UT Martin to host virtual Veterans Day ceremony

By Amber Ruch | November 3, 2020 at 11:31 AM CST - Updated November 3 at 11:31 AM

MARTIN, Tenn. (KFVS) - The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Veterans Affairs will host a virtual Veterans Day ceremony.

The ceremony will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11 to honor the service of all veterans in the Martin community.

It will feature:

- Pre-recorded videos of the American Legion Post 55 presenting the colors
- Dr. John Oelrich, assistant professor of music, and the Skyhawk String Ensemble performing a patriotic melody
- Message from UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver
- Tribute to service by the UT Martin faculty and staff
- Poem presented by James Avant, sophomore psychology major at UT Martin Somerville Center
- Remarks by UT Martin Veteran Services Coordinator Jason Earley and Veteran Benefits Specialist Marcus VanCleave

The guest speaker will be Justin Johnson, U.S. Marine and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network regional director for Memphis and Shelby County.

Music programs slated

The department of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin has announced the following musical programs:

- Percussion Ensemble Concert at 8 tonight. It will be available on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube pages.
- Live from the Tent: Concert Band & Wind Ensemble will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. It will be a free drive-in performance; will be livestreamed on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube pages and may be listened to live on WUTM 90.3.
- UTM Sessions Night: "Fast, Cheap and Out of Control, Steven Snowden" will be Thursday at 8 p.m. It will be available on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube pages.

To learn more, visit utm.edu/musicevents.

Aviators concert scheduled

The University of Tennessee at Martin Aviators Marching Band will host a "Last Blast" concert 3 p.m. Saturday at the tent in Pacer Pond parking lot.

The concert will be the first time the Aviators will perform in their new uniforms, unveiled in March, as well as with new Yamaha drumline equipment.

The drive-in concert is open to the public, with no admission fee. It will also be livestreamed on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube accounts as well as WUTM 90.3 FM.
UTM named fall 2020 outstanding employee award recipients

Destin Tucker, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and Sheay McGehee, administrative assistant to the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, are the fall 2020 recipients of the Outstanding Employee Awards for their dedication and service to the UT Martin community.

Tucker has served as the director of admissions since 2016 and oversees the recruitment and enrollment of new undergraduate students, campus tours and recruiting events, as well as Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR).

“Destin is a doer. She doesn’t just plan ‘things, she takes action and does whatever is needed to achieve success, and we have witnessed many successful outcomes due to her determination,” read Tucker’s nomination letter.

McGehee has worked in the English and Modern Foreign Language office since 2013 and is responsible for assisting faculty members with whatever needs to be accomplished, supervises the student workers and assists the Hortense Parrish Writing Center with administrative needs. She has also helped organize the Young Writer’s Conference for many years.

“Her experience, expertise and administrative acumen have made her indispensable to the chair and faculty in EMFL. ... Going above and beyond the call of duty is just a normal day’s work for her,” read McGehee’s nomination letter.

Chancellor Keith Carver surprised both recipients with their plaques, which are normally awarded to the recipients each fall and spring during the clerical and support staff coffee. The event was not held this fall because of the pandemic.

UTM Outstanding Employee Awards are given to one exempt and one nonexempt employee each semester. Recipients are nominated by their co-workers and chosen by a selection committee.

For more information, contact the UTM Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
Performance funding, Innovation Facility among UT Board highlights

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) has recommended that the University of Tennessee at Martin receive $393,000 in additional outcomes-based formula funding in the next budget year based on established standards. The announcement was made by University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd in comments Oct. 23 during the fall meeting of the UT board of trustees. The meeting was conducted by webcast in accordance with recommended safety standards during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Boyd also announced that THEC has moved UT Martin’s Innovation and Product Realization Facility to the commission’s Capital Projects Recommendation List. The $17.5 million, 50,000-square-foot innovation center is one of three University of Tennessee projects recommended by THEC. The facility is a joint effort by UT Martin, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and Dyersburg State Community College to support and expand workforce and economic development in rural Northwest Tennessee. Both the additional outcomes-based formula funding and the innovation center are agenda items for the fall 2020 commission meeting Nov. 6 at Middle Tennessee State University.

Mike Krause, THEC executive director, visited UT Martin Oct. 21 and previewed both announcements during a weekly faculty and staff town hall. “UT Martin will be one of the institutions that’s actually performed well enough in the outcomes-based funding formula to receive new money. ...” Krause told the Zoom audience. “And succeeding in the outcomes-based funding formula, without question, only happens if every layer to the university has bought in.

“You have an incredible chancellor, you have an incredible senior leadership team, you have an incredible faculty, you have an incredible staff, and when all of those pieces come together, the (funding) formula takes care of itself,” Krause said.

Petra McPhearson, vice chancellor for finance and administration, said that the funding news comes at an opportune time for the university. “Funding formula investments allow us to pay for initiatives that help our students be successful,” she said in a statement. “This fiscal year, the formula resulted in a reduction of over $1.1 million. The money will help us recover from the funding loss in fiscal year 2021. The new funding in fiscal year 2022 will certainly give us a step in the right direction.”

The Innovation and Product Realization Facility will be located on the UT Martin main campus and combine educational facilities, entrepreneurial centers and manufacturing workshops surrounding a shared industrial maker space. “You all sent in a great (innovation center) proposal, and as a result, you’re on our list, and our mission now, my mission, is to work with Chancellor (Keith) Carver and President Boyd to work to get that building funded and to work to get the outcomes-based funding formula funded,” Krause said.

“The pandemic is challenging higher education and UT Martin in multiple ways,” said Carver in a statement. “THEC’s recommendations for additional outcomes-based funding support and the new innovation center come at a critical time as we seek innovative ways to support our students and contribute to the region’s economic development now and in the future. We never take for granted support by the commission, the state and the University of Tennessee.”
Digital artwork created by Dr. Windy Wang is featured in the “Made in Quarantine” exhibit

Fine Arts Gallery hosts faculty exhibit

The University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Gallery is currently hosting an exhibit titled “Made in Quarantine,” which features artwork made by faculty members in the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts who found creative inspiration even through the pandemic.

Gallery visitors can see artwork such as ceramics, fibers, paintings, graphic design creations and digital projections by faculty artists David McBeth, Donna McBeth, Sarah Haig, Michelle Williams, Jason Stout, Lane Last and Dr. Windy Wang.

To hear each artist discuss their creations, visit the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts Facebook to watch the archived opening night celebration.

The “Made in Quarantine” exhibit runs until Nov. 13, and the Fine Arts Gallery is open to the public from 1–5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Masks are required in the gallery.

For more information, contact Dr. Carol Eckert, chair of visual and theatre arts, at 731-881-7897.

AVIATORS MARCHING BAND HOSTS ‘LAST BLAST’ CONCERT – The University of Tennessee at Martin Aviators Marching Band will host a “Last Blast” concert at 3 p.m. on Nov. 7, at the tent in the Pacer Pond parking lot. The concert will be the first time the Aviators will perform in their new uniforms, which were unveiled in March, as well as their new completely outfitted Yamaha drumline equipment. The drive-in concert is open to the public, with no admission fee. It will also be livestreamed on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube accounts as well as WJTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk.” For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, chair of the Department of Music, at 731-881-7402.
By Morgan Summerlin
*Special to The Press*

I am proud to be an American.

I don’t think there is any better way to start off. I am proud to live in the greatest country in the world. A country where freedom isn’t actually free, but because of the men and women who are serving overseas while we get to lay our heads to rest at night, that price is continually being paid for us all each and every day.

Robert Haley, a former student at the University of Tennessee at Martin and college rodeo athlete, recently made that very decision — to serve in our United States Army. I’m honored to have the opportunity to bring his unique story to light in recognition of all of his accomplishments thus far.

Robert first arrived in the small town of Martin in the fall of 2018 as a junior transfer from Clarendon College. Not only did he become a full-time college student, he also became a member of the UT-Martin college rodeo team.

While at Martin, Robert made many accomplishments in both his academics & athletics. In 2019 alone, he was named the NIRA (National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association) Ozark Region Reserve Champion Saddle Bronc Rider and a PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) Southeastern Circuit Finalist. He also qualified twice in his event, Saddle Bronc Riding, to attend the College National Finals Rodeo. For those that are unfamiliar with the CNFR, it is a rodeo that is held every June in Casper, Wyoming. This particular rodeo consists of the best of the best college rodeo competitors from over 100 different colleges.

Robert didn’t just stop there. He continued to be rewarded for his hard work in the sport of rodeo by becoming the NIRA (National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association) American Award Recipient.

He was obviously very passionate about the sport of rodeo during his college career, but he also made sure to put just as much hard work into his education. Robert was on the dean’s list all four semesters he attended at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He also joined Tau Sigma Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. In the spring of 2020, Robert graduated college with an associates and bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Business, Magna Cum Laude honors, and was named the 2020 UTM Intercollegiate Athletics Rodeo Athlete of the Year.

Like many other college students, when it was time to start looking for a career, he was unsure at first about what exactly he wanted to do. “None of them seemed very fulfilling to me,” Robert said. He soon decided to follow in his father’s footsteps by choosing to serve in the U.S. Army. Robert met with a recruiter at the Martin U.S. Army recruiting station during his senior year of college in order to apply for the Army’s flight program. “Flying and serving my country was the only thing that excited me when I thought of what I would be doing in the future,” Robert said.

During our conversation, I asked him if he had always wanted to join the U.S. Army. “My dad has been in the military most of my life, so I have been interested in it since I was a kid,” Robert said.
Robert Haley's recruitment ceremony at the UT-Martin practice arena

COWBOYS
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little. I knew I wanted to serve in some way, but I just wasn't sure when or how,” said Robert. He told me how he was mainly just interested in rodeo throughout high school and college with plans of having a career in the agricultural industry one day. Although this was his intention in the beginning, plans can tend to change over time. He explained that during his junior and senior year of college, he still enjoyed the sport of rodeo, but it had seemed less significant than it had previously.

After a long application process, he was finally accepted into the Army’s WOFT program, also known as the “Street to Seat” program, by the September Selection Board. During my conversation with Robert, he made sure to give recognition to his recruiters. He told me that receiving a good recruiter to assist during the application process is one of the most important factors when it comes to being accepted into the program. “The Martin U.S. Army recruiting station and SFC. Steinman, SSG. Woodruff, and SSG. Outlaw went above and beyond to get me selected. I am very grateful to have recruiters that did everything they could to help me get into the career of my dreams,” said Robert.

One of the most special parts about Robert’s recruitment process was that he was sworn into the Army to begin a new chapter of his life in the very same place where he ended a previous one — the UTM college rodeo practice arena. He was surrounded by his friends, family and UT-Martin college rodeo coach, John Luthi, in celebration of this milestone in his life.

Best of wishes to Robert in all of his future endeavors as he leaves for basic training in March of 2021. Thank you to every individual who is currently or has previously served in our United States military with efforts of defending our nation & our freedom.

God bless the United States of America.
Savannah Stanley, a former UTM rodeo athlete, carrying the American flag.

**Martin Kiwanis installs Dr. Jones as new club president**

Dr. Annie C. Jones, Office of Career Planning and Development, was installed as the president of the Kiwanis Club of Martin at the club's Oct. 5 Zoom meeting.

Dr. Jones has been an active member of this group and is looking forward to guiding the club through the ongoing pandemic while continuing, as stated in the Kiwanis mission, "to improve the world, one child and one community at a time."

Other officers installed by Kiwanis Lt. Gov. Cathy Fry included John Mayros, president-elect; Laura Taylor (Health and Human Performance), vice president; Danielle Fabianich (Athletics), past president; Anna Clark, secretary; Clinton Smith (Educational Studies), assistant secretary; Steve Lemond (Information Technology Services), treasurer; and Linda Ramsey, assistant treasurer.

Current Kiwanis Board members elected include Frank Black, Sara Sieber and Earl Wright, serving through September 2021; and Betty Giles and Ann Gathers (Biological Sciences), serving through September 2022.

Dr. Jones is the 54th president of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, which was chartered in 1968 as an all-male club. She is the second African-American to serve as president (Frank Black served as president in 2007-08) and the first African-American female to serve.

Since women were first welcomed into the club in 1988, 18 women have served as president of this active civic organization with the motto "serving the children of the world."
Kiwanis holds Zoom meeting

Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Women and Gender Equality at UT Martin, gave a presentation entitled “Marking the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment” at the Oct. 28 Zoom meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin.

Dr. LaFleur was assisted by her daughter Eleanor, 8, who described in a video recording the significance of colors associated with the women’s suffrage movement — white for purity, yellow for the sunflower and hope, red for those against suffrage for women, and purple for dignity. Eleanor explained how in Tennessee those in favor of suffrage for women often wore yellow roses and those who were against wore red roses. Eleanor’s father, Dr. Ricky Garlit, is also a professor of history at UT Martin.

Through a series of pictures and graphics, Dr. LaFleur shared information about women’s activism and the suffrage movement. She explained that the right to vote for women — initially excluding most women of color — was achieved through a lengthy and difficult struggle that involved decades of protest and agitation. Continued activism led to full suffrage for all women decades after the 19th amendment was ratified.

Dr. LaFleur described how Tennessee played a pivotal role in the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. She showed a map highlighting 35 of the 36 states necessary to ratify the amendment as she underscored the importance of Tennessee’s vote in the ratification process. She noted that the deciding vote in Tennessee was cast by Harry T. Burns, whose mother had written a letter to him with the words “remember the women.” He voted yes, and Dr. LaFleur said this vote changed the course of action for many years to come.

“This shows how one vote can make a difference,” she said.

Dr. LaFleur and Eleanor are each being presented with a certificate indicating that a donation in their honor has been made to the Martin Public Library Foundation.

Kiwanis president Annie Jones conducted this Zoom meeting with 13 members and three guests present. Since May and after a month in April without gathering as a club, Kiwanis began Zoom meetings and will continue meeting in this format until meetings can be safely scheduled once again in the University Center at UT Martin. Kiwanians Steve Lemond and Clinton Smith have shared the responsibility of hosting the meetings.
Historical marker placed next to Summitt's former home

SEAN BARRY sbarry@mainstreetmediatn.com
Nov 4, 2020

Pat Summitt was honored again by her home county last Saturday, this time in front of the house where she lived when she was a high school basketball star.

That's where relatives of Summitt — who was inducted into the Cheatham County Sports Hall of Fame the previous week — were on hand as a Tennessee Historical Commission marker was unveiled alongside Highway 12 in Henrietta.

Henrietta borders Summitt's native Montgomery County, where there was no opportunity for her to play high school basketball.

So, her parents moved the family just across the county line — to the corner of Highway 12 and Hazel Drive — and Summitt enrolled at Cheatham County Central High.

