UT Martin students to help with Super Bowl, All-Star Game

February 1, 2022 by Tristyn Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — A dozen University of Tennessee at Martin students are heading to Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

UT Martin says the students, along with Dr. Dexter Davis, are heading over to help the local organizing committee at the NHL All-Star Game and on-location experiences personnel at the Super Bowl.

UT Martin says they will be assisting in hospitality at the games, touring various facilities, and networking with industry professionals.

The group will work from Feb. 3 to Feb. 8 in Las Vegas at the NHL All-Star Game, and then from Feb. 8 to Feb. 13 in Los Angeles at the Super Bowl.
This will be the ninth trip made by students to the Super Bowl in the university's history, and it will be the first year that students have worked at a NHL All-Star Game.

You can read the full news release from UT Martin here (https://www.wbbjtv.com/content/uploads/2022/02/g/r/Super-Bowl_UTM-2022.docx).

MARTIN, Tenn. – Going to the Super Bowl is at the top of the bucket list for many people. This year, 12 University of Martin students will not only get to cross that entry off but will also get to experience the event from behind the scenes.

Along with Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, students will assist the local organizing committee at the NHL All-Star Game in Las Vegas, Feb. 3-8, and on-location experiences personnel at the Super Bowl in Los Angeles, Feb. 8-15.
The group will spend these two weeks in Las Vegas and Los Angeles assisting in hospitality at the games, touring various facilities, and networking with industry professionals. This year’s trip to the Super Bowl will be the ninth in UT Martin history, but this is the first year that UT Martin students have worked at the NHL All-Star Game.

Davis began supervising trips to the Super Bowl around 17 years ago, when a colleague who worked for the Miami Dolphins invited him to bring students to help with Super Bowl Week activities. His group of seven Niagara University students, where he taught at the time, made such a strong impression on the event’s coordinators that Davis was invited to bring students again the next year.

When Davis started teaching at UT Martin in 2013, he continued these trips and eight cohorts later, UT Martin students have built a reputation of their own.

“It’s all a reflection on how good our students are,” Davis said while discussing the opportunities provided by the NFL.

While looking into working at other sporting events, Davis was informed that the NHL was looking for assistance with its annual All-Star Game. After reaching out to a contact from past Super Bowls, Davis was able to get his students involved.

At the Super Bowl, students transport celebrities, current and retired players and NFL Hall of Famers from one pre-game event to another.

The students have the opportunity to learn the most efficient routes to get each person where they need to be, and their experience translates into diplomacy and time-management skills, because they must assure that everyone arrives promptly as well as tactfully answer questions and demands from fans.

The students’ responsibilities at the NHL All-Star game will be more focused on the NHL Fan Fair, which is held in the Las Vegas Convention Center, where fans enjoy hockey-related exhibits and activities, and take photos with the Stanley Cup trophy. Students will also be helping with volunteer orientation sessions.

Through taking on these duties, students will not only apply what they know, but also expand their knowledge by experiencing the hustle and bustle of some of the country’s largest sporting events.

“They’re going to be in the stadium early on Sunday (for the Super Bowl), and they’re going to see everything from when it opens up and the staff start coming in, to when the gates open and fans start coming in, to when the game is over and fans are leaving,” Davis said. “They’re going to see all of the different elements of this major sporting event and how it occurs, and no matter how hard you try in a classroom, you can’t describe the magnitude of that event without being at that event.”

Logan Alfano-Webb, a senior double major in finance and economics from Counce, is participating for the second year.
"Last year, I gained a great understanding on the amount of effort needed behind the scenes to make sure the biggest sporting event of the year runs smoothly," he said. This year, I hope to further expand this knowledge and be able to apply what I learned from the prior year."

When not working at the games, students will be able to meet with industry professionals, tour various universities' athletic facilities and enjoy nearby cities and tourist attractions. While in Los Angeles, students will attend a Los Angeles Lakers game, and a trip to the Hoover Dam is also planned.

Through these opportunities, students will get to experience another part of the country.

"Some of these kids may never get the opportunity to go back to Los Angeles, so we want to try to make it a complete opportunity for them," Davis said.

Through this two-week long trip, Davis builds relationships with his students.

"It's fun getting to know these kids and developing the relationships. Every night, we go out to dinner, and I say, 'What'd you learn today?' and it's fun to hear what they learned. One of the things about learning is you've got to reflect on the experience," Davis said.

For more information about the trip or the UT Martin Sport Business Program, contact Davis at ddavis78@utm.edu.
UTM hosts annual Civil Rights Conference

By Shannon Taylor
Press Reporter

The University of Tennessee at Martin will be holding their annual Civil Rights Conference from Feb. 1-28. The theme this year is “Suppression of the Soul: Examining Restrictions of Freedom.” The conference will have in-person as well as virtual events. Due to the calendar of events the Weakley County Reconciliation Project will not have any meetings in February, and they hope that people will use this time to attend events.

There will be a virtual alumni engagement panel at 7 tonight.

On Wednesday at 7 p.m., in UC206 there will be a “Getting Quirky with It” Black History Month Music Trivia hosted by INCLUDE UTM.

At 6 p.m. Thursday there will be a virtual session with LaTosha Brown “Who will save American Democracy?” Brown is the co-founder of the Black Voters Matter Fund and the BVM Capacity Building Institute, an American community organizer, political strategist.

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and consultant.

Monday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium there will be a session with Cyntoia Brown Long “My Journey to Redemption.” Brown Long is an American author and speaker who was convicted of the murder and robbery of Johnny Michael Allen. Brown was 16 years old and a victim of sex trafficking at the time of the murder.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium there will be a sex trafficking panel.

Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. in UC206 there will be a Braver Angels’ “Bridge Builders Across Differences” workshop. (Registration is required).

Thursday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. there will be a virtual panel hosted by the Weakley County Reconciliation Project “Critical Race Theory: What it is and what it isn’t.”

Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. there will be a virtual panel with Mike Selby “Freedom Libraries: The Untold Story of Libraries for African Americans in the South.”

Thursday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium there will be a panel with Hannibal Johnson “Black Wall Street Remembered.” Johnson serves on the federal 400 Years of African American History Commission. He chairs the Education Committee for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, and he is the author of several books including Images of America: Tulsa’s Historic Greenwood District; Black Wall Street—From Riot to Renaissance in Tulsa’s Historic Greenwood District; Up From the Ashes — A Story About Community; Acres of Aspiration—The All-Black Towns in Oklahoma; Mama Used To Say — Wit & Wisdom From The Henry & Soul.

Friday, Feb. 18 at 9 a.m. in UC206 there will be a poverty simulation. (Registration is required).

Monday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. there will be a virtual panel “Farming as a Revolutionary Act of Food Sovereignty” hosted by the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium there will be the Night of Dance hosted by Department of Dance and the Black Student Association.

Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium there will be a Black History Trivia Show hosted by UTM Flight Crew.

Thursday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium there will be a panel by Tim Wise “White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son.” Wise is an American activist and writer on the topic of race. He is a consultant who provides anti-racism lectures to institutions.

Friday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the UC Ballroom there will be a free health fair.

Sunday, Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. in Fine Arts 122 there will be “Music of Black Composers” Recital hosted by INCLUDE UTM.

Monday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium there will be a panel hosted by David Coffey “Nothing to Debate: The Confederate Flag and Other Symbols of Hate in the Age of Trump.”

All registrations and virtual livestreamed events can be accessed on www.utm.edu/civilrights.
Prewitt - Advocating for communities
By Macenna True
Press Reporter

Black History Month began in 1915 when Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington D.C. to Chicago to participate in a celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation. Having been inspired by the turnout of thousands at the three-week event, Woodson — along with A.L. Jackson and three others — formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). Ten years later, he founded Black History Month. He chose February as the month to celebrate for two main reasons — tradition and reform. Former president Abraham Lincoln, who signed the emancipation proclamation, was born Feb. 12, Frederick Douglass, who also played a prominent role in shaping black history, was born Feb. 14. Black Americans have since been celebrating their birthdays, and Woodson believed this would be a particularly good month to honor their own history. Even since, it has been dedicated as the time to honor not only the triumphs, but also the struggles, of African Americans in U.S. history. Canada now also recognizes this month, along with Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Anthony Prewitt

Anthony Prewitt is the interim director of student life and multicultural affairs at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A native of Memphis, he has worked at UTM for the last 16 years after completing his bachelor’s degree there and his master’s and pending doctoral degree at Murray State University. He is an advocate for community service, child abuse prevention and animal cruelty prevention. He enjoys working closely with students and assisting them in meeting their goals while giving back to others. When asked what Black History Month meant to him, he said, “To me, it is an opportunity to highlight an oftentimes overlooked and forgotten piece of American history. There are a lot of narratives and voices that have not always been amplified. It’s an opportunity to highlight, emphasize and connect with all of our history. It is an opportunity to celebrate not just the well-known heroes, but local giants — those who helped make strides within the community — who are often left out of the story and others’ narratives.”

Influenced by his adoptive mother Linda Street, Prewitt was inspired to serve others. Through her care and compassion, he says she “planted the seed and ensured the conditions were right for me to grow.” He also says his grandmother, Flora Prewitt, held great influence in his life. He was also inspired by more well-known leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., WEB Du Bois, and Thurgood Marshall. A music enthusiast and song-writer, even Tina Turner’s music and life story spoke to him. He continues to use their lessons to teach and inspire others.

He spoke of a time when his family would sit him down on the porch at their home in Grand Junction and tell him of the struggles they had overcome. This helped to instill in him an urgency to ensure he kept those familial stories alive but also a desire to create an awareness in others to keep their own ancestral roots intact by sharing their own narratives.

“It was so important for me in my own life and helped me choose the path I have — both personally and professionally — to honor them by keeping that baton going for future generations,” he said. “It was important to us to make sure we got it right and succeeded.”

He muses that he would like to see this time be used for the community to learn and understand each other’s history. “I think once we understand the fullness of who each other are as people, we are able to better live and coexist in society,” he said. This is what this February is about — remembering not just the stories we all know, but those that have been told and passed down from generation to generation. It is a time to reconnect with the roots of an entire culture across the nation and to dig further into the truth.

