Johnny Cash exhibit opens at J. Houston Gordon Museum on UT Martin campus

A Johnny Cash exhibit is open in the J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the UT Martin Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit, "1968: A Folsom Redemption," includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer's golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album "At Folsom Prison," to a March 1, 1969, concert in Anaheim, California, before the launch of his network television show.

The artifacts were compiled by photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended the concerts and met Cash and his family before the concerts began. Beley will give a public lecture about his accounts of the concerts and the work that went into developing the exhibit Thursday, September 30 at 7:00 in the library's Special Collections Reading Room.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 in the Special Collections Reading Room. The reception will feature a performance by the university's House Band.

The museum is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with no admission fee. Visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings inside the library.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pella Road.
Parking permits are available online at utm.edu/departments/publicsafety by selecting the "Online Visitor Parking Permit" link.

The exhibit is scheduled to run through October 15.

Meanwhile, there will be an unrelated performance of "The Man in Black: Tribute to Johnny Cash" on Friday, September 10 at 8 p.m. at the WK&T Amphitheater in downtown Martin during the annual Tennessee Soybean Festival.

A new Johnny Cash exhibit is headed to the J. Houston Gordon museum at UT Martin.

The exhibit titled "1968: a Folsom redemption" opens tomorrow (09/01).

The museum is open to the public 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with no admission fee. Visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings inside the library.

A reception for the museum will be held on September 9th at the library and will feature a performance by the UT Martin’s house band.

The exhibit is scheduled to run through Oct. 15.
JOHNNY CASH EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT UT MARTIN SEPTEMBER 1

September 1, 2021 @ 8:32 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin will host the opening reception for its new Johnny Cash exhibit titled “1968: A Folsom Redemption” at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 9, in the Special Collections Reading Room.

The exhibit opens Sept. 1, and both the exhibit and the Sept. 9 reception, which will feature a performance by the university’s House Band, are open to the public.

The exhibit will be held in the J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library.

The exhibit includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer’s golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album “At Folsom Prison,” to a March 1, 1969, concert in
Anaheim, California, before the launch of his network television show. The artifacts were compiled by photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended the concerts and met Cash and his family before the concerts began.

Beley will give a public lecture about his accounts of the concerts and the work that went into developing the exhibit at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 30, in the library’s Special Collections Reading Room.

The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with no admission fee. Visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings inside the library.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety (http://www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety) by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link.

The exhibit is scheduled to run through Oct. 15. For more information, contact Sam Richardson, head of special collections and archives, at 731-881-7094.
UTM Site of Voter Registration Tailgate

NASHVILLE (August 23) — As Tennessee's nine Division I Public Universities gear up for football season, they are also working with the Secretary of State's office to hold a voter registration drive during the tailgate before a home game at each school.

"Like most Tennesseans, we love college football and the excitement of game day," said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. "These Voter Registration Tailgates are the perfect opportunity for us to show students and fans how easy it is to register to vote in Tennessee so that they can get in the game and make their voice heard on Election Day," he added.

The Voter Registration Tailgates will kick off on Saturday, September 11, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Tennessee Tech University and East Tennessee State University.

Voter Registration Tailgates will continue at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Tennessee State University on Saturday, September 18; the University of Memphis on Saturday, September 25; and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Middle Tennessee State University and Austin Peay State University on Saturday, October 2.

At each tailgate, students and football fans will be guided through the registration process in minutes using the Secretary of State's secure online voter registration system, GoVoteTN.gov. They will also be able to get their questions about Tennessee's voting process, answered by local election officials.

The Secretary of State's office is working with students, university leadership and staff, athletic departments, student government associations, campus civic engagement organizations and local county election commissions to host the Voter Registration Tailgates.

"With the county election commission staff, everyone from the universities and student volunteers, we know we have a winning team to promote voter registration across our state," said Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins.

The Voter Registration Tailgates are part of the Secretary of State's ongoing efforts to help all eligible Tennesseans register to vote and are one of the many initiatives the office is carrying out in celebration of National Voter Registration Month.

For the latest details about the Voter Registration Tailgates, follow the Secretary of State's social media channels Twitter: @SecTreHargett, Facebook: Tennessee Secretary of State and Instagram: @tnscofstate.

For more information about registering to vote in Tennessee, go to GoVoteTN.gov; call the Division of Elections toll-free at 1-877-850-4959 or contact the Weakley County Election Commission office, located on Poplar Street in downtown Dresden, at 731-384-5564.

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The photo shows the new Runway coworking space, located in the UT Martin REED Center on S. Lindell Street in downtown Martin.
Runway Office Space Open for Business

MARTIN (August 25) — The University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center opened its new coworking space, The Runway, with a grand-opening celebration Wednesday, August 25, at 240 Lindell St. in Martin. The Runway serves as an office space for entrepreneurs, small business owners and remote workers to connect and collaborate on various projects.

Runway membership levels are available. The Pilot level is $50 monthly and allows for use of the facilities from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

The Aviator level is $100 monthly and allows for 24/7 access.

The Flying Ace level is $150 monthly and provides 24/7 access, as well as a designated desk with lockable storage.

Runway membership for UT Martin students with a valid Skyhawk card is $25 monthly.

Runway amenities include a business address, 1GIG Wi-Fi, Sit/Stand desks, 27" Dell monitors, a copier, security cameras, multiple seating areas, scheduled use of training rooms, access to virtual conferencing technology, on-site business seminars, on-site economic development specialists and connections to subject matter experts, UT Martin faculty, staff and student interns.

For non-members, access to The Runway is $20 per day, and allows for access from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

For more information or to become a member of The Runway, visit www.utm.edu/reed or contact Landy Fuqua, director of the REED Center, at REED@utm.edu.

Johnny Cash Exhibit Coming to Martin

MARTIN (August 31) — The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, will host the opening reception for its new Johnny Cash exhibit titled "1968: A Folsom Redemption" at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 9, in the Special Collections Reading Room. The exhibit opens September 1, and both the exhibit and the September 9 reception, which will feature a performance by the university's House Band, are open to the public.

The exhibit includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer's golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album "At Folsom Prison," to a March 1, 1969, concert in Anaheim, California, before the launch of his network television show.

The artifacts were compiled by photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended the concerts and met Cash and his family before the concerts began.

Beley will give a public lecture about his accounts of the concerts and the work that went into developing the exhibit at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 30, in the library's Special Collections Reading Room.

The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with no admission fee. Visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings inside the library.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pella Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/Departments/PublicSafety by selecting the "Online Visitor Parking Permit" link.

The exhibit is scheduled to run through October 15.

For more information, contact Sam Richardson, head of special collections and archives, at 731-881-7954.
Everywhere UT Tour Stops at REED Center

BY BUD GRIMES
UT Martin University Relations

MARTIN (August 25) — Randy Boyd doesn’t hide his enthusiasm for entrepreneurs. The University of Tennessee System president and businessman was clearly in his element when he made an appearance at the REED Center on August 25. The tour included a stop at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center in downtown Martin.

Known as the REED Center, the facility houses the Tennessee Small Development Center and supports existing and potential business owners with individual consulting services, group training services and associated technical resources.

Tour-stop attendees included Dr. Nassar Nassar, CEO of Savant Learning Systems Inc., and his wife, Tracy; Weak County Mayor Jako Byann; Cathy Dunagan, UT President’s Council member and wife of UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan; and Brooxie Carlton, deputy assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver opened with comments about UT Martin’s economic impact statewide and UT Martin’s economic benefit to the immediate region. He referenced a study recently released that shows the university’s economic impact to the state’s economy at approximately $9 billion.

Tour-stop attendees included Dr. Nassar Nassar, CEO of Savant Learning Systems Inc., and his wife, Tracy; Weak County Mayor Jako Byann; Cathy Dunagan, UT President’s Council member and wife of UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan; and Brooxie Carlton, deputy assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver opened with comments about UT Martin’s economic impact statewide and UT Martin’s economic benefit to the immediate region. He referenced a study recently released that shows the university’s economic impact to the state’s economy at approximately $9 billion.

The study also revealed that UT Martin added $198 million in investments made by students, taxpayers and society as a whole.

Carver then focused his comments on the REED Center, which was established in 2005 in cooperation with the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. “Economic development is what the REED Center is all about,” Carver said. “...We offer courses, workshops and training sessions to meet the needs of small businesses, and it (the center) supports regional economic development.”

He also noted that the REED Center became a service center of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center network in July 2005 “as the only center affiliated with a UT Institution.”

Carver closed by highlighting the significance of the center’s current location and intentional space for small businesses.

“The REED Center moved here in March of 2019 with the intention of expanding and creating more working space to provide entrepreneurs, small business owners and remote workers a shared space to connect with others on a professional level,” he said. He credited Landy Fuqua for her leadership of the center.

Fuqua was appointed director in 2012 and shared client-verified information about the center’s impact, which included providing 66 businesses with disaster relief assistance in 2019 during the pandemic.

“So out of those 66 businesses that we assisted last year, there were 238 jobs that were retained, and $1.6 million in disaster relief were provided to those businesses,” she said.

“We’ve had an additional 58 businesses this year that we have assisted with disaster relief, and they have received $2.2 million in disaster funding, and we have retained 288 jobs that they have reported,” Fuqua also reported that eight businesses were started through the center last year, and seven more businesses have started this year with another potential business funded only recently.

“Last year, our businesses reported 126 jobs created, 50 jobs retained and $9.3 million of capital infusion to the economy,” she added. “So, we’re very, very proud of that for our businesses.”

In an example of business supporting businesses and the university, Fuqua credited Dr. Nassar Nassar and his wife, Tracy, for making building space available for the center when it moved a short distance north from the location now occupied by the new Martin Public Library.

Discussion of new co-working space also began at that time, and the center’s new location took shape.

“He worked with us financially,” she said. “He worked with us in making this space exactly right, and I want to thank you, Dr. Nassar, for your team, for Tracy.”

Boyd also expressed his gratitude to Nassar for the REED Center space. “He’s involved in everything, but he is an entrepreneur,” Boyd said of the Martin University president.

“Dr. Martin is in the forefront of entrepreneurship not just for business but for social good as well, and so the more entrepreneurs we can create, the better.”

He also focused on other aspects of the university’s service to the state that are being highlighted during the tour, including UT Extension offices in all 95 Tennessee counties; the UT Health Science Center’s free dental clinic in Union City and similar clinics planned in other locations around the state; and UT Martin’s five regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Sevier and Somerville.

Boyd closed by reminding attendees about his optimism for the university’s and UT Martin’s futures.

“This is going to be the greatest decade in the history of the University of Tennessee if it’s not the greatest decade for the University of Tennessee Martin. I think we’ve got a great leader (Keith Carver) to help make that happen.”

The program concluded with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Runway co-working space, which will serve as an office space for entrepreneurs, small business owners and remote workers to connect and collaborate on business-related projects. For more information on how to become a member of The Runway, visit www.utm.edu/reed, or contact Landy Fuqua at REED@utm.edu.

Other August 25 tour stops included the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Dentistry Clinic in Union City, the UT AgResearch and Education Center in Milan, The Everywhere You Look, UT Tour stops and a trip to Martin in November with stops in Roane and Pickett counties in East Tennessee.

