 students present research at conference

MARTIN — Two University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences students were selected to present research at the fifth International Conference on Climate Change 2021, which was held virtually Feb. 18-19.

Anna Gafford, a junior agribusiness major from Smyrna, and Montana Wright, a junior veterinary health technology major from Murfreesboro, are undergraduate student researchers for the UT Martin - Murray State Climate Literacy for Agriculture and Sustainable Societies initiative, which is led by UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics Dr. Rachna Tewari, professor of agricultural economics Dr. Joey Mehlhorn and professor of geology Dr. Mark Simpson. This project is supported in part by the capacity-building grants of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Gafford presented her peer-reviewed paper, “An Initial Study on Calculating Carbon Emissions from Agricultural Production in West Tennessee,” which was co-authored by Dr. Tewari. Ms. Gafford explained there is little-to-no existing research in West Tennessee focusing on reducing carbon emissions through cropping practices.

“Carbon emissions from various sectors, including agriculture, lead to an increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which contributes to climate change. This study aims to determine which tillage practice among conventional and no-till leads to a greater carbon footprint,” Ms. Gafford said. “This research also studies different management practices that help sequester carbon in the soil. Soil carbon sequestration helps mitigate the long-term effects of climate change, which will reduce the agricultural sector’s net carbon footprint.”

Ms. Wright also presented her peer-reviewed paper, “The Application and Benefits of Climate Data in Research,” which was also co-authored by Dr. Tewari. According to Ms. Wright, since the climate is changing, it is imperative societies find innovative ways to understand and study fluctuating weather patterns.

“Climate data has the opportunity to be a critical resource that allows stakeholders and the mass population to understand and potentially predict a changing climate,” Ms. Wright said. “Understanding the appropriate application and use of climate data allows both the global research community as well as the mass population to have the ability to understand and analyze the data and opens opportunities to collaborate both globally and nationally for projects that are beneficial to society.”

For more information about the papers and presentations, contact Dr. Tewari at rtewari@utm.edu.
University of Tennessee at Martin students recognized for climate change research

SUBMITTED
Mar 24, 2021

Two University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences students from Rutherford County were selected to present research at the fifth International Conference on Climate Change 2021, which was held virtually last month.

Anna Gafford, a junior agribusiness major from Smyrna, and Montana Wright, a junior veterinary health technology major from Murfreesboro, are undergraduate student researchers for the UT Martin - Murray State Climate Literacy for Agriculture and Sustainable Societies initiative.

Gafford presented her peer-reviewed paper, “An Initial Study on Calculating Carbon Emissions from Agricultural Production in West Tennessee,” which was co-authored by UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics Dr. Rachna Tewari. Gafford explained there is little-to-no existing research in West Tennessee focusing on reducing carbon emissions through cropping practices.

“Carbon emissions from various sectors, including agriculture, lead to an increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which contributes to climate change. This study aims to determine which tillage practice among conventional and no-till leads to a greater carbon footprint,” Gafford said. “This research also studies different management practices that help sequester carbon in the soil. Soil carbon sequestration helps mitigate the long-term effects of climate change, which will reduce the agricultural sector’s net carbon footprint.”

Wright presented her peer-reviewed paper, “The Application and Benefits of Climate Data in Research,” which was also co-authored by Tewari. According to Wright, because the climate is changing, it is imperative societies find innovative ways to understand and study fluctuating weather patterns.
“Climate data has the opportunity to be a critical resource that allows stakeholders and the mass population to understand and potentially predict a changing climate,” Wright said. “Understanding the appropriate application and use of climate data allows both the global research community as well as the mass population to have the ability to understand and analyze the data and opens opportunities to collaborate both globally and nationally for projects that are beneficial to society.”
Weakley County Schools Art Show To Be Included in Area Arts Festival

BY KAREN CAMPBELL
Weakley County Schools Communications Director

WEAKLEY COUNTY (March 19) - Though last year’s inaugural Weakley County Schools Art Show successfully showcased nearly 200 students’ creative expressions, the possibility of repeating the visual art-focused event was in question for 2021. COVID-19 safety protocols prohibited the up-close-and-personal gallery-type experience of 2020.