The house, on a large lot, is still owned by the family, so parking was no problem for the ceremony.

Summitt died in 2016 after a lifetime of achievements in basketball. She's best known for her 38-year career coaching the University of Tennessee's Lady Vols.

She racked up eight national championships en route to becoming the second-winningest college basketball coach in history with 1,098 victories, according to the historical marker.

The UT Martin graduate also played in the 1976 Olympics and coached the U.S. team to the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics. She was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000.

Casey Davis, one of Summitt's nieces, told Saturday's gathering that the marker is more than a reminder of Summitt's basketball accomplishments. Davis said it's also a reminder of Summitt's high school years in Cheatham County, beyond basketball.
Davis said Summitt used to drag race along Highway 12. That comment prompted Cheatham County Mayor Kerry McCarver to joke that maybe the road should be renamed the “Pat Summitt Drag Strip.”

The marker provides an impressive amount of information, McCarver told the gathering. However, telling Summitt’s entire story really would require such a marker “every 50 feet between here and Ashland City,” he said.

The Cheatham County Commission unanimously voted to fund the $1,500 marker, McCarver said. He thanked the Tennessee Department of Transportation for assistance including replacing the decrepit Henrietta sign next to the marker.

Minutes after McCarver and Davis addressed the gathering, McCarver climbed a ladder and removed the covering over the marker.

The moment drew applause — nothing new for anything involving Summitt.

Worldwide, the marker won’t become as well known as the championships, the gold medal or the Hall of Fame induction.

But in Cheatham County, it sure hits home.
Performers (L to R) Ella Sego and Ethan Tuster of the Vanguard Theatre on the campus of the University of Martin prepare for their upcoming virtual play, which will be livestreamed on the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts Facebook page this week.

UT Martin’s Vanguard Theatre to Present Virtual Play ‘Doubt, A Parable’

MARTIN (October 22) — The University of Tennessee at Martin Vanguard Theatre will perform “Doubt, A Parable,” by John Patrick Shanley at 7 p.m. November 5-7, and at 3 p.m. November 8. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the performances will be closed to the public, and instead, livestreamed on the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts Facebook account.

“Doubt, A Parable,” a 2005 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play, is set at St. Nicholas School and Church in the Bronx in 1964 and follows a skeptical nun, Sister Aloysius, who questions the relations of Father Flynn, the priest, and Donald Muller, the first African American altar boy in the school. As confrontation leads to deceptive actions, Sister Aloysius is left with doubt for the future of the church. The four-person cast allows for social distancing on stage and follows Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines in order to safely present the play.

The Vanguard Theatre will not charge admission for the fall play since it is being livestreamed, but is encouraging viewers to donate the price of a ticket, $15, to support the production costs of this and future performances of the UT Martin theatre company. Donations can be made to the UT Martin Support the ARTS Campaign at utm.edu/starts.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
Kiwanis

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forward to guiding the club through the ongoing pandemic while continuing, as stated in the Kiwanis mission, "to improve the world, one child and one community at a time."

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She is the second African-American to serve as president (Frank Black served in 2008-09) and the first African-American female to serve.

Since women were first welcomed into the club in 1980, 18 women have served as president of this active civic organization with the motto "serving the children of the world."

The UT Martin Aviators Marching Band performed October 7 in front of the Boling University Center.

Aviators Marching Band to Host ‘Last Blast’ Concert

MARTIN (November 7) - The University of Tennessee at Martin Aviators Marching Band will host a “Last Blast” concert at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 7, at the tent in the Pacer Pond parking lot.

The concert will be the first time the Aviators will perform in their new uniforms, which were unveiled in March, as well as their new completely outfitted Yamaha drumline equipment.

The drive-in concert is open to the public, with no admission fee.

The event will also be livestreamed on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube accounts as well as WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk.”

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Hill, chair of the Department of Music, at 731-681-7402.
Kiwanis Meeting Highlights Importance of Suffrage Movement

MARTIN (October 28) - Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Women and Gender Equality at UT Martin, gave a presentation titled, “Marking the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment” at the October 28 Zoom meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin.

Dr. LaFleur was assisted by her daughter Eleanor, 8, who described in a video recording the significance of colors associated with the women’s suffrage movement — white for purity, yellow for the sunflower and hope, red for those against suffrage for women, and purple for dignity. Eleanor explained how in Tennessee those in favor of suffrage for women often wore yellow roses and those who were against wore red roses. Eleanor’s father, Dr. Ricky Garlitz, is also a professor of history at UT Martin.

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Dr. LaFleur described how Tennessee played a pivotal role in the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. She showed a map highlighting 36 of the 38 states necessary to ratify the amendment as she underscored the importance of Tennessee’s vote in the ratification process. She noted that the deciding vote in Tennessee was cast by Harry T. Burns, whose mother had written a letter to him with the words “remember the women.” He voted yes, and Dr. LaFleur said this vote changed the course of action for many years to come.

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Dr. Renee LaFleur and daughter Eleanor, 8, were guests at the October 28 Kiwanis meeting. Their costumes echo the suffragist movement that led to the ratification of the 19th amendment granting women the constitutional right to vote. The garden flag Dr. LaFleur is holding shows a graphic of children from around the world and features the Kiwanis slogan “Serving the children of the world.”
UT Promise scholarship deadline extended to December

The last day to submit an application is December 15, 2020.

Students wanting to apply for the TN Promise scholarship now have until December 15 to do so.

The deadline extension comes after the Tennessee Higher Education Commission/Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation announced the TN Promise application deadline extension to December 1, 2020.

UT Promise is an undergraduate scholarship program guaranteeing free tuition and mandatory fees for qualifying Tennessee residents attending University of Tennessee's campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin and Memphis.

To apply for UT Promise, Class of 2021 students must complete the application found at https://tennessee.edu/ut-promise/ no later than December 15, 2020.

Veterans Day events in the Heartland 2020

Here's your guide to Veterans Day events in the Heartland, whether they're virtual or in-person. (Source: WVIR)

By Amber Ruch | November 9, 2020 at 2:05 PM CST - Updated November 10 at 2:41 PM

(KFVS) - Here's your guide to Veterans Day events in the Heartland, whether they're virtual or in-person.

Tennessee

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The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Veterans Affairs will host a virtual Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m.
UT Martin Faculty Senate Committee Set To Vote On Black History, Culture Course Resolution

By RACHEL COLLINS • NOV 9, 2020

Tension persists between part of the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) campus community and the university's administration. Members of the UTM Black History Matters Coalition (BHMC) told WKMS they feel as if their concerns are falling on deaf ears; university representatives told WKMS procedural changes take time to enact. Tomorrow, the UTM Faculty Senate Executive Committee will vote on a resolution which aims to improve cultural diversity and inclusion by requiring African American History and Thought as a required general education course for all studies.

The faculty senate was slated to vote on the resolution during the Oct. meeting, but Faculty Senate President Sean Walker removed the item from the agenda just ahead of the meeting, a measure which caused further division. But Walker said the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will consider the resolution during the Nov. 10 meeting.

'These things take time'

Walker said the voting members of the executive committee include the senate president, the faculty senate president-elect or vice president, the faculty senate secretary, and the chairs of the five major Faculty Senate committees. He said non-voting members include past presidents, the provost and the chancellor; he invited the associate provost and faculty senate parliamentarian to attend as well, to serve in advisory roles.

If the resolution passes the executive committee, the full faculty senate will review and vote on the measure during the Nov. 24 meeting.

But Walker said there are a few considerations to keep in mind as the process moves forward. One consideration: the executive committee may not vote on the measure, it may choose instead to table the matter until a curricular change request is submitted to accompany the resolution. A second consideration: the executive committee may choose to pass the measure to the committee on instruction (who decides which classes stay or are removed from curriculum) to review. A third consideration: even if the resolution passes committee and faculty senate, that doesn't guarantee change.

"Resolutions are statements of preference. But no curriculum change will occur until faculty members submit a curriculum request through the process that is outlined in the faculty handbook. And then it has to go through the process and be approved," Walker said.
The process takes up to nine steps, Walker explained, going through a number of committees before it reaches the faculty senate, where it goes through more committees before approval. If passed through the faculty senate, it's sent to the chancellor for final approval.

Considering the many steps it would take to enact the general education course the resolution seeks, Walker estimated academic year 2022-2023 is the earliest it could become a reality--if it passes.

"The process is there to protect the curriculum, and primarily focused on protecting the students," Walker said.

When asked if he thinks the resolution will pass the executive committee, Walker said, "I really don't know." When asked if he personally supported creation of the course he said, "I still need more specificity," and cited the bureaucratic process he believes would provide that specificity.

Walker said he is supportive of any possibility to provide more diversity and inclusion for minorities and the LGBTQ+ spectrum in all studies and courses, across the board.

'We can charitably say it's miscommunication'

Dr. David Barber, a member of the BHMC and history professor, said the coalition is frustrated because the members perceive reluctance to have the conversation. He said when members of the coalition approach university administrators to discuss the issues, they're met with "obstacles that exist before we can have the conversation."

"Do we need a requirement? After 400 years, do we need all the people in this country to have an understanding of Black history and Black culture? It appears to us that they don't want to have that conversation," Barber said.

"The Faculty Senate leadership and the administration are constantly talking about all these steps, steps to be taken in a prescribed fashion and originating in individual departments -- and in so doing, they are dodging their own responsibility," he added.

Barber said the group is aware of the curricular change request process, and they're still asking the faculty senate to approve the resolution.
"We are proposing the resolution to get a commitment from the Faculty Senate on support for a requirement in African American History and Culture. With that kind of commitment we can sit down and have a sane discussion about how to make such a requirement happen. Absent that commitment we would be spinning our wheels trying to get anything through the Faculty Senate," he explained.

Barber noted the BHMC’s position is the university cannot fulfill its mission statement without a requirement in African American History and Culture and states it is the university’s responsibility to figure out how to make that requirement happen.

'You can love somewhere and also see where it can benefit to change'

UTM senior Alexis Millsaps said she’s “troubled” by the perception she and other BHMC members of the coalition receive from the larger campus community.

“It’s come across a sort of a negative connotation, to be in a place of leadership in this group, because I think they have this concept that for us to criticize UT Martin's curriculum, or [Chancellor] Carver, we must, like, hate the school and have this bone to pick with Dr. Carver, which isn’t the case. Because at this point, I would consider him a friend. And I do respect him as a person. And I love this school. But I think it’s important to note that you can love somewhere and also see where it can, you know, benefit to change.”

Millsaps said she also feels as if more faculty and university administrators should be involved, because it’s an issue important to a large body of students.

“The biggest thing I’m confused about is why the other faculty members and administrators who are essentially employed for the benefit of the students on this campus wouldn't pause to listen to the students on this campus. I don't understand how they expect to make any defining decisions or change large parts of the curriculum without the input of students," she explained.

When asked if she thinks the resolution will pass the first committee on Nov. 10, Millsaps said, “I don’t know.”
'The silence is deafening, is the problem'

Millsaps said the coalition's frustration is heightened by the perceived lack of commitment from the university administration. She said they've been unable to find administrators willing to back the proposed requirement, which she called, "offensive."

"It's literally as simple as, 'Do you value Black lives enough to prioritize this? Do you value Black History enough to teach it? Yes, or no," she said. "And there shouldn't be any confusion over what our goals are and why this came about. Black people's lives, Black people's culture and Black people's history is important. And the fact that it's in question with this university is offensive."

"These are people's lives that you're belittling," she added. "This is the history of my people that you're making small. Our whole lives, we've learned American history, and we've learned about Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, occasionally Booker T. Washington. And that's not enough, because Black people are more than that."

'I am always down for a conversation'

Chancellor Kevin Carver told WKMS the UT Martin administration and faculty started considering ways in which they could do better with diversity and inclusion around the time George Floyd died at the hands of law enforcement officers in May. He said those conversations extended into the student body also, some students who aren't affiliated with particular groups, some who are members of the BHMC and some who are affiliated with the UT Martin Black Student Association.

Carver said due to the ongoing health pandemic, his 'open door policy' has consisted more of Zoom meetings and phone calls. But he and his wife, Hollianne, have continued welcoming groups of students into his home for dinner, and confirmed Millsaps has been among those guests.

In response to the nationwide racial justice movement and in response to feedback he received during those conversations, Carver said the university has already implemented ways he hopes will create a more diverse and inclusive campus culture. One of the new measures, in which Carver expressed great confidence, is selection of UTM's first Chief of Diversity and Inclusion Officer.
UTM selected Dr. Mark McCloud in July 2020 for the cabinet level position in which Carver said he's peers with the other vice chancellors on campus.

"I'm calling Mark our full time cultural diversity champion and culture champion for the university. And he has permission to step on my toes, and, you know, hold me accountable and hold the campus accountable moving forward," Carver said.

Some of the other initiatives include a diversity task force Carver said was activated in winter 2019, human resources initiatives such as recruiting and maintaining a more diverse faculty and staff, a bias reporting system, and more actively tracking recruitment and retention of diversity in the student body.

But Carver said the administration understands a major component to providing a home where all students, faculty and staff feel safe, welcomed and comfortable is an initiative that extends beyond the borders of the campus. And that's why, he said, McCloud is also working with leaders in the city of Martin.

"We've brought students here, we brought faculty here, but if the culture is not right when they arrive, they're not going to have a good experience," he explained. "And so, what is it about the student culture, and what is it about the campus culture for our faculty and staff that we can do to improve? That's the biggest piece that I'm really excited about," he said.

'I really support a curricular effort to create cultural awareness'

Carver acknowledged the final step in making the African American History and Thought course a curricular requirement would be his signature for final approval, but refrained from sharing his personal opinion on that particular course being mandated. He said curricular reform "needs to come from within the faculty."

"I've said it to our alums, I've said to our students, and also our internal audiences, I really support any curricular effort to create cultural awareness and meaningful dialogue towards diversity and inclusion at UTM."

Carver also noted the university currently has and offers a Black history course. He said it's offered at least once a year, maybe twice a year, but consistently fills when it's offered. He said it's not mandated, but is popular.
Local universities share Thanksgiving break plans amid pandemic

November 9, 2020 by Julia Ewoldt

HENDERSON, Tenn. — As you’re making plans for Thanksgiving, local universities are trying their best to protect their communities against coronavirus.

The end of the semester is drawing near for Bethel, UT Martin, and Freed Hardeman University Students. When they go home for Thanksgiving, they’re not coming back.

“We started the semester a little early, then we condensed it as well. We didn’t take any breaks. We will end the Friday before our Thanksgiving break,” said Dave Clouse, FHU’s vice president of community engagement.

Clouse says they’re looking out for both the students and their families with this approach.