For more information about the tour, visit https://everywhere.tennessee.edu/tour.
EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, CO-WORKING SPACE — UT System President Randy Boyd and the Everywhere You Look, UT statewide tour made a stop August 25 at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center in downtown Martin. The program concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Runway co-working space located in the REED Center, which will serve as an office space for entrepreneurs, small business owners and remote workers to connect and collaborate on business-related projects. Pictured shortly before the ribbon was cut are (l to r) Valerie Freeman, administrative support assistant, REED Center; Dr. Nassar Nassar, CEO of Savant Learning Systems Inc., Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, dean, UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Landy Fuqua, director, REED Center; Boyd; Brooxie Carlton, deputy assistant commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development; Jake Bynum, Weakley County mayor; and Linda Rinker, administrative support assistant, REED Center. For more information or to become a member of The Runway, visit www.utm.edu/reed, or contact Fuqua at REED@utm.edu. See the complete article highlighting the tour on Page 2 of today’s edition of The Enterprise.
UT president tours dental facility in UC

By DONNA RYDER
Associate Editor

University of Tennessee System president Randy Boyd has been on a journey across the state of Tennessee as part of the system's "Everywhere you look, UT" tour.

When the tour is complete, he will have visited more than 50 counties in three months' time. In deciding to come to Obion County, it only made sense that he would visit the UT Health Sciences Center's dental clinic in Union City. It is being used as a model for other such clinics across the state. (See related photo, Page 5.)

Boyd said the dental clinic is a great service for northwest Tennessee. It provides necessary dental services to underinsured to uninsured patients in West Tennessee and some areas of Middle Tennessee.

"We're in a crisis across the state," Boyd said, adding there are counties in this state where there are no dentists available.

The local clinic is here due to the support of local businessman and philanthropist Bill Latimer, who sponsors the clinic and donates the space for its location at 201 West Main St. in Union City.

Boyd said Eastman Chemical Co. in Kingsport is considering investing money in a dental clinic in that area, using Union City's clinic as a model.

Clinic director Dr. Ed Reese told those in attendance that Latimer "is totally responsible" for the clinic and "deserves all the credit." He said Latimer even provides housing for the dental students who come to Obion County to work their rotations. There are clinics in Bristol and Chattanooga where students are also sent, he said.

Dr. Reese said Union City's clinic is the only one which is fully UT-affiliated. The UT Health Sciences Center's dental clinic in Union City was designed specifically to help those with low income. The clinic bases its rate of payments on the federal poverty guideline, with about 80 percent of those who are seen paying about $10 per visit, no matter how much or what kind of work is performed.

There are some services

(See Page 6, Col. 3)

UT president...

(Continued from Page 1)

which cannot be provided by the dental students in Union City, such as molar root canals and impacted molars. For those cases, the patients are sent to the graduate oral surgery in Shelby County. The clinic here can do dentures, molds and crowns.

"We're not in the money making business," Dr. Reese said, adding the clinic actually loses money, but the university has ways to take care of the budget.

"We provide a tremendous service to the community," he said. "It's not because we are that good; it's because we are that cheap."

Many of the patients being seen are adults, with children in most low income families being seen by dentists through the TennCare program. Many times, these patients have had little to no care since adults are not provided this service through government healthcare, including Medicare. He said the children which are usually seen at the clinic are from Guatemala, Honduras or Mexico, with some coming from the Amish communities.

"Every American has access to medical care. They can always go to the ER. What they don't have is dental care," Latimer said.

Dr. Reese said it is not unusual to see a 40-year-old come in and say he has not had dental care since he was a teenager.

"The neglect and need for care happens on a daily basis. We are not running out of patients. There will always be poor people and always a need," the dentist said, adding there are about 2,000 people in Union City alone living under the poverty level.

The clinic stays booked up, with appointments taken; however, he said they always leave time to work in walk-in patients.

Boyd said the tour is for him to get around the state to say "thank you," to listen to the needs and to share the story that UT is everywhere.

For more information about the dental clinic, call 731-884-0860. For more information on Boyd's tour, visit everywhere.tennessee.edu/tour.

Associate Editor
Donna Ryder can be contacted by email at dryder@ucmessenger.com.
BOYD VISITS — University of Tennessee System president Randy Boyd (front) recently visited the UT Health Sciences Center's dental clinic in Union City as part of his "Everywhere you look, UT" tour. Among those on hand to speak with Boyd were (middle, from left) Obion County Joint Economic Development Corporation community relations director Brooke Simmons, OCJEDC chief executive officer Lindsay Frilling, U.S. Rep. David Kustoff's field representative Ivy Rogers, Obion County Central High School guidance counselor Heather Kendall, (back) OCJEDC chairman Art Sparks, clinic director Dr. Ed Reese, Bill Latimer, Lake County Mayor Denny Jones and state Rep. Rusty Grills.

BOYD VISITS — University of Tennessee System president Randy Boyd (far left) listened as UT Health Sciences Center's dental clinic director Dr. Ed Reese (foreground) fielded questions. Boyd visited the dental clinic in Union City as part of his "Everywhere you look, UT" tour. Among those also attending were (continuing second from left) Obion County Central High School guidance counselor Heather Kendall, U.S. Rep. David Kustoff's field representative Ivy Rogers and Obion County Joint Economic Development Corporation chief executive officer Lindsay Frilling.
SUMMER INTERN — Ethan Parham, son of Jeff and Tina Parham of Martin, recently completed his summer internship with Congressman David Kustoff in Washington D.C. The 2019 graduate of Westview High School is a mechanical engineering major at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
UT Martin to host exhibit about Johnny Cash

“The Man in Black” is the subject of a new exhibit on the UT Martin campus. Legendary country singer Johnny Cash is the topic of “1968: A Folsom Redemption.”

The exhibit opened Wednesday and will continue through Oct. 15 at the J. Houston Gordon Museum, located inside the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin.

A reception is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Special Collections Reading Room.

The exhibit includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer’s golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album “At Folsom Prison,” to a March 1, 1969, concert in Anaheim, Calif., before the launch of his network television show. The artifacts were compiled by photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended the concerts and met Cash and his family before the concerts began.

Beley will give a public lecture about his accounts of the concerts and the work that went into developing the exhibit at 7 p.m. Sept. 30, in the library’s Special Collections Reading Room.

The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, with free admission. Visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings inside the library.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mount Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link.

For more information, contact Sam Richardson, head of special collections and archives, at 731-881-7094.
Crosswalk safety blitz Tuesday at UT Martin

UT Martin's Department of Public Safety will be conducting a campus crosswalk safety blitz Tuesday around the main campus.

UTM's Bud Grimes says the specific enforcement points will be crosswalks located on University Street and Mt. Pella Road with UTM Public Safety officers posted at select crosswalks, observing traffic flow, and contacting individuals who violate the law.

Grimes says both pedestrians and drivers have crosswalk safety responsibilities.

Pedestrians should make sure all vehicles have stopped before stepping into the crosswalk and crossing the roadway, and if you're not at a marked crosswalk, you must yield to all vehicles.

Drivers are reminded to yield the right of way to pedestrians who are lawfully in a crosswalk and to drive within the speed limit.

Drivers should also proactively check for pedestrians, checking sidewalks and side streets for pedestrians who may be crossing at an upcoming crosswalk.
Voter Registration Tailgate to be held Sept. 11 at UT Martin

September 7, 2021 by Tristyn Fletcher

MARTIN, Tenn. — A Voter Registration Tailgate is being held at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN VOTER REGISTRATION TAILGATE

Saturday, September 11, 2021
Outside Hardy M. Graham Stadium, 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS.
GET REGISTERED SKYHAWKS.

The tailgate will be from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Hardy M. Graham Stadium on campus.

The registration tailgate will be held during the Skyhawk’s football home opener against Samford University at 6 p.m.

The registration drive is a part of Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett’s plan to increase participation during National Voter Registration Month.

“We are pumped to work with UT Martin student leaders to build momentum around voting,” Hargett said. “The Voter Registration Tailgate is an excellent opportunity for all Skyhawk fans to take advantage of how easy it is to register to vote in Tennessee, so they are ready to make their voice heard on Election Day. We are grateful to Dr. (Keith) Carver (UT Martin chancellor) and the entire Skyhawk Nation for welcoming us.”

You can also register to vote online.
JOHNNY CASH FOLSOM EXHIBIT OPENS AT UT MARTIN

September 7, 2021 @ 9:27 am Shannon McFarlin

Martin, Tenn.—“1968: A Folsom Redemption” features intimate photos of musician Johnny Cash with friends and family, highlighting his golden era from the January 1968 Folsom prison album recording to a March 1, 1969 concert in Anaheim, California.

The exhibit is open to the public 8:00am to 4:30pm weekdays in the Paul Meek Library on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

An opening reception at 7 pm on Thursday, September 9, will feature music by UT Martin’s own House Band. A public lecture at 7 pm on Thursday, September 30, will allow Gene Beley to share his personal experiences at the Folsom concert and his work in developing the exhibit. Both events are open to the public and will take place in the Special Collections Reading Room.

1968: A Folsom Redemption will be open for public viewing from September 1 – October 15.
The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, will host the opening reception for its new Johnny Cash exhibit titled “1968: A Folsom Redemption” at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 9, in the Special Collections Reading Room.

The exhibit opened Sept. 1, and both the exhibit and the Sept. 9 reception, which will feature a performance by the university’s House Band, are open to the public.

The exhibit includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer’s golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album “At Folsom Prison,” to a March 1, 1969, concert in Anaheim, California, before the launch of his network television show.

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The exhibit is scheduled to run through Oct. 15.

For more information, contact Sam Richardson, head of special collections and archives, at 731-881-7094.
UTM fraternity presents $2,500 scholarships to freshmen students

Each receive $500 SigEp Balanced Man Scholarship

The Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter at the University of Tennessee at Martin announced Tuesday that it has awarded five first-year students $500 in scholarship money. The fraternity received more than 110 applications over the summer for the annual Balanced Man Scholarship.

“We were fortunate to have a great turnout for the scholarship this year,” Balanced Man Scholarship Chairman Colton Taylor said. “All of our finalists are phenomenal examples of the best of UTM’s incoming class, and we know they’re going to do great things.”

The Balanced Man Scholarship was open to all students attending their first semester at UT Martin. Applicants completed an online web form to share their academic, athletic and community service achievements. The organization then conducted phone interviews with a narrowed list of finalists.

The scholarships are funded by the generous donations of the fraternity’s local alumni through the Direct Scholarship Fund at the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation.

CJ Lake

CJ Lake of Smyrna is a Music Performance for Percussion major. He is a graduate of Stewarts Creek High School in Smyrna.

Colby Roberts

Colby Roberts of Parsons, Tennessee is a Biology/Pre-Dental major. He is a graduate of Marshall County High School in Lewisburg with a 4.125 GPA.

Roberts was a member of the Junior National Honors Society, Beta Club, Leo Club, Spanish Club and Junior Kiwanis. He was a member of the bowling team. He volunteers weekly with the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association. He is the son of Mark and Angie Roberts.

Taylor Slayton

Taylor Slayton of Ardmore, Tennessee is a double-major in Arts and Music as well as Computer Science. He is a graduate of Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville with a 3.6 GPA.

Slayton has played for honor bands in both Tennessee and Alabama, as well as various music festivals. He was in the marching band all four years of high school. He has volunteered at Cash Point Baptist Church’s vacation bible school program for four years, as well as Operation Christmas Child for two years. He is the son of Shawn and Amanda Slayton.