Then Weakley Arts Can proved to be worthy of its name. The small group of arts-in-the-schools advocates, many of whom are also on staff in the University of Tennessee at Martin Music Department, determined that the UTM model of “Live from the Tent” events would be a viable approach to celebrate music, theater, and dance. And when they learned of the need for a visual art platform, they quickly said, “We can!” and added the Weakley County Schools Art Show.

The Northwest Tennessee Arts Festival was born.

The event will utilize UTM Music’s large performance tent which can accommodate both a stage and socially-distanced viewing as well as high definition streamed video and audio projection for those enjoying productions from the adjacent parking lot or from their homes on UTM Music’s Facebook page.

A second tent donated by the UTM Alumni Center and UTM Music will be installed to accommodate the top three painting, drawing, photography and 3D/sculpture/mixed media submissions from each school in Weakley County.

Set for April 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outdoors near UTM Pacer Pond, the celebration of all things artistic will close the online application process on March 27. Already, organizers report that area singers, bands, dramatists, and dance groups of all ages have applied. Though the event includes the schools’ visual art show, the festival is open to performers of all ages.

“Sharing the resources that have allowed our UTM music students to continue to learn and grow when so many classes had to be online allowed us to maximize our investment and continue to support local arts,” said Dr. Julie Hill, chair of the UTM Music Department, and also co-president of Weakley Arts Can with Katie Mantooth.

Once the art show was set, schools began to plan for how to promote and secure entries from kindergarten - 2nd grades; 3rd - 5th grades; 6th - 8th grades; and 9th - 12th grades. The deadline for those submissions is March 26. Schools will select their top three in each age band and category and those entries will be shown at the outdoor festival. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place county winners will be announced at noon on April 10.

“We are very grateful to Weakley Arts Can and UTM Music for their support of our students,” said WCS Director Randy Frazier. “Not only will our young artists have a way to show their work, but several of our other students will be able to take the stage safely before a live audience and perform. Like so many of our successes during this very unusual year, we are dependent upon community support, and these great arts advocates have come through for us in a big way,” he added.

The live performances will also be broadcast on WUTM 90.3 FM.
BY SARAH KNAPP
UTM University Relations

MARTIN (March 16) — Two University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences students were selected to present research at the fifth International Conference on Climate Change 2021, which was held virtually February 18-19.

Anna Gafford, a junior agriculture major from Smyrna, and Montana Wright, a junior veterinary health technology major from Murfreesboro, are undergraduate student researchers for the UT Martin – Murray State Climate Literacy for Agriculture and Sustainable Societies Initiative, which is led by UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics Dr. Rachna Tewari, professor of agricultural economics Dr. Joey Mehlihorn and professor of geology Dr. Mark Simpson. This project is supported in part by the capacity-building grants of the United States Department of Agriculture. Gafford presented her peer-reviewed paper, “An Initial Study on Calculating Carbon Emissions from Agricultural Production in West Tennessee,” which was co-authored by Tewari. Gafford explained there is little to-no existing research in West Tennessee focusing on reducing carbon emissions through cropping practices.

“Carbon emissions from various sectors, including agriculture, lead to an increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which contributes to climate change. This study aims to determine which tillage practice among conventional and no-till leads to a greater carbon footprint,” Gafford said. “This research also studies different management practices that help sequester carbon in the soil. Soil carbon sequestration helps mitigate the long-term effects of climate change, which will reduce the agricultural sector’s net carbon footprint.”

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UTM OFFERING ACT PREP

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses to help students prepare for the test. The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips in a two-hour Zoom session from 5 – 7 p.m. The Math and Science Reasoning courses are April 6, and the English and Reading courses are April 8.

Registration for each workshop costs $30. Students will need access to a computer that can connect to Zoom through audio and video. To register, visit utm.edu/actprep.
The University of Tennessee at Martin will open fully in person for students who attend the university in fall 2021.

The in-person opening for fall semester applies to the main campus and the university's five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

"We've learned to operate the university safely in this pandemic, and I'm confident in our ability to offer in-person classes and activities as we move forward," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

In addition to an in-person fall semester, the university will host an in-person Spring Preview Day for junior and senior high school students, 8:30 a.m., April 10th, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is also holding Future Skyhawk Receptions for admitted students during April in Jackson, Dyersburg, Franklin, Memphis and Martin.