Prewitt states, “I want to also highlight one of the biggest influences for me and many others here in our community. That is the historically African American fraternities and sororities who have been working really hard to lead movements to advocate for communities and serve as a voice for the voiceless. Also, they work to provide service for those communities that are often overlooked. Organizations such as the Urban League and the NAACP are great agencies as well.” If others want to know more, aside from the traditional Google search, there are many different ways to expand one’s knowledge. The Weakley County Reconciliation Project assists with this through an intent to uncover hidden history and has obtained very useful information through their work. “We are losing so many of our elders whose stories have only been passed down through old traditions to our loved ones, and they are working hard to make sure these are recorded for others to have knowledge of in the future,” he said. Libraries are another free resource with many interesting books filled with pages of history. He advises anyone that wants to learn more, to visit www.utm.edu/civilrights and attend if they so desire. He encourages everyone to sit down with their families to reminisce and learn about the traditions and stories of their own family and keep that going in the future as well. History is not just what we learn in school. It is the lessons we learn by listening to those who have lived before us.

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GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF PHOTOSYNTHESIS — Recently 11 dual enrollment Greenhouse Management and Plant Science students switched from their usual Westview classroom, led by David Hochreiter, traveled to the University of Tennessee at Martin where they worked alongside professors Dr. Isaac Lepcha and Dr. Bethany Wolters conducting experiments on plant photosynthesis and respiration. Hochreiter reported students were given instruction on the requirements for photosynthesis to occur and carried out an experiment where they took samples of spinach leaves and submerged them in two liquids to compare and contrast the end results. One solution was a carbonate solution and the other was distilled water. After pulling a vacuum on both samples, students exposed both samples to light to observe the photosynthetic process. Students taking part in the morning experiments were Jackson Abel, Garner Anderson, Elijah Boyd, Raymond Callahan, Heidi Chapman, Brice Cook, Carson Dinning, Joshua Dyer, Cade Spaulding, Aspyn Williams and Nathan Wykoff.
UTM names local students to Fall Semester Honor Roll

MARTIN, Tenn.—The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2021 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Bradford — Kristel A. Avendano, Honors; Lucas L. Cagle, Highest Honors; Shelby K. Cantrell, Honors; Tamia M. Casey, Honors; Maggie L. Doyle, Honors; Kendall M. Griffith, Highest Honors; Ami J. King, Highest Honors; Cheryl A. King, Highest Honors; Lexie E. Knott, Highest Honors; Robert Mathis, Honors; Blair E. Mercer, Highest Honors; Brian C. Perritt, Highest Honors; Dylan C. Schaefer, High Honors; Lauren F. Vander, Highest Honors; Blakelee M. Taylor, Highest Honors.

Martin — Alex C. Jones, Highest Honors; Abbey G. Landrum, Honors; Allie C. Landrum, Highest Honors; Amy J. Lee, High Honors; Brennan T. Lownsdale, Highest Honors; Caitlyn H. Mayberry, Highest Honors; Macey B. Neal, Honors; Terry L. Newsome, Highest Honors; Savanna P. Ramsey, Highest Honors; Derek M. Record, High Honors; Henry E. Todd, Highest Honors; Laura E. Tosh, High Honors; Charles C. Williams, Highest Honors.

Gibson — Hope E. Newell, Highest Honors; Humboldt — Annie G. Bass, Highest Honors; Calista R. Beard, Highest Honors; Colton M. Beasley, High Honors; Savannah K. Beaton, Highest Honors; Adeline C. Blanken, High Honors; Elizabeth Boucher, Highest Honors; Anna G. Brown, Honors; Kaitlynn R. Burkett, Highest Honors; Jennifer M. Dennis, Highest Honors; Chia Pei Druetzler, Honors; Morgan F. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Alissa L. Farley, Highest Honors; GnYaa A. Randolph-Scneider, High Honors; Allison G. Smith, High Honors; Mary K. Thompson, Honors; Elizabeth A. Turner, Highest Honors.

Kenton — Julie B. Allen, Highest Honors; Alyssa B. Hopper, Highest Honors; Macy B. Little, High Honors; Olivia D. Murphy, High Honors; Blakelee M. Taylor, Highest Honors; Hannah E. Whithworth, Honors; Medina — Trevor L. Boals, Highest Honors; Chloe G. Cates, Highest Honors; Chloe M. Cook, High Honors; Maria F. Cunningham, Highest Honors; Bentley A. Davis, Honors; Carvon V. Ikard, High Honors; Brooks D. Johnston, High Honors; Lily A. McCallister, Honors; Michael D. McFarland, Honors; Tracie A. Moltett, Honors; Ethan B. Moore, Honors; James G. Norris, Highest Honors; Ashlyn E. Page, High Honors; Keri A. Parrish, Highest Honors; Nikita J. Patel, Honors; Mackenzie G. Poore, High Honors; Levi J. Schlesinger, Highest Honors; Elijah T. Scott, Highest Honors; Rylee V. Thomas, High Honors; Elizabeth A. Wiles, Highest Honors; Hunter L. Williams, Highest Honors.

Milan — Britney N. Autry, High Honors; Steven M. Ballard, Honors; Lorri B. Bridges, High Honors; Chandler H. Carey, High Honors; Ariana M. Claros, Highest Honors; Madison C. Crocker, Highest Honors; Savannah L. Crone, High Honors; Andrew J. Davis, Honors; Annette D. Diaz, High Honors; Ella C. Fagin, Honors; Samuel B. Fagin, Highest Honors; Brittney S. Goode, Honors; Bailey R. Graves, Highest Honors; Avery F. Hall, Honors; Karrington F. Hopper, Honors; Callie W. Hughes, High Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, Highest Honors; Ammon R. Johnson, Honors; Shellie R. Kosark, High Honors; Karsten L. Kyle, Honors; Hayden S. Martin, High Honors; Wesley R. McCaskill, Honors; Sarah G. Moore, Highest Honors; Kelsey B. Morris, High Honors; Cameron R. Patrick, Highest Honors; Langston C. Patrick, High Honors; Chloe B. Rangel, High Honors; Seth K. Robinson, Highest Honors; Daniel J. Schaefer, Highest Honors; Kara L. Scott, Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Gracie L. Sparks, Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, High Honors; Austin H. White, Highest Honors.

Rutherford — Madison P. Ellis, Highest Honors; Alexa L. Garner, Highest Honors; Maxwell T. Halford, Honors; Daphne Z. LaGrone, Highest Honors; Adalynn B. McAlister, Honors; Ashlyn L. Penick, High Honors; Trenton — Hannah G. Ball, High Honors; Ryan D. Bateman, Highest Honors; Emily J. Bridges, High Honors; Triston G. Cook, Honors; Deanna R. Denton, Highest Honors; Rennon N. Hawks-Young, High Honors; Benjamin W. Hayes, Honors; Scarlett E. Hayes, Honors; David C. Hollis, Highest Honors; Alexander J. Martin, Highest Honors; Carl R. Nowell, Highest Honors; Caitlin P. Phillips, High Honors; Chelsea C. Ratliff, Highest Honors.
Honors; Dixie E. Reed, Honors; Kylie M. Scott, High Honors; Makayla N. Zelenka, High Honors.
Yorkville – Jonathon B. Lownsdale, Highest Honors.

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

Jackson – Grace N. Abbott, High Honors; McKenna V. Davis, Highest Honors; Michele A. Hughey, Highest Honors; Madelyn G. McMillan Honors; Anna G. Ward, Highest Honors.

Martin – Abigail B. Allen, Highest Honors; Nicole G. Ayers, Highest Honors; Destiny Banks, Highest Honors; Cassidy L. Cloyd, High Honors; Ali B. Cooper, Honors; Caitlin M. Hampton, Highest Honors; Luke M. Kail, High Honors; Abigail M. Lewis, Highest Honors; Anna C. Tubbs, High Honors; James L. Wren, Honors.

Sharon – Madison B. Croom, Highest Honors.

South Fulton – Kate-lynn M. Starr, Honors.

Troy – Anniekathryn L. Hensley, Highest Honors.

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

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement ceremonies held December 10 and December 11. The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dyer – Brennan Taylor Lownsdale.
- Frog Jump – Jacob L. Clark.
- Humboldt – Carlton Childs.
- Milan – Destiny Banks, Myah Delaney Floyd.
- Rutherford – Madison Paige Ellis.
- Yorkville – Michael Chase Arnold.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Medina – Ariel Alexis Dunavan.
- Trenton – Sunni Jean Cope.

DICHIARA GRADUATES WESTTEACH PROGRAM – Ben Di'Chiara, a teacher at Peabody High School, graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin's WestTeach Program during a banquet on Dec. 16 at the Madison Downs Venue in Jackson. WestTeach is a teacher-development program created as a class project by the WestStar Leadership Program's class of 2017. WestTeach members participate in four sessions on West Tennessee agriculture, the humanity of leadership, creating partnerships for economic development and building communities. For more information about WestTeach or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Virginia Grimes, assistant director, at 731-881-7787.
Civil Rights Conference slated throughout the month at UTM

The 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin, will feature in-person and virtual events throughout the month of February — including a presentation from Cyntoia Brown Long titled “My Journey to Redemption.”

The 2022 Civil Rights Conference is sponsored by the university’s Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs. All registrations and virtual events can be accessed at www.utm.edu/civilrights.

“We are excited about creating a space for healthy dialogue and discussion during this year’s conference,” said Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director for student life and multicultural affairs. “We have some dynamic speakers, engaging topics and panels, and we look forward to creating opportunities for broadening horizons intellectually.”

Four scheduled speakers will be featured during the conference, along with panels, trivia events and other student activities. LaTosha Brown, a social strategist and co-founder of the Black Votes Matter Fund, will kick off the expert speaker sessions with a virtual discussion at 6 p.m. Thursday.

Ms. Long, an author, speaker and advocate for criminal justice reform and victim of trafficking, will share her story at 6 p.m. Monday in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. She is a victim of trafficking and was convicted of murder. While serving a life sentence, former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted her clemency, and she is now using her platform to shine a light on injustice.

Hannibal Johnson, an attorney, author and independent consultant, will discuss his book “Black Wall Street” at 6 p.m. Feb. 17 in Watkins Auditorium. In his book, he follows the history of Tulsa’s African American community.