“We were concerned about sending all of our students home and them coming back with COVID,” Clouse said. “So we’re just trying to protect our campus community and trying to get all the way through the semester.”

While some schools are finishing up, Union University is taking a different approach: they’re keeping their traditional schedule.

“That would put a different hard burden on our students, and our community, so we did want to have those breaks to allow for some rest and refreshment before the home stretch,” said Union University’s Dean of Student Life, Ken Litscher.

After Thanksgiving break, they’ll come back for the last two weeks of class, hoping students will stay socially distanced in that home stretch.

“As difficult as it is, when you’re saying goodbye to people at the end of the semester, be wise about the contact you have and the time you’re spending with others,” Litscher said.

And Clouse says as far as next semester goes for FHU, plans are still being finalized.

Bethel University and UT Martin will also not be going back after Thanksgiving break.

Bethel’s finals are next week, while UT Martin’s will be online the week after Thanksgiving.
LIST: Local Veterans Day ceremonies and programs

Jillianne Moncrief
Nov 9, 2020

Here's a list of local Veterans Day ceremonies and programs to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

4.) The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Veterans Services will host a virtual Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.

The university says the virtual observance will feature the following:

- Pre-recorded videos of the American Legion Post 55 presenting the colors;
- A patriotic melody performed by Assistant professor of music Dr. John Oelrich and the Skyhawk String Ensemble;
- A message from UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver;
- A tribute to service by the UT Martin faculty and staff;
- A poem presented by James Avant; a sophomore psychology major at the UT Martin Somerville Center;
- Remarks by UT Martin Veteran Services Coordinator Jason Earley and Veteran Benefits Specialist Marcus VanCleave.
- Justin Johnson, United States Marine and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network regional director for Memphis and Shelby County, will serve as the guest speaker.

The program will be broadcast at utm.edu/veteransday2020 and will be archived on the UT Martin YouTube account.
UTM disaster prep course teaches students awareness, self-reliance

To protect his family and their well-being, Dr. Stan Dunagan, professor of geology, prepares for the worst. Now, through the University of Tennessee at Martin’s new disaster preparation course, Dunagan can use the knowledge that he has gained to help prepare students deal with natural disasters and other calamities.

The idea for the course stems from Dunagan’s understanding of Northwest Tennessee’s geography, particularly its susceptibility to earthquakes.

“Earthquakes are a real hazard to anyone living in West Tennessee. It seems logical to me to make a few preparations for an earthquake – especially if the state and federal (government) expect citizens to be ‘two weeks ready.’ The nice thing about ‘prepping’ for an earthquake is that many of those preps are also invaluable to winter storms, tornadoses and other hazardous events,” Dunagan said.

Although the main focus of the class is influenced by Dunagan’s understanding of earthquakes, students also learn about other natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, wildfires, coronal mass ejections or “super solar flares,” as well as other threats such as active-shooter situations and cyber-attacks.

The course aims to equip students with not only the knowledge of how to prepare for natural disasters and other unexpected events, but also with the mindset to effectively do so.

“We’ve talked about the tools, the stuff, knowing how to use them, but really you’ve got to get it in your head that there could be a situation that could be bad that could happen. I think most people are not situationally aware of the dangers that they face day in and day out.” Dunagan said.

Dunagan promotes self-reliance in his course by teaching students the skills necessary to survive on their own and to be aware of the dangers around them.

“Don’t expect that the state or the federal government will come help you because literally I have been to multiple states where they have said, ‘Our priority is the top two metro areas and everybody else will take 10-14 days,’” Dunagan said. “It’s not that hard to get two weeks ready, but it does take some time, so I’ve just been trying to talk to the students to increase personal responsibility, have that mindset that they are responsible for their own personal safety and increase their situational awareness.”

In order to put the lessons he has taught into practice, Dunagan and a student took a basic survival course Oct. 23-25 with Master Sgt. Tim Hardy of SurviveT2, a veteran-owned and operated survival school in Paris. During the class, Hardy taught the pair the psychology of survival as well as tactics like shelter and fire construction, smoke signaling, first aid, and water location and purification.

“The whole premise of Mr. Hardy’s SurviveT2 course is that 62 percent of people who get lost are injured or ill, and after 72 hours, the vast majority are found. The key thing is making it through the 72 hours,” Dunagan said.

One thing that stood out to Dunagan on the trip was the effects of weather, as the weekend was cold and rainy, presenting an extra layer of challenge.

“We did many activities out by Mr. Hardy’s fire pit,” Dunagan said. “It made me appreciate the comfort of the fire. It also made me realize how little cold it takes to zap your strength and stamina.”

By teaching students how to prepare themselves mentally and physically, Dunagan provides information that any student could carry with them throughout their life.

This year is the first that the course has been offered, and Dunagan hopes to offer it as a recurring course in the fall.

For more information about the disaster preparation course, contact Dunagan at 731-881-7437.
WWII VETERAN RECOUNTS SERVICE TO COUNTRY, UT MARTIN

By SARAH KNAPP
Special to the Press

He sat relaxed in his recliner with his 163rd Combat Engineers Battalion jacket laid on his lap, surrounded by worn photos from his service in France, Germany and Austria and transported the room back in time to 1943.

"We were combat engineers," T. Joe Walker said. "We went into France and built bridges and (were) there on until the end of the war. I was in charge of Company B of the 163rd Combat Engineers. We built wooden bridges, pontoon bridges, trolleyway bridges, just about every kind of bridge you could think of."

The 96-year-old Martin native, along with three of his brothers, served in the Army and Air Force during World War II. Walker, a T/4, or technician fourth grade, by the end of 1946, was just thankful he made it home from the war alive and in time to marry the girl who wrote him letters.

Walker received his draft notice from Weakley County while he was working in Michigan and began basic training in Mississippi in May 1943 with the "Striped-Ass Apes," the 163rd's nickname. The 163rd's emblem features an ape with stripes on its rear, a hammer in one hand and a rifle in the other. The battalion coined its name and emblem during training at Camp Van Dorn because they worked with a hammer in one hand and a rifle in the other, Walker said.

"Camp Van Dorn... Sorriest place there ever was," Walker said. "Ah, but it turned out to be alright."

Soon after, Walker and the 163rd were on their way to Europe. After preparing for combat at a station in England, the battalion landed on Utah Beach June 21, 1944, just mere weeks after D-Day. They quickly assumed their responsibilities and began combat support. The 163rd was in charge of clearing roads for troops, building bridges, trucking supplies and occasionally acting as infantry when the situation called for it. They carried what supplies they needed and relied on the land for many of their operations.

"I don't remember how many bridges we built, but it was a bunch of them," Walker said.

The 163rd traveled from Normandy, France, to Linz, Austria, building bridges to transport troops, vehicles, munitions and supplies across Europe. Overall, the 163rd built 42 bridges totaling in 4,844 linear feet. A model of one of the bridges Company B built was donated by Walker to Discovery Park of America in Union City and is currently on display.

One of Walker's most memorable experiences began while operating at a gravel pit near General George Patton's headquarters. During the invasion of France, the 163rd served with the 1st Army, but as they moved inland, the 163rd transferred to General Patton's 3rd Army. While crushing rocks, a Jeep carrying Patton arrived, and seeing the three-star emblem on the jeep, everyone except for a corporal stopped working and saluted. General Patton noticed the corporal and approached him asking if he knew who he was.

"No," the corporal said. "I'M General Patton."

"He said, 'I'm glad to meet you, I'm Andy,' and stuck his hand out to shake Patton's. He got chewed out," Walker said through laughter. The corporal was thrown in the guard quarters for the night and never forgot who General Patton was.

Even though Walker worked as an engineer, they often operated under enemy attacks.

"I went up to the front lines once; I didn't care for that much," Walker said. "It came close a lot of times... I was one of the lucky ones."

Walker's three brothers Harvey, Herald and Bert, served alongside him during the war, and unfortunately, Harvey wasn't as lucky. After Harvey was killed in action, all four..."
brothers returned home to bury him together.

When Walker returned home from the war in January 1946, he waited only three days before getting married, twice. He and his soon-to-be bride Verna had only met once before Walker left for the war, but their love for each other grew through the letters they wrote, becoming a source of light in a dark time.

“When we wrote…” Walker said smiling.

At Christmas, Walker wrote Verna and asked her to wait for him to get home before she left Martin to return to Chicago to work at a munitions plant. When he arrived home the next month, the couple were married at their preacher’s house in Gibson County.

However, Walker and Verna had received their marriage license in Weakley County and were legally required to get married in the same county they received their license from. After noticing the discrepancy, the preacher rushed to their parent’s house in Weakley County to marry them, creating their iconic story that has been shared with the many generations their family has grown to be.

The couple were married for 69 years before Verna passed away in 2015. Now, Walker remembers her fight through the letters, photos and a lifetime of memories shared.

After the pair married, Walker tended to his family farm until deciding to go to work for the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1951 as the head of mechanical maintenance. Walker was responsible for the heating and cooling system on campus.

“When he started there, there were only 400 students. His (tools) he carried all over campus in a wheelbarrow,” said his daughter, Sheila Thompson.

The university now has over 7,100 students and has grown to a 250-acre main campus with a 680-acre teaching farm and five regional centers.

“I saw it grow. I saw UT grow,” Walker said.

Walker retired from his full-time job at UT Martin in 1985, but quickly returned as a part-time employee until his retirement in 2003. He has seen many changes over the years and cherishes being a part of the growth of the university that provided a livelihood for him for many years.

As Veterans’ Day approaches, Walker and his family can be found celebrating his, his brothers’ and so many others’ service and sacrifice to this country, just as they do every year.

Until recently, the 163rd held reunions for many years after the war, growing in participation each year. Eventually, there were 163rd “Striped-Ass Apes” coming to West Tennessee from all over the country to reunite with fellow soldiers and families.

The population of World War II veterans is dwindling as time passes and spending time with Walker is evident of that, but he will always remember the men he served with and the sacrifices each one made for their country.

In honor of the veterans who have served in the Martin community, the UT Martin Office of Veterans Services will host a virtual Veterans Day observance that can be viewed at utm.edu/veteransday2020.

‘I WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES’
17th-annual Empty Bowls continues despite pandemic

While the COVID-19 pandemic has postponed many traditional events at the University of Tennessee at Martin, the 17th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser, co-hosted by UT Martin and We Care Ministries, Inc. to help fight food insecurity in the Martin community, will continue its cause through online bowl sales during the week of Nov. 15-20.

Empty Bowls will have approximately 1,200 ceramic bowls available for a donation at martineemptybowls.com to support the We Care Ministries Inc. food bank. Online sales will begin at noon Nov. 15 where patrons can select a bowl design and color. Donors will receive a soup bowl for $15 or a large serving bowl for a $20 donation to We Care.

Curbside pickup for the bowls will be from noon - 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22 at the Fine Arts Building on Mt. Pelia Road.

"Martin Empty Bowls is going to outsmart this pandemic," David McBeth, UT Martin professor of fine arts, said. "We will have roughly 1,200 beautiful, well-crafted bowls. I hope, in fact - trust, that the community will respond to the online iteration of Empty Bowls in a robust way. I would love to have to make more bowls because we run out. I know that the good folks at We Care are thankful that the event is going on in spite of COVID."

The Martin Empty Bowls event began with McBeth in 2003 as a part of a larger grassroots movement called Empty Bowls Project to help fight world hunger. Roughly 15% of people in Weakley County experience food insecurity, but through Empty Bowls, We Care Ministries, Inc. is able to provide meals to anyone in need.

"I hope, in spite of the pandemic that Empty Bowls can bring the community together," McBeth said. "It's a joy and an honor to be able to do what I do."

Last year, the community raised more than $13,000 for We Care Ministries, Inc. and sold more than 800 bowls.

For more information about the 2020 Empty Bowls event, visit martineemptybowls.com or contact McBeth at 731-881-7416.
UT Martin to host virtual Veterans Day ceremony

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Veterans Services will host a virtual Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. Wednesday to honor the service of all veterans in the Martin community.

The virtual observance will feature pre-recorded videos of the American Legion Post 55 presenting the colors; Dr. John Oelrich, assistant professor of music, and the Skyhawk String Ensemble performing a patriotic melody; a message from UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver; a tribute to service by the UT Martin faculty and staff; a poem presented by James Avant, a sophomore psychology major at the UT Martin Somerville Center; and remarks by UT Martin Veteran Services coordinator Jason Earley and Veteran Benefits Specialist Marcus VanCleave.

Justin Johnson, U.S. Marine and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network regional director for Memphis and Shelby County, will serve as the guest speaker.

Johnson is an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran and a life member of the Department of Tennessee Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving the Shelby County veteran community as the junior vice commander of the VFW District 10.

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WWII veteran recounts service to country, UTM

By SARAH KNAPP
Special to The Messenger

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Editor's note: Sarah Knapp is staff writer and Addenda editor for the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Resolution Seeking Required Black History, Culture Course Falls Flat

By RACHEL COLLINS / PEOPLE/RACHEL-COLLINS - NOV 11, 2020

The movement seeking a required Black history (https://www.wkms.org/post/utmartin-faculty-senate-committee-set-vote-black-history-culture-course-resolution#stream/0) and culture course at University of Tennessee at Martin (https://www.utm.edu/departments/cbga/faculty_staff/mmcis_faculty/swalker.php) faced another setback (https://www.wkms.org/post/utmartin-faculty-senate-executive-committee-removes-black-history-matters-resolution-meeting#stream/0) during yesterday’s UTM Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting. UTM Faculty Senate President Sean Walker (https://www.instagram.com/p/CESHdzvH7BJ/) said none of the voting members cast a motion to vote on the resolution proposed by the UTM Black History Matters Coalition (https://www.instagram.com/utm_bhm/) (BHMC).

Walker shared a written statement following the meeting, which stated the committee “decided to reaffirm the established process outlined in Chapter 5 of the Faculty Handbook (https://www.utm.edu/departments/acadaff/_pdfs/Faculty%20Handbook%20-%20Revised%20and%20Approved%20-%202019-10-14.pdf) for Curricular Change Request Proposals.” He said the committee “is encouraged” by reports of several proposals in the works, as well as development of a bill in the Student Government Association (https://www.utm.edu/departments/sga/) related to diversity, inclusion, and equity.

The statement reads in part: “As Faculty Senate President, I would encourage any and all faculty members that are developing Curricular Change Request Proposals to contact me if they need any help as they move through the process. The process has been established as a way to protect the curriculum and faculty voice.”

Walker also noted he’s communicated with one group of faculty members interested in identifying additional resources/support in relation to curricular changes regarding diversity and inclusion within the general education curriculum.
Dr. David Barber (https://www.utm.edu/departments/history/bios/DavidBarber.php), UTM history professor and member of the BHMC, said the coalition has no plans to give up their cause, but the next move is unclear at the moment. He said the coalition has an upcoming meeting during which he anticipates the members begin strategizing their next moves.