In-person Summer Orientation and Registration events will begin May 24th and continue through July.

Additional 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.

The University of Tennessee at Martin released a new specialty license plate that features the new Skyhawk attack logo created by DVL Seigenthaler, the Nashville office of global marketing and communications firm Finn Partners. The license plate was designed by the UTM Office of University Relations Design Coordinator Beth Bodwell.

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

The license plate design was selected through a university-wide survey conducted last fall to update the previous plate, which debuted in 2003. Of the three options provided in the survey, the tri-stripe plate with the attack logo, received over 40 percent of the votes.

The license plates are available for purchase to Tennessee residents at local county clerk offices upon request. The plate costs an additional $36 to renew annually, and proceeds from each purchase benefit the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Tennessee Highway Fund.

For more information about the UT Martin license plate, visit the Tennessee Department of Revenue website or contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UT Martin hosts in-person Spring Preview Day April 10

The UT Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions is hosting an in-person Spring Preview Day April 10 for high school juniors and seniors interested in UT Martin.

The event will be held from 9:00 until noon in the Elam Center.

In compliance with CDC guidelines, each student can have only one guest attend the event, masks are required to be worn at all times, and social distancing will be practiced.

There is no charge to attend preview day, but students are required to register at utm.edu/previewday.

UTM Director of Admissions Destin Tucker says, "While we’ve been conducting small-group tours since June, we know that a weekend preview day program provides an opportunity for more students to see what UT Martin has to offer."

Check-in begins at 9:00 in the Elam Center, during which there will be an open-information fair featuring representatives from offices across campus. The students will then receive an official welcome from UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and the admissions staff at 9:45.

At 10:15, students will attend a question and answer panel with current students to learn more about college life until 11:00, when students will be able to tour the campus in small groups.

For more information, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 731-881-7020 or admitme@utm.edu.
Ryan Ridder named new Skyhawk men’s basketball coach

LOCAL SPORTS - https://www.thunderboltradio.com/category/local-sports/<

Steve James - https://www.thunderboltradio.com/author/stevejames/<

March 30, 2021 0

Athletic director Kurt McGuffin has announced the hiring of Ryan Ridder as the University of Tennessee at Martin head men’s basketball coach.

A formal meet-and-greet event with Ridder, his wife Jen and daughters Brixton and Remi will be held on campus next week with more details to follow.

“I am beyond thrilled to welcome Ryan, Jen and their young family to Martin,” McGuffin said. “Ryan is the son of a highly successful coach and has grown up in the business. I am confident that he has the game plan to take our program to another level. He has shown to be a builder of programs and does this with the highest integrity — getting all he can out of his players in every situation his career has led him. I believe the Skyhawk fan base will enjoy his energy and passion — he is simply a winner.”

“Ryan’s track record as a proven winner speaks volumes,” UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. “He is a basketball lifer who has vast experience in building up programs. I am impressed by his vision he has set for UT Martin and we are confident that he is a great fit for not just the Skyhawk athletic department but for the entire community.”

Ridder joins the Skyhawks after four successful seasons as head coach at Bethune-Cookman University, a NCAA Division I member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. During his tenure in Daytona Beach, Fla., Ridder set numerous school records, posted a .646 winning percentage in league play and won the 2017-18 MEAC regular season championship.

A Lexington, Ky. native, Ridder owns a 143-73 record as a collegiate head coach, which also includes four seasons at Daytona State College. He boasted the most wins (48) in the first three years in Bethune-Cockman history before the school opted out of all sports for the 2020-21 campaign. From 2017-20, Ridder’s Wildcat squads posted a winning MEAC record for three consecutive seasons for the first time in school history, going 31-17 during that span.
"First, I would like to thank our Chancellor, Dr. Keith Carver and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Kurt McGuffin for their trust in me and the opportunity to lead the men's basketball program at UT Martin," Ridder said. "Our family is excited and looking forward to building relationships with the campus and community. We are fired up to work together to build a program that reflects the special people of Martin and the university."