Tim Wise, an activist and writer, will address the topic “White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son” at 6 p.m. Feb. 24 in Watkins Auditorium. He was an adviser to the Fisk University Race Relations Institute in Nashville and now regularly appears on CNN and MSNBC to discuss race issues.

Visit www.utm.edu/civil-rights to download the full schedule of all events which are planned throughout the month.

Lindsay Anderson, an associate professor of sociology, and Henri Giles, a lecturer of communications, along with Prewitt, are co-chairs of this year’s conference. For more information about the conference, contact Prewitt at aprewitt@utm.edu.

Entrepreneurship series scheduled at UT Martin

The College of Business and Global Affairs and Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Free Enterprise will offer the Fifth Annual Skyhawk Entrepreneurship Workshop Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin beginning Thursday.

The series will continue every Thursday through March 10. Each workshop will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Room 33 of the Business Administration Building.

All six workshops are free of charge and open to the public. Each is designed to help potential and current entrepreneurs gain a more comprehensive understanding of how to create a sustainable and growing business. Participants will learn from expert presentations.

Topics will include how to turn an idea into a functioning business by identifying the target market, branding and much more.
Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin-TVA Investment Challenge team finished first among 27 universities competing in the Student Managed Investment Fund Consortium held last fall in Chicago.

Student portfolio managers enrolled in Finance 411, a class taught by finance professor Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, were recognized for their accomplishments recently by the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. The team received $1,000 for finishing the conference in first place.

The UT Martin team earned a 24.61 percent return on the team’s portfolio during the fall semester for an annualized return of 28.23 percent. The UT Martin portfolio grew from $618,563.32 on Jan. 1, 2021, to $768,226.50 on Nov. 19, just short of its goal to outperform the S&P 500 index by 250 basis points or 2.5 percent. Team members presented their TVA portfolio strategy, which earned top honors, at the SMIFC conference.

TVA’s Investment Challenge was established in 1998 and is a partnership between TVA and participating universities in its service territory. The challenge provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management by allowing students to manage actual stock portfolios within TVA guidelines.

In addition to TVA, other investment-team supporters include the family of Kelly Murray and FirstBank. Haddad said that preparation both in general courses and in the College of Business and Global Affairs was the key to the team’s success.

“The basic and core courses that we teach in the College of Business and at the university in general are a strong foundation to make our students in the top of their career and the top of their performance among 27 different universities,” he said.

Haddad added that this year for the first time the brokers and dealers who support the challenge allowed a portion of the investment returns to be used to offset related expenses for the participating students.

Logan Alfano-Webb, a senior double major in finance and economics from Counce, received the Kelly W. Murray Excellence in Portfolio Management award for the fall semester and his work with the team. The award, named for the late son of Dr. Sandra and Bill Murray, recognizes outstanding effort and dedication managing the UT Martin TVA stock portfolio with the TVA Investment Challenge. Sandra Murray is a retired UT Martin education faculty member.

The Kelly Murray Investment Management Room located in the Business Administration Building is named for Murray in recognition of his leadership of the investment team when he was a student. Among the room’s features are Bloomberg Terminals, a professional trading platform. FirstBank endowed the UT Martin Investment Challenge with $12 Bloomberg Terminal that students use to obtain financial data and become Bloomberg certified. Bloomberg Certification is an advantage for graduates seeking positions in the competitive finance field.

The TVA Investment Challenge’s performance report noted that the team’s all-equity portfolio focused on stocks in the communication, technology and material sectors and included both value and growth stocks. Portfolio managers used fundamental and technical analysis to monitor positions in the portfolio and analyze stocks to consider trading. The individual portfolio managers were responsible for staying current on economic events, news and using available resources to collect information that would positively influence portfolio performance.

Sector managers for the team, all senior finance majors at the time of the competition, were Alfano-Webb, technology and materials; Seth Bishop of Adamsville, communication and utility; Alexander Schell of Madisonville, Ky., financials and real estate; Heath Hester of Martin, consumer staples and health care; Brice Williams of Dresden, energy and industrials; and Kyle Hart of Union City, consumer discretionary.

Alfano-Webb noted several factors that contributed to the team’s success, starting with professor Haddad, who advised the team when asked for guidance and executed the stock trades based on team members’ buy-and-sell decisions.

“He (Haddad) may be one of the most intelligent people I’ve ever met and especially when it comes to financial markets,” he said. “I can’t say enough. We went to the conference in Chicago, and everybody knew him there. I think that says a lot about his character and what he’s accomplished throughout his life.” He also credited the quality of his team’s conference presentation and the University’s TVA Investment Challenge history for laying the groundwork for success.

“We presented in front of industry professionals and people with doctorates and other professors from other universities, and they were all very impressed with us,” he said.

“This is long-lasting program at UT Martin — over two decades — so we had the blueprint for success. We decided to execute, and I believe we did it, and we did it well.”
INVESTMENT SUCCESS — Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin-TVA Investment Challenge team finished first among 27 universities competing in the Student Managed Investment Fund Consortium last fall in Chicago. Student portfolio managers enrolled in Finance 411, a class taught by finance professor Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, were recognized for their accomplishments recently by the UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs. The team received $1,000 for its first-place finish. Gathered in front of the Kelly Murray Investment Management Room at the recognition event were (from left, front row) Dr. Sandra Murray, mother of the late Kelly Murray; David Burden, community bank president, FirstBank; Haddad; Logan Alfano-Webb of Counce, investment team; Heath Hester of Martin, investment team; Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, dean, College of Business and Global Affairs; Ryan Stover, Ameriprise Financial; (back row) William Murray, father of Murray; Jim Wingett, Wolf River Capital Management; Brice Williams of Dresden, investment team; Seth Bishop of Adamsville, investment team; Alexzander Schell of Madisonville, Ky., investment team; Kyle Hart of Union City, investment team; and Wib Evans, president, FirstBank Ventures.
WestStar to host Working Women’s Conference

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host the 24th-annual Working Women’s Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the UTM main campus. The $50 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Every day is GAME DAY” and features sessions such as “Practice, Practice, Practice” and “Tackling Conflict.” Lisa Smartt, owner of Smartt Speaking, will give the keynote address.

Additional conference speakers include Tara Tansil-Gentry, M.A., UT Martin health and human performance lecturer; Merry Brown, workplace conflict restoration services consultant and UT Martin philosophy instructor; Bettye Giles, retired UT Martin director of women’s athletics; Julia Brundige, owner of Westwood Townhouses; Nancy Bramlett, freelance Christian author; Dr. Cheryl Brown, retired physician; Drs. Brock and Krista Martin, Southern Chiropractic & Acupuncture; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin professor of communications; and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UT Martin professor of family and consumer sciences.

To register for the conference, visit utm.edu/weststar and select the “conferences and events” tab.

For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact program manager Jennifer Black at 731-881-7298.

CONFERENCE PLANNED — Miss Tennessee Volunteer 2019 Kerri Arnold was a featured speaker during the 2020 Working Women’s Conference. This year’s event is set for Feb. 11 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the University of Tennessee at Martin main campus.
MARTIN (February 1) — The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold 2022 Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and Transfer Orientation sessions both virtually and in-person starting in April at the main campus.

Registration for SOAR opened Tuesday, February 1, and is required for all incoming freshmen. Students can register for SOAR through the myUTMartin portal and must upload immunization records or immunization exemption documentation via MedProctor before attending.

In-person orientation dates will be held in the Boling University Center, while online sessions will be held over Zoom. To best protect participants, in-person events are subject to change according to university policy and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Tennessee Department of Health pandemic recommendations.

**SOAR Dates Set at UT Martin**

In-person orientation dates are as follows:
- Friday, April 22 – Transfer Orientation
- Monday, May 23 – SOAR
- Tuesday, May 24 – SOAR
- Thursday, June 9 – Transfer Orientation
- Monday, June 10 – SOAR
- Monday, June 20 – SOAR
- Monday, July 11 – SOAR
- Wednesday, July 13 – Transfer Orientation
- Monday, July 25 – SOAR

Virtual orientation dates are as follows:
- Wednesday, June 22 – Transfer Orientation, SOAR
- Friday, Aug. 5 – Transfer Orientation, SOAR

For more information, contact Destin Tucker, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at dtucke13@utm.edu, or admissions at admittme@utm.edu.

UT Martin to Host 22nd Annual Civil Rights Conference

MARTIN (January 31) — The 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin, will feature in-person and virtual events throughout the month of February, including a presentation from Cyntoia Brown Long titled, “My Journey to Redemption.” The 2022 Civil Rights Conference is sponsored by the university’s Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs. All registrations and virtual events can be accessed at www.utm.edu/civilrights.

Four scheduled speakers are featured during the conference along with panels, trivia events and other student activities. Las-Tasha Brown, a social strategist and co-founder of the Black Votes Matter Fund, will kick off the expert speaker sessions with a virtual discussion at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 3. On February 7, Cyntoia Brown Long, an author, speaker and advocate for criminal justice reform and victim of trafficking, will share her story at 6 p.m. in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. Long is a victim of trafficking and was convicted of murder while serving a life sentence, former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted her clemency, and she is now using her platform to shine a light on injustice. Hannah Johnson, an attorney, author and independent consultant, will discuss her book, “Black Wall Street,” at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, in Watkins Auditorium. In his book, he follows the history of Tulsa’s African American community. Tim Wise, an activist and writer, will address the topic, “White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son” at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, in Watkins Auditorium. Wise was an adviser to the Fisk University Race Relations Institute in Nashville and now regularly appears on CNN and MSNBC to discuss race issues.

More events scheduled for the 2022 Civil Rights Conference include:
- February 9: Braver Angels’ “Bridge Builders Across Differences” Workshop, 2 p.m. in Boling University Center 208; registration required.
- February 10: “Critical Race Theory: What it is and what it isn’t,” Weakley County Reconciliation Project, 6 p.m. (virtual)
- February 16: “Freedom Libraries: The Untold Story of Libraries for African Americans in the South,” Mike Selby, 7 p.m. (virtual)
- February 21: “Farming as a Revolutionary Act of Food Sovereignty,” The Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network, 6 p.m. (virtual)
- February 25: Free Health Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom
- February 27: “Music of Black Composers,” INCLUDE UTMT, 3 p.m., Fine Arts Building 122
- February 28: “Nothing to Debate: The Confederate Flag and Other Symbols of Hate in the Age of Trump,” Dr. David Coffey, UT Martin professor and department chair of history and philosophy, 5 p.m., Watkins Auditorium.