Myles Rogers

Myles Rogers of Wildersville, Tennessee is an Exercise Science major. He is a graduate of Clarksville School in Clarksville with a 4.0 GPA.

Rogers was a member of the National Beta Club, FFA and yearbook staff. He played varsity basketball, baseball and golf, earning the Scholar Athlete Award for the 2017-2018 school year and a second place finish among the TSSAA District 13’s best golfers. He has volunteered at events promoting literacy and dog rescue, as well as the Carl Perkins Dancing with the Stars event. He is the son of Vernon and Tammi Rogers.

Hayden Swearingen

Hayden Swearingen of Cross Plains, Tennessee is a Computer Science major. He is a graduate of East Robertson High School in Cross Plains with a 3.5 GPA.

Swearingen was a member of the Beta Club, National Honors Society, FFA and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He played varsity football, golf, wrestling and baseball. He has volunteered with Addi’s House where he worked with adults with special needs to help them learn functional life skills to foster independence. He is the son of Rodney and Lori Swearingen.

About the Balanced Man Scholarship

The Balanced Man Scholarship (BMS) originated in 1990 at the University of Cincinnati Chapter, as a way to attract men of Sound Mind and Sound Body, while rewarding them for espousing the ideals of the Fraternity. Today, over 200 chapters use the BMS to recognize students that are committed to living out the Balanced Man ideal.

About Sigma Phi Epsilon

Sigma Phi Epsilon, established in 1901, is one of the nation’s largest fraternities, with over 13,000 undergraduates on 210 campuses across the United States. Its mission is building balanced men, which is achieved through a four-year member development program that has contributed to a fraternitywide GPA of over 3.0, a focus on the principles of Sound Mind and Sound Body, and service learning efforts that allow members to develop leadership skills while giving back to the community.
EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, UT - (Left to right) Milan Mayor B.W. Beasley, Dr. Mickey McAdoo, Dr. Blake Brown, University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd, Kenny Herndon and Rep. Curtis Halford pose for a photo in front of the UT AgResearch and Education Center in Milan. Boyd is visiting 50 counties in the state as part of the university’s 2021 “Everywhere You Look, UT” Statewide Tour. Photo by Caleb Revill.

UT President Randy Boyd visits Milan AgResearch center in statewide tour

By Caleb Revill

University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd visited faculty and community leaders at the UT AgResearch and Education Center in Milan as part of his 2021 “Everywhere You Look, UT” Statewide Tour on Wednesday, August 25. AgResearch and Education Center Director Dr. Blake Brown spoke about the history of the center before introducing Boyd.

“Many of you probably know that this center was established in 1962 on land...”

(Cont. on pg. 2)
that was part of the Milan Arsenal," Brown said. "Ultimately, we ended up with 496 acres once that land was declared excess by the arsenal, and it was set up to do research to benefit the farmers of West Tennessee."

Brown said that additional acreage was leased in later years, bringing the total today to about 880 acres. He said that the center's primary job is to produce information.

“Our focus was to produce reliable research-based information that our farmers could use to increase their yields, decrease costs or otherwise increase their efficiency of operations so that it could ensure their long term survival,” Brown said.

The AgResearch and Education Center is one of 10 research centers across the state. Brown said that the center has a relatively small staff, who work with around 25 PhD level professors around the state that are stationed in Jackson or Knoxville.

Brown introduced Boyd, who said that it was great to be back in Milan. Boyd explained why the University of Tennessee was promoting its statewide tour.

"Before I got this job, I actually applied for another job that I didn't get," Boyd said, referencing his 2018 run for governor.

Boyd said that in running for governor, he painted a silo he owned in downtown Knoxville to read "Randy Boyd for governor." Less than two days after the election was over, Boyd got a call from UT's vice president of communications who asked if the university could paint "Everywhere You Look, UT" on the silo.

"I thought that was the goofiest thing I'd ever heard of," Boyd said "I mean, I'm from UT, I support UT, I don't really get the slogan, but sure. So they painted it, and two weeks later, low and behold somebody offered me the job at UT as the president."

Boyd said that it didn't take long in his job as president to understand the slogan.

"We have extension offices in every single county," Boyd said. "We have faculty and staff in hospitals all across the state, our AgResearch centers and five major campuses. It seemed like a good idea to promote this slogan so that everybody knows that UT really is everywhere you look."

The statewide tour has taken Boyd to 15 counties so far with about 35 left to go. Boyd used the opportunity as a way to say thank you to research center staff.

"My job is to make sure that our colleagues at our extension research centers know how much we appreciate you," Boyd said. "It's not often that they get the chance for the president to come by and I want you to know that the work that you do is a big deal."

Boyd also thanked community leaders in attendance, including Mayor B.W. Beasley, for help negotiating for the upcoming Milan Arsenal land transfer that will benefit both the AgResearch center and the city of Milan.

Boyd said that through his travels, he's learned a lot about the university's agricultural research efforts. He named one example from a visit to Greenville, Tennessee, where he learned about a popular tobacco strain invented by the UT research center there.

"We do some groundbreaking stuff," Boyd said. "Greenville is the first place I went to. They do a lot of work on tobacco. They invented something called Tennessee 90, which is one of the most popular strains of tobacco in the world. They told me that if you go to China, it turns out China has a tobacco hall of fame. If you walk in, front and center is Tennessee 90. The most popular tobacco in China is grown right here in our AgResearch center."

Boyd closed by providing an overview of the different facilities that UT manages across the state of Tennessee.

According to the most recent data from UT, there are 3,184 students, alumni, and employees affiliated with UT in Gibson County. The university has a total economic impact of $27 million based on salary and benefits to UT employees living in Gibson County and spending to local vendors in 2020.
Johnny Cash concert exhibit featured at university museum

The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, will host the opening reception for its new Johnny Cash exhibit titled “1968: A Folsom Redemption” at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Special Collections Reading Room.

The exhibit opened last Wednesday. Both the exhibit and this Thursday’s reception, which will feature a performance by the university’s House Band, are open to the public.

The exhibit includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer’s golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album “At Folsom Prison,” to a March 1, 1969, concert in Anaheim, Calif., before the launch of his network television show. The artifacts were compiled by photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended the concerts and met Cash and his family before the concerts began.

Beley will give a public lecture about his accounts of the concerts and the work that went into developing the exhibit at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 in the library’s Special Collections Reading Room.

The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, with no admission fee. Visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings inside the library.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mount Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/pubsafety by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link.

The exhibit is scheduled to run through Oct. 15.
University of Tennessee system extends COVID mask mandate

AP
Sep 8, 2021

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The University of Tennessee system has extended a mask requirement at its campuses amid the state's continued spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to the delta variant.
University spokesperson Jennifer Lynn Sicking said Tuesday the mask requirement will continue for indoor public spaces, with plans to reevaluate in a few weeks. Exceptions include private offices, residence hall rooms and while eating, drinking or engaging in fitness activities.

On Aug. 2, the university began requiring masks in classrooms, laboratories and at indoor academic events required for students.

On Aug. 23, it expanded that to the current requirement, with plans to reevaluate after two weeks.

The campuses include Knoxville, the Institute of Agriculture, Chattanooga, Martin, Southern and the Health Science Center.

Tennessee’s GOP-supermajority Legislature has barred public entities from requiring COVID-19 vaccines, with limited exceptions for state school health care students fulfilling requirements through private offices that require vaccination.

In Tennessee, there were about 1,088 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people over the past two weeks, which ranks sixth in the country for new cases per capita, according to Johns Hopkins University researchers.

Tennessee is averaging about 3,482 current COVID-19 hospitalizations, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services data through Sept. 6.
Voter Registration Tailgate for UT Martin

Voter Registration Tailgate set for September 11 at UT Martin's Graham Stadium

Martin, Tenn. - A Voter Registration Tailgate event to register Tennessee voters will be held 3-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. The event supports National Voter Registration Month throughout September and is sponsored by the Office of Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett and the university's Student Government Association. The tailgate also coincides with UT Martin's Family Weekend Tailgate Party, which includes the Skyhawk football home opener with Samford University at 6 p.m. Anyone who needs to register to vote can do so at the tailgate.

"We are pumped to work with UT Martin student leaders to build momentum around voting," Hargett said. "The Voter Registration Tailgate is an excellent opportunity for all Skyhawk fans to take advantage of how easy it is to register to vote in Tennessee, so they are ready to make their voice heard on Election Day. We are grateful to Dr. (Keith) Carver (UT Martin chancellor) and the entire Skyhawk Nation for welcoming us." Elections for local and statewide office are happening in 2022, and last year Tennesseans broke voter turnout and participation records. Election experts will attend the tailgate to answer questions about Tennessee's easy voting process. Tennessee voters can also visit GoVoteTn.gov or call the Secretary of State's Division of Elections at 1-877-850-4959 for more information.
READY TO ROCK — Stagehands finished up the final touches on the WK&T stage in front of the new Martin Public Library in downtown Martin last week in preparation for this year's annual Tennessee Soybean Festival concert line-up, which includes Brett Michaels. For a schedule of events, see related article. For more in-depth and daily updates into the Soybean Festival happenings, visit tnsoybeanfestival.org.

TN Soybean Festival Schedule of Events

Wednesday, September 8
5 p.m.: Community Health Awareness Fair @ Downtown Martin - S. Lindell St.
5-8 p.m.: Midway Armband Night - Amusement Rides and Carnival @ Historic Downtown Martin
5 p.m.: TN Soybean Festival Street Fair @ Historic Downtown Martin
6 p.m.: TSF Presents: The Soybean Voice Show @ WK&T Amphitheater
7 p.m.: Faith & Community Night: The Bethel University Renaissance Choir @ Central Baptist Church
7:30 p.m.: The Return ... a Tribute to The Beatles in Concert @ WK&T Amphitheater in Historic Downtown Martin, TN

Thursday, September 9
All Day: Brian Brown Greenway Community Art Display Open @ Brian Brown Memorial Greenway
6:30 a.m.: TSF Farmers Breakfast @ Tennessee Tractor of Martin
10 a.m.: TN Soybean Festival Merchants Sidewalk Sale @ Citywide
12 p.m.: TSF Presents: Puppy Pals Dog Show... As seen on America's Got Talent! @ Savant Building Lot
4 p.m.: Sea Lion Splash Show @ Martin Municipal Building parking lot
4:30 p.m.: TSF Presents: Flippen Out @ Historic Downtown Martin
5-7 p.m.: Fast & Furious Power Wheels Race @ First Community Bank of the Heartland
5-11 p.m.: Midway Open - Amusement Rides and Carnival @ Historic Downtown Martin
5 p.m.: TN Soybean Festival Street Fair @ Historic Downtown Martin
5 p.m.: TSF Presents: Johnny D Robot Ranger @ Historic Downtown Martin
5 p.m.: TSF Presents: Puppy Pals Dog Show... As seen on America's Got Talent! @ Savant Building Lot
6 p.m.: Sea Lion Splash Show @ Martin Municipal Building parking lot
6:30 p.m.: TSF Presents: Flippen Out Trampoline Show @ Historic Downtown Martin
7 p.m.: SF Presents: Johnny D Robot Ranger @ Historic Downtown Martin
7 p.m.: TSF Presents: Puppy Pals Dog Show... As seen on America's Got Talent! @ Savant Building Lot
7 p.m.: TSF Presents: Rick Springfield in Concert @ WK&T Amphitheater - Festival Park
7:30 p.m.: Sea Lion Splash Show @ Martin Municipal Building parking lot
Friday, September 10