Ridder's debut season as a Division I head coach was historical as he helped guide Bethune-Cookman to just the second MEAC regular season championship in its 38-year history. For his efforts, he was named the Joe B. Hall Award winner, defeating candidates from schools such as Miami, Louisville, Oklahoma State and Washington for the honor that recognizes the top first-year head coach in the Division I ranks.

Overall, Ridder tutored five All-MEAC players, one MEAC Player of the Year, two MEAC Defensive Players of the Year and one MEAC All-Rookie team member at Bethune-Cookman. He led the Wildcats to their first-ever win over a Conference USA opponent (FAU) and increased the school's NCAA RPI rating by over 60 points while in charge of the program.

Ridder, 36, began his head coaching career in 2013-14 at Daytona State College – accumulating a 95-28 overall record at the NJCAA level. He brought home Mid-Florida Conference championships in each of his four seasons after inheriting a program that went 6-25 during the previous season.

The Falcons were consistently ranked regionally and nationally under Ridder as he earned four consecutive conference Coach of the Year accolades. He mentored 25 all-conference performers, 16 players who advanced to play at four-year institutions and two NJCAA All-Americans while boasting a 96 percent graduation rate amongst his student-athletes.

Ridder got his start at the Division II level with three seasons as an assistant working under head coach Robbie Laing at Campbell University, located in Buies Creek, NC. He was an integral part of a Fighting Camels staff that signed the highest ranked recruiting class (64th nationally) in the ASUN Conference in 2013-14.

By the time Ridder departed to accept his first head coaching gig, Campbell was tabbed as the Big South Conference preseason favorite and had defeated Power 5 opponents such as Iowa and Auburn. The Fighting Camels got off to their best start in school history in 2011-12 and produced the Big South Freshman of the Year.

Ridder's first collegiate job came at Embry-Riddle University, where he was a volunteer assistant under his father Steve Ridder in 2009-10. The Eagles collected a 30-6 overall record and continued its tradition as a national college basketball powerhouse at the NAIA Division II level. Steve is still the head coach at Embry-Riddle and has tallied 716 career victories to go along with a .708 winning percentage (ninth-best amongst active head collegiate coaches with at least 600 career wins).

Ridder began his collegiate playing career at the College of Wooster in 2003-05 before finishing up under his father at Embry-Riddle. After graduating with a degree in aerospace studies in 2008, he moved to North Carolina to embark on a coaching career. He was an assistant at North Raleigh Christian, trained youth players while working for the Hoop City U basketball training academy and additionally was the head coach for numerous teams engaged in international competition with 365 Sports for the 2008-09 academic year. He earned his Master's degree in sport management with a concentration in intercollegiate athletic administration from California University of Pennsylvania in 2009.
University of Tennessee at Martin will open fully in person for fall

By Kevin Morris - March 29, 2021

The University of Tennessee at Martin will open fully in person for students who attend the university in fall 2021. The in-person opening for fall semester applies to the main campus and the university's five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

"We've learned to operate the university safely in this pandemic, and I'm confident in our ability to offer in-person classes and activities as we move forward," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

In addition to an in-person fall semester, the university will host an in-person Spring Preview Day for junior and senior high school students, 8:30 a.m., April 10, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is also holding Future Skyhawk Receptions for admitted students during April in Jackson, Dyersburg, Franklin, Memphis and Martin. In-person Summer Orientation and Registration events will begin May 24 and continue through July.

Additional 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.

UT Martin names new head men's basketball coach

Ryan Ridder, 36, will join the Skyhawks after four seasons as head coach at Bethune-Cookman University. (Source: KFVS)

By Amber Ruch | March 30, 2021 at 5:51 PM CDT - Updated March 30 at 5:51 PM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) – The athletic director at the University of Tennessee at Martin announced a new head men's basketball coach.

Athletic Director Kurt McGuffin announced on Tuesday, March 30 that Ryan Ridder will take over the position.

A formal meet-and-greet with Ridder and his family will be held on campus next week.

"I am beyond thrilled to welcome Ryan, Jen and their young family to Martin," McGuffin said. "Ryan is the son of a highly successful coach and has grown up in the business. I am confident that he has the game plan to take our program to another level. He has shown to be a builder of programs and does this with the highest integrity – getting all he can out of his players in every situation his career has led him. I believe the Skyhawk fan base will enjoy his energy and passion – he is simply a winner."