Visit www.utm.edu/civilrights to download the full schedule of events. Lindsay Anderson, an associate professor of sociology, and Henri Giles, a lecturer of communications, along with Prewitt, are co-chairs of this year’s conference. For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Prewitt at aprwitut@utm.edu.
WestStar to Host Working Women’s Conference

MARTIN (January 31) — The University of Tennessee at Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host the 24th-annual Working Women’s Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., February 11, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom on the UT Martin main campus. The $50 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Every day is GAME DAY” and features sessions such as “Practice, Practice, Practice” and “Tackling Conflict.” Lisa Smartt, owner of Smartt Speaking, will give the keynote address.

Additional conference speakers include Tara Tansil-Gentry, M.A., UT Martin health and human performance lecturer; Merry Brown, workplace conflict restoration services consultant and UT Martin philosophy instructor; Bettye Giles, retired UT Martin director of women’s athletics; Julia Brundige, owner of Westwood Townhouses; Nancy Bramlett, freelance Christian author; Dr. Cheryl Brown, retired physician; Drs. Brock and Krista Martin, Southern Chiropractic & Acupuncture; Dr. Teresa Collard, UT Martin professor of communications and Dr. Lisa LeBleu, UT Martin professor of family and consumer sciences.

To register for the conference, visit utm.edu/weststar and select the “conferences and events” tab.

For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Jennifer Black, program manager, at 731-881-7298.
UT Martin Civil Rights Conference features Cyntoia Brown-Long

UT Martin's 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference will feature a keynote address from Cyntoia Brown-Long Monday night at 6:00 in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Brown-Long is an advocate for criminal justice reform and the ending of human trafficking. She will be accompanied by her attorneys, Charles Bone and J. Houston Gordon, a graduate of UT Martin.

At the age of 16, she was sentenced to life for killing a man in self-defense. Fifteen years later, former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted her clemency and called her circumstance a "tragic and complex case." She is now using her platform to educate others about criminal justice reform.

During her visit to the UT Martin campus, she will participate in a virtual session with a documentary film class and hold a Q&A session with mass media and strategic communications students. Brown-Long, Bone, and Gordon will also be guest lecturers in the introduction to criminal justice class. She will share about the experience she had with the criminal justice system, and her attorneys will give their perspectives.

A book signing will be held in Watkins Auditorium following the keynote address.

For more information, please contact Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director for student life and multicultural affairs, at aprewitt@utm.edu.
UTM Civil Rights Conference Slated

The 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin, will feature in-person and virtual events throughout the month of February, including a presentation from Cyntoia Brown Long titled “My Journey to Redemption.” The 2022 Civil Rights Conference is sponsored by the university’s Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs. All registrations and virtual events can be accessed at www.utm.edu/civilrights.

“We are excited about creating a space for healthy dialogue and discussion during this year’s conference,” said Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director for student life and multicultural affairs. “We have some dynamic speakers, engaging topics and panels, and we look forward to creating opportunities for broadening horizons intellectually.”

Four scheduled speakers are featured during the conference along with panels, trivia events and other student activities. LaTosha Brown, a social strategist and co-founder of the Black Votes Matter Fund, will kick off the event with a virtual discussion at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 3rd.

Cyntoia Brown Long, an author, speaker and advocate for criminal justice reform and victim of trafficking, will share her story at 6 p.m., February 7th, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. Long is a victim of trafficking and was convicted of murder. While serving a life sentence, former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted her clemency, and she is now using her platform to shine a light on injustice.

Hannibal Johnson, an attorney, author and independent consultant, will discuss his book “Black Wall Street” at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 17th, in Watkins Auditorium. In his book, he follows the history of Tulsa’s African American community.

Tim Wise, an activist and writer, will address the topic “White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son” at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 24th, in Watkins Auditorium. Wise was an adviser to the Fisk University Race Relations Institute in Nashville and now regularly appears on CNN and MSNBC to discuss race issues.

Visit www.utm.edu/civilrights to download the full schedule of events. Lindsay Anderson, an associate professor of sociology, and Henri Giles, a lecturer of communications, along with Prewitt, are co-chairs of this year’s conference. For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Prewitt at aprewitt@utm.edu.
WestStar to host Working Women's Conference Feb. 11

UTM's WestStar Leadership Program will host the 24th Annual Working Women's Conference from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11, in UTM's Boling University Center. The $50 registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The theme of this year's conference is "Every day is Game Day" and features sessions such as "Practice, Practice, Practice" and "Tackling Conflict." Lisa Smartt, owner of Smartt Speaking, will give the keynote address.

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To register for the conference, visit utm.edu/weststar and select the "conferences and events" tab. For more information about the conference or the WestStar Leadership Program, contact Program Manager Jennifer Black at 731-881-7298.
UT Martin, TCAT Crump sign into new partnership

February 4, 2022 by Tristyn Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin and Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump have a new partnership.

From UT Martin: Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Stephen Milligan, president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump, signed the first statewide articulation agreement between a TCAT and a university on January 31 with TCAT Crump students present. Pictured (front row, l to r) are Carver, Stephen Scott, Miranda Green, Makaela Pulley, Paige Isbell and Milligan; (back row, l to r) Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Peyton Parrish, Samuel Hastings, Clayton Brown, Noah Griffin and Jarrett Coker.
"I am extremely excited about UT Martin’s new pathway in partnership with TCAT Crump," said UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. "This arrangement will allow greater access to higher education for Tennesseans and promote the importance of agriculture to our region."

Under the partnership, students who complete TCAT Crump’s Farming Operations Technology program can earn up to 30 credits towards UT Martin.

UT Martin says Paige Isbell, from Bethel Springs, will be the first TCAT student do take part in the opportunity.

"I think it is pretty exciting for the future students who get this opportunity," Isbell said.

This is the first statewide articulation agreement between TCAT and a university.

The partnership is funded by the Governor’s Investment in Vocational Education Grant.
UT Martin signs first statewide articulation agreement with TCAT

UT Martin chancellor Dr. Keith Carver and Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump president Stephen Milligan signed the first statewide articulation agreement between a TCAT and a university on January 31.

"I'm extremely excited about UT Martin's new pathway in partnership with TCAT Crump," said Carver. "This arrangement will allow greater access to higher education for Tennesseans and promote the importance of agriculture to our region."

According to the partnership agreement, students who complete the Farming Operations Technology program at TCAT Crump, can receive up to 30 credit hours at UT Martin.

The Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Grant, which works to improve the region's economy and support local industry partners by preparing students to perform in highly skilled workforce, funded the partnership.

Paige Isbell, from Bethel Springs, will be the first TCAT Crump student to take advantage of this partnership. She is on target to graduate from TCAT Crump's Farming Operations Technology program in August and will immediately begin classes at UT Martin for an animal science degree.

"I think it is pretty exciting for the future students who get this opportunity," said Isbell.

For more information about the agreement, contact Erica Bell, director of regional centers and online programs at UT Martin, at ebell3@utm.edu.
MARTIN, Tenn. — A local college is exploring the Civil Rights Movement through photography.

The University of Tennessee at Martin is hosting a museum exhibit that explores voters registration through photos taken in Tennessee.

“We’ve got an exhibit of photos that look at the Freedom Summers, when a group of students from Cornell University came down to Summerville, Tennessee and helped to get African Americans signed up to vote,” said Erik Nordberg, Dean of Paul Meek Library.

The collection of photographs taken by Nick Lawrence is named “The Other Freedom Summer” and tells the story of voters registration in Fayette County.

“They can expect coming back into history, seeing some history of West Tennessee that has been forgotten,” said Sam Richardson, curator at the J. Houston Gordon Museum. “Probably learn a little bit more about the area that they live in and grow up in.”
The exhibit is open to students and the public, giving visitors an opportunity to learn about the untold stories of voting during the Civil Rights Movement.

"I think very often that we focus on the preservation of historical documents. We put them in storage areas and we make sure they're safe, and that's really important so that that history is recorded and preserved, but I also think we have a tremendous responsibility to get those stories out," Nordberg said.

It will be open from Feb. 7 until April 29. The exhibit is located inside of the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

"What we're trying to do is transform students from being that 18-year-old that has been cocooned in their own community, their own family, and kind of open their mind to what is going on in the world," Nordberg said.

UT Martin will be hosting hybrid events throughout the spring semester as part of their Civil Rights Conference.
Human trafficking survivor, advocate shares story

February 7, 2022 by Marcos Santander (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/msantander/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — A human trafficking survivor and advocate for criminal justice reform shared her story.

"This a very unique conference because it's one of two of its kind in the United States," said Anthony Prewitt, Interim Director of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs.

The University of Tennessee at Martin hosted its 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference.

"We try to make sure that we provide different types of perspective and viewpoints for our students," Prewitt said.

Prewitt says these types of conferences helps the students.

"It's a great opportunity for our students to get engaged and see something that a lot of them probably engaged with on social media and actually see a tangible person and hear their story," Prewitt said.

And it also helps the community.

"It's important to have different types of perspectives in different topics, specifically to allow for engaging conversations because of the beauty of conferences such as this is the dialogue that occurs before and after," Prewitt said.

This year's keynote speaker was Cyntola Brown Long.

She was convicted of aggravated robbery and first-degree murder when she was 16, and was granted clemency by former Gov. Bill Haslam, calling her circumstance a tragic and complex case.

She's now an advocate for criminal justice reform and calls for an end to end human trafficking.

"For so long, people have suffered in silence. When I was incarcerated, when I was being trafficked, when I was going through everything I went through, I felt like I really didn't really have a voice. I really didn't see anyone out there really advocating and speaking to my experience. So it's important for me to really be that voice and speak on those experiences so other people know they're not alone in it," Long said.

She also says she is thankful to be able to an impact in other people's lives.

"There are so many stories that are like mine, and it feels good to feel that I finally have that voice, and I'm giving a voice to people who are so often not heard from. So it's a really great opportunity," Long said.