"I don't think the struggle is over. I think we have every possibility of winning that struggle for a requirement. But my own opinion is that we can only do that if we bring a tremendous amount of pressure on our university leadership," he said.

Barber said he was allowed to speak in the Zoom meeting with the faculty senate executive committee for about 45 minutes, but he wasn't allowed to remain in the meeting to hear the committee's discussion. He said he also wasn't allowed to share access with student members of the coalition or members of the community.

"The argument that I made in the faculty senate executive committee is, the only way we can get this requirement is if we get the commitment of our faculty senate leadership and our administration. 'We want the class.' Then we sit down and we figure out how to make it happen," he said. "It's doable. What's lacking at our university is the will to do it. If they wanted it done, it'd be done."

"Our administration is always ready to offer kindly words and a great deal of empathy for what it is that we are doing," he added. "But when it comes down to, concretely, 'Do you support this thing?' Well, 'No.' There's always some reason why we can't talk about that."

The BHMC released a written statement in response to the faculty senate's inaction, stating the resolution was non-binding, made no curricular changes and did not violate the processes or procedures of the university.

"We simply asked for a commitment from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee--a moral commitment--to work together to develop a requirement for the study of Black History and Culture," the statement reads in part. "On November 10, the [faculty senate executive committee] refused to make that commitment, refused to say that as the leading faculty body on this campus, it would come together and collectively figure out how to make certain that all our students leave UT Martin with a meaningful understanding of Black History and Culture."
UT Martin’s ROTC Skyhawk Battalion Preps Today’s Students as Future Leaders

Army ROTC is a program offered at hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide, training college students to be officers in the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. On the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin, the ROTC program is known as the Skyhawk Battalion. It is a division of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at UT Martin.

It is a 4-year program, divided into two parts; a Basic Course and an Advanced Course. The Basic Course is normally taken in the freshman and sophomore years. The Advanced Course is usually taken during the final two years of college and includes a four-week assessment course that is normally attended in the summer, between the junior and senior years.

The mission of Army ROTC is to commission the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army. The leadership training and experiences that students gain in ROTC will provide them with a foundation to become commissioned Army Officers upon graduation.

Army ROTC provides Cadets with the character-building aspects of a diverse, self-disciplined civilian education with tough, centralized leadership development training.

Army ROTC prepares college students to succeed in any competitive environment. Students whose career goals require leadership, managerial skills, interest in national defense structure, and those students who wish to explore the benefits of the Army are encouraged to enroll in the introductory military science courses. These courses can be applied as elective credits towards graduation. Participation in these classes is voluntary and requires no military commitment.

Upon completion of the Army ROTC program, graduates will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Active Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. Second Lieutenant will embark on specialized training.

Upon completion of Officer branch training and a first duty assignment, Army Officers may pursue additional specialized training and postgraduate education opportunities. They will be assigned to advanced leadership positions and to staff positions in upper management.

For more information on ROTC programs and eligibility, email armyrotc@utm.edu or phone 731-298-1583.

Cadet Austin Maxwell
TN Army National Guard

Cadet Casey Thompson
TN Army National Guard

Cadet Samuel Fagin
TN Army National Guard

Cadet Casey Wright
TN Army National Guard

Cadet John Huismen
TN Army National Guard

Cadet Javonte Ray
TN Army National Guard
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University of Tennessee at Martin
Staff Offers Service to the Nation

With more than 700 staff and faculty of the University of Tennessee at Martin, there are some who have served their country in the United States Armed Forces.

While this list is not exhaustive, here are some of the veterans who are also leaders on the UT Martin campus:

- Phillip Everett: Transportation Services-Mechanic, Army National Guard, 1971-1978;
- Dr. Samuel Faught: Associate Professor of Management, Marketing and Information Systems, U.S. Army, 1967-1970, Panama Canal/Vietnam;
- Marcus Hayes: Communications Adjunct Instructor, U.S. Army, 1970-1988, Cold War-Germany;
- Dr. Melvin Hill: Associate Professor of English and Modern Foreign Languages, U.S. Army, 1989-1991, Desert Storm;
- Toya Howard: Educational Outreach Adjunct Instructor, U.S. Army, 1996-2000;
- Tommy Martin: Information Technology Services, United States Marine Corps, 1988-1992, Desert Storm;
- David Rinks: HVAC, U.S. Army, 1974-1976;
- Dr. Aaron Rowland: Associate Professor of Behavioral Sciences, U.S. Marine Corps, 1995-1997;
- Chris Swann-Gunlefinger: Student Life Services Assistant Director; U.S. Marine Corps, 2001-2009, Global War on Terror;
League of Striving Artists Announces
Holiday Art Bazaar

BY JASON STOUT
UT Martin LSA Advisor

MARTIN (November 5) - The League of Striving Artists, the student art organization of the University of Tennessee at Martin, announced last week that it is hosting a Holiday Art Bazaar Thursday, November 19, through Saturday, November 21. This event will be held in the Fine Arts Building Gallery sponsored by the UTM Visual and Theatre Arts Department. This event is free to attend and open to the public.

The LSA Holiday Art Bazaar presents the opportunity for members of the community to see and purchase a wide selection of hand-made gifts from UTM art students, faculty and alumni. Purchase gifts for family and friends, just in time for the holidays and support the local art community. Proceeds from the event will go towards the LSA Scholarship Award Fund.

Dates and times for the event are as follows: Thursday, November 19 from 5-8 p.m.; Friday, November 20 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

All items in the LSA Holiday Art Bazaar will be available for purchase. Cash, check and charge accepted.

STARTS contributors will join students and faculty for an early “Insider” opening of this soon-to-be must-attend event on Thursday, November 19, from 5-6 p.m. For more information on the STARTS Program and how to become a STARTS contributor, visit www.utm.edu/starts or call 731-881-7430.

The UTM Fine Arts building is located at 16 Mt. Pella Rd., Martin, on the UTM campus. The event will take place in Room 201 of the Fine Arts Building. For more information, contact Jason Stout, Professor at UTM and Faculty Advisor of LSA at 731-881-3402 or jstout7@utm.edu

https://www.radionwtn.com/

UT MARTIN HOSTS VIRTUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

November 12, 2020 @ 9:05 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its virtual Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 to recognize the service and sacrifice of veterans in the Martin community. Students, faculty and staff helped produce the program to say thank you to their coworkers, families and classmates. Justin Johnson, United States Marine and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network regional director for Memphis and Shelby County, served as the ceremony’s guest speaker and emphasized the importance of creating a supportive community for veterans to succeed in, especially on the UT Martin campus. To watch the ceremony, visit utm.edu/veteransday2020 (http://utm.edu/veteransday2020). For more information about the UT Martin Office of Veterans Services, contact Jason Earley, veteran services coordinator, at jearley3@utm.edu (mailto:jearley3@utm.edu). From left, Johnson; Marcus VanCleave, UT Martin veteran benefits specialist; and Earley surround the memorial bust of USMC Capt. Brent Morel, a UT Martin alum who was killed in action in Iraq.
Telethon of Stars: Karah Childress thriving thanks to special partnership

Jennifer Horbelt, Mason Watkins
Nov 12, 2020

DRESDEN, TN — When you give to the Lions Clubs/WPSD Local 6 Telethon of Stars, you help children like Karahann Childress. UTM Infant Stimulation has been a big part of this 2-year-old girl's life. They've helped her thrive, despite serious developmental and physical delays.

The center works with special needs infants and toddlers in northwest Tennessee. Early interventionists go into families' homes and show them how to help their children reach important milestones. That couldn't happen this year because of the pandemic. Zoom became the normal way for families and Els to meet. While some may have struggled to adapt, Karah was born to be on camera.

"She's sassy. She's a spunky little girl," Karah's mom, Crystal Jackson.

"She's got an attitude!" Justin Childress added about his daughter, with a laugh.

And who did she get that from?

"A little bit of both of us!" he said.

Childress refers to Karah as their "little princess." She's come such a long way, with a lot of help from an important partnership: her nurse Taylor Faulkner, LPN, and her Early Interventionist Lori Wilson.

"She's actually starting to draw with both hands," Faulkner explained to Wilson over a Zoom appointment, describing how Karah has been drawing with chalk recently.

"I've been with Karah for about a year now," Faulkner said.

"She's an attention seeker," Wilson said, smiling. "And she knows if she achieves something, that she deserves praise."

It's fair to say that Faulkner and Wilson deserve praise too. Karah's had a lot to overcome in her short life, including an intestinal disease.

"She has Hirschsprung's. We also have tracheomalacia. Pretty much, she had like an extra little flap on right here where it opens and closes for her to eat and what goes down into her lungs. She had surgery to fix that," Faulkner said. "At 14 months old we had no head control. She couldn't hold her head up, roll over, do anything. We just pretty much laid there."

Karah also has global developmental delays, affecting her gross and fine motor skills and cognitive abilities. Recently, they learned she's missing a chromosome. None of that is stopping her, though.

"We actually just aim for the fences and she rises to the occasion most of the time," Wilson said.
Literally, Karah has started standing up and walking, with help from Faulkner. The hope is at some point she'll be walking on her own.

A few small steps are really a giant leap for Karah and other kids helped by UTM Infant Stimulation. This year, because of the pandemic, Wilson and other EI's can't go into their families' homes. So, Zoom it is.

"Now you kinda' have to be a little more creative," Wilson said.

It's her job now to help the caregivers, help the child, through a camera instead of in person.

"It's been quite interesting, but it's sharpened our skills," Wilson said.

Typically, telethon donations help with their travel. This year, children like Karah are seeing different benefits.

"We actually have had opportunities to help families buy equipment, things that will help that child grow toward those developmental things that we're working on," Wilson said.

You really can't put a price on what Faulkner and Wilson have helped Karah accomplish.

"They've really helped her progress since last year," Childress said of the help they've given his daughter. "She is doing so many milestones, and we're very proud of her."

"Seeing her a year later being able to do all of this, it just goes beyond my wildest dreams that I could have thought for her," Faulkner said.

Also priceless? Karah's smile, and the donations to the Telethon of Stars that have helped make it possible.

Eventually, telethon dollars will help UTM Infant Stimulation buy something they really can't budget for right now: protective gear, like gloves and masks, for their employees when they are allowed to start making home visits again.

This year there will be no live audience at the Telethon of Stars, but you can watch it Saturday, November 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on WPSD Local 6. You can donate by texting TELETHON to 50155. You can also mail your donation to: Telethon of Stars, c/o Independence Bank, PO Box 966, Paducah, KY 42002.
UT MARTIN PROF CONTINUES "EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT" IN SPITE OF PANDEMIC

November 12, 2020 @ 8:34 am Shannon McBeth

With a love of pottery and helping others, finding the grassroots movement "Empty Bowls Project" gave David McBeth, UT Martin professor of visual arts, a new way to use his passions to help fight food insecurity in the community he calls home.

McBeth's work with Empty Bowls began 17 years ago when he proposed the idea for a service project for Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. He hoped for young members of the church to come to the studio and make bowls for a charity soup dinner.

"I said, 'We could sell the bowls to people at Trinity and maybe raise $500 for We Care,' and the pastor looked at me and said, 'That's a great idea. Why would we just do it for Trinity, and why only 50 bowls?' and without skipping a beat, I said, 'Okay, well I'll do it for the whole city of Martin, and we'll do 500 bowls,'" McBeth recounted.

That event was the first iteration of Martin's Empty Bowls Soup Supper, and McBeth's reach has grown ever since. More recently, McBeth and his students have created 1,500 bowls each year to raise money for food insecurity relief programs sponsored by We Care Ministries Inc., a local organization that provides a variety of services to community members in need. Funds raised at Empty Bowls Soup Suppers support We Care's food pantry. Two years ago, the First-Year Initiative program at UT Martin began a cracker drive to allow students across the university to help out.

"The first year, it was a phenomenal number of like 100 boxes of crackers, so the four-packs of saltines. That was overwhelming, and it was unbelievable. Last year, it was like 400 boxes that were donated," McBeth said.

By getting his students involved with the soup suppers, McBeth hopes to not only improve their skills as artists, but also make them better members of the community.

"The first time, they can't believe it. The first time they come to a soup event, it's just overwhelming. The excitement that the community has for the bowls gets passed on to the students," McBeth said. "The students figure out that two things are happening: they're helping the community, and they're learning to be better potters at the same time because that's how you learn, through repetition."

"I can make bowls all day. I can make 50, 100 bowls a day, but big deal if they're just a stack of bowls in my closet," McBeth said. "There's no way of knowing I would write a check for $15,000 to We Care, but I have an ability to make bowls, and I have the community's support that allows the community to make that donation to We Care."

This year, the event has been moved online because of safety concerns for the university and Martin communities. The bowls will be listed online for the public to select after making a $15 donation beginning at noon on Nov. 15, and there will be counters to show how many of each bowl is still available. Customers can pick up their bowls from noon - 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Fine Arts Building. Despite these changes, McBeth is determined to provide the best possible experience for the community.

"There was some real joyful surprise when I started spreading the word that we're going to do it. It's not going to be the same, but we're going to do it, and we're going to do it online," McBeth said. "That means a lot to me that it's important to the community to have this event happen."

Empty Bowls will see roughly 1,200 bowls this year, with a majority handcrafted by McBeth himself.
"Like so many other aspects of our lives, Martin Empty Bowls looks different in 2020," McBeth said. "I know how much the community enjoys congregating around the most amazing soup potluck known and the wonderful fellowship that accompanies that gathering. As the potter, I love to hear the joy as folks search through the tables and tables of bowls. That too will be missed this year."

COVID-19 has not only changed the way McBeth hosts the Empty Bowls Soup Supper, but it has reinforced concepts that he uses in his teaching and everyday life. The need for clear communication has become more important to him than ever as he is no longer able to help his students with their projects hands-on. He has also been reminded of the significance of taking the time to slow down and be patient with life.

"Find a good book. Go home and read. Write letters. Somebody was complaining about email and computers and stuff earlier, and somebody said, 'What would you rather do, write a letter?' and I was like, 'Yeah! What would be so bad about slowing down and taking the time to really think about the person you're communicating with?'" McBeth said. "That wouldn't have happened if we didn't have this new life to live through."

While McBeth encourages his students to take the time to slow down during these unprecedented times, he is only working harder to ensure there are enough bowls to be sold during the Empty Bowls event to help families in need in the Martin community.