Ridder, 36, will join the Skyhawks after four seasons as head coach at Bethune-Cookman University, a NCAA Division I member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

A Lexington, Kentucky native, Ridder has a 143-73 record as a collegiate head coach, which also includes four seasons at Daytona State College.
MARTIN, Tenn. -- UT Martin has hired Ryan Ridder as the Skyhawks' new men's basketball coach.

Athletic director Kurt McGuffin announced the hiring Tuesday, and Ridder will be introduced next week on campus.

Ridder, 36, spent the past four seasons at Bethune-Cookman in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. He had a 64.6% winning percentage in league play and won the 2017-18 MEAC regular-season title. He had 48 wins at Bethune-Cookman before the school opted out of all sports for the 2020-21 seasons.

He won the Joe B. Hall Award in 2018 after leading Bethune-Cookman to its second MEAC regular season title in its 38-year history.

The native of Lexington, Kentucky, has a 143-73 record as a head coach including four seasons at Daytona State College.

He played at the College of Wooster before finishing his playing career under his father, Steve, in NAIA Division II. Ridder worked as an assistant at North Raleigh Christian in North Carolina in 2008 and was a volunteer assistant for his father from 2009 to 2010.

Ridder started in Division I with three seasons as an assistant at Campbell.
UTM students present research at international conference

Two University of Tennessee at Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences students were selected to present research at the fifth International Conference on Climate Change 2021, which was held virtually Feb. 18-19.

Anna Gafford, a junior agribusiness major from Smyrna, and Montana Wright, a junior veterinary health technology major from Murfreesboro, are undergraduate student researchers for the UT Martin – Murray State Climate Literacy for Agriculture and Sustainable Societies initiative, which is led by UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics Dr. Rachna Tewari, professor of agricultural economics Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, and professor of geology Dr. Mark Simpson.

This project is supported in part by the capacity-building grants of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Gafford presented her peer-reviewed paper, "An Initial Study on Calculating Carbon Emissions from Agricultural Production in West Tennessee," which was co-authored by Tewari. Gafford explained there is little-to-no existing research in West Tennessee focusing on reducing carbon emissions through cropping practices.

"Carbon emissions from various sectors, including agriculture, lead to an increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which contributes to climate change," Gafford said. "This study aims to determine which tillage practice among conventional and no-till leads to a greater carbon footprint. This research also studies different management practices that help sequester carbon in the soil. Soil carbon sequestration helps mitigate the long-term effects of climate change, which will reduce the agricultural sector's net carbon footprint."

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"Climate data has the opportunity to be a critical resource that allows stakeholders and the mass population to understand and potentially predict a changing climate," Wright said.
Community benefits from UTM's agriculture history

By Morgan Summerlin

I recently had the opportunity of speaking with Dr. Wes Totten, a Plant and Soil Science professor at the University of Tennessee Martin. Totten is also the department chair of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources.

In celebration of National Ag Week, Dr. Totten shared with me an insight on the history of UTM’s Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources Department and the impact it has had throughout both the campus and the Martin community.

“It has a multifaceted department these days,” Totten said. “It has changed so much since I arrived in 2007 and has been blessed with tremendous growth.”

Both the department’s student population and departmental footprint have significantly increased. According to Totten, the department’s student population has expanded from approximately 500 students in 2007 to approximately 1,200 students today, as the interest and career opportunities in agricultural and applied sciences has increased.

One of the reasons for this success is that the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources is it has students utilizing their teaching and demonstration farm that is approximately 700 acres in size.

“The farm allows us to teach hands-on education which students enjoy and benefit from,” Totten said.

UT Martin has offered the teaching of agriculture dating as far back to the founding of UT Junior College in 1927. The department offers four bachelor of science degrees, including agriculture, agricultural business, geoscience, and natural resources management. The department also offers various minors and certifications for students.

UT Martin’s Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources has been involved throughout campus life by hosting special events on campus, such as sponsoring a petting zoo and agriculture display during homecoming week, animal adoption events, Weakley County Farm Day, as well as Soybean Festival events and co-sponsoring Martin Beautiful’s spring seminar series.