If you would like to learn more about the month-long conference and other speakers who will be participating, click here (https://www.wbbjtv.com/2022/01/31/ut-martin-to-hosts-multiple-black-history-month-events/).
America's biggest donors gave more than $27.7 billion in 2021. This year's report features our analysis of the list, giving trends among megadonors, and a look at top donors' giving to and from their foundations and donor-advised funds in 2021.

The report highlights some interesting new faces in philanthropy, including Jared and Monica Isaacman, whose largest gift was tied to the first orbital space flight with a civilian crew; Austin Russell, who at 26 is the youngest donor in the Philanthropy 50; and Mark and Robyn Jones, who gave $101 million for nursing programs and health-care services for people in rural Montana.

The 1984 U.S. Equestrian Team Olympic gold medalist pledged Wildwood Farm, her family's 350-acre estate in Germantown, Tenn., to the university, where it will be used to expand the institution's veterinary health technology and other agriculture programs, including animal science, horsemanship, plant and soil science, and environmental and natural-resources management.

The university will receive Wildwood Farm upon Smith Taylor's death and plans to preserve it in its current state and use it as a teaching farm, a plan that is aligned with the wishes of Smith Taylor's late husband, Lee Taylor II. Smith Taylor is not an alumna of the university but got to know it over the years while training members of the university's equestrian team. Wildwood was founded by Lee Taylor's family and operated as a horse-breeding and training center since the 1930s.

Lee Taylor was an ardent polo player and led his family's Holly Farms food-service company before retiring in 1989, the year he and Smith Taylor married. The couple then devoted their lives to managing Wildwood Farm and to the breeding and welfare of their horses. Since Lee Taylor died in 2005 at 64, Smith Taylor has downsized Wildwood's operations to care primarily for retired horses.
UTM signs articulation agreement with TCAT

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Stephen Milligan, president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump, signed the first statewide articulation agreement between a TCAT and a university on January 31.

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“I think it is pretty exciting for the future students who get this opportunity,” Isbell said.

Hannibal Johnson to speak at conference

The 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin, is underway featuring in-person and virtual events throughout February.

Hannibal Johnson, an attorney, author and independent consultant, will discuss his book “Black Wall Street” at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in Watkins Auditorium. In his book, he follows the history of Tulsa’s African American community.

Johnson, a Harvard Law School graduate, specializes in diversity, equity and inclusion issues, human relations, leadership, and nonprofit leadership and management. He has taught at the University of Tulsa College of Law, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma. Johnson serves on the federal 400 Years of African American History Commission. He chaired the Education Committee for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission and served as local curator of its world-class history center, Greenwood Rising. His books, including Black Wall Street 100: An American City Grapples With Its Historical Racial Trauma, chronicle the African American experience in Oklahoma and its indelible impact on American history. Johnson’s play, Big Mama Speaks—A Tulsa Race Riot Survivor’s Story, was selected for the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival and has been staged in Caux, Switzerland. He has received numerous honors and awards for this work and community service, including induction into the Tulsa Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Upcoming events include:
- Feb. 10: “Critical Race Theory: What it is and what it isn’t,” Weakley County Reconciliation Project, 6 p.m. (virtual)
- Feb. 16: “Freedom Libraries: The Untold Story of Libraries for African Americans in the South,” Mike Selby, 7 p.m. (virtual)

The 2022 Civil Rights Conference is sponsored by the university’s Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs. All registrations and virtual events can be accessed at www.utm.edu/civilrights.
Ninth UT Martin cohort to work Super Bowl LVI

Going to the Super Bowl is at the top of the bucket list for many people. This year, 12 University of Martin students will not only get to cross that entry off but will also get to experience the event from behind the scenes.

Along with Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, students will assist the local organizing committee at the NFL All-Star Game in Las Vegas, over the weekend, and on-location experiences personnel at the Super Bowl in Los Angeles, Feb. today through Sunday.

The group will spend these two weeks in Las Vegas and Los Angeles assisting in hospitality at the games, touring various facilities, and networking with industry professionals. This year’s trip to the Super Bowl will be the ninth in UT Martin history, but this is the first year that UT Martin students have worked at the NFL All-Star Game.

Davis began supervising trips to the Super Bowl around 17 years ago, when a colleague who worked for the Miami Dolphins invited him to bring students to help with Super Bowl Week activities. His group

of seven Niagara University students, where he taught at the time, made such a strong impression on the event’s coordinators that Davis was invited to bring students again the next year.

When Davis started teaching at UT Martin in 2013, he continued these trips and eight cohorts later, UT Martin students have built a reputation of their own.

While looking into working at other sporting events, Davis was informed that the NHL was looking for assistance with its annual All-Star Game. After reaching out to a contact from past SuperBowls, Davis was able to get his students involved.

At the Super Bowl, students transport celebrities, current and retired players and NFL Hall of Famers from one pre-game event to another. The students have the opportunity to learn the most efficient routes to get each person where they need to be, and their experience translates into diplomacy and time-management skills, because they must assure that everyone arrives promptly as well as tactfully answer questions and demands from fans.

The students’ responsibilities at the NFL All-Star game will be more focused on the NHL Fan Fair, which is held in the Las Vegas Convention Center, where fans enjoy hockey-related exhibits and activities, and take photos with the Stanley Cup trophy. Students will also be helping with volunteer orientation sessions.

Through taking on these duties, students will not only apply what they know, but also expand their understanding by experiencing the hustle and bustle of some of the country’s largest sporting events.

“They are going to be in the stadium early on Sunday (for the Super Bowl), and they are going to see everything from when it opens up and the staff start coming in, to when the gates open and fans start coming in, to when the game is over and fans are leaving,” Davis said. “They are going to see all of the different elements of this major sporting event and how it occurs, and no matter how hard you try in a classroom, you can’t describe the magnitude of that event without being at that event.”

Logan Alfano-Webb, a senior double major in finance and economics from Counce, is participating for the second year.

“Last year, I gained a great understanding on the amount of effort needed behind the scenes to make sure the biggest sporting event of the year runs smoothly,” he said. “This year, I hope to further expand this knowledge and be able to apply what I learned from the prior year.”

When not working at the games, students will be able to meet with industry professionals, tour various universities’ athletic facilities and enjoy nearby cities and tourist attractions. While in Los Angeles, students will attend a Los Angeles Lakers game, and a trip to the Hoover Dam is also planned. Through these opportunities, students will get to experience another part of the country. Through this two-week long trip, Davis builds relationships with his students.

“It is fun getting to know these kids and developing the relationships. Every night, we go out to dinner, and I say, ‘What’d you learn today?’ and it is fun to hear what they learned. One of the things about learning is you have got to reflect on the experience,” Davis said.
SUPER GROUP — UT Martin students will work behind the scenes during the Super Bowl LVI on Feb. 13 in Los Angeles. They also worked the NHL All-Star game over the weekend. This is the ninth group of UT Martin students to work a Super Bowl under the guidance of Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, and his first student cohort to work the NHL All-Star game.

Students in this year's cohort are (from left) Parker Kendall, Hornbeak; Quinn Reed, Batavia, Ohio; Morgan Summerlin, Crestview, Florida; Audrey Myers, Union City; Macy Rippy, Clarksville; Rosalinda Alvarado, Loretto; Dr. Dexter Davis; Logan Alfano-Webb, Counce; Lila Lampley, Bon Aqua; Lena Lacey, Memphis; John Ford, Nashville; Seth Bishop, Adamsville; and Caitlin Pierce, Dickson.
Regional Ethics Bowl allows students to grapple with big questions

By Karen Campbell
Special to The Press

Westview students heard case studies and then responded to tough questions as part of the West Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl held Saturday, Jan. 29, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s campus.

Competing against two Union City High School teams, the Westview group took second place.

The West Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl is a National High School Ethics Bowl Regional Competition hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Christopher Brown, Ph.D., and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Martin, serves as the event’s director.

The competition is sponsored by The History and Philosophy Department at UTM, Dr. David Coffey, Department Chair, and the Honors Program at UTM, Dr. John Glass, Director.

The National High School Ethics Bowl and the regional ethics bowls support competitive yet collaborative events in which students discuss real-life ethical issues. In each round of competition, teams take turns analyzing cases about complex ethical dilemmas and responding to questions and comments from the other team and from a panel of judges.

An ethics bowl differs from a debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend whichever position they think is correct, provide each other with constructive criticism, and win by demonstrating that they have thought rigorously and systematically about the cases and engaged respectfully and supportively with all participants. Data from NHSEB surveys shows that this event teaches and promotes ethical awareness, critical thinking, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for multiple points of view.

Played in four rounds with two teams competing each round, the day stretched from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Case studies and questions on the regional level cover topics such as social media, COVID-19 and the media, dating and the ethics of ghosting, suffering of wild animals, predictive policing, user privacy and technology related to law enforcement, family ancestry, separating the art of an artist from personal affronts attributed to that artist, public health and priorities, genetics, employers’ restrictions on employees’ public speech, paralympic pay, parity, manipulating images and audio, familial obligations and privacy rights of minors.

Union City High School was represented by Elizabeth Lattus, Lydia Runions, Chloe Meade, Kate Schlager, Tai’Zhan Fuller, Jordan Hernandez, Alyson Beaman, Daniel Edwards, Arden Stanley, Lucas Greer, Myranda Parr, Kaylee Daniels, Ella Virgin, Alexa Nolan with Coaches Joanne Wisener and Angelique Killebrew.

Westview High School’s team was comprised of Samantha Bates, Knox Black, Leo Brown, Bryce Garner, Aliza Peery, Gryphon Rowland and John Wilson. English teacher Ashley Meadows and volunteer Merry Brown serve as the Westview coaches.

Reigning champions Dresden High who won in the two previous years took 2022 off, said advisor Cassie King, but have plans to return to the competition in the future.

Judges for the 2021 bowl were UTM faculty: Dr. Matthew Braddock, History and Philosophy; Dr. Jim Fieser, History and Philosophy; Dr. John Glass, Honors Programs; Dr. Nathan Howard, History and Philosophy; Dr. Carrie Humphreys, Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; Dr. Tina Lee Criminal Justice; Dr. Margaret Lewis, History and Philosophy; Dr. Dan McDonough, History and Philosophy; Dr. Joseph Ostenson, Psychology; Dr. Adnan Rasool, Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; Dr. John Schommer, Mathematics and Statistics; and Dr. Susan Winters, Nursing.