All Day: 28th Annual Chicken Crazy, Hog Wild BBQ Cook-Off @ Virginia Weldon Park
All Day: Brian Brown Greenway Community Art Display Open @ Brian Brown Memorial Greenway
10 a.m.: TN Soybean Festival Merchants Sidewalk Sale @ Citywide
1 p.m.: Tyson Chicken Crazy, Hog Wild BBQ
FREE Community Meal @ Virginia Weldon Park
4 p.m.: Sea Lion Splash Show @ Martin Municipal Building parking lot
4:30 p.m.: TSF Presents: Flippen Out @ Historic Downtown Martin
5-11 p.m.: Midway Open – Amusement Rides and Carnival @ Historic Downtown Martin
5 p.m.: TN Soybean Festival Street Fair @ Historic Downtown Martin
5 p.m.: TSF Presents: Johnny D Robot Ranger @ Historic Downtown Martin
5 p.m.: TSF Presents: Puppy Pals Dog Show ... As seen on America’s Got Talent! @ Savant Building Lot
6 p.m.: Resurrection ... A Tribute to Journey - FREE CONCERT @ WK&T Amphitheater in Historic Downtown Martin
6 p.m.: Sea Lion Splash Show @ Martin Municipal Building parking lot
6:30 p.m.: 5th Annual Sammies’ Sandwich Eating Contest @ Virginia Weldon Park Stage
6:30 p.m.: TSF Presents: Flippen Out Trampoline Show @ Historic Downtown Martin
7 p.m.: TSF Presents: Johnny D Robot Ranger @ Historic Downtown Martin
7 p.m.: TSF Presents: Puppy Pals Dog Show ... As seen on America’s Got Talent! @ Savant Building Lot
7 p.m. – 12 a.m.: TSF: The Opera House Party In The Gap @ The Opera House Gap
7 p.m.: WCMM/Star 96.1 Singing Bee @ Weldon Park Stage
8 p.m.: Sea Lion Splash Show @ Martin Municipal Building parking lot
8 p.m.: The Man In Black ... A Tribute to Johnny Cash - FREE CONCERT @ WK&T Amphitheater - Festival Park
8:30 p.m.: TSF Presents: Flippen Out @ Historic Downtown Martin
9 p.m. – 1 a.m.: The Hawks Nest Soybean Festival Celebration @ The Hawks Nest
9 p.m.: TSF Presents: Johnny D Robot Ranger @ Historic Downtown Martin
9 p.m.: TSF Presents: Puppy Pals Dog Show ... As seen on America’s Got Talent! @ Savant Building Lot
10 p.m. – 2 a.m.: Cadillac’s Soybean Celebration @ Cadillac’s Parking Lot, Church St.
10 p.m.: Daniel – FREE CONCERT @ WK&T Amphitheater - Festival Park Historic Downtown Martin

Saturday, September 11

All Day: Brian Brown Greenway Community Art Display Open @ Brian Brown Memorial Greenway
12 p.m.: 28th Annual Chicken Crazy, Hog Wild BBQ Awards @ Virginia Weldon Park Stage
7:30 – 10:30 a.m.: 27th Annual Tennessee Soybean Festival American Legion Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast @ American Legion Post 55
7:30 a.m.: UT Martin Family Weekend – Bowtie

Sunday, September 12

All Day: Brian Brown Greenway Community Art Display Open @ Brian Brown Memorial Greenway
Dr. Joey Mehlhorn

Mehlhorn Named UTM Dean of Graduate Studies

BY ANTONIA STEELE
UTM University Relations

MARTIN (September 6) — Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics and chair holder for the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources, was appointed in July as graduate studies dean at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Mehlhorn has served as the interim dean since 2019.

"During the last two years as interim dean, Dr. Mehlhorn has overseen significant increases in graduate programs, developed strong partnerships with the program coordinators in each graduate program, improved the application and review process, and coordinated the graduate program components of the strategic enrollment plan," Dr. Philip Acree Cavaller, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, wrote in an email announcement to university faculty. "...I am confident that Dr. Mehlhorn's skills as a leader and collaborator will contribute to the continued growth of graduate studies at UTM."

Mehlhorn joined UT Martin in 2003 as a faculty member and has since also served as both assistant director and director of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences; chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; interim chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; and director of the Center of Excellence in Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences. He earned the rank of full professor in 2008 and will retain his position as Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Mehlhorn holds a bachelor's degree in agribusiness economics from Tennessee Technological University, and both master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UT Martin hosts "Guitar as Art" reception

The 7th annual "Guitar as Art" is open for public viewing through Saturday, September 18.

An opening reception was held Sunday as a part of the Tennessee Soybean Festival with awards presented to artists who went above and beyond with their converted acoustic guitars.

Pictured (l-r) are Violet Durden, a fine arts major from Bartlett and winner of the People's Choice Award, Dan Knowles, of Paris, winner of the Best Thematic Guitar Award, Kaitlyn Courtney, a senior agriculture major from Dresden and winner of the Best in Show Award, and Jason Stout, professor of art and Guitar as Art coordinator.

Johnny Cash celebrated with UTM exhibit and tribute performance in Martin

The Johnny Cash photo is provided courtesy of ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.
Fans of the late Johnny Cash can remember the legendary performer this week through a new museum exhibit at UT Martin and a Johnny Cash tribute artist at the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

The exhibit titled "1968: A Folsom Redemption" is open in the J. Houston Gordon Museum in the UTM Paul Meek Library and is from Cash's "golden era" from 1968 to 1969.

J. Houston Gordon tells Thunderbolt Radio News about the honor of having the museum in his name, as well as his admiration of the late Johnny Cash.

(AUDIO)

Mr. Gordon reflected on Cash's career and what was happening in the late 60s.

(AUDIO)

Mr. Gordon says Cash's redemption was another important part of his life story.

(AUDIO)

The Johnny Cash exhibit includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer's golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album "At Folsom Prison," to a March 1, 1969, concert in Anaheim, California, before the launch of his network television show.

The artifacts were compiled by photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended the concerts and met Cash and his family before the concerts began. Beley will share his accounts of the concerts and the work that went into developing the exhibit on Thursday, September 30 at 7pm in the Special Collections Reading Room.

Meanwhile, a free performance of "The Man in Black: A Tribute to Johnny Cash" will be performed Friday night at 8:00 at the WK&T Amphitheater in downtown Martin.
UT Martin Back-To-School Bash

UT MARTIN Back-To-School Bashes with Chancellor Keith Carver included a pizza lunch with Dr. Carver, in rear, center, visited the UTM Ripley Center Tuesday, August 31st. The Chancellor visited with City of Ripley Mayor Craig Fitzhugh, in rear, left, during lunch.

DR. CARVER, right, and the team visited with Ripley High School juniors and seniors after the lunch.
MARTIN, Tenn. – A Voter Registration Tailgate event to register Tennessee voters will be held 3–6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus. The event supports National Voter Registration Month throughout September and is sponsored by the Office of Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett and the university’s Student Government Association. The tailgate also coincides with UT Martin’s Family Weekend Tailgate Party, which includes the Skyhawk football home opener with Samford University at 6 p.m. Anyone who needs to register to vote can do so at the tailgate.
"We are pumped to work with UT Martin student leaders to build momentum around voting," Hargett said. "The Voter Registration Tailgate is an excellent opportunity for all Skyhawk fans to take advantage of how easy it is to register to vote in Tennessee, so they are ready to make their voice heard on Election Day. We are grateful to Dr. (Keith) Carver (UT Martin chancellor) and the entire Skyhawk Nation for welcoming us."

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Farm gift pledge to University of Tennessee-Martin worth a system record $79.5 million

September 12, 2021 at 8:30 am CDT

MARTIN, Tenn. (AP) — University officials say a former equestrian Olympic gold medalist's commitment to donate her family farm to the University of Tennessee at Martin after her death is valued at a record-breaking $79.5 million.

A news release Aug. 20 from the Martin campus announced the property appraisal amount of the pledged gift of Wildwood Farm by Melanie Smith Taylor.

Officials say the 350-acre Germantown farm is the largest commitment ever across the University of Tennessee system, not just the Martin campus. Taylor, a 1984 Olympic gold medal winner in equestrian, joined university officials to announce the plan in June.

The property will let the university increase programs in veterinary health technology and other agricultural disciplines.
Families reunite for a weekend at UT Martin

September 12, 2021 by Ashley Luningham

MARTIN, Tenn. — Students are being reunited with their families for the weekend at UT Martin.

UT Martin had a few extra Skyhawks on campus this weekend.

Students were able to bring their family to show them what life is like for a UTM Skyhawk.

Students and their families were able to attend a football game, a tailgate party on Saturday, and a Bowtie Brunch on Sunday.

Sherry Burnett came down to watch her daughter, Emily Pennington, perform on the UTM Pom Squad during the game on Saturday.

"It was a lot of fun watching her do what she loves to do. I am glad that Martin has provided a place where she can do what she loves to do," Burnett said.

Burnett says she knows that the UTM community has taken great care of her daughter.

But having this weekend is also nice to check in and spend time together.

"As a parent, that makes you feel good. Knowing that your kid is going to be taken care of when they are so far away from home. It is nice on family weekends to come down, hang out, and make sure she is okay," Burnett said.

UTM Junior Hallie Thomas enjoyed the weekend with her parents.

Her mom Kathleen says they are states away from Hallie, so this weekend is special for their family.

"We're from Maryland, so last year we sent her and didn't get to see her for a long time. So it is really nice to be back and have family weekend again," Thomas said.
"We went to the football game. We went out to eat a few times, and got to hang out a little bit," Hallie Thomas said.

Pennington says with home being four hours away, going back doesn't happen often. So having family weekend is a great way to make up lost time.

"Being able to have her here and show her all of my good spots. And showing her around campus and what I am doing here. Also, reassuring her I am safe and this is a good environment for me to be in. It is awesome to have that time between the two of us," Pennington said.

The weekend ended with a UTM soccer game against Western Carolina.

UT Martin offers ACT workshop to Tennessee teachers

September 14, 2021 by Trstyn Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is providing free ACT workshops for teachers.

(Photo courtesy: UT Martin)
The two-hour Zoom workshops are meant to help teachers learn more about teaching the ACT to students, as well as better understanding resources available to teachers, according to a news release.

Workshops will be held:

- Monday, Sept. 20, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 27, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 6, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 1, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 8, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

You will need to register for the workshop through UT Martin's website (https://www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/courses/children/actprep.php).

The release says the classes will be taught by Dana Gatewood, UT Martin lecturer of mathematics, and Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author.

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**UT Martin grad, teacher set to compete on Wheel of Fortune**

*September 14, 2021 by Tristyn Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)*

MARTIN, Tenn. — A University of Tennessee at Martin graduate and West Tennessee educator is set to compete on “Wheel of Fortune.”
UT Martin says Emily Keeton will be on the show during the show’s teacher week on Thursday, Sept. 16.

UT Martin says Keeton is an adjunct instructor at the UT Martin Parsons Center and an eighth grader English teacher and language arts teacher at Decatur County Middle School.