"I hope, in spite of the pandemic, that Empty Bowls can bring the community together."
Disaster Course Prepares Public

To protect his family and their wellbeing, Dr. Stan Dunagan, professor of geology, prepares for the worst. Now, through the University of Tennessee Martin’s new disaster preparation course, Dunagan can use the knowledge that he has gained to help prepare students to deal with natural disasters and other calamities.

The idea for the course stems from Dunagan’s understanding of Northwest Tennessee’s geography, particularly its susceptibility to earthquakes.

“Earthquakes are a real hazard to anyone living in West Tennessee. It seems logical to me to make a few preparations for an earthquake — especially if the state and federal (government) expects citizens to be ‘two weeks ready.’ The nice thing about ‘prepping’ for an earthquake is that many of those preps are also invaluable to winter storms, tornadoes and other hazardous events,” Dunagan said.

Although the main focus of the class is influenced by Dunagan’s understanding of earthquakes, students also learn about other natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, wildfires, coronal mass ejections, or “super solar flares,” as well as other threats such as active-shooter situations and cyber-attacks. The course aims to equip students with not only the knowledge of how to prepare for natural disasters and other unexpected events, but also with the mindset to effectively do so.

“We’ve talked about the tools, the stuff, knowing how to use them, but really you’ve got to get it in your head that there could be a situation that could be bad that could happen. I think most people are not situationally aware of the dangers that they face day in and day out,” Dunagan said.

Dunagan promotes self-reliance in his course by teaching students the skills necessary to survive on their own and to be aware of the dangers around them.

“Don’t expect that the state or the federal government will come help you because literally I have been to multiple states where they have said, ‘Our priority is the top two metro areas and everybody else will take 10-14 days,’” Dunagan said. “It’s not that hard to get two weeks ready, but it does take some time, so I’ve just been trying to talk to the students to ...

increase personal responsibility, have that mindset that they are responsible for their own personal safety, and increase their situational awareness.”

In order to put the lessons he has taught into practice, Dunagan and a student took a basic survival course October 23rd through the 25th with Master Sgt. Tim Hardy of Survive72, a veteran-owned and operated survival school in Paris. During the class, Hardy taught the pair the psychology of survival as well as tactics like shelter and fire construction, smoke signaling, first aid, and water location and purification.

“The whole premise of Mr. Hardy’s Survive72 course is that 62% of people who get lost are injured or ill, and after 72 hours, the vast majority are found. The key thing is making it through the 72 hours,” Dunagan said.

One thing that stood out to Dunagan on the trip was the effects of weather, as the weekend was cold and rainy, presenting an extra layer of challenge.

“We did many activities out by Mr. Hardy’s fire pit,” Dunagan said. “It made me appreciate the comfort of the fire. It also made me realize how little cold it takes to zap your strength and stamina.”
UT Martin basketball coach Anthony Stewart dies suddenly at age 50

Stewart, who was slated to begin his fifth season at the helm of UT Martin, passed away on Sunday.

By Kyle Boone Nov 15, 2020 at 8:47 pm ET • 1 min read

The University of Tennessee at Martin men’s basketball coach, Anthony Stewart, died suddenly on Sunday. He was 50 years old. Stewart’s passing comes as the team was slated to open its season later this month. He was preparing to enter his fifth season at the helm of the Skyhawks program.

“We are stunned to hear this tragic news,” Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. “Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time.”

The cause of Stewart’s death at this time is unknown. Stadium’s Jeff Goodman reports that he tested negative for COVID-19 this past Monday.

Stewart took over as UT Martin’s coach in 2016 when he was promoted from associate head coach to head coach to succeed Heath Schroyer. In his debut season, he guided the Skyhawks to 22 victories, equaling the school record for most wins in a single season. That season the Skyhawks won their first-ever outright Ohio Valley Conference West division championship.
"What I will remember most about Coach Stewart was his focus in developing our young men to be leaders in their community, leaders in the workforce and leaders in their homes," UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. "He always stressed the development of the entire person, well beyond athletics."

Martin began his athletics career as a baseball and basketball player at Mount Union in the early 1990s. In the early aughts, he paid his dues as an assistant on the small college circuit -- at Columbus State and at Long Beach State -- before breaking through as an assistant at Wyoming in 2007. He then made stops as an assistant at Southern Illinois, Ohio and UT Martin in the years that followed before UT Martin elevated him to fill its head coaching position.

It's unclear at this time who will take over the program in the wake of Stewart's sudden passing. Whoever it is will inherit a team that went 9-20 last season but has plenty of talented stars, among them Parker Stewart, Anthony's son, who transferred from Pittsburgh in 2018 to play for his father. Stewart averaged 19.2 points per game last season.

"We are stunned to hear this tragic news," UT Martin athletic director Kurt McGuffin said in a statement. "Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time."

UT Martin head coach Anthony Stewart died suddenly on Sunday afternoon, the school announced. He was 50.

Stewart was preparing for his fifth season with the Skyhawks this fall. The cause of death is not yet known.
Stewart had been texting with Stadium's Jeff Goodman earlier on Sunday morning, and nothing seemed out of the ordinary. The program suspended basketball activities Thursday due to a positive COVID-19 test, which ended up being a false positive. Stewart had tested negative himself last Monday, the final time he was tested.

UT Martin head coach Anthony Stewart's passing is absolutely heartwrenching. I was texting with him this morning. He said that his team had been shut down on Thursday, but then it wound up being a false COVID positive test. Was hoping his team could return to practice this week.

— Jeff Goodman (@GoodmanHoops) November 16, 2020

Stewart's final tweet was one urging athletes and others to take the coronavirus seriously.

Athletics needs to change their mentality on Covid. A lot of people think getting the virus early in order to PLAY is the answer. Is that the philosophy for their own children or the philosophy for the masses and non athletes?? PREVENTION should ALWAYS be the goal!! SkyhawkNation

— Anthony Stewart (@coachastew) November 15, 2020

Martin took over as the head coach with the Skyhawks in 2016 after spending two seasons as an assistant there. He led the program to 22 wins, tying the school record, in his first year at the helm and reached the Ohio Valley Conference tournament title game.

The Akron, Ohio, native compiled a 53-73 record in his four years at UT Martin. The Skyhawks went 9-20 last season. He also served as an assistant at Long Beach State, Wyoming, Southern Illinois and Ohio before joining UT Martin.

"What I will remember most about Coach Stewart was his focus in developing our young men to be leaders in their community, leaders in the workforce and leaders in their homes," UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said in a statement. "He always stressed the development of the entire person, well beyond athletics."

Anthony Stewart, men's basketball coach for UT Martin Skyhawks, dies

By Jeff Beselope

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Tennessee-Martin men's basketball coach Anthony Stewart died suddenly Sunday, the school announced.

He was 50.

"We are stunned to hear this tragic news," athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. "Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time."

No cause of death was given.

Stewart had been head coach of the Skyhawks since 2016, when he was promoted from associate head coach to the top spot to replace Heath Schroyer. He had been the associate head coach under Schroyer for two seasons. As head coach, Stewart led UT Martin to a 22-13 record in his first season at the helm, earning a spot in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. The 22 wins equaled the school record for most in a season.

Before joining the UT Martin staff, Stewart spent time as an assistant coach at Ohio, Southern Illinois, Wyoming, Long Beach State and Columbus State Community College. He played basketball and baseball in college at Mount Union.

"What I will remember most about Coach Stewart was his focus in developing our young men to be leaders in their community, leaders in the workforce and leaders in their homes," UT Martin chancellor Keith Carver said. "He always stressed the development of the entire person, well beyond athletics."

Parker Stewart, one of Stewart's three children, transferred from Pittsburgh to Tennessee Martin after the 2017-18 season to play for his father. Last season, Stewart earned second-team All-Ohio Valley honors and averaged 19.0 points.
Anthony Stewart, the men's head coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin for the past five seasons, passed away Sunday.

"We are stunned to hear this tragic news," Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. "Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time."

Stewart (50 years old) joined the UT Martin program as the associate head coach under Heath Schroyer in 2014. Since that time, the Skyhawks have compiled 94 victories -- which are the most in any six-year span in the school's Division I Era (since 1992). That includes three 20-win campaigns from 2014-17, which was the first time a UT Martin team had won at least 20 games in three consecutive seasons.

In his debut season as a collegiate head coach (2016-17), Stewart guided the Skyhawks to 22 victories -- which equaled the school record for most wins in a single season. UT Martin won its first-ever outright Ohio Valley Conference West division championship and advanced to the OVC Tournament championship game for the second consecutive year. The Skyhawks' 14 home wins were the most for the program since 1987-88 and their 10 nonconference victories were tied for the most in school history.

Stewart was a private business entrepreneur for many years before getting into coaching. He also spent time as an assistant coach at Ohio University (2012-14), Southern Illinois University (2011-12), University of Wyoming (2007-11), Long Beach State University (2004-06) and Columbus State Community College (2001-04) before joining the Skyhawks.

An Akron, Ohio native, Stewart played collegiate basketball and baseball at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. He graduated from Mount Union with a bachelor's degree in business management in 1993 before completing his Master's degree in business administration from Chancellor University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2006.
Anthony Stewart, UT Martin men's basketball coach, dead at 50, school confirms

November 16, 2020 by Paulina Dedaj

Anthony Stewart, head coach of the UT Martin men's basketball team, died on Sunday, the school announced. He was 50.

Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin released a statement confirming the sudden passing of Martin, who was set to begin his fifth season as head coach later this month.

“We are stunned to hear this tragic news,” McGuffin's statement read. “Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes.”

The cause of death was not immediately known.

Stewart joined the Skyhawks as an assistant coach in 2014. In 2018 he was offered the head coaching position after Heath Schroyer moved on to NC State. He previously worked as an assistant coach at Ohio, Southern Illinois and Wyoming.

“What I will remember most about Coach Stewart was his focus in developing our young men to be leaders in their community, leaders in the workforce and leaders in their homes,” UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said in a statement.

“He always stressed the development of the entire person, well beyond athletics.”

Stewart's son, Parker Stewart, transferred from Pittsburgh last season to play for his father at UT Martin.
Anthony Stewart, the UT Martin men’s basketball coach, dies at 50

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS | NOV 16, 2020 AT 9:40 AM

MARTIN, TENN. — UT Martin basketball coach Anthony Stewart was found dead Sunday just before the start of his fifth season with the Skyhawks. He was 50.

“We are stunned to hear this tragic news,” athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. “Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of School officials told the Skyhawks about Stewart’s death late Sunday afternoon.

Stewart had been at UT Martin since 2014, starting as associate head coach under Heath Schroyer. The Skyhawks have won 94 games since then, the most in any six-year span since UT Martin moved to Division I. UT Martin put together three straight 20-win seasons between 2014 and 2017, a first in school history.

Stewart took over in 2016-17 and won 22 games to tie the school record for most wins in a single season. That was the third-highest total among the 29 first-year head coaches in Division I. UT Martin won its first outright Ohio Valley Conference West division title and reached the OVC Tournament championship game for a second straight year.

From Akron, Ohio, Stewart played basketball and baseball at Mount Union before graduating in 1993. He was an entrepreneur before going into coaching in 2001 at Columbus State Community College. He was an assistant at Long Beach State from 2004-2006, Wyoming, Southern Illinois and Ohio University.
Anthony Stewart, Men's Basketball Coach for University of Tennessee at Martin, Found Dead at 50 (Video)

Published 3 days ago on November 18, 2020
by EURPublisher01

*Tennessee-Martin men's basketball coach Anthony Stewart has died suddenly at the age of 50. No cause of death was given.

Stewart had been head coach of the Skyhawks since 2016, when he was promoted from associate head coach to the top spot to replace Heath Schroyer, reports ESPN. He had been the associate head coach under Schroyer for two seasons. As head coach, Stewart led UT Martin to a 22-13 record in his first season at the helm, earning a spot in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. The 22 wins equaled the school record for most in a season.

The school's athletic director Kurt McGuffin said Sunday, "We are stunned to hear this tragic news. Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time."

"What I will remember most about Coach Stewart was his focus in developing our young men to be leaders in their community, leaders in the workforce and leaders in their homes," UT Martin chancellor Keith Carver said. "He always stressed the development of the entire person, well beyond athletics."

Parker Stewart, one of Stewart's three children, transferred from Pittsburgh to Tennessee Martin after the 2017-18 season to play for his father.

Below is video Anthony Stewart speaking to the media just six days ago for the Ohio Valley Conference's virtual media day.
Anthony Stewart, the head basketball coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was found dead Sunday just before the start of his fifth season with the Skyhawks. He was 50.

The cause of Stewart's death was not immediately disclosed. School officials told the Skyhawks about Stewart's death late Sunday afternoon.

"We are stunned to hear this tragic news," athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. "Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time."

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From Akron, Ohio, Stewart played basketball and baseball at Mount Union before graduating in 1993. He was an entrepreneur before going into coaching in 2001 at Columbus State Community College. He was an assistant at Long Beach State from 2004-2006, Wyoming, Southern Illinois and Ohio University.

CBSSports.com reported that one of Stewart's sons, Parker Stewart, transferred from Pittsburgh to Tennessee Martin after the 2017-18 season to play for his father. Last season, Stewart averaged 19.2 points per game. Earlier this month, he was voted as a preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference honoree.

http://tshf.net

UT MARTIN BASKETBALL COACH ANTHONY STEWART PASSES AWAY AT AGE 50

November 16th, 2020

Sunday, the University of Tennessee-Martin announced that Anthony Stewart, the Men's basketball coach for the past four seasons had passed away at the age of 50.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Stewart family, as well as with the UT-Martin athletics family during this difficult time.
The University of Tennessee at Martin’s League of Striving Artists is hosting its annual Holiday Art Bazaar from 5 – 8 p.m., Nov. 19; 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Nov. 20; and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Nov. 21, in the Fine Arts Building Gallery. The event is free and open to the public, but visitors are required to wear masks.
The Holiday Art Bazaar allows community members to appreciate and purchase handmade gifts made by UT Martin students, faculty and alumni. All event proceeds go toward the LSA Scholarship Fund.

STARTS, or “Support the Arts,” contributors are invited to join students and faculty for an early opening from 5 – 6 p.m., Nov. 18. For more information on the STARTS Program and how to become a STARTS contributor, visit utm.edu/starts or call 731-881-7400.

LSA is a student art association that encourages student growth in academics, community service, leadership and artistic development. LSA also promotes the arts within the community through art-related community service projects.

For more information, contact Jason Stout, LSA faculty adviser and professor of art, at 731-881-3402 or email jstout@utm.edu.
MARTIN, TN — The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold a memorial ceremony for Skyhawk head men's basketball coach Anthony Stewart after he died unexpectedly Sunday.

The service is set for Sunday, Nov. 22 at 3 p.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

UT Martin says the event is open to the public, but you must follow mask and social distancing guidelines. You will be required to enter through the main entrance doors of the Elam Center, located off Pat Head Summit Drive.