The National High School Ethics Bowl was founded in 2012 as the product of a partnership between the Squire Family Foundation and the Parr Center for Ethics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Brown, who utilized the Ethics Bowl as part of her instruction when she taught in UTM’s philosophy department, helped start the regional competition at the university three years ago. She noted, “It’s not the philosophy bowl; it’s the ethics bowl, and you don’t have to be a philosophy teacher to help students with critical thinking.”

“I see great value in giving our students the opportunity to develop critical thinking and active listening skills in an atmosphere that challenges them to think through complicated social issues together,” she added. “I count it an honor to see the students I work with grow and develop. In our divisive world, these students are living proof that we can gather and thoughtfully discuss difficult topics in a civil manner.”
WESTVIEW TEAM — Westview thinkers who participated in the 2022 are (front row, from left) Gryphon Rowland, John Wilson, Aliza Perry, (middle row, from left) Knox Black, Leo Brown, (back row, from left) Bryce Garner, and Samantha Bates. Not pictured are coaches Westview teacher Ashley Meadows and volunteer Merry Brown.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement ceremonies held Dec. 10 and Dec. 11, 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted three in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of fall 2021’s accomplishments. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dyer – Brennan Taylor Lownsdale
- Frog Jump – Jacob L. Clark
- Humboldt – Carlton Childs
- Medina – Chloe Grace Cates; Vanessa Kail; Jason Lloyd Mollett; James Garrett Norris
- Milan – Destiny Banks; Myah Delaney
- Floyd
- Rutherford – Madison Paige Ellis
- Trenton – Ryan David Bateman; Caleb A. Greene; Shellie R. Kosark; Carl Robert Nowell; Martina Alena Roznovsky; Anna Claire Tubbs
- Yorkville – Michael Chase Arnold

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Medina – Ariel Alexis Dunavan
- Trenton – Sunni Jean Cope

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 18 bachelor's degree programs and five master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of five primary UT campuses, and UT Martin regional centers are located in Jackson, Parsons, Ripley, Selmer and Somerville. For more information, visit utm.edu.
Cyntoia Brown-Long featured at UTM Civil Rights Conference

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin’s 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference will feature a keynote address from Cyntoia Brown-Long at 6 p.m., Feb. 7, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. Brown-Long is an advocate for criminal justice reform and the ending of human trafficking. She will be accompanied by her attorneys, Charles Bone and J. Houston Gordon, a graduate of UT Martin.

At the age of 16, she was sentenced to life for killing a man in self-defense. Fifteen years later, former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted her clemency and called her circumstance a “tragic and complex case.” She is now using her platform to educate others about criminal justice reform.

During her visit to the UT Martin campus, she will participate in a virtual session with a documentary film class and hold a Q&A session with mass media and strategic communications students. Brown-Long, Bone and Gordon will also be guest lecturers in the introduction to criminal justice class. She will share about the experience she had with the criminal justice system, and her attorneys will give their perspectives.

A book signing will be held in Watkins Auditorium following the keynote address.

For more information, please contact Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director for student life and multicultural affairs, at aprewitt@utm.edu.
Local residents receive degrees from UT Martin

MARTIN, Tenn. - Several Gibson County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during fall commencement ceremonies held Dec. 10 and Dec. 11, 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UT Martin hosted three in-person commencements to promote safety for graduates and their families while recognizing the class of fall 2021’s accomplishments. Each commencement was livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube for those unable to attend.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:
- Dyer - Brennan Taylor Lownsdale.
- Frog Jump - Jacob L. Clark.
- Humboldt - Carlton Childs.
- Medina - Chloe Grace Cates; Vanessa Kail; Jason Lloyd Mollett; James Garrett Norris.
- Milan - Destiny Banks; Myah Delaney Floyd.

Rutherford - Madison Paige Ellis.
- Trenton - Ryan David Bateman; Caleb A. Greene; Shellie R. Kosark; Carl Robert Nowell; Martina Aleena Roznovsky; Anna Claire Tubbs.
- Yorkville - Michael Chase Arnold.

The students receiving graduate degrees were:
- Medina - Ariel Alexis Dunavan.
- Trenton - Sunni Jean Cope.

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

For more information, visit utm.edu.
UTM names local students to Fall Semester Honor Roll

MARTIN, Tenn.—The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2021 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

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

Bradford — Kristel A. Avendano, Honors; Lucas L. Cagle, Highest Honors; Shelby K. Cantrell, Honors; Tamia M. Casey, Honors; Maggie L. Doyle, Honors; Kendall M. Griffith, Highest Honors; Ami J. King, High Honors; Cheryl A. King, Highest Honors; Lexie E. Knott, High Honors; Robert Mathis, Honors; Blair E. Mercer, Highest Honors; Brian C. Perritt, Highest Honors; Dylan C. Schaefer, High Honors; Lauren F. Vandiver, Highest Honors.

Dyer — Alex C. Jones, Highest Honors; Abby G. Landrum, Honors; Allie C. Landrum, Highest Honors; Amy J. Lee, High Honors; Brennan T. Lownsdale, Highest Honors; Caitlyn H. Mayberry, Highest Honors; Macey B. Neal, Honors; Terry L. Newsome, High Honors; Savanna P. Ramsey, Highest Honors; Derek M. Record, High Honors; Henry E. Todd, Highest Honors; Laura E. Tosh, High Honors; Charles C. Williams, Highest Honors.

Gibson — Hope E. Newell, Highest Honors; Humboldt — Annie G. Bass, Highest Honors; Calista R. Beard, Highest Honors; Colton M. Beasley, High Honors; Savannah K. Beaton, Highest Honors; Adeline C. Blanken, High Honors; Elizabeth Boucher, Highest Honors; Anna G. Brown, Honors; Kaitlynn R. Burkett, High Honors; Jennifer M. Dennison, Highest Honors; Chia Pei Druetzler, Honors; Morgan F. Dunlap, Highest Honors; Alissa L. Farley, Highest Honors; GeNya A. Randolph-Spencer, High Honors; Allison G. Smith, High Honors; Mary K. Thompson, Honors; Elizabeth A. Turner, Highest Honors.

Kenton — Julie B. Allen, Highest Honors; Alyssa B. Hopper, Highest Honors; Macy B. Little, High Honors; Olivia D. Murphy, High Honors; Blakelee M. Taylor, High Honors; Hannah E. Whittworth, Honors; Medina — Trevor L. Boals, Highest Honors; Chloie G. Cates, Highest Honors; Chloe M. Cook, High Honors; Maria F. Cunningham, High Honors; Bentley A. Davis, Honors; Carson V. Ikard, High Honors; Brooks D. Johnston, High Honors; Lily A. McCallister, Honors; Michael D. McFarland, Honors; Tracie A. Mollett, Honors; Ethan B. Moore, Honors; James G. Norris, Highest Honors; Ashlyn E. Page, High Honors; Keri A. Parrish, High Honors; Nikita J. Patel, Honors; Mackenzie G. Poore, High Honors; Levi J. Schlesinger, High Honors; Elijah T. Scott, Highest Honors; Rylee V. Thomas, High Honors; Elizabeth A. Wiles, Highest Honors; Hunter L. Williams, High Honors.

Milan — Britney N. Autry, High Honors; Steven M. Ballard, Honors; Loni B. Bridges, High Honors; Chandler H. Carey, High Honors; Ariana M. Claros, Highest Honors; Madison C. Crocker, Highest Honors; Savannah L. Crone, High Honors; Andrew J. Davis, Honors; Annette D. Diaz, High Honors; Ella C. Fagin, Honors; Samuel B. Fagin, Highest Honors; Brittny S. Goode, Honors; Bailey R. Graves, Highest Honors; Avery F. Hall, Honors; Karlington F. Hopper, Honors; Callie W. Hughes, High Honors; Catherine E. Hughes, Highest Honors; Ammon R. Johnson, Honors; Shellie R. Kosark, High Honors; Karsten L. Kyle, Honors; Hayden S. Martin, High Honors; Wesley R. McCaskill, Honors; Sarah G. Moore, Highest Honors; Kelsey B. Morris, High Honors; Langston C. Patrick, Highest Honors; Seth K. Robinson, Highest Honors; Daniel J. Schaefer, Highest Honors; Elizabeth A. Smith, Highest Honors; Kara L. Scott, Honors; Chloe A. Smith, Highest Honors; Gracie L. Sparks, Honors; Dylan A. Thomas, High Honors; Austin H. White, Highest Honors.

Rutherford — Madison P. Ellis, Highest Honors; Alexa L. Garner, Highest Honors; Maxwell T. Halford, Honors; Daphne Z. LaCrone, Highest Honors; Ada-lynn B. McAlister, Honors; Ashlyn L. Penick, High Honors.

Trenton — Hannah G. Ball, High Honors; Ryan D. Bateman, Highest Honors; Emily J. Bridges, High Honors; Triston G. Cook, Honors; Deanna R. Denton, Highest Honors; Rhennon N. Hawks-Young, High Honors; Benjamin W. Hayes, Honors; Scarlett E. Hayes, Honors; David C. Hollis, Highest Honors; Alexander J. Martin, Highest Honors; Carl R. Nowell, Highest Honors; Caitlin P. Phillips, High Honors; Chelsey C. Ratliff, Highest Honors; Dixie E. Reed,
Honors; Kylie M. Scott, High Honors; Makayla N. Zelenka, High Honors.
Yorkville – Jonathon B. Lownsdale, Highest Honors.

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At the college level

Three Obion County students have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2022-23 academic year.

Recipients include:
• Maya Frost of Union City, daughter of Will and Sara Frost, who will be a freshman. She received the Dean's Scholarship.
• Hogan Kern of Union City, son of Melanie Kern, who will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.
• Zachary Reagor of Troy, son of Marty and Rebecca Reagor, who will be a freshman. He received the Achieve Scholarship.

UTM signs agreement with TCAT

Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Stephen Milligan, president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump, signed the first statewide articulation agreement between a TCAT and a university on Jan. 31.