A viewing party is being held at the Parson Center from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. that Thursday, according to UT Martin.
UT Martin grad and eighth-grade teacher to appear on 'Wheel of Fortune'

Leanne Fuller
Sep 14, 2021

MARTIN, TN — A University of Tennessee at Martin grad who’s also an adjunct instructor at the UTM Parsons Center will compete on "Wheel of Fortune" Thursday, the university says.

The UTM alum, Emily Keeton, is also an eighth-grade English teacher at Decatur County Middle School.

She'll appear on "Wheel" Thursday, Sept. 16, as part of the show's Teacher Week.

Keeton graduated from UTM in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural education. Then, she earned her master's degree in agricultural and extension education at Mississippi State University in 2017.

UTM will have a viewing party for the episode at the Parsons Center from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday.
UT Martin alumna to compete on "Wheel of Fortune"

UT Martin graduate Emily Keeton, an adjunct instructor at the UT Martin Parsons Center and 8th grade English and language arts teacher at Decatur County Middle School, competes on "Wheel of Fortune" Thursday as part of the game show's teacher week.

Keeton received her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education degree in 2014 from UT Martin and earned her Master of Science in Agricultural and Extension Education from Mississippi State University in 2017.

A viewing party will be held at the UT Martin Parsons Center Thursday night from 6:15 until 7:00.
Almost $2,000 raised during King and Queen of the Bean contest

The eighth annual King and Queen of the Bean winners have been announced. Kameron Echols, the assistant director at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Office of Career Planning & Development, was crowned King with Hannah Alexander, the assistant director of University Relations for Marketing, crowned Queen. All proceeds raised during this contest will go toward The Pilot Club of Martin organization's philanthropy of Brain Awareness as well as the addition of restrooms at the playground in Virginia Weldon Park.
Mehlhorn named Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics and chair holder for the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources, was appointed in July as graduate studies dean at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Mehlhorn has served as the interim dean since 2019.

"During the last two years as interim dean, Dr. Mehlhorn has overseen significant increases in graduate programs, developed strong partnerships with the program coordinators in each graduate program, improved the application and review process, and coordinated the graduate program components of the strategic enrollment plan," Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, wrote in an email announcement to university faculty. "I am confident that Dr. Mehlhorn's skills as a leader and collaborator will contribute to the continued growth of graduate studies at UTM."

Mehlhorn joined UT Martin in 2003 as a faculty member and has since served as both assistant director and director of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences; chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; interim chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; and director of the Center of Excellence in Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences.

He earned the rank of full professor in 2008 and will retain his position as Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Mehlhorn holds a bachelor's degree in agribusiness economics from Tennessee Technological University, and both master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
The seventh annual "Guitar as Art" opening reception was held recently as a part of the Soybean Festival. During the reception, Awards were presented to students who went above and beyond with their converted acoustic guitars. Honorees included (from left) Violet Durden, a fine arts major from Bartlett and winner of the People's Choice Award; Dan Knowles, winner of the Best Thematic Guitar Award; Kaitlyn Courtney, a senior agriculture major from Dresden and winner of the Best in Show Award; and Jason Stout, professor of art and Guitar as Art coordinator. The exhibit will be open for public viewing until Sept. 18. For more information, contact the Department of Visual Arts and Theatre at 731-881-7400.
UTM library features Johnny Cash exhibit

MARTIN, Tenn. — The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, will host its new Johnny Cash exhibit titled “1968: A Folsom Redemption” beginning on Sept. 1.

The exhibit includes photos and firsthand accounts highlighting the singer’s golden era from January 1968, when Cash released his acclaimed album “At Folsom Prison,” to a March 1, 1969, concert in Anaheim, California, before the launch of his network television show. The artifacts were compiled by photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended the concerts and met Cash and his family before the concerts began.

Beley will give a public lecture about his accounts of the concerts and the work that went into developing the exhibit at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 30, in the library’s Special Collections Reading Room.

The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with no admission fee. Visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings inside the library.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link.

The exhibit is scheduled to run through Oct. 15. For more information, contact Sam Richardson, head of special collections and archives, at 731-881-7094.
UT MARTIN ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR TO APPEAR ON "WHEEL"

September 15, 2021 @ 9:13 am Shannon McFarlin

MARTIN, Tenn. – University of Tennessee at Martin graduate Emily Keeton, who

week. Keeton received her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education degree in 2014 from UT Martin and earned her Master of Science in Agricultural and Extension Education from Mississippi State University in 2017.

A viewing party will be held at the UT Martin Parsons Center from 6:15-7 p.m. this Thursday. Please call the UT Martin Parsons Center at 731-847-3880 or email Kelli Deere at kdeere@utm.edu for additional information.
Who: Emily Keeton, adjunct instructor at the UT Martin Parsons Center
What: Viewing Party – Keeton will be a contestant on “Wheel of Fortune”
When: 6:15-7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 16
Where: UT Martin Parsons Center, 975 Tennessee Avenue North, Parson, TN 38363
Contact: Call 731-847-3880 or email Kelli Deere at kdeere@utm.edu (mailto:kdeere@utm.edu) for additional information.

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UTM offers courses on Korea, pharm tech

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering various community courses. All courses will be held on the Martin campus and are enrolling now. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All university COVID-19 guidelines must be followed when taking in-person classes.

Beginner and intermediate courses about the Korean language and culture will be held Mondays, Sept. 13 through Dec. 20. Those taking the beginner level courses will meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and those taking the intermediate courses will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration is $30 per person.

The courses, taught by Jisun Collier, focus on the Korean alphabet and basic conversational skills.

Students will also be able to attend the annual Korean New Year party and Kimchi Festival.

The pharmacy technician program will be offered 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Sept. 21 through Nov. 9. The registration fee is $1,199 and covers all supplies and textbooks needed for the course.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will provide students with the knowledge they need to pass the pharmacy technician certification exam and work in the pharmaceutical field. Topics covered will include medical terminology, dosage conversions and calculations, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement.

Online registration and payment are required for all courses.

Visit www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php for information on how to register for each individual course. For more information, contact nondegree programs at nondegree@utm.edu.
Local University Outreach Offers Non-Degree Courses

MARTIN (September 10) — The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering various community courses.

All courses will be held on the Martin campus and are enrolling now. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

All university COVID-19 guidelines must be followed when taking in-person classes.

Beginner and intermediate courses about the Korean language and culture will be held Mondays, September 13 through December 20.

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The registration fee is $1,199 and covers all supplies and textbooks needed for the course.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will provide students with the knowledge they need to pass the pharmacy technician certification exam and work in the pharmaceutical field.

Topics covered will include medical terminology, dosage conversions and calculations, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement.

UT Martin Advisory Board Fall Meeting is Friday

MARTIN (September 11) — The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board will hold its annual fall meeting in person at 1 p.m., Friday, September 17, in room 206AB of the Boling University Center.

The meeting will also be available for public viewing via livestream at www.utm.edu/advisory and archived for later viewing.

Those attending in person are required to wear a face covering.

Agenda items include:
- Enrollment update
- New academic programs
- The full agenda and associated meeting materials are available at www.utm.edu/advisory or by contacting Bud Grimes, Office of University Relations, at rgrimes@utm.edu or call 731-881-7615.

Anyone with a disability or otherwise needing assistance in connection with this virtual meeting may contact Grimes to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance. Contact may be made in person, by writing, by email, by telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 5 p.m., (today) Wednesday, September 15.

The University of Tennessee at Martin also distributes this notice to all faculty and staff as part of its compliance with providing adequate public notice.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.
UTM outreach offers free ACT workshops for teachers

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach will provide free ACT workshops over Zoom for Tennessee teachers throughout the fall semester.

Each two-hour Zoom session teaches educators how to access and understand their school’s ACT data, what resources are available to them, how to connect lessons to ACT standards, as well as strategies to help students study for the test, prepare for potential challenges and efficiently work through test questions. Teachers can also receive one Professional Development Point (PDP) for attending a session. The workshops are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education.

The schedule for the sessions is as follows:
- Monday, Sept. 20, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 27, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 6, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 1, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 8, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

The sessions will be taught by Dana Gatewood, UTM lecturer of mathematics, and Alex Beene, UTM adjunct faculty member and author. Beene has taught UTM’s ACT prep courses since 2013. Teachers must register before the session. For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/actprep.

UTM offers fall non-degree courses

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering various community courses. All courses will be held on the Martin campus and are enrolling now. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All university COVID-19 guidelines must be followed when taking in-person classes.

Beginner and intermediate courses about the Korean language and culture will be held Mondays, Sept. 13- Dec. 20. Those taking the beginner level courses will meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and those taking the intermediate courses will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration is $30 per person.

The pharmacy technician program will be offered 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Sept. 21-Nov. 9. The registration fee is $1,199 and covers all supplies and textbooks needed for the course.

The comprehensive 50-hour course will provide students with the knowledge they need to pass the pharmacy technician certification exam and work in the pharmaceutical field. Topics covered will include medical terminology, dosage conversions and calculations, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement.

Online registration and payment are required for all courses. For more information, contact non-degree programs at nondegree@utm.edu. Visit www.utm.edu/departments/nondegree/martin.php for information on how to register for each individual course.
Martin, Tenn.—Fall enrollment and new academic programs were highlighted as the University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met Friday, Sept. 17, in the Boling University Center for its scheduled fall meeting. Art Sparks, of Union City, chairs the seven-member advisory board that includes Hal Bynum, Sharon; Dr. Philip Smartt, faculty member, Dresden; Kelsea Koonce, student member, Newbern; Monice Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County. The meeting was the first official meeting for Koonce as she begins a one-year board term.
Sparks opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, who offered a brief COVID-19 report in which he noted a downward trend in both active virus cases and in total quarantines and isolations among university faculty, staff members and students. The previous meeting minutes were then approved, and an enrollment report and an overview of new academic programs were then presented by Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Cavalier reported strong application numbers for this fall and a positive response to the university's intent-to-enroll survey, but more students "melted" or didn't enroll as expected. He said that personal and family finances likely played a role in many decisions not to attend. "I think we all suspect that some of those students just felt like, at the last minute, they were not able to pay, that the financial picture ... it wasn't going to work this semester," he told the board. First-time freshmen attending UT Martin this fall total 1,042 students, down about 6% from 2020 as reported by the university's Office of Institutional Research.

Total fall enrollment reached just over 6,700 students, compared to 7,119 students who attended the university last fall, a decline that Cavalier said can be traced largely to multiple factors related to the pandemic. He said the university is moving forward proactively and will re-recruit many of the students who chose not to return this fall. A search is also underway to hire a new director this fall to coordinate retention efforts across the university.

Cavalier's enrollment report transitioned to an overview of new academic programs that will address workforce needs and appeal to a wider range of students. Those programs include a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, which is available this fall, and a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity that is set to be available in fall 2022. A new Master of Science in Criminal Justice will begin in spring 2022.

Photo: From left, Art Sparks, of Union City, advisory board chair; Hal Bynum (foreground), board member from Sharon; and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.
A CLASSICAL NOTE — Local musicians presented a special "Break for Bach" concert during the TN Soybean Festival entitled "Bach and the Boys: Music of J. S. Bach and His Contemporaries." The program featured works by Bach, Domenico Scarlatti, G. F. Handel, and Antonio Vivaldi. Sixteen members of the Philharmonic Music Guild were among those attending the event that was held at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Musicians included, (from left) Douglas Owens (oboe), Charles Lewis (flute), Elaine Harriss (piano), and Bethany Ostenson (violin).