The Department has also participated in events with local schools by providing demonstrations using their Mobile Energy Trailer display.

Due to this past year’s given circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources has been unable to participate in such events in celebration of National Ag week, but are still actively working to interact with future agriculturists via zoom calls and through other online outlets like dual enrollment courses.

“We are still doing some school visits, but with the conditions of this school year, many of our visits with schools have remained virtual,” Totten said.

Dr. Totten concluded our conversation by expressing his love for the department and what led him to be where he is today within his chosen career path.

“During the last year of my bachelor’s degree at Auburn University, I took an arboriculture class with a particular professor, Dr. Harry Ponder,” Totten said. “This class experience was a blessing to me and changed my life. At that point, I decided that was what I wanted to do. I wanted to teach young people in the field of agriculture and to help them kindle success like he did for me.”
Michele and David Jarrett (center) were presented the Rising Star Award by Landy Fuqua, Director of the UT Martin REED Center. The Jarretts were joined by (left to right): floral assistant Kim Chapman and children Morgan Richards, Zachary and Evan Jarrett.

McKenzie City Florist Honored With Rising Star Award

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (March 25) — In 2016, David and Michele Jarrett put their entrepreneurial spirit in high gear as they opened McKenzie City Florist & More. Fast forward four years, the Jarretts are celebrating their successful endeavors and were recently presented the Rising Star Award from the Regional Tennessee Small Business Development Center. The Jarretts were joined by family members, city officials as Landy Fuqua, director of the TSBD at the UT Martin REED Center, made the presentation.

In celebration of National SBDC Day, Fuqua explained the significance of the award. “The Rising Star Award is given annually to a business that best exemplifies not only business success, but an outstanding working relationship with our center and the utilization of the services it provides. In presenting the award, we recognize the entrepreneurial spirit of the business owners and their tenacity in growing and developing their business, while engaging the community to create a positive economic impact in the region. It is with great pleasure, we are presenting David and Michele Jarrett, owners of McKenzie City Florist & More, LLC, with the 2020 SBDC Rising Star Award.”

On receiving the award, McKenzie City Florist published the following comment. “We are so honored to accept the 2020 Rising Star Award from the Small Business Development Center. This shop has been a vision brought to life by our owners, David and Michele. They have put their heart and soul into building up this business along with the help of their staff and family. Huge thank you to everyone who believed in us and supported us on this journey. Our hearts are humbled and full of gratitude.”

After 30 years of full-time service in the Tennessee National Guard and retiring with the rank of master sergeant, David began looking for another outlet. This led the Jarrett family to meet with TSBD at the REED Center. David and Michele worked for months building a viable business plan and model. Throughout the planning stages, Director Fuqua learned David has “tenacity” but also the heart of a warrior. She asked why a retired military man would want to open a floral boutique. David’s answer was simple, “My wife loves flowers,” which showed his true love for Michele.

Since early 2020, David has battled against a brain tumor. There have been many highs and lows in his fight. While Michele and David have been away from their business for treatments and surgeries, their three children, Morgan, Zach and Evan have worked in their parents’ stead. The Jarretts’ family business is a true representation of David’s warrior spirit and heart but Michele’s too. The Banner Staff congratulates them on their success and hopes for many more years to come.
‘I Heart UTM’ week starts Monday

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the seventh annual “I Heart UTM” week Monday through April 11 to celebrate Skyhawk pride and community support.

The 2021 “I Heart UTM” week will feature in-person and virtual events for students, faculty, staff and alumni.

“I Heart UTM” week encourages students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community to show and display campus pride,” said Jackie Johnson, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations and annual giving. “Through unique T-shirts, events and social media fun, the UTM family is encouraged to join in on the fun and display their Skyhawk spirit.”

“I Heart UTM” week was planned by the Student Alumni Council and Bethany Hart, assistant director for alumni relations and annual giving.

“I Heart UTM” T-shirts, which showcase the most iconic UT Martin features, are also available for purchase at alumni.utm.edu/iheartutm.