The university says Stewart passed away suddenly on Sunday, Nov. 15 at the age of 50. He is survived by his wife Cheryl, his sons Anthony and Parker, and his daughter Skylar.
UT Martin says Stewart was born in Pittsburgh, Penn., and raised in Akron, Ohio. He was the 10th head coach in UT Martin men's basketball history, starting that role during the 2016-17 season where the Skyhawks tied a school record with 22 victories.

Overall, UT Martin says Stewart coached five All-Ohio Valley Conference performers during his four-year tenure as UT Martin head coach. The university says Stewart was part of history in 2017 when he led the Skyhawks to their first-ever home postseason victory with a win in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament.

UTM Alumni Foundation creates Anthony Stewart Memorial Fund

Jeff Bidwell
Nov 17, 2020
The UT Martin Alumni Foundation announced Monday the creation of the Anthony Stewart Memorial Fund. Stewart, the school's men's basketball coach, died unexpectedly Sunday at the age of 50.

The Stewart family will determine how the money that is raised will be used in the near future.

If you're interested in donating, there are several ways to do it:

Donations can be made online at give.utm.edu, selecting “Make a Gift”, clicking on “Search for College, School, or Preferred Fund”, selecting “Area of Support Not Listed (Other)” and typing in “Coach Anthony Stewart Memorial Fund”.

Gifts can also be mailed to UT Martin, Office of University Advancement, 329 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238. Be sure to include “Coach Anthony Stewart Memorial Fund” on the check.

For any questions, please call (731) 881-7634.
Head Coach of UT-Martin Basketball, found dead at 50

Anthony Stewart, the head basketball coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was found dead Sunday just before the start of his fifth season with the Skyhawks. He was 50 years old.

According to CBS News, The cause of Stewart's death has not been disclosed. School officials told the team about Stewart's death late Sunday afternoon.

Originally from Akron, Ohio, Stewart played basketball and baseball at Mount Union. He began coaching in 2001 at Columbus State Community College. He was an assistant at Long Beach State from 2004-2006, Wyoming, Southern Illinois and Ohio University.

One of his sons, Parker Stewart, recently transferred from the University of Pittsburgh after the 2017-2018 season. He was voted pre-season All-Ohio Valley Conference ahead of this season.
UT Martin basketball coach Anthony Stewart's death is heartbreaking. Anthony Stewart, the head coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has died at the age of 50.

The school announced the tragic news on Sunday night. Martin was set to begin his fifth season as the program’s head coach.

For his efforts, Anthony Stewart was named as a finalist for the Ben Jobe National Coach of the Year Award and performed annually to the nation’s top Division I minority head coach.

UT-Martin (https://www.utm.edu/) longtime college basketball insider Jeff Goodman announced the heartbreaking news on his Twitter account: “I was texting with him this morning. He said that his team had been shut down on Thursday, but then it wound up being a false COVID positive test. Was hoping his team could return to practice this week.”

UT Martin Basketball Coach Anthony Stewart’s Death

Stewart had a head coaching record of 51-73, which contains a 22-win season in 2016-17, tying the school record for most successes in a single season.

Stewart played basketball and baseball at Mount Union before joining UT Martin as associate head coach in 2014, then started his college coaching career at Columbus State Community College from 2001-04.

Also worked at Long Beach State (2004-06), Wyoming (2007-11), Southern Illinois (2011-12), and Ohio (2012-14) followed.

Our thoughts are with Anthony Stewart’s friends and family at this time.
Anthony Stewart’s Death Reactions

One of his sons, Parker, is a junior guard in the Skyhawks and averaged 19.2 points last season in the Ohio Valley Conference school. He eventually enrolled at Pittsburgh but transferred to UT-Martin to perform for his father.

Parker shared his grief, writing to his father, and posting a picture of the two of them on the court together on Instagram late Sunday night.

UT Martin head coach Anthony Stewart’s passing is absolutely heartwrenching. I was texting with him this morning. He said that his team had been shut down on Thursday, but then it wound up being a false COVID positive test. Was hoping his team could return to practice this week.

https://t.co/krOLDYlIIX
(https://t.co/krOLDYlIIX)

— Jeff Goodman (@GoodmanHoops) November 16, 2020

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said he remembers that Coach Stewart’s focus was on developing young men to be leaders in their community, leaders in the workforce, and leaders in their homes.

Oh no, this is awful. Tennessee-Martin just announced that head coach Anthony Stewart has passed away. Just 50 years old.

https://t.co/dTY00dsNGH
(https://t.co/dTY00dsNGH)

— Jeff Borzello (@jeffborzello) November 16, 2020

Dr. Carver also said, “He always stressed the development of the entire person, well beyond athletics.”

“He was a different kind of coach, as focused on life after basketball as he was with winning any game,” Bidwell tweeted.
UTM mourns passing of Coach Stewart

The University of Tennessee at Martin is saddened to announce today’s passing of Anthony Stewart, who was slated to begin his fifth season as the Skyhawks’ head men’s basketball coach later this month. He was 50 years old.

“We are stunned to hear this tragic news,” Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. “Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time.”

Stewart joined the UT Martin program as the associate head coach under Heath Schroyer in 2014. Since that time, the Skyhawks have compiled 94 victories — which are the most in any six-year span in the school’s Division I Era (since 1992). That includes three 20-win campaigns from 2014-17, which was the first time a UT Martin team had won at least 20 games in three consecutive seasons.

Stewart’s son Parker, who helped lead Union City High School to the Class A state championship game in 2015 and then played collegiately at Pittsburgh before transferring to UTM to play for his father, wrote a heartfelt tribute on his social media platforms Sunday night.

“This is my letter to you, since I won’t get to tell you myself. Tell God I may not ever understand this one.

This is the worst day of my life. You were my hero dad. You always said you owed back in this life, and you always gave everybody a chance who was counted out. You worked so hard just so we didn’t have to grow up like you did. You raised me from a boy to a man. You taught me how to play the game I love, but most importantly you taught me about life, and I’ll remember every lesson. You brightened up my room, you were always the funniest and had the craziest stories. You would do anything for your family. I’m gonna walk across that stage this month with my Master’s degree, just like you planned for me when I came back home to play for you. I know you always had my back, you wanted my dreams to come true even more than I did sometimes. I’m still working on the other part of the plan. I promise I’ll give it my all to try to make it there. I might not ever shake this one off. You know I’ll protect the family with my life. I hope I’ll make you proud. A legend in my book, and the realest coach on the planet. Basketball didn’t matter, you knew there was so much more to life. See you soon. Words will never explain how much I love you. Rest in Heaven.”

In his debut season as a collegiate head coach (2016-17), Stewart guided the Skyhawks to 22 victories — which equaled the...
school record for most wins in a single season. UT Martin won its first-ever outright Ohio Valley Conference West division championship and advanced to the OVC Tournament championship game for the second consecutive year.

The Skyhawks’ 14 home wins were the most for the program since 1987-88 and their 10 nonconference victories were tied for the most in school history.

For his efforts, Stewart was selected as one of 21 finalists for the 2017 Ben Jobe National Coach of the Year Award, presented annually to the nation’s top Division I minority head coach. His 22 wins were the third-highest total of the 29 first-year head coaches in Division I basketball.

During Stewart’s time at UT Martin, he had taken part in several high-profile speaking engagements. He was one of 20 keynote speakers at the 2018 Collegiate Coaching Consortium at the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio, Texas.

He also annually represented the Skyhawks at the American Cancer Society’s Coaches vs. Cancer Tennessee Tip-Off Reception in Nashville. In January of 2019, Stewart was the keynote speaker at UT Martin’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast event held on campus.

“What I will remember most about Coach Stewart was his focus in developing our young men to be leaders in their community, leaders in the workforce and leaders in their homes,” UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said. “He always stressed the development of the entire person, well beyond athletics.”

Stewart was a private business entrepreneur for many years before getting into coaching. He also spent time as an assistant coach at Ohio University (2012-14), Southern Illinois University (2011-12), University of Wyoming (2007-11), Long Beach State University (2004-06) and Columbus State Community College (2001-04) before joining the Skyhawks.

An Akron, Ohio native, Stewart played collegiate basketball and baseball at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. He graduated from Mount Union with a bachelor’s degree in business management in 1993 before completing his Master’s degree in business administration from Chancellor University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2006.
ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART BAZAAR PLANNED — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s League of Striving Artists is hosting its annual Holiday Art Bazaar from 5 - 8 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, in the Fine Arts Building Gallery. The event is free and open to the public, but visitors are required to wear masks. The bazaar allows community members to appreciate and purchase handmade gifts made by UTM students, faculty and alumni. All event proceeds go toward the LSA Scholarship Fund, STARTS, or “Support the Arts,” contributors are invited to join students and faculty for an early opening from 5 - 6 p.m. Wednesday. LSA is a student art association that encourages student growth in academics, community service, leadership and artistic development. LSA also promotes the arts within the community through art-related community service projects.

UT Martin to host multiple in-person commencements Saturday

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host three in-person commencement ceremonies Saturday, Nov. 21, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, to celebrate the spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates. Social distancing and CDC guidelines will be implemented during the ceremonies to promote safety for graduates and their families.

“While we are certainly disappointed we cannot all gather together to celebrate our graduates’ achievements, we are thankful we will be able to honor the class of 2020 in a safe manner,” UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said. “Hosting three commencements in one day is unlike anything we’ve ever done before, but I am confident each ceremony will be meaningful to our graduates and their families in the midst of these uncertain times.”

The 2020 fall commencement ceremonies are scheduled by academic colleges:

• 10 a.m.: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs
• 2 p.m.: College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Graduate Programs
• 6 p.m.: College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences

Each ceremony will be livestreamed via Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/utmartin and YouTube at www.youtube.com/utmartin for those who are unable to attend. Graduates who are not attending the in-person ceremonies will be recognized virtually after the in-person attendees are announced.

Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, will also announce the recipients of the Paul and Martha Meek Award during the respective ceremonies.

All graduates and guests are required to wear face masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines during the ceremony.
Eight UTM students accepted to agriculture leaders conference

Eight University of Tennessee at Martin agriculture students were accepted to the 2020 Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference, which was hosted virtually Nov. 11-14.

The AFA Leaders Conference selects attendees based on their academic standing, community service, leadership and professional experience, making the acceptance process highly competitive for college students across the U.S.

For the first time, UT Martin received a 100 percent acceptance rate for all students who applied. The virtual event offers undergraduate students personal and professional development opportunities through networking, job fairs, leadership panels and more.

The UT Martin students accepted to the conference are Lauren Lewis, a freshman pre-vet major from Germantown; Zach Mills, a senior agriculture education major from Parsons; McKenzie Reagor, a junior agribusiness major from Karmak, Illinois; Chase Lederwood, a sophomore agriculture communications major from Atlanta, Georgia; Samantha Essex, a freshman agriculture education major from Crossville; Matt Hale, a sophomore agriculture engineering technology major from Manchester; Casey Bohr, a freshman agribusiness major from Mount Juliet; and Nicholas Wohlbold, a senior agribusiness major from Kansas City, Missouri.
Memorial slated for UTM’s Stewart

UT Martin will hold a memorial ceremony for Skyhawk men’s basketball head coach Anthony Stewart 3 p.m. Sunday in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The event is open to the public, who are asked to follow mask and social distancing guidelines.

All guests will be required to enter through the main entrance doors of the facility, located off Pat Head Summitt Drive.

Stewart died on Sunday at the age of 50.

He is survived by his wife Cheryl, his sons Anthony and Parker, and his daughter Skylar.

Stewart was the 10th head coach in UT Martin men’s basketball history.

He started in that role during the 2016-17 season.

Overall, Stewart coached five All-OHIO Valley Conference performers during his four-year tenure as UT Martin head coach.

He was part of history in 2017 when he guided the Skyhawks to their first-ever home postseason victory with a win in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament.

“We are stunned to hear this tragic news,” Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. “Coach Stewart was a true leader to every one of the young men he coached. He emphasized the meaning of a college degree and instilled professionalism in each of his student-athletes. We ask for privacy during this difficult time.”

Stewart’s son Parker wrote a heart-felt tribute on his social media platforms Sunday night.

Parker Stewart helped lead Union City High School to the Class A state championship game in 2015 and then played collegiately at Pittsburgh before transferring to UTM to play for his father.

“This is my letter to you, since I won’t get to tell you myself. Tell God I may not ever understand this one. This is the worst day of my life. You were my hero dad.

You always said you owed back in this life, and you always gave everybody a chance who was counted out. You worked so hard just so we didn’t have to grow up like you did. You raised me from a boy to a man. You taught me how to play the game I love, but most importantly you taught me about life, and I’ll remember every lesson. You brightened up my room, you were always the funniest and had the craziest stories. You would do anything for your family. I’m gonna walk across that stage this month with my Master’s degree, just like you planned for me when I came back home to play for you. I know you always had my back, you wanted my dreams to come true even more than I did sometimes. I’m still working on the other part of the plan. I promise I’ll give it my all to try to make it there. I might not ever shake this one off. You know I’ll protect the family with my life. I hope I’ll make you proud.

A legend in my book, and the realest coach on the planet. Basketball didn’t matter, you knew there was so much more to life. See you soon. Words will never explain how much I love you. Rest in Heaven.”
UT Martin will host 3 separate ceremonies

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Each ceremony will be livestreamed via Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/utmartin and YouTube at www.youtube.com/utmartin for those who are unable to attend. Graduates who are not attending the in-person ceremonies will be recognized virtually after the in-person attendees are announced.

The commencements will feature remarks from UT President Randy Boyd, Dr. Carver, UT Martin Provost Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin SGA President Hunter McCloud, campus minister Amanda Crice and UT Martin Alumni Association President Victor Andrews.

Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, will also announce the recipients of the Paul and Martha Meek Award during the respective ceremonies. All graduates and guests are required to wear face masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines during the ceremony.

Music programs slated

The department of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin has announced the following musical programs:
- Voice Studio Recital today at 8 p.m. It will be available on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube pages.
- Contemporary Music Group on Sunday at 3 p.m. It will be available on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube pages.

To learn more about upcoming events, visit utm.edu/musicevents.

Holiday art bazaar set at UTM

The University of Tennessee at Martin's League of Striving Artists will host its annual Holiday Art Bazaar Thursday through Saturday.

The event will be open 5-8 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Fine Arts Building Gallery.

The event is free and open to the public, but visitors are required to wear face masks.

The Holiday Art Bazaar allows community members to appreciate and purchase handmade gifts made by UT Martin students, faculty and alumni. All event proceeds go toward the LSA Scholarship Fund.