WestStar Leadership Program accepting 2022 class applications

The WestStar class of 2021 graduated in June. This year will be the 32nd class in its history. Applications are now being accepted for the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2022. The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership program in Tennessee, boasts 886 graduates to date and will welcome its 32nd class. The application deadline is Oct. 18. Anyone can apply to participate; nominations are accepted but not required. The program includes eight sessions addressing contemporary issues important to West Tennessee’s development, including agriculture, economics and public policy, transportation, education, tourism and technology. Each session takes place over one-and-a-half days and are held across the region aside from a March session in Nashville. The program begins Dec. 9 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2022, with an evening graduation ceremony. WestStar’s mission is to “identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee’s economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles.” Participants learn leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize their potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of fellow alumni and community leaders who help to shape West Tennessee’s future. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and service. For more information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/weststar.
Leanna Stephenson sworn in as Greenfield alderman

By Amanda Mansfield
Press Reporter

During Tuesday night’s Greenfield Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting, city attorney Beau Pemberton swore in new alderman, Leanna Stephenson. She is a resident of Greenfield and works for the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Bursar’s Office.

Stephenson replaces Thomas Tansil Jr. on the board of aldermen, and Greenfield Mayor Cindy McAdams had this to say of Stephenson: “I’m so happy to have her on the board. I know she will do a great job and do what’s best for Greenfield.”

Of her appointment to the board, Stephenson said, “I would like to thank Mayor McAdams and the rest of the board for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to working with each one of them.”

NEW ALDERMAN — Leanna Stephenson was sworn in during Greenfield’s last board meeting. She replaces Thomas Tansil Jr. Pictured with Stephenson is Beau Pemberton, city attorney.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Undergraduate degrees
• Dresden – Racheal Mignon Dunlap; Carrie Alisann Hardin; Shannon M. Merrell; Dena Denise Morris; Kirsti Sierra Nordstrom; Katherine Grace Rea; Alexandra Maria Watson; Jasmine Alexus Williams; Dresser Harris Winn.
• Gleason – Kayley Elizabeth Brooks; Michael Wayne Hicks; Wade Williamson Moran; Julie Thomas Shankle.
• Greenfield – Brett Michael Capps; Mary Cooper; Paige Christen Huggins; Jeremy Samuel Lamonn; Mattilyn Jo Sellers; Jamion Shane Shelton; Taylor Alderson Stout; Hannah Elizabeth Trimble.
• Martin – Audrey Michelle Adams; Joseph Aguilar; Hassan Yousef Albasha; Toqa Alhasawi; Mason Browning Arant; Brandon T. Baker; Mason M. Baker; Shelby Grace Barton; Ali Elizabeth Beverly; Taylor Bishop; Avery Nicole Blanchard; Aubrey T. Bynum; Allie McCall Cantrell; John Alex Carr; Samantha L. Abston; Summer M. Coblé; Peyton Ray Dailey; Blake Walker Daniels; Matthew Craig Dilday; Callie Dawn Dunlap; Carly Jean Fowler; Jillian Paige Gunter; Holly Danielle Harstine; Haven Gabrielle Hart; Tyler John Hopper; Terry Joseph Hollitt; Jennifer Ruth Huestis; McKenzie Kayte Hurst; Cory Wayne Hussey; Emily Maudena Jeffers; Emma Grace Kelly; Thomas Shaw Logan Jr.; Cassidy Nicole Lowry; Robert Joseph Methylborn; Alexis Victoria Millsaps; Danielle Moody; Mindy Ann Paschall; Abigail Lee Plunk; Stephen Grant Porter; Jamie Lynn Rys; Taylor Danielle Sanders; Kaithlin Belew Scott; Hailey Marie Seguna; Chloe Morgan Smotherman; Tamara Lynn Stewart; Tristan Michael Turner; Amber Nicole Vincent; Jonathan Rasmussen Wilbert; Shelby Renee Willett; Luke Arthur Winters; Erik Sean Worley; Tyshawn Orion Young; Enrico Zoboli.
• Palmersville – Noah Copeland.
• Sharon – Kinlee Danielle Moore.
• Graduate degrees:
  • Dresden – Timothy Merritt Spence.
  • Gleason – Holly Martina Harris.
  • Greenfield – Darian Lenae Black; Shelley Carol Featherston.
• Martin – Christopher Austin Avallone; Kameron R. Echols; Brandi Gamble; Destin L. Johnson; Sarah Kent; Grace Bruner Luker; Katie E. Smith; Kassie Lynn Wright.
• Sharon – Rachel Lauren Roberts
Grad studies dean selected at UTM

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics and chair holder for the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources, was appointed recently as graduate studies dean at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Mehlhorn has served as the interim dean since 2019. "During the last two years as interim dean, Dr. Mehlhorn has overseen significant increases in graduate programs, developed strong partnerships with the program coordinators in each graduate program, improved the application and review process, and coordinated the graduate program components of the strategic enrollment plan," Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, wrote in an email announcement to university faculty.

"... I am confident that Dr. Mehlhorn's skills as a leader and collaborator will contribute to the continued growth of graduate studies at UTM," he said.

Mehlhorn joined UT Martin in 2003 as a faculty member and has since also served as both assistant director and director of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences; chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; interim chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; and director of the Center of Excellence in Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences.

He earned the rank of full professor in 2008 and will retain his position as Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

Mehlhorn holds a bachelor's degree in agribusiness economics from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and both master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics from Mississippi State University.

Free ACT workshops available for teachers

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach is providing free ACT workshops over Zoom for Tennessee teachers throughout the fall semester.

Each two-hour Zoom session teaches educators how to access and understand their school's ACT data, what resources are available to them and how to connect lessons to ACT standards, as well as strategies to help students study for the test, prepare for potential challenges and efficiently work through test questions.

Teachers can also receive one Professional Development Point (PDP) for attending a session. The workshops are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education.

The schedule of remaining sessions includes:

- Monday — 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6 — 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 1 — 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8 — 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The sessions will be taught by Dana Gatewood, UT Martin lecturer of mathematics, and Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author. Beene has taught UT Martin's ACT prep courses since 2013.

Teachers must register before the session. For more information or to register, go to http://www.utm.edu/actprep.
Stephenson Is Newest Member of Greenfield Board

City Judge Beau Pemberton swears in Leanna Stephenson as a member of the Greenfield Board of Mayor and Alderman, during Tuesday night’s regular monthly board meeting. Stephenson was appointed to the alderperson position, to complete the unfulfilled term of former Alderman Thomas Tansil, Jr., who recently resigned.

WestStar Program Accepting 2022 Applications

MARTIN (September 16) — Applications are now being accepted for the University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2022.

The program is the largest and oldest regional leadership program in Tennessee, boasts 888 graduates to date and will welcome its 22nd class. The application deadline is Oct. 18. Anyone can apply to participate; nominations are accepted but not required.

The program includes eight sessions addressing contemporary issues important to West Tennessee’s development, including agriculture, economics and public policy, transportation, education, tourism and technology. Each session takes place over one-and-a-half days and are held across the region aside from a March session in Nashville. The program begins Dec. 9 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2022, with an evening graduation ceremony.

WestStar’s mission is to “identify, encourage, and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee’s economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles.”

Participants learn leadership skills and develop strategies to help communities solve problems and maximize their potential.

Participants also become part of a growing network of fellow alumni and community leaders who help to shape West Tennessee’s future. WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and service.

For more information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/weststar.

BY DAVID FISHER
david@dresdenenterprise.com

GREENFIELD (September 15) — Moments before Tuesday night’s regular meeting of the Greenfield Board of Mayor and Aldermen got underway, City Judge Beau Pemberton swore in Leanna Stephenson to complete the unfulfilled term of former Alderman Thomas Tansil, Jr., who officially resigned after being sentenced on charges stemming from a Tennessee Comptroller’s investigation. The charges are related to his prior position as assistant district attorney for the 34th District, which includes Carroll, Hardin and Hardin Counties.

Stephenson’s husband, Michael Brandon, and the couple's children were present to witness her recite the official oath of office.

As Assistant Bursar at UT Martin, Stephenson helps manage the financial affairs of the university, and comes qualified to fill the vacant at-large alderman seat.

After Mayor Cindy McAdams called the meeting to order, she said of Stephenson, “We’re happy to have her on board.”
The UT Martin Advisory Board met Friday, September 17, in the Boling University Center. Topics covered included fall enrollment and new academic programs. Pictured at the meeting were (L to R) Art Sparks, of Union City, advisory board chair; Hal Bynum (foreground), board member from Sharon; and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver.

**UTM Advisory Board Covers Enrollment, New Programs**

BY BUD GRIMES
UTM University Relations

MARTIN (September 17) — Fall enrollment and new academic programs were highlighted as the University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met Friday, September 17, in the Boling University Center for its scheduled fall meeting.

Art Sparks, of Union City, chairs the seven-member advisory board that includes Hal Bynum, Sharon; Dr. Philip Smartt, faculty member, Dresden; Kelsea Koonce, student member, Newbern; Monice Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County. The meeting was the first official meeting for Koonce as she begins a one-year board term.

Sparks opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, who offered a brief COVID-19 report in which he noted a downward trend in both active virus cases and in total quarantines and isolations among university faculty, staff members and students.

The previous meeting minutes were then approved, and an enrollment report and an overview of new academic programs were then presented by Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, university provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Cavalier reported strong application numbers for this fall and a positive response to the university’s intent-to-enroll survey, but more students “melted” or didn’t enroll as expected. He said that personal and family finances likely played a role in many decisions not to attend. “I think we all suspect that some of those students just felt like, at the last minute, they were not able to pay, that the financial picture...it wasn’t going to work this semester,” he told the board.

First-time freshmen attending UT Martin this fall total 1,042 students, down about 6 percent from 2020 total fall enrollment reached just over 6,700 students, compared to 7,119 students who attended the university last fall, a decline that Cavalier said can be traced largely to multiple factors related to the pandemic.

He said the university is moving forward proactively and will re-recruit many of the students who chose not to return this fall. A search is also underway to hire a new director this fall to coordinate retention efforts across the university.

Cavalier’s enrollment report transitioned to an overview of new academic programs that will address workforce needs and appeal to a wider range of students. Those programs include a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Technology, which is available this fall, and a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity that is set to be available in fall 2022. A new Master of Science in Criminal Justice will begin in spring 2022.

Cavalier also said that a bachelor’s degree in construction management and a master’s in music education are currently under faculty review as potential new degree programs. “We really believe that these (new academic programs) will help us as we try and counteract the effect of COVID,” he said.

Carver followed the academic reports by reviewing the status of major capital projects on the main campus, including completion of the Clement Hall renovation that will house undergraduate admissions and other student-centered services.

He also previewed a possible Latimer Engineering and Science Building move-in sometime in April ahead of the first classes scheduled for fall 2022 in the facility.

Even with the pandemic and other challenges, he noted major fundraising progress, recognized the work of the student affairs staff in keeping residence halls safe and cited record academic achievements for student athletes.

He closed by thanking the university’s faculty for teaching under difficult and unpredictable circumstances. “Our faculty being willing to come back and do face-to-face (teaching) — some folks are nervous about it, but they are absolutely making it work,” Carver said. “Our students are telling us great things about them.”