Next week’s schedule includes:

**Monday:**
- **Philanthropy Day**
  - SAC Canned Goods Drive: 10 a.m.-noon, Dunagan Alumni Center. The first 150 students who donate at least five canned goods to Captain’s Pantry will receive a complimentary “I Heart UTM” tank top.
  - Flight Crew Pop-up: 11 a.m., Boling University Center. The UT Martin Flight Crew will give away UT Martin baseball caps while supplies last.
  - Thank-a-Hawk: Members of the UT Martin community are encouraged to share who has made a lasting impact in their life on social media using the hashtags #hawkup and #iheartutm.

**April 6:**
- **Thankful Tuesday**
  - Donuts for Donors: 10 a.m.-noon, Boling University Center. Students who write a thank-you card to a UT Martin donor can receive a donut or fruit, as well as “I Heart UTM” swag.
  - Props for Pros: Students and alumni are encouraged to share photos with their favorite faculty members on social media using the hashtags #propsforprofs. Students can also stop by the Boling University Center from 10 a.m.-noon to write a note to their favorite faculty members, which will be delivered with muffins.
  - Movie Night at Cine: 9:45 p.m. Ciné movie theater. The UT Martin Flight Crew is hosting a free viewing of “Godzilla vs. Kong” for students.

**April 7:**
- **Hump Day**
  - Petting zoo for students: Noon-3 p.m., the Quadrangle. UT Martin campus community members can ride camels and visit the petting zoo hosted in the quad.
  - Virtual petting zoo: Students, alumni, faculty and staff are all encouraged to submit photos of their pets on social media using the hashtag #skyhawk pets to be entered in a cutest pet competition.
  - SGA softball game: 7 p.m., Skyhawk Softball Field. The Student Government Association will host a Faculty/Staff vs. Students softball game.

**April 8:**
- **Senior Day**
  - Senior Drive-Thru: 8-10 a.m., Dunagan Alumni Center. Seniors planning to graduate in both May and December can pick up blueberry muffins and Orange Crush sodas. Seniors who donate $20.21 to the Senior Gift Campaign will receive a green giving cord to wear during commencement.
  - Seniors of Social: Graduating seniors are encouraged to share their favorite UT Martin memories with the hashtag #utm-seniorday to show their Skyhawk pride.
  - Mr. and Miss UTM Election: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Student Government Association is sponsoring an election to crown Mr. and Miss UTM, which will be held online at utm.edu/election.

**April 9:**
- **Community Day**
  - Skyhawk Creed Celebration: Noon, Boling University Center North Patio. Students are invited to celebrate the Skyhawk Creed with food, music and free T-shirt giveaways.
  - Skyhawks Got Talent: 7 p.m. The Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs and Flight Crew are hosting a virtual variety talent show.

**April 11:**
- **I Heart UTM Finale**
  - SAC Tailgating: 1:30 p.m., Hardy Graham Stadium. Students are invited to stop by the Student Alumni Council tent at the UT Martin vs. Tennessee Tech football game for fun swag.
  - Mr. and Miss UTM: Mr. and Miss UTM will be crowned during halftime at the UT Martin vs. Tennessee Tech football game.
AT HOME AT UTM — University of Tennessee at Martin students (from left) Tefry Bingham, Emma Bruner and Kinleigh Harris participated in last year’s “I Heart UTM” week festivities. This year’s event is planned for Monday through April 11 to celebrate Skyhawk pride and community support. The 2021 “I Heart UTM” week will feature in-person and virtual events for students, faculty, staff and alumni.

ARTS FESTIVAL — University of Tennessee at Martin students recently performed during a Live from the Tent event on the university campus. The Department of Music is partnering with Weakley County Schools and Weakley Arts Can to host the Northwest Tennessee Arts Festival from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. April 10 at the tent near Pacer Pond.

UTM music department co-hosts arts festival

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music, in partnership with the Weakley County Schools and Weakley Arts Can, is hosting the Northwest Tennessee Arts Festival from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. April 10 at the tent near Pacer Pond.

The outdoor event was created to promote K-12 and higher education performances and visual arts throughout northwest Tennessee. The festival will feature live performances in music, theater and dance, as well as visual art exhibitions and the Weakley County Art Show Competition.