STARTS, or "Support the Arts," contributors are invited to join students and faculty for an early opening from 5-6 p.m. Wednesday.

For more information on the STARTS Program and how to become a STARTS contributor, visit utm.edu/starts or call (731) 881-7400.

League of Striving Artists is a student art association that encourages student growth in academics, community service, leadership and artistic development. LSA also promotes the arts within the community through art-related community service projects.
Anthony Stewart cuts down the net after securing a regular season Ohio Valley Conference division title at UT Martin in his first season leading the team. PHOTOS BY UT MARTIN SPORTS INFORMATION
UTM's Coach Stewart remembered for care for players

Brandon Shields
Jackson Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The sudden death of the men's basketball coach at any college will hit the campus community hard.

Anthony Stewart's death Sunday afternoon hit the close-knit community of UT Martin even harder.

According to those who knew him, he was a coach who cared about his players more off the court than on, and he represented UT Martin well in the community of Martin and Weakley County.

"This is the kind of guy he was," said Jordan Taylor, a senior broadcast major at UTM who did radio broadcasts for Skyhawk sports teams the past four years. "We're covering a UTM baseball game, and he's there sitting in the stands eating popcorn and catching up with fans.

"You might expect someone like him to be standing off if he's even there, watching by himself. But he was in there with everybody."

Stewart's son, Parker, was a highly-touted prospect coming out of Union City High School and played at Pittsburgh University before coming to UTM to play for his father two years ago. He got to play last year.

"You taught me how to play the game I love, but most importantly you taught me about life, and I'll remember every lesson," Parker said in a post on Instagram Sunday night. "You brightened up any room, you were always the funniest and had the craziest stories.

"You would do anything for your family. I'm gonna walk across that

See STEWART, Page 5A
Stewart

Continued from Page 1A

stage this month with my Master's degree, just like you planned for me when I came back home to play for you. I know you always had my back, you wanted my dreams to come true even more than I did sometimes."

Parker Stewart is scheduled to walk at UTM's graduation ceremony Saturday with his Master's degree.

"He’s the first player we've had that got his undergraduate in less than three years — two years and a summer," said UTM Sports Information Director Ryne Rickman. "And he’s getting his Master’s a year-and-a-half later."

"Coach would beam when he’d talk about his son, and he was more proud of him for what he's done off the court than what he does on it."

UTM Athletic Director Kurt McGuffin said the cause of Stewart’s death isn’t known yet. The school will discuss this week to formalize plans to memorialize Stewart as well as decide who will coach the team.

"Honestly in the first 24 hours since this happened and since we told the team (Sunday) evening, that's the last thing on my mind," McGuffin said. "Because the team came into a meeting at 5:15 p.m., and they thought because of the COVID-19 pandemic that we were going to tell them the season was cancelled, but instead we told them their leader had died and is gone.

“A lot of the guys took it understandably rough, and we're going to be there for them as much as we can be because a lot of them are in quarantine because of a COVID exposure.”

The Skyhawks are set to start the season on Dec. 12 at home against Southeast Missouri State, but McGuffin said the players will decide how they proceed toward the season from here.

McGuffin did say the school plans to hold a public memorial service for the coach because of what he meant to the community in the few years he led the program. He led the Skyhawks to their first-ever Ohio Valley Conference West Division championship and the OVC tournament championship game in his first season as head coach after he was an assistant for former coach Heath Schroyer.

"I was the interim AD when Heath left and Anthony became the interim coach," said women's basketball coach Kevin McMillan. "And I talked with others here and we thought it best to go ahead and take that interim tag off him to help him in recruiting and getting ready for the season."

McMillan said Stewart’s background in business helped make him a quality choice for the job.

"Of course he knew the game and how to relate to the players, but he came in with a budget and justification for every item in it," McMillan said. "And then he stuck to that budget, and as far as I know, he stuck to it every year."

Rickman said Stewart’s business strategies set him apart from any other coach Rickman has worked with.

"Every decision he made regarding the basketball program, there was a dollars and cents reason for it," Rickman said. "And it made sense and it worked every time, and that's not something you typically see from a coach."

McGuffin said that business background prompted Stewart to care more about the players off the court.

"He had a business background that not many coaches have," McGuffin said. "Most guys play, become a graduate assistant and work their way up."

"He played, graduated, went into business a few years and then decided midway through his career he wanted to coach. But because of that, he could talk to the guys about preparing themselves for life after basketball because no matter if they went on to play after UTM, basketball would end for them in a few years and they needed a plan."

Softball coach Brian Dunn said he had a great appreciation for Stewart and his care for the players.

"Coach Stewart was definitely a man who cared greatly about his players and always valued doing the right thing for the team and the individual above the idea of winning at all costs," Dunn said. "Coach Stewart was a man of integrity and will be greatly missed."

Rickman said the Stewart’s sudden death will have an impact on more than the basketball program at UTM.

"People have come to expect the unexpected this year, but this was truly we didn't see coming that will cause a big, big hole for us," Rickman said. "The players, coaching staff, athletic department, university, all of us were impacted by Coach Stewart in his few years here and we'll miss him."

Reach Brandon Shields at bjshields@jacksonsun.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorbrandon.
Stewart was more than a coach in Martin

Anthony Stewart’s death is a brutal reminder of how fragile life is.
Stewart was 50 years old and preparing for the upcoming basketball season at UT Martin, and he was also preparing for his second season coaching his son, Parker.

While Stewart’s death won’t grab the headlines and the social media shares if a similar situation occurred at a college like the University of Kentucky or Kansas University, this one will hurt on a more personal level.

Martin, Tenn., isn’t Lexington, Ky., or Durham, N.C.

ESPN, Fox Sports, New York Times and Yahoo Sports aren’t clamoring around UT Martin the way they do the blue bloods of college basketball like Duke, North Carolina and UCLA.

While Stewart was a local celebrity because of the position he held in the community, he was still approachable and more a part of the community of Weakley County.

For example, if the annual Soybean Festival was in Chapel Hill, N.C., would you expect to see North Carolina coach Roy Williams getting a corn dog before going to a concert or another event? Probably not.

But Stewart was there. He was at the Rotary and Kiwanis Club meetings. He was at church on Sunday. He was in the Mexican restaurant eating chips and salsa before getting a plate of fajitas and saying hey to people who recognized who he was and appreciated him for his work in the community.

Not many basketball coaches spent nearly a decade in the private sector getting real world experience before deciding to get back into basketball to coach and then bringing that real world experience to the basketball court.

That experience helped in games, but it also helped after the games.

According to UTM Sports Information Director Ryne Rickman, there are about a dozen former UTM players who played for Stewart playing professional ball overseas. But they and all their teammates for plenty of wisdom and advice that didn’t involve a pick and roll or a fast break.

They got life advice, how to budget and save money, how to thrive in the business world and how to be a quality husband and dad. The fact that his family was at every UTM game sitting right behind the Skyhawk bench is evidence of that last point.

In an environment where the entire family needed to embrace the community so the community could embrace them back, Stewart’s family was all in with UTM. And now, they’re finding out how UTM was all in with its basketball coach and his family.

“As tragic as this situation is for the Stewart family, it’s times like this where being in a small town atmosphere comes into play because of the town’s love for Coach Stewart and his family,” said UTM athletic director Kurt McGuffin. “I imagine they’ll need any support they can get.”

According to Rickman, the loyal fanbase of the Skyhawks will stand with the coach’s family in their time of loss.

“One thing about our fans is they adopt the players as they would their own kids,” Rickman said. “So they pay attention to how those guys are treated, and Coach Stewart did a great job the way he treated the players on and off the court.”

Brandon Shields is the editor of The Jackson Sun. Reach him at bshields@jacksontn.com or at 731-425-9751. Follow him on Twitter @JSEditorBrandon or on Instagram at editorbrandon.
A public memorial will be held Sunday at UT Martin for men's basketball coach Anthony Stewart, who died Sunday at the age of 50.

The memorial will be at 3 p.m. in the team's basketball arena, the Elam Center, and guests are asked to follow mask and social distancing guidelines. Guests will only be allowed to enter through the main entrance off Pat Head Summitt Drive.

Stewart was the coach at UT Martin for four seasons after arriving in 2014 as associate head coach under Heath Schroyer. His overall record was 51-73 and five players earned All-Ohio Valley Conference honors during his tenure.

He tied a school record with 22 wins in his first season (2016-17) as the Skyhawks won their first outright OVC West division championship. UT Martin also reached the second round of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament.

Stewart is survived by his wife Cheryl and his three children, Anthony, Parker and Skylar.
McBeth Continues to Fight Hunger During Pandemic

BY ANTONIA STEELE
UT Martin University Relations Intern

MARTIN (November 9) — With a love of pottery and helping others, finding the grassroots movement “Empty Bowls Project” gave David McBeth, UT Martin professor of visual arts, a new way to use his passions to help fight food insecurity in the community he calls home.

McBeth’s work with Empty Bowls began 17 years ago when he proposed the idea for a service project for Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. He hoped for young members of the church to come to the studio and make bowls for a charity soup dinner.

“I said, ‘We could sell the bowls to people at Trinity and maybe raise $500 for We Care,’ and the pastor looked at me and said, ‘That’s a great idea. Why would we just do it for Trinity, and why only 50 bowls?’ and without skipping a beat, I said, ‘Okay, we’ll do it for the whole city of Martin, and we’ll do 500 bowls,’” McBeth recounted.

That event was the first iteration of Martin’s Empty Bowls Soup Suppers. By Jasmine Williams/ The Enterprise

See McBeth on Page 3

McBeth

...From Front Page

Supper, and McBeth’s reach has grown ever since. More recently, McBeth and his students have created 1,500 bowls each year to raise money for food insecurity relief programs sponsored by We Care Ministries Inc., a local organization that provides a variety of services to community members in need. Funds raised at Empty Bowls Soup Suppers support We Care’s food pantry. Two years ago, the First-Year Initiative program at UT Martin began a cracker drive to allow students across the university to help out.

“...The first year, it was a phenomenal number of like 100 boxes of crackers, so the four-packs of saltines. That was overwhelming, and it was unbelievable. Last year, it was like 400 boxes that were donated,” McBeth said.

By getting his students involved with the soup suppers, McBeth hopes to not only improve their skills as artists, but also make them better members of the community.

“The first time, they can’t believe it. The first time they come to a soup event, it’s just overwhelming. The excitement that the community has for the bowls gets passed on to the students,” McBeth said. “The students figure out that two things are happening: they’re helping the community, and they’re learning to be better potters at the same time because that’s how you learn, through repetition.”

For McBeth, the most gratifying part of hosting the annual Empty Bowls Soup Suppers is knowing that the craft he has spent years honing and the connections he has with those around him can improve his community.

“I can make bowls all day, I can make 50, 100 bowls a day, but big deal if they’re just a stack of bowls in my closet,” McBeth said. “There’s no way of knowing I would write a check for $15,000 to We Care, but I have an ability to make bowls, and I have the community’s support that allows the community to help others.”

This year, the event has been moved online because of safety concerns for the university and Martin communities. The bowls were listed online for the public to select after making a $15 donation November 15, and there are counters to show how many of each bowl is still available. Customers can pick up their bowls from 12-3 p.m., Sunday, November 22, at the Fine Arts Building. Despite these changes, McBeth is determined to provide the best possible experience for the community.

“There was some real joyful surprise when I started spreading the word that we’re going to do it. It’s not going to be the same, but we’re going to do it, and we’re going to do it online,” McBeth
said. "That means a lot to me that it's important to the community to have this event happen."

Empty Bowls will see roughly 1,200 bowls this year, with a majority handcrafted by McBeth himself.

"Like so many other aspects of our lives, Martin Empty Bowls looks different in 2020," McBeth said. "I know how much the community enjoys congregating around the most amazing soup potluck known and the wonderful fellowship that accompanies that gathering. As the potter, I love to hear the joy as folks search through the tables and tables of bowls. That too will be missed this year."

COVID-19 has not only changed the way McBeth hosts the Empty Bowls Soup Supper, but it has reinforced concepts that he uses in his teaching and everyday life. The need for clear communication has become more important to him than ever as he is no longer able to help his students with their projects hands-on. He has also been reminded of the significance of taking the time to slow down and be patient with life.

"Find a good book. Go home and read. Write letters. Somebody was complaining about email and computers and stuff earlier, and somebody said, 'What would you rather do, write a letter?' and I was like, 'Yeah! What would be so bad about slowing down and taking the time to really think about the person you're communicating with?'" McBeth said. "That wouldn't have happened if we didn't have this new life to live through."

While McBeth encourages his students to take the time to slow down during these unprecedented times, he is only working harder to ensure there are enough bowls to be sold during the Empty Bowls event to help families in need in the Martin community.

"I hope, in spite of the pandemic, that Empty Bowls can bring the community together," he shared.

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**UTM HOSTS VIRTUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

**MARTIN —** The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its virtual Veterans Day ceremony November 11 to recognize the service and sacrifice of veterans in the Martin community. Students, faculty and staff helped produce the program to say thank you to their coworkers, families and classmates. Justin Johnson, United States Marine and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network regional director for Memphis and Shelby County, served as the ceremony's guest speaker and emphasized the importance of creating a supportive community for veterans to succeed in, especially on the UT Martin campus. To watch the ceremony, visit utm.edu/veteransday2020.

For more information about the UT Martin Office of Veterans Services, contact Jason Earley, veteran services coordinator, at jearley3@utm.edu. (L to R) Johnson; Marcus VanCleave, UT Martin veteran benefits specialist; and Earley surround the memorial bust of USMC Capt. Brent Morel, a UT Martin alumn who was killed in action in Iraq.
UTM Plans Multiple Graduation Events

MARTIN (November 11) - The University of Tennessee at Martin will host three in-person commencement ceremonies Saturday, Nov. 21, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, to celebrate the spring, summer and fall 2020 graduates.

Social-distancing and Center for Disease Control guidelines will be implemented during the ceremonies to promote safety for graduates and their families. "While we are certainly disappointed we cannot all gather together to celebrate our graduates' achievements, we are thankful we will be able to honor the class of 2020 in a safe manner," UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said.

"Hosting three commencements in one day is unlike anything we've ever done before, but I am confident each ceremony will be meaningful to our graduates and their families in the midst of these uncertain times." The 2020 fall commencement ceremonies are scheduled by academic colleges:

10 a.m.: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs
2 p.m.: College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Graduate Programs
6 p.m.: College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences

Each ceremony will be livestreamed via Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/utmartin and YouTube at www.youtube.com/utmartin for those who are unable to attend.

Graduates who are not attending the in-person ceremonies will be recognized virtually after the in-person attendees are announced.