Sparks closed the meeting by reminding the board of UT Martin graduate Brandon Rowland’s 2021 induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. The Jackson, Tennessee, native is a double amputee and accomplished athlete who led the Jackson Generals wheelchair basketball team to two National Wheelchair Basketball Association titles in the early 2000s. Sparks is a member of the TSHF board of directors.

The advisory board meeting is archived at www.utm.edu/advisory. The next UT Martin Advisory Board meeting will be held January 21, 2022.
MARTIN, Tenn. — Several Obion County families attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Legacy Luncheon, an event for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni.

- Drew Barclay, of South Fulton, plans to study biology and is pictured with his father, Dave Barclay (’97).
- Jaden Knott, of South Fulton, plans to study sports business and is pictured with his parents, Eric (’95) and Jamie Knott (’11).
- Garrett Slaughter, of South Fulton, plans to study agricultural business and is pictured with his father, Jimmy Slaughter (’96).
- Carol Ullrich, of Union City, plans to study electrical engineering and is pictured with her grandmother, Sara Sieber (’69).
- Hannah Williams, of Union City, plans to study music. She is pictured with her parents, Shane and Susan Williams (’85).
The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach will provide free ACT workshops over Zoom for Tennessee teachers throughout the fall semester. Each two-hour Zoom session teaches educators how to access and understand their school's ACT data, what resources are available to them, how to connect lessons to ACT standards, as well as strategies to help students study for the test, prepare for potential challenges and efficiently work through test questions. Teachers can also receive one Professional Development Point (PDP) for attending a session. The workshops are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education.

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WestStar now accepting 2022 class applications

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WestStar is committed to advancing the regional and global community through outreach and service. For more information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit www.utm.edu/weststar.
UT Martin makes plans for homecoming in October

September 28, 2021 by Tristyn Fletcher (https://www.wbbitv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — Homecoming is on the horizon for the University of Tennessee at Martin.

According to the university, festivities have been planned from Oct. 4 to Oct. 10.

Events include a rope pull, lip sync, pyramid competition, a pep rally, and the homecoming football game against Murray State University.

UT Martin says the Blaylock Inspirational Oracle will also have a groundbreaking ceremony will on Oct. 9.

“The Blaylock Inspirational Oracle is a multi-purpose building that is designed for use by the campus and community for various activities. It is designed as an open-air Greek Parthenon that is home to the greatest and wisest philosophers waiting to inspire students and anyone else who visits. Some of the expected uses include a reflection area for students and alumni, an outdoor classroom and a meeting space. It will include a magnificent fountain and a large plaza to host various activities,” said Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for University Advancement.

You can see the full homecoming schedule here (https://alumni.utm.edu/s/1341/utm19/home.aspx?sid=1341&gid=5&pgid=61).
Martin, Tenn.—The University of Tennessee at Martin kicked off its fourth and most ambitious capital campaign, “RISE,” on September 11 where university officials announced a goal of $175,000,000.

“Today, public colleges and universities are required to operate at new levels of accountability, efficiency and entrepreneurship,” Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for university advancement, said.

“To achieve our aspirations, we know we must RISE to the challenge of becoming more innovative and consistently seek to strengthen partnerships with alumni, friends, businesses and other organizations.”
UT Martin recently completed the “Prepare for Takeoff” five-year strategic plan which was instrumental in the planning of this bold endeavor. This “roadmap” is the product of a thoughtful, inclusive process involving more than 600 administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, students, and members of surrounding communities.

The “RISE” Campaign priorities are aligned with the strategic plan and focus on two of the strategic themes. It is within these themes that UT Martin will seek out partnerships and invite donors to RISE to the challenge throughout this comprehensive campaign effort. Those are Strategic Theme One: Enhance Student Outcomes (Recruit, retain and graduate students who are prepared to be responsible, informed and engaged citizens and leaders); and Strategic Theme Two: Strengthen Our Engagement (Be a model of responsible stewardship while improving the vitality and prosperity of West Tennessee and beyond).

“UT Martin is embarking on its fourth capital campaign in our 121-year history,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor.

“UT Martin is embarking on its fourth capital campaign in our 121-year history,” said Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor. “This effort essentially serves two purposes: achieving more successful outcomes for graduates and generating more donations to the institution.

“It also creates a virtuous cycle of well-served students becoming giving – of their time and money – alumni, and therefore paying it forward to serve future students well. Our mission is the reason our campaign, “RISE,” is important. I believe we, as a university, community and nation, will do just that.”

For additional information about the campaign and funding priorities or to make a gift, please visit give.utm.edu, call 731-881-7620, or email development@utm.edu (mailto:development@utm.edu).

Photo: Charlie Moore, of Union City, a co-chair of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s “RISE” Campaign, makes the opening coin toss before UT Martin’s home opener against Samford, Saturday, Sept. 11 at Hardy Graham Stadium.
UT Martin advisory board fall meeting covers enrollment and new academic programs

Fall enrollment and new academic programs were highlighted as the University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board met in the Boling University Center for its scheduled fall meeting. Art Sparks, of Union City, chairs the seven-member advisory board that includes Hal Bynum, Sharon; Dr. Philip Smartt, faculty member, Dresden; Kelsey Koonce, student member, Newbern; Monica Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Wofolk, Madison County. The meeting was the first official meeting for Koonce as she begins a one-year board term.

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The advisory board meeting is archived at www.utm.edu/advisory. The next UT Martin Advisory Board meeting will be held Jan. 21.

SEE ENROLLMENT PAGE 14
The UT Martin football team enters the stadium to face Samford University during Family Weekend 2021.

UT Martin Homecoming scheduled for Oct. 4-10

The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its 2021 homecoming festivities Oct. 4-10 on the main campus. The annual Quad City tent festival will begin at 10:30 a.m., Oct. 9, with the homecoming football game against Murray State University starting at 2 p.m. in Hardy Graham Stadium. Masks are not required for homecoming events held outside, but they are recommended when social distancing is not possible. Masks are required for all indoor public events.

Attendees can reserve homecoming T-shirts and view the homecoming schedule at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming. T-shirts range from $15 to $17, and shipping is available.

The 2021 homecoming theme is "There's No Place Like Homecoming," and various campus organizations will "follow the yellow brick road" during Quad City and other homecoming events.

Traditional homecoming events include rope pull at 4 p.m. daily with championships beginning at 3:30 p.m., Oct. 8; lip sync at 7 p.m., Oct. 5; the pyramid competition and pep rally at 7 p.m., Oct. 8; and the National Pan-Hellenic Council step show at 7 p.m., Oct. 9.

The annual University Choirs' Dessert Evening will also be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 9, outside at the City of Martin Public Library. Admission is free and desserts will be available to purchase in the courtyard. Contact the department of music at 731-881-7402 for more information.

The Blaylock Inspirational Oracle will have a groundbreaking ceremony at 11:30 a.m., Oct. 9, on the lawn between Clement Hall and the Boling University Center. This space is named in honor of Dr. Paul D. Blaylock ('68). "The Blaylock Inspirational Oracle is a multipurpose building that is designed for use by the campus and community for various activities. It is designed as an open-air Greek Parthenon that is home to the greatest and wisest philosophers waiting to inspire students and anyone else who visits. Some of the expected uses include a reflection area for students and alumni, an outdoor classroom and a meeting space. It will include a magnificent fountain and a large plaza to host various activities," said Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for University Advancement.

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Beley recounts personal experiences of Johnny Cash and Folsom Prison

By Shannon Taylor
Press Reporter

He was the only one who recorded "The Night Before Rehearsal" on his large Sony reel-to-reel tape recorder, and he sold it to Sony Music several years ago. Gene Beley is a journalist and photographer who assisted in creating the exhibit 1968: A Folsom Redemption, which is now at the J. Houston Gordon Museum in the Paul Meek Library.

His recording during night before Johnny Cash's Folsom Prison concert was made into a separate album, packaged in a 50th anniversary box set and was released on National Record Store Day April 21, 2018. Beley is a graduate of San Jose State University and a graduate of UCLA with a master's in journalism and has been married to his wife Jill for the past 59 years. He took the exhibit photos and was with Johnny Cash in Folsom.

Beley was a writer for the Star-Free Press in Ventura, California at the time he was invited to Folsom Prison. Dan Poush was the photographer and Beley was the writer. Beley said most people did not know just how much preparation had to take place behind the scenes in order for this concert to even take place.

A key person who helped in the creation of the concert was Rev. Floyd Gressett, pastor of the Avenue Community Church in Ventura and Cash's best friend.

A chance meeting with Earl C. Green, an inmate on death row for murdering a man with a baseball bat, led Gressett to begin the process of planning for the concert at Folsom Prison.

Thanks to Gressett's interest in the prisoner, Green received a lesser sentence and was transferred to Folsom. There, Green became the voice of the Folsom Prison radio station.

Green was a big fan of Johnny Cash and talked with Gressett about the possibility of Cash visiting the prison. Gressett then
started planning to see what could be done to get Cash out there.

It took more than two years of planning for the visit to take place. Beley met the minister at Cash's home and took pictures then boarded a flight the next day with Johnny and June Cash to Sacramento. With the help of Columbia Records and Coach Lloyd Kelley, supervisor of recreation at Folsom Prison, Cash appeared in 1966 for an unpublicized concert. The prisoners loved it and eagerly awaited Cash's return. That return finally happened Jan. 13, 1968 and the rest is history, which Beley will discuss more during his speech at UT Martin Thursday.

In 1994 when his son Shaun was about 17 years old, and deep into music with his band, Beley said he thought to himself, "If I die tomorrow, what would I regret? Not introducing Shaun to Johnny Cash."

Beley decided to buy tickets for Cash's Konocit Harbor Resort show. Beley wasn't even sure that Cash would remember him from all those years ago since he had met hundreds of thousands of people in the 20 years since Folsom, but Cash's road manager Lou Robbins told Beley that Cash wanted to see him. Beley was told to be out back between the shows because Cash was filming a TV commercial for a local nonprofit organization. However, when it came time, his son Shaun was nowhere to be found, and Beley watched Cash do the commercial alone.

When the commercial was finished, Beley took the photos he had of Cash, which are now in the UTM library, to show him. Beley said the crowd was hollering "Johnny for President," and Robbins told Beley and his son to go to Cash's dressing room.

Cash asked if he could show the rest of the band members the photos in his tour bus. Beley agreed and Cash asked him to come back after the show, and he'd return his photos.

That's when Beley asked him if he could meet his son Shaun. "No problem," said Cash, immediately agreeing. When Shaun met Cash, his first words were, "Oh, I forgot to bring my guitar for you to sign it. I left it at the motel." Beley snipped a photo of Cash and his son, which he said the son is now a poster that hangs in his office, and he told his son, "I hope this is a lifetime lesson for you to always be better prepared." Beley said he has often wondered how much his son's guitar would be worth if Cash had signed it.

Looking back on where he started, Beley certainly never thought he would end up where he is today. He grew up in Billings, Montana, and was the oldest of five children. Beley admits he was never a great student saying, "The night I graduated from Billings Sr. High School in 1938, I broke out into a cold sweat, suddenly getting a reality check that I wasn't prepared to do anything in life, and that's a terrible and scary feeling." He said he was told his entire life that he was stupid, and that stayed with him his entire life.

Beley took a University of Montana at Missoula Psychology Department college aptitude test, and he said it told him he failed so badly that he should go home immediately and not waste his parent's money. Beley decided shortly after to go to California, and from there he went to San Jose State and UCLA.