“The UTM Department of Music is very proud to partner with the Weakley County Schools and local arts organization Weakley Arts Can, whose leaders all recognize the significance of supporting the arts, in hosting the inaugural Northwest Tennessee Arts Festival,” said Dr. Julie Hill, Department of Music chair. “This is truly a collaborative effort with a mission to celebrate talented artists in our region while providing a safe and fun opportunity for arts enthusiasts to come out and support them.”

The festival is free and open to the public. Masks are required. Sodexo will have food and drinks available for purchase for $10 with cash or checks. For more information, contact the Department of Music at (731) 881-7402.
UT Martin will host in-person preview day

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Undergraduate Admissions is hosting an in-person Spring Preview Day April 10 for high school juniors and seniors interested in UT Martin.

The event will be held from 9 a.m.-noon in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Each student can have only one guest attend the event in compliance with CDC guidelines. Face masks are required to be worn at all times, and social distancing will be practiced.

There is no charge to attend preview day, but students are required to register at utm.edu/previewday.

"We look forward to hosting Spring Preview Day in our Elam Center that allows plenty of room to adhere to social distancing guidelines," said Destin Tucker, director of admissions. "While we have been conducting small-group tours since June, we know that a weekend preview day program provides an opportunity for more students to see what UT Martin has to offer."

Check-in begins at 9 a.m. in the Elam Center, during which there will be an open-information fair featuring representatives from offices across campus. The students will then receive an official welcome from UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and the admissions staff at 9:45.

At 10:15 a.m., students will attend a question-and-answer panel with current students to learn more about college life until 11 a.m. when students will be able to tour the campus in small groups.

UT Martin to Open Fully In Person for the Fall Semester 2021

The University of Tennessee at Martin will open fully in person for students who attend the university in Fall 2021. The in-person opening for Fall Semester applies to the Main Campus and the university’s five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Somerville and Ripley.

"We’ve learned to operate the university safely in this pandemic, and I’m confident in our ability to offer in-person classes and activities as we move forward," said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin Chancellor.

In addition to an in-person Fall Semester, the university will host an in-person Spring Preview Day for Junior and Senior High School students, 8:30 a.m., April 10, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is also holding Future Skyhawk Receptions for admitted students during April in Jackson, Dyersburg, Franklin, Memphis and Martin. In-person Summer Orientation and Registration Events will begin May 24 and continue through July.

Additional 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 sets Spring Preview

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UTM OFFERING ACT PREP

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is offering a series of online ACT prep courses to help students prepare for the test. The ACT Success Tactics Workshops will teach students time-saving and strategic tips in a two-hour Zoom session from 5 – 7 p.m. The Math and Science Reasoning courses are April 6, and the English and Reading courses are April 8.

Registration for each workshop costs $30. Students will need access to a computer that can connect to Zoom through audio and video. To register, visit utm.edu/actprep.
Local universities share role vaccinations will play in in-person fall semester

Abisola Adeyemo
Mar 31, 2021

MURRAY, KY — Local universities are gearing up for an in-person fall semester, and vaccines are helping them get there.

Murray State University is encouraging their students to sign up for appointments through the regional site at the CFSB Center, which is also open to the public. The University Tennessee at Martin is planning to hold one before the end of the semester. West Kentucky Community and Technical College won't be holding any clinics.

Murray State is still determining if vaccination will be mandatory for students to return in person.

This fall, more Murray State students will be walking around campus for in-person classes. Sophomore Skyler Stewart is relieved to get back.

"It's definitely had more stress on the semester, and on trying to get everything completed," Stewart said of online classes.

Stewart will get her shot on campus Thursday.

"It didn't really seem like that hard of a decision, personally," Stewart said. "Just, for not only the health of me, but also the students around me — for us to all get the vaccination, so we can move on from this pandemic and get closer to what was normal life before."

With students returning in person for the fall, the university will still follow public health guidance and take precautions to make sure students are returning safely.

Murray State sophomore Coleby McDonnel lost family friends to COVID-19. He believes the vaccines should be required to keep students and staff protected on campus.

"I think it would be a very safe idea for the student body to become vaccinated to hold back any further unnecessary fatalities," McDonnel said.

Stewart hopes every student who can get a shot does.

UT Martin will not require vaccinations. The university does strongly encourage it, though.

UT Martin plans to hold its on-campus vaccination clinic with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine before the end of the semester.

Abisola Adeyemo