The commencements will feature remarks from UT President Randy Boyd, UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver, UT Martin Provost Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin SGA President Hunter McCloud, Campus Minister Amanda Crice and UT Martin Alumni Association President Victor Andrews.

Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, will also announce the recipients of the Paul and Martha Meek Award during the respective ceremonies.

All graduates and guests are required to wear face masks and adhere to social-distancing guidelines during the ceremony.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

UTM to host in-person commencement Nov. 21

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host three in-person commencement ceremonies Saturday, Nov. 21, to celebrate all spring, summer, and fall 2020 graduates. CDC guidelines will be implemented during the ceremonies to promote safety for graduates and their families. Everyone in attendance is required to wear a facemask and adhere to social distancing during the ceremony.

"While we are disappointed we cannot all gather to celebrate our graduates, we are thankful we will be able to honor the class of 2020 in a safe manner," UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver said.

The three 2020 fall commencement ceremonies are grouped and scheduled by academic colleges:

- 10 a.m. - College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs
- 2 p.m. - Graduate Programs, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- 6 p.m. - College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences

For those unable to attend, each ceremony will be livestreamed via Facebook at www.facebook.com/utmartin and YouTube at www.youtube.com/utmartin. Graduates who are not attending the in-person ceremonies will be recognized virtually after the in-person attendees are announced.

The commencements will feature remarks from various UT dignitaries. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, will announce the recipients of the Paul and Martha Meek Award during the respective ceremonies. For more information, contact the UTM Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
The University of Tennessee at Martin is preparing for their first in person graduation ceremonies this year. After speaking with the chancellor of the university he says they are taking extra precautions to make sure everything runs smoothly and safe.

The first question was can we do this in a safe way, we've really looked at with the number of people involved with how people are coming out through one entrance and one exit. The crowd and the graduates will never interact, says Chancellor of UT Martin, Keith Carver.

The ceremony is contactless so the diplomas will be waiting for each graduate at their assigned chair.

Barnes says although it will be different, it's worth it, I'm definitely glad we are having a hybrid graduation this year. It's very, I think it's good for the students because it is something we can celebrate, a day dedicated to us and even though it's short and condensed it's something we'll always look forward to.

All three graduation ceremonies will be live streamed on their Facebook and YouTube channels. For 39 news, I'm Ethan Williams, in Martin.
FHU, UTM to hold graduation ceremonies on Saturday

November 20, 2020 by Julia Ewoldt

HENDERSON, Tenn. — On Saturday, hundreds of college students across West Tennessee will finally get to walk across the stage and receive their college degree.

"We’re excited to be able to celebrate with them and their families," said Charles Viers Jr., provost and Vice President of Academics at Freed-Hardeman University.

FHU will have a ceremony for the 180 students who graduated in May this weekend, meaning there will be about 300 students walking across the stage tomorrow.

That number is double what FHU is used to.

"It’s been a long time coming, and we’ve hated that it’s taken this long, but we are excited to be able to share that with them on Saturday," Viers said.

To accommodate both graduating classes, FHU will have two graduations. The first will be at 10 a.m. and the second at 2 p.m.

"We got really good practice for this with our own student body during the semester," said Shannon Sewell, the director of facilities at FHU.

Sewell is helping to coordinate the event.

"We did two chapel services each day: one at 10:30 a.m. and the other at 11:20 a.m. We disinfected the auditorium in between sessions. We’ll do the same thing between graduation ceremonies," Sewell said.

They’re also limiting seating and will be spacing out families. These students, who have been through a lot this year, have something to celebrate.

"Our students and those graduating have just been spectacular in terms of being able to help us, as a university, navigate something that was completely thrown at us as a curveball," Viers said.

"We’re going to make sure they’re comfortable and safe. We also want to celebrate with them. They’ve put in so much work, and we want to celebrate this day all together," Sewell said.

The University of Tennessee Martin will also hold three commencement ceremonies on Saturday, with programs at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Those programs will be live streamed for family members who are unable to attend.

To watch their graduations, click here for the University of Tennessee at Martin Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/utmartin) or here for their YouTube page (https://www.youtube.com/user/utmartin).
Memorial held for fallen coach

The University of Tennessee at Martin mourned the sudden passing of men's basketball head coach Anthony Stewart Sunday afternoon. He was 50 years old.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Akron, Ohio, Stewart came to UT Martin in 2014 as an associate head coach. Stewart was later elevated into the role of head coach in 2016. He was approaching his fifth season at the helm in 2020-21 before his unexpected passing.

Stewart's best season as the Skyhawk head coach came in his debut campaign in 2016-17, when he tied a school record with 22 victories and advanced to the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament championship game.

UT Martin won the first round of the 2017 CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament and Stewart was named a finalist for the 2017 Ben Jobe National Coach of the Year Award, which is presented annually to the nation’s top Division I minority coach. The University of Tennessee Foundation has set up the Coach Anthony Stewart Memorial Fund. Donations can be made online at this link: http://give.utm.edu/coachstewart.

Gifts can also be mailed to UT Martin, Office of University Advancement, 329 Administration Building, Martin, Tennessee, 38238. Be sure to include “Coach Anthony Stewart Memorial Fund” on the check. For any questions, please call (731) 881-7634.

The family will determine at a later date whether to use the funds for a scholarship, give it to the men’s basketball program, or possibly a memorial on the UT Martin campus.

"One day can change things that weeks, months and even days can’t. Embrace each day that you get.”


Anthony Stewart was determined, confident, and just an unbelievable person. The smartest coach I ever knew.... he always challenged us to be more than just coaches. He had a superpower that his voice could light up the room. I loved just hearing him talk. I believed him, trusted him, and he gave me the confidence that everything will be fine. Coach Stew will be missed and his family, loved ones, and program will be in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

Brian Collins
HC, Tennessee State Univ
Mens Basketball

1970-2020

REMEMBERING ANTHONY STEWART

#EMBRACEUS
"Good things come from the dark as long as you can have faith, as long as you persevere."

When Justin Foulks received the news during his junior year of college that his cousin had been killed in an accident, he knew the responsibilities of his family farm in Rondo, Arkansas, would now increase. As an agribusiness major, Foulks was preparing himself with the education he needed to help his great-uncle and cousin make the 3,200-acre farm as successful as possible; however, he never planned on running it without his cousin and mentor.

Now, the University of Tennessee at Martin fall 2020 graduate just completed his first successful harvest while finishing his agriculture degree online. "I'll be the first generation to go to school for farming. My family's been farming since the early 1930s. The same land we're running over now, my family was raised on it," Foulks said. "My cousin ended up sending me off to school. I told him I had an interest in farming, and he (had been) teaching me the roles since I was eight. I still remember the day he said, 'Well, if you're going to do it, do it the right way and go to school, get your degree and come back. The farmland will be here forever.'"

"(My cousin) ended up passing away last year... and somebody had to help my family with the leadership responsibilities on the farm, or we'd have ended up selling. So, I switched to completely online and started doing school full-time and farming full-time, and here I am at the finish line. It's been a journey, but I'm here."

While Foulks' plan for his future changed drastically during his college career, he has found peace and comfort through his faith to help him continue the legacy his grandfather and uncle have built. He knows the many hardships and challenges they faced have paved the way for him to be successful.

"Philippians 4:13, that's what I believe in. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Every day is a blessing to wake up. This is God's country. If it wasn't for the good Lord, I don't know where I'd be," Foulks said. "I never, being so young, expected to endure such a harsh (loss). Everybody says life is supposed to be peaches and cream when you're young, but for me that was my mentor. He's the only reason I really went to school for farming. Seeing him do what he did inspired me. It inspired me to continue the same path. I know he's smiling because I'm carrying on the tradition. We're out here doing what he loved to do."

After working on a farm for most of his life, Foulks knew if he was going to go to college for agriculture, he needed a hands-on program that would give him a better understanding of the technical and business sides...
of running a farm.

"The hands-on experience is 10-times better than actually being in a classroom. Because I’ve seen both sides of being a farmer and being an agribusiness graduate, I’ve learned that farmers don’t want somebody to tell them what to do that doesn’t have experience," Foulks explained. "They need somebody to understand the hardships and everything that goes into farming, to understand the good days and bad days.

... I think UT Martin has helped me gauge what I need to do to be successful in the agriculture sector.

He says the many challenges he’s overcome since moving his degree online couldn’t have been achieved without the help and understanding of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. From having to do schoolwork in his truck and tractor to staying up late to turn in assignments because planting took longer than expected, Foulks has experienced the grace of faculty members who understand the difficulties of running a farm while also finishing school.

"I (have to) give a big shoutout to the ag program, the AGNR office, all of them. It’s a family over there. When (my cousin died), ... they said whatever we can do to help you, we’ve got to make sure you finish. That’s all they cared about was ‘we’ve got to make sure you finish.’" Foulks said. "They don’t realize how good of a blessing they were to me."

After graduation, Foulks has plans to help expand the farm. While he originally intended to watch it grow with his cousin, he knows that with what he learned at UT Martin, what his cousin taught him, as well as his faith, he will be prepared to handle whatever else comes his way.

"He definitely instilled in me to make sure I do everything I can do (to succeed)," Foulks said. "When you’re farming, it’s pretty much faith. You never know what’s going to happen. Just focus on weed control, a little water and fertilizer, and the Lord will cover the rest."

Foulks graduated from UT Martin Nov. 21 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business knowing everything he has been through has prepared him to carry on his family’s tradition as a successful farmer.

Music programs slated

The department of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin has announced the following musical programs, which will be available at 8 p.m. each day on the UTM Music Facebook and YouTube pages.

• Student Showcase Concerts — Thursday.
• Fall 2020 Student Recitals/Projects — Georgia Emmons, senior French horn recital, Dec. 1; Hanna DeYoung, senior French horn recital, Dec. 2; Nate Matthews, senior saxophone recital, Dec. 3; Meleah Gateley, senior voice recital, Dec. 4; Gavin Kitchen, junior percussion recital, Dec. 5; Drew Hendren, senior project, Dec. 6; Taylor Grimes, senior project, Dec. 7; Tucker Pounds, senior trumpet recital, Dec. 8; Magdalena Martinez, senior voice recital, Dec. 9; Caitlin Jones, senior project, Dec. 10; and Shannon Reid, senior flute recital, Dec. 11.
Dr. Carver Tells Grads Decisions Impact Others

He spoke about the importance of humility and that everyone can be replaced. "No single person is essential to the success of an organization," he said. "We will never be bigger than the organizations and workplaces that we serve."

"Everybody has a first name," he added. "All people have worth. All people deserve our respect. It is essential that we know those people around us who are investing in the success of our organization and in our own personal success. Get to know their interests, their joys and their pain."

He urged the graduates to do their best in any task and, at the end of the day, to make their families a priority.

"Dinner with your family is important. We're all busy," he said. "We will never complete all the tasks on our to-do lists each day."

"But it is essential that every day we do invest in those people that we love and that love us. The work will always be there. It's important to build relationships with those who bring us renewal and joy, too."

Carver closed his remarks as he had begun by noting the importance of making good choices. "When you don't know what to do, remember to do no harm until you do," he said. "Find good, trusted mentors and seek their counsel. Wisdom comes from careful reflection and life experience, so seek help from those who you trust when faced with difficult decisions."

Also making appearances by video during each ceremony were the Rev. Amanda Crice, campus minister, UT Martin Wesley Foundation, who offered the opening invocation; UT President Randy Boyd, who brought greetings from the UT System; UT Martin Student Government Association President Hunter McCleod, of Portland, who offered congratulations from the student body; and UT Martin Alumni Association President Victor Andrews, a 1986 graduate from Franklin, Tenn., who welcomed the newest university graduates and urged them to stay connected with their alma mater.

The ceremonies concluded with a performance of the alma mater by the UTM Virtual Choir, recorded and edited by Joseph Sam, 2010 UT Martin graduate.

Carver paused during the program to offer a moment of silence for UT Martin head men's basketball coach Anthony Stewart who died November 15. His son Parker, a member of the Skyhawk basketball team, participated in the 2 p.m. commencement ceremony where he was recognized for earning his Master of Business Administration degree, which will be his second UT Martin diploma.

Carver was notified after the 10 a.m. ceremony that he was identified as a COVID-19 close contact and assigned his commencement duties to Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs, for the day's final two events. All three ceremonies are archived at facebook.com/utmartin.
Students, alumni and professors of UT Martin gather for the 17th Annual Martin Empty Bowls pick-up day. (Back, L to R) Arail MacDonald, Robert Hatcher, Donna McBeth, Ashley Thomas and David McBeth, (Front, L to R) Ilena Gormley, Rachel Roberts, Sarah Haig and Kelsey Faith. Photo by Jasmine Williams/The Enterprise

UT Martin professor David McBeth hands an order of handmade bowls to a local Weakley County resident for the Empty Bowls project with money going to support a local non-profit organization. Photo by Jasmine Williams

BY JASMINE WILLIAMS
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MARTIN (November 22) — Members of the Weakley County community came to pick up their hand-crafted ceramic bowls at the UT Martin Fine Arts building as part of a fight to end hunger and food insecurity in the area.

Despite this year’s Empty Bowls Project fundraiser being held virtually this year, 900 bowls were sold, raising more than $7,500 for families in need through WE CARE Ministries of Martin.

McBeth stated that this year he saw a significant decrease in the number of bowls purchased and donations given compared to last year. In 2019 Martin Empty Bowls was able to raise more than $13,500 for WE CARE Ministries.

Despite a drop in numbers, McBeth, who has organized the fundraising event for 17 years, said he is grateful for all of the support.

“I greatly appreciate the community to support this project in a dire time of need. It’s not about the bowls or what I can do, but what the community can do about the hungry and support to WE CARE,” McBeth said.

This year’s event drew a number of out-of-state orders, including some from California. McBeth was pleased people from outside of Weakley County were able to participate in this year’s event to help support this local effort. He also said an online option purchase for bowls might become a new addition to the Martin Empty Bowls Project next year.

While there are no definite plans yet, McBeth stated he has thought about postponing the spring Cups for a Cure event, which raises money towards cancer research. It could be postponed to later in the spring and might be a combined Empty Bowls and Cups for a Cure event to help make up for lost funds to WE CARE.

The deadline to order bowls for this year’s Empty Bowls project has also been extended to Thursday, November 24, with pick-up planned for Friday, November 25. There are 150 bowls still available for purchase. They can be viewed and ordered online at www.martineemptybowls.com

This is the 17th Year for the Martin Empty Bowls event, which was founded by UT Martin professor and potter David McBeth in 2003. He, along with other area potters make handmade bowls, which are sold for $15 each with all donations going towards WE CARE Ministries’ Food Pantry. This is to help fight hunger in the community and raise awareness of food insecurity in Northwest Tennessee.