"I am extremely excited about UT Martin’s new pathway in partnership with TCAT Crump," Carver said. "This arrangement will allow greater access to higher education for Tennesseans and promote the importance of agriculture to our region."

According to the partnership agreement, students who complete the farming operations technology program at TCAT Crump can receive up to 30 credit hours at UT Martin.

The Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Grant, which works to improve the region's economy and support local industry partners by preparing students to perform in highly skilled workforce, funded the partnership.

Paige Isbell of Bethel Springs will be the first TCAT Crump student to take advantage of this partnership. She is on target to graduate from TCAT Crump’s farming operations technology program in August and will immediately begin classes at UT Martin for an animal science degree.

"I think it is pretty exciting for the future students who get this opportunity," she said.
UT Martin group gets Super trip

Going to the Super Bowl is at the top of the bucket list for many people. This year, 12 UT Martin students will not only get to cross that entry off but also will experience the event from behind the scenes.

Along with Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, students have assisted the local organizing committee at the NHL All-Star Game in Las Vegas and will help on-location experiences personnel at the Super Bowl in Los Angeles.

The group is spending these two weeks in Las Vegas and Los Angeles assisting in hospitality at the games, touring various facilities, and networking with industry professionals. This year’s trip to the Super Bowl will be the ninth in UT Martin history, but this was the first year that UT Martin students worked at the NHL All-Star Game.

The UTM group includes a pair of local students — Parker Kendall from Hornbeak and Audrey Myers from Union City.

Davis began supervising trips to the Super Bowl around 17 years ago, when a colleague who worked for the Miami Dolphins invited him to bring students to help with Super Bowl Week activities.

His group of seven Niagara University students, where he taught at the time, made such a strong impression on the event’s coordinators that Davis was invited to bring students again the next year.

When Davis started teaching at UT Martin in 2013, he continued these trips and eight cohorts later, UT Martin students have built a reputation of their own.

“IT’s all a reflection on how good our students are,” Davis said while discussing the opportunities provided by the NFL.

While looking into working at other sporting events, Davis was informed that the NHL was looking for assistance with its annual All-Star Game. After reaching out to a contact from past Super Bowls, Davis was able to get his students involved.

At the Super Bowl, students transport celebrities, current and retired players and NFL Hall of Famers from one pre-game event to another. The students have the opportunity to learn the most efficient routes to get each person where they need to be, and their experience translates into diplomacy and time-management skills, because they must assure that everyone arrives promptly as well as tactfully answer questions and demands from fans.

The students’ responsibilities at the NHL All-Star game were more focused on the NHL Fan Fair, which was held in the Las Vegas Convention Center where fans enjoyed hockey-related exhibits and activities and took photos with the Stanley Cup trophy. Students also helped with volunteer orientation sessions.

Through taking on these duties, students will not only apply what they know, but also expand their knowledge by experiencing some of the country’s largest sporting events.

“They’re going to be in the stadium early on Sunday (for the Super Bowl), and they’re going to see everything from when it opens up and the staff start coming in, to when the gates open and fans start coming in, to when the game is over and fans are leaving,” Davis said. “They’re going to see all of the different elements of this major sporting event and how it occurs, and no matter how hard you try in a classroom, you can’t describe the magnitude of that event without being at that event.”

For more information about the trip or the UTM Sport Business Program, contact Davis at ddavis78@utm.edu.
Voter registration featured in exhibit

The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, is featuring "The Other Freedom Summer," an exhibit which documents the work of New York college students to register voters in Fayette County.

The exhibit is included in UT Martin's annual Civil Rights Conference and will be available for viewing until April 29.

The exhibit showcases photos from Nick Lawrence, a photographer and Cornell University student involved in Fayette County voter registration and education drives in 1964. During this time, over 68 percent of Fayette County's population was African American, but this majority population accounted for less than 7 percent of its registered voters.

Lawrence's photographs document the resolve and strength of hard-working rural residents in advancing their right to vote.

Activists were paired off and assigned one of Fayette County's 15 election districts to travel to individual farms and smallholdings, where they would encourage adults to register to vote. They were housed with local families, who were paid a small stipend to subsidize boarding their guests.

"Living in the North, I could participate in the struggle for racial equality by attending demonstrations like the March on Washington and many local showings of support," Lawrence recalled. "When the opportunity arose to join the Cornell project, go to the South and directly participate in the movement, I jumped on it."

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

MARTIN (February 2) — Several Weakley County students have been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2022-2023 academic year, according to Dr. James Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement.

Those awarded scholarships included:
- Jackson Abel, of Martin, son of John and Debbie Abel, will be a freshman. He received the Excellence Scholarship.
- Victoria Ary, of Martin, daughter of David Ary and Leslie Ary, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.
- Paige Glisson, of Greenfield, daughter of John and Tracey Glisson, will be a freshman. She received the Deans Scholarship.

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

WESTVIEW MUSICIANS MAKE UTM HONOR BAND — The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music hosted its 43rd Annual Honor Band Festival January 27-28. The following Westview students were among the 359 students who made the cut and participated in the music clinic and Saturday performance: (Back, L to R) Brodie Estes, trumpet; Owen Oelrich, trumpet; Michael Moon, trombone; Matthew Moon, tuba; (Front, L to R) Akeisha Chua, tenor sax; Deborah Shaw, flute; Lucy Oelrich, trombone; and Samantha Bates, tenor sax.

UTM STUDENTS WORK TOP NHL, NFL EVENTS — UT Martin students will work behind the scenes during both the NHL All-Star Game on Feb. 5 in Las Vegas and Super Bowl LVI on Feb. 13 in Los Angeles. This is the ninth group of UT Martin students to work a Super Bowl under the guidance of Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport business, and his first student cohort to work the NHL All-Star game. Students pictured in this year’s cohort are (L, r) Parker Kendall, Hornbeak; Quinn Reed, Batavia, Ohio; Morgan Summerlin, Crestview, Florida; Audrey Myers, Union City; Macy Rippy, Clarksville; Rosalinda Alvarado, Loretto; Dr. Dexter Davis; Logan Alfonso-Webb, Counce; Lila Lampley, Bon Aqua; Lena Lacey, Memphis; John Ford, Nashville; Seth Bishop, Adamsville; and Caitlin Pierce, Dickson.
Westview thinkers who participated in the 2022 West Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl January 29 are (Front, L to R) Gryphon Rowland, John Wilson, Aliza Perry; (Middle, L to R) Knox Black, Lee Brown; (Back, L to R) Bryce Garner, and Samantha Bates. Not pictured are coaches Westview teacher Ashley Meadows and volunteer Merry Brown.

UTM Advisory Board Hears Update at Winter Meeting

Chancellor Keith Carver addresses UT Martin Advisory Board members January 21 during the board's winter meeting in the Boling University Center.

MARTIN (January 21) — An economic forecast, a preview of the current Tennessee legislative session, a Title IX update and a UT Martin update from Chancellor Keith Carver were presented during the winter meeting of the University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board held Friday, January 21, in the Boling University Center. Art Sparks, of Union City chairs the seven-member advisory board that includes Hal Rynum, Sharon; Dr. Phillip Smartt, faculty member, Dresden; Kelsee Koone, student member, Newbern; Monice Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County. Sparks and Wells were recently reappointed for additional four-year terms on the board by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and await legislative confirmation.

All agenda presentations were delivered virtually to the board and opened with Dr. Bill Fox providing an overview of the current economic situation in Tennessee. Fox is the Randy and Jenny Boyd Professor in the UT Knoxville Boyd Center for Business and
Economic Research. His presentation covered four key disruptors - public revenues, economic transitions, new and emerging technologies, and demographics - that are affecting higher education and how universities must change to meet the needs of current and future students. He also talked about the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on the economy and the related impact on higher education's future.

Cary Whittworth, UT vice president of government relations and advocacy, followed Fox with a review of the 2021 legislative session and a preview of the current session. Her presentation highlighted historic investment last year in higher education and the University of Tennessee, full passage of the UT policy agenda and strong state revenues. The current legislative session is underway ahead of Gov. Lee's "State of the State Address" on Jan. 31 when the governor's budget proposal is released. Whitworth expects a quick legislative session in this election year that could result in mid-April adjournment.

A UT legislative agenda item potentially impacting UT Martin is the TEST Hub, which was approved in 2021 by the UT Board of Trustees and remains a UT capital project priority. The $17.5 million, 50,000-square-foot Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology Hub is a joint effort by UT Martin, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and Dyersburg State Community College to support and expand workforce and economic development in rural Northwest Tennessee. Also in line for possible funding is the demolition of the university's Grove Apartments.

Ashley Blamey, UT System Title IX coordinator, completed the formal agenda presentations with a Title IX update. She reviewed the purpose of Title IX. Blamey recalled the history of Title IX, discussed her related work with the UT Martin case review team, and complimented the university's progress with its Title IX policy and transparency. A permanent Title IX director will be named to fill the university's current vacant position in the coming months.

Carver completed the meeting by thanking the board members for their service to the board and then provided university highlights. He began with a COVID-19 update and reported the high number of current university cases. "The good news is fortunately, our cases, we have not so far had any that we would classify in our student population as severe," he said, adding, "I really want to pause and thank our faculty and our staff for being back (following the holiday break) working through this face to face." To keep the university community safe, he said that mask wearing is highly recommended for indoor facilities where social distancing isn't possible.

Carver discussed university enrollment by first referencing a recent report that said about one million fewer students are attending college nationwide this semester compared to January 2020, a factor that has impacted UT Martin. Approximately 350 fewer students are enrolled at UT Martin from fall to spring, but enrollment indicators for summer and fall are positive. He reported that housing applications are up 54 percent compared to a year ago and completed FAFSAs among applicants stand at 83 percent compared to 49 percent last year. Completion of the FAFSA is required to apply for federal student aid and for students receiving state grants and scholarships. Another positive indicator for future enrollment is favorable attendance at Future Skyhawk Receptions, which are informational events for prospective students and their families being held in Nashville, Jackson, Memphis, Martin and Dyersburg. He told about the recent Jackson reception where one student he talked with decided to attend UT Martin following the event.