Beley has worked for Yellowstone News and NBC. He was the owner of five different businesses, including Android Amusement Corp, where he had a DC-2 robot that he took all over the nation entertaining crowds. Beley is still on the board of directors today for The National Robotics Education Foundation. In 1989 Beley started Country News, a free tabloid community newspaper that started with a circulation of 4,000. He stated that this newspaper was his most enjoyable business.

Country News grew to a circulation of 22,000, and Beley sold it for six figures in 2005 when he retired to finish his biography on Ray Bradbury, titled "Ray Bradbury Uncensored."

Beley later wrote the psychology department in Missouri where he failed the aptitude test so many years ago and said, "You can't test the creativity and motivation that got me this far." Beley wrote an article on his experience at Folsom Prison for The Virginia Quarterly Review's winter 2005 issue. Beley said, "The great thing about being a reporter is you get the greatest training for anything you do in life. Some of the best writers ever had newspaper experience." Beley will be at the Paul Meek Library to give a presentation on his personal experiences Thursday at 7 p.m.
Local families attend Legacy Luncheon

Several Weakley County families attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon, an event for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni.

Serenity Harrell of Martin plans to study management and is pictured with her mother, Persempathy Harrell ('06).

Luke Jackson of Martin plans to study finance and is pictured with his mother, Becky Jackson.

Belle Fowler of Gleason plans to study mass media and strategic communication and is pictured with her mother, Karen Fowler ('92, '01, '15).

Maddox Martin of Dresden plans to study mass media and strategic communication and is pictured with his parents, Mark ('05) and Alisha ('02, '08).

Will Tuck of Martin plans to study agricultural business and is pictured with his parents, Jamie ('94) and Amy Tuck.

Bethany Collins of Dresden plans to study mass media and strategic communication and is pictured with her parents, Benita Evans ('12) and Brett Collins.

Jacob Cochran of Gleason plans to study computer science and is pictured with his mother, Stephanie Hopper ('05).

Erin Mallory of Dresden plans to study agricultural education and is pictured with her mother, Donna Mallory ('89).
About Project AWARE: Project AWARE is a registered nonprofit organization working with volunteer scuba divers. With offices in UK, US, and Australia, Project AWARE supports divers acting in their own communities to protect the ocean, with a focus on implementing lasting change in two core areas: shark conservation and marine litter. Our vision is to achieve balance between humanity and the ocean. We will do this by rallying millions of PADI Torchbearers - a global force for good that can be mobilized to restore ocean health and support our coastal communities around the world. It will take all of us working together, united by our passion and armed with a clear plan of action to turn the dial towards a healthy future for people and planet.
KEEPI T CLEAN — Every year our students and Scuba Club help promote conservation efforts by doing our part to help make our waterways clean of litter and debris. Every year there is one week dedicated to Project AWARE conservation efforts. This year AWARE week was Sept 16-26. To help kick off the campaign, students and a couple of 4-legged friends rallied together and dried, marketed, or walked on land to contribute with a cleanup of Pacer Pond, UTM. Our neighbors have participated in this event for the last 4 years and we are happy to report that Pacer Pond continues to look great! Pictured are (back row from left) Calib Teague, Saben Basset, Jay Conrad, Danielle Gamman, Jordan Reynolds, Marshall Hammill, Sarah Alford, Claire Kobes, Kendal Penick, Sorrrell Penick, Eric Rosenberg, Jer Alten, Mariah Rinehart, Kya Simmons (front row) Makayla King, Caitlin Vincent, Nubie Dogo, Stacey Hazelwood, Emerald Lacy, and Melissa Massey.

Marshall Hammill helping fellow diver Mariah Rinehart safely exit the water

Sarah Alford winstructor Stacey Hazelwood holding items found during cleanup
UT Martin Homecoming
Set for Next Week

MARTIN (September 21) — The University of Tennessee at Martin will host its 2021 homecoming festivities October 4-10 on the main campus. The annual Quad City tent festival will begin at 10:30 a.m., October 9, with the homecoming football game against Murray State University starting at 2 p.m. in Hardy Graham Stadium.

Masks are not required for homecoming events held outside, but they are recommended when social distancing is not possible. Masks are required for all indoor public events.

Attendees can reserve homecoming T-shirts and view the homecoming schedule at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming. T-shirts range from $15 to $17, and shipping is available.

The 2021 homecoming theme is “There’s No Place Like Homecoming,” and various campus organizations will “follow the yellow brick road” during Quad City and other homecoming events.

Traditional homecoming events include rope pull at 4 p.m. daily with championships beginning at 3:30 p.m., October 8; lip sync at 7 p.m., October 5; the pyramid competition and pep rally at 7 p.m., October 8; and the National Pan-Hellenic Council step show at 7 p.m., October 9.

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LOCAL FAMILY ATTENDS LEGACY LUNCHEON - Kaya Laird, of Milan, attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon, an event for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni, Aug. 19. Laird plans to study computer science. She is pictured with her parents Daniel (’08) and Chelsea Laird, and her sister, Sophya Laird. For more information about the event, contact the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations at 731-881-7610.

ALL IN THE FAMILY - Local families attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon, an event for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni. Maria Cunningham, of Medina, plans to study marketing, and Anna Ward, of Jackson, plans to study psychology. They are pictured with Ward’s parents, Leven (’08) and Christie Ward. (Lower photo) Carson Ikerd, of Medina, plans to study electrical engineering. He is pictured with his parents, Kenny and Cassandra Ikerd (’01).
University schedules two fall academic preview days

Academic preview days are scheduled for students considering the University of Tennessee at Martin. The free fall previews are set for 9-11:30 a.m. this Saturday at Boling University Center and 9-11:30 a.m. Nov. 6 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. To register, go online to www.utm.edu/preview.

Homecoming festivities next week at UT Martin

Homecoming 2021 festivities are set for Monday through Oct. 10 on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s main campus. The annual Quad City tent festival will begin at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 9, with the homecoming football game against Murray State University starting at 2 p.m. in Hardy Graham Stadium. Masks are not required for homecoming events held outside, but they are recommended when social distancing is not possible. Masks are required for all indoor public events.

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A full schedule of UT Martin’s annual homecoming events is available online at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming.
The University of Tennessee-Martin Kicks Off Capital Gain Campaign

The University of Tennessee-Martin has kicked off their fourth capital campaign. The campaign, called "RISE", has an announced fundraising goal of $175 million dollars.

The university recently completed the "Prepare for Takeoff" five-year strategic plan, which was instrumental in the planning of this endeavor. Reports said more than 600 administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, students, and members of surrounding communities took part in the planning process. Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver said the capital campaign is the fourth in the school's 121 year history.

Dr. Carver said the campaign serves two purposes of achieving more successful outcomes for graduates, along with achieving more donations to the institution.
Local pair attends UTM event

Several Lauderdale County families attended the University of Tennessee at Martin’s annual Legacy Luncheon, an event for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni, Aug. 19. Cameron Medford of Ripley, top photo, plans to study education. He is pictured with his mother, Anita Medford (2011), and brother, Chris Medford. Jameila Pitts of Halls, bottom photo, plans to study health and human performance. She is pictured with her mother, Joy Pitts (2008).
UTM Outreach Offers Free ACT Workshops for Teachers

MARTIN (September 14) – The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of University Outreach will provide free ACT workshops over Zoom for Tennessee teachers throughout the fall semester.

Each two-hour Zoom session teaches educators how to access and understand their school's ACT data, what resources are available to them, how to connect lessons to ACT standards, as well as strategies to help students study for the test, prepare for potential challenges and efficiently work through test questions. Teachers can also receive one Professional Development Point (PDP) for attending a session. The workshops are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education. The schedule for the sessions is as follows:

- Wednesday, October 6, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 1, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 8, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

The sessions will be taught by Dana Gatewood, UT Martin lecturer of mathematics, and Alex Beene, UT Martin adjunct faculty member and author. Beene has taught UT Martin's ACT prep courses since 2013.

Teachers must register before the session. For more information or to register, go to http://www.utm.edu/actprep.

The UT Martin football team enters the stadium to face Samford University during Family Weekend 2021.
FAMILIES from Lauderdale County attended the University of Tennessee at Martin's annual Legacy Luncheon Thursday, August 19th, an event for incoming freshmen who are the children and grandchildren of university alumni, in Martin including in upper photo, Cameron Medford, of Ripley, plans to study education. He is pictured with his mother, Anita Medford, a 2011 graduate, and brother, Chris Medford; and in lower photo, Jameila Pitts, of Halls, plans to study health and human performance. She is pictured with her mother, Joy Pitts, a 2008 graduate.

For more information about the event, contact the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations at 731-881-7610.
UTM STUDENTS HELP WITH GOLF TOURNAMENT

A group of UTM sports management students, including one student from Camden, helped with the Jackson-Madison African American Chamber of Commerce's Celebrity Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 15. The tournament raises money for the Chamber’s “Follow Me Into Business” program, which provides local teenagers with job training skills, basic business skills, and employment opportunities. From left are UTM students Trey Ricko, Chris Barbre, Brennan Lownsdale, Wilson LaFollette, Wes Sunderland, Kenna Garst, Logan Brimm, Morgan Summerlin, Parker Kendall, and Jacob Wyatt, of Camden.
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The UTM football team enters the stadium to face their opponent during Family Weekend 2021.
Journalist to speak on Johnny Cash Sept. 30

The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the UTM Paul Meek Library, will host freelance journalist Gene Beley at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 30, in the library’s Special Collections Reading Room. Beley will speak regarding the museum’s current exhibit, “1968: A Folsom Redemption,” and will discuss the stories behind Johnny Cash’s Folsom Prison concerts.

Beley’s writings for the exhibit come from his firsthand experience of attending the concerts, his conversations with the Cash family before the concerts, and his knowledge of the background storylines of the era.

“Mr. Beley will share his experiences of a long friendship with Cash,” Sam Richardson, head of special collections and curator of the museum said. “I hope attendees come away with a larger knowledge of Johnny Cash as a person and an appreciation of his artistry and life.”

The exhibit, which opened Sept. 1, is scheduled to run through Oct. 15. For more information, contact Richardson at 731-881-7094. The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with no admission fee. Visitors are required to wear masks inside the library.

Parking for the lecture will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/policesafety by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link.

Photos from photographer Dan Poush and writer Gene Beley, who attended Johnny Cash’s Folsom Prison concerts, hang in the J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in UTM’s Paul Meek Library.
WestTeach program announces class of 2021

The University of Tennessee at Martin WestTeach Program has announced its class of 2021. The group includes educational leaders from 16 West Tennessee school districts in 13 counties. Jenna Leonard, a 5th grade math/science teacher at Briarwood, is among those selected to participate.

WestTeach is an extension of the WestStar Leadership Program, whose mission is to identify, encourage, and equip community-minded people who want to become involved in West Tennessee’s economic success and are willing to accept leadership roles.

Class members attend sessions throughout the fall semester to learn more about West Tennessee’s economic needs and opportunities and meet with regional industry and community leaders. They also will meet with community child resource agents to gain a better understanding of what their students might experience outside of the classroom. Members become part of a growing network of educators and community leaders dedicated to serving the region.

Participants range from kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, and include teachers of every subject and many different specialties. Counties represented this year include Benton, Dyer, Gibson, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lauderdale, Madison, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley.

For more information about the WestTeach Program, contact Assistant Director Virginia Grimes at 731-881-7298.

Please see CLASS, page 3A