He next talked about the university's master plan, which outlines the university's development plans for the next five to 10 years. This involves reviewing existing and future facility needs and enrollment trends that drive those needs. In discussions so far with students, faculty, staff and other groups, he said people are saying, "We want to make our campus more user-friendly, functional, inviting to the community but also inviting for students and bringing on new faculty and staff." He expects that a master plan report will likely be made this fall to the advisory board.

Carver previewed the university's long-running Civil Rights Conference in February and highlighted the appearance February 12 by Cyntoia Brown who was granted clemency in 2019 by then Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. Brown was a teenage sex-trafficking victim who was serving a long prison sentence for killing a man in a situation that she said was self-defense. She will be joined by well-known Covington trial attorney and UT Martin graduate Houston Gordon for the visit. Gordon was one of the attorneys who represented Brown.

Carver also commended the university's student athletes who continue to excel academically and in competition. Student athletes have exceeded their cumulative grade-point average for four consecutive semesters and captured 2021 regular-season Ohio Valley Conference championships in women's basketball, golf, soccer and football.

He closed by reporting the university's hiring of its first-ever student-retention director who will join UT Martin in February, the university's educational role supporting Ford's Blue Oval City all-electric truck manufacturing campus development in West Tennessee, and the success of the current UT Martin RISE Campaign. Carver reported that $158 million has already been raised of the $175 million RISE fundraising goal that was announced last year.

The full advisory board meeting is archived at wwwutm.edu/advisory. The next UT Martin Advisory Board meeting will be held Friday, May 20, at the main campus.
Regional Ethics Bowl Allows Students To Grapple with Big Questions

BY KAREN CAMPBELL
Weakley County Schools
Communications Director

MARTIN (January 29) — Westview students heard case studies and then responded to tough questions as part of the West Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl held Saturday, January 29, on the University of Tennessee at Martin’s campus.

Competing against two Union City High School teams, the Westview group took second place.

The West Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl is a National High School Ethics Bowl Regional Competition hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin. Christopher Brown, PhD, and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Martin, serves as the event’s director.

The competition is sponsored by the History and Philosophy Department at UTM, Dr. David Coffey, Department Chair, and the Honors Program at UTM, Dr. John Glass, Director.

The National High School Ethics Bowl and the regional ethics bowls it supports are competitive yet collaborative events in which students discuss real-life ethical issues. In each round of the competition, teams take turns analyzing cases about complex ethical dilemmas and responding to questions and comments from the other team and from a panel of judges. An ethics bowl differs from a debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend whichever position they think is correct, provide each other with constructive criticism, and win by demonstrating that they have thought rigorously and systematically about the cases and engaged respectfully and supportively with all participants.

Data from NIEER surveys show that this event teaches and promotes ethical awareness, critical thinking, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for multiple points of view.

Playing in four rounds with two teams competing each round, the day stretched from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Case studies and questions on the regional level cover topics such as social media, COVID-19 and the media, dating and the ethics of ghosting, suffering of wild animals, predictive policing, user privacy and technology related to law enforcement, family ancestry, separating the art of an artist from personal affronts attributed to that artist, public health and priorities, genetics, employers’ restrictions on employees' public speech, paralympic pay parity, manipulating images and audio, familial obligations, and privacy rights of minors.

Westview High School's team was comprised of Samantha Bates, Knox Black, Leo Brown, Bryce Garner, Aliza Peery, Greyson Rowland, and John Wilson. English teacher Ashley Meadows and volunteer Merry Brown serve as the Westview coaches.

Union City High School was represented by Elizabeth Lattis, Lydia Rutlons, Chloe Meade, Kate Schlegel, Talia Shuan Fuller, Jordan Hernandez, Alliyson Beeman, Daniel Edwards, Arden Stanley, Lucas Greer, Myranza Parr, Kaylee Daniels, Ella Virgin, Alexa Nolan with Coaches Joanna Wisener and Angelique Killebrew.

Reigning champions Dresden High, who won in the two previous years, took 2022 off, said advisor Cassie King, but have plans to return to the competition in the future.

Judges for the 2021 bowl were UTM faculty: Dr. Matthew Braddock, History and Philosophy; Dr. Jim Fieser, History and Philosophy; Dr. John Glass, Honors Programs; Dr. Nathan Howard, History and Philosophy; Dr. Carrie Humphreys, Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science; Dr. Tina Lee Criminal Justice; Dr. Margaret Lewis, History and Philosophy; Dr. Dan McDonough, History and Philosophy; Dr. Joseph Ostenson, Psychology; Dr. Adam Rasool Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science; Dr. John Schommer, Mathematics and Statistics; and Dr. Susan Winters, Nursing.

Brown, who utilized the Ethics Bowl as part of her instruction when she taught in UTM’s philosophy department, helped start the regional competition at the University three years ago. She noted, “It’s not the philosophy bowl; it’s the ethics bowl, and you don’t have to be a philosophy teacher to help students with critical thinking.”

“I see great value in giving our students the opportunity to develop critical thinking and active listening skills in an atmosphere that challenges them to think through complicated social issues together,” she added.

“I count it an honor to see the students I work with grow and develop. In our divisive world, these students are living proof that we can gather and thoughtfully discuss difficult topics in a civil manner.”
Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Stephen Milligan, president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump, signed the first statewide articulation agreement between a TCAT and a university on January 31 with TCAT Crump students present. Pictured (Front, L to R) are Carver, Stephen Scott, Miranda Green, Makaela Pulley, Paige Isbell and Milligan; (Back, L to R) Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Peyton Parrish, Samuel Hastings, Clayton Brown, Noah Griffin and Jarrett Coker.

**UT Martin Signs First Statewide Agreement with TCAT**

MARTIN (January 31) — Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Stephen Milligan, president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump, signed the first statewide articulation agreement between a TCAT and a university on January 31.

"I am extremely excited about UT Martin's new pathway in partnership with TCAT Crump," said Carver. "This arrangement will allow greater access to higher education for Tennesseans and promote the importance of agriculture to our region."

According to the partnership agreement, students who complete the Farming Operations Technology program at TCAT Crump, can receive up to 30 credit hours at UT Martin.

The Governor’s Investment in Vocational Education Grant, which works to improve the region's economy and support local industry partners by preparing students to perform in highly skilled workforce, funded the partnership.

Paige Isbell, from Bethel Springs, will be the first TCAT Crump student to take advantage of this partnership. She is on target to graduate from TCAT Crump’s Farming Operations Technology program in August and will immediately begin classes at UT Martin for an animal science degree.

"I think it is pretty exciting for the future students who get this opportunity," said Isbell.

For more information about the agreement, contact Erica Bell, director of regional centers and online programs at UT Martin, at ebell3@utm.edu.
Jerry Surette discussing voter registration with a family on their porch, June 1964.

**Museum at UTM Features Voter Registration Exhibit**

MARTIN (February 3) — The J. Houston Gordon Museum, located in the University of Tennessee at Martin Paul Meek Library, will feature “The Other Freedom Summer,” an exhibit that began February 7 which documents the work of New York college students to register voters in Fayette County. The exhibit is included in UT Martin’s annual Civil Rights Conference and will be available for viewing until April 29.

The exhibit showcases photos from Nick Lawrence, a photographer and Cornell University student involved in Fayette County voter registration and education drives in 1964.

During this time, more than 68 percent of Fayette County’s population was African American, but this majority population accounted for less than 7 percent of its registered voters. Lawrence’s photographs document the resolve and strength of hard-working rural residents in advancing their right to vote.

Activists were paired off and assigned one of Fayette County’s 15 election districts to travel to individual farms and smallholdings, where they would encourage adults to register to vote. They were housed with local families, who were paid a small stipend to subsidize boarding their guests.

“Living in the North,” Lawrence recalled, “I could participate in the struggle for racial equality by attending demonstrations like the March on Washington and many local showings of support. When the opportunity arose to join the Cornell project, go to the South and directly participate in the movement, I jumped on it.”

The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with no admission fee. Visitors are encouraged 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.

For more information, contact Sam Richardson, head of special collections and archives, at 731-881-7094.
King retires from UTM McNairy County/Selmer Campus

The University of Tennessee Martin McNairy County/Selmer Center recently honored Sandy King for more than 23 years of service at the local campus. King retired recently.

"She was a dedicated employee and team member who will be greatly missed and even harder to replace," said University of Tennessee Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer Center Director Alan Youngerman.

Photo by Russell Ingles
Dr. Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Stephen Milligan, president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Crump, signed the first statewide articulation agreement between a TCAT and a university on January 31.

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UTM Signs Agreement

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“I am extremely excited about UT Martin’s new pathway in partnership with TCAT Crump,” said Carver. “This arrangement will allow greater access to higher education for Tennesseans and promote the importance of agriculture to our region.”

According to the partnership agreement, students who complete the Farming Operations Technology program at TCAT Crump, can receive up to 30 credit hours at UT Martin.

The Governor’s Investment in Vocational Education Grant, which works to improve the region’s economy and support local industry partners by preparing students to perform in highly skilled workforce, funded the partnership.

For more information about the agreement, contact Erica Bell, director of regional centers and online programs at UT Martin, at ebell3@utm.edu.
UTM hosts 22nd Annual Civil Rights Conference

The 22nd Annual Civil Rights Conference, sponsored by UTM, is ongoing and features in-person and virtual events throughout the month of February.

"We are excited about creating a space for healthy dialogue and discussion during this year's conference," said Anthony Prewitt, co-interim director for student life and multicultural affairs. "We have some dynamic speakers, engaging topics and panels, and we look forward to creating opportunities for broadening horizons intellectually."

Scheduled speakers are featured during the conference along with panels, trivia events, and other student activities. LaTosha Brown, a social strategist and co-founder of the Black Votes Matter Fund, kicked off the expert speaker sessions with a virtual discussion on Thursday, Feb. 3.

On Feb. 7, Cyntoia Brown, an author, speaker, and advocate for criminal justice reform, shared her "Journey to Redemption" story in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. Long is a victim of trafficking and was convicted of murder. While serving a life sentence, former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted her clemency, and she is now using her platform to shine a light on injustice.

Hannibal Johnson, an attorney, author, and independent consultant, will discuss his book "Black Wall Street" at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17, in Watkins Auditorium. In his book, he follows the history of Tulsa's African American community.

Tim Wise, an activist and writer, will address the topic "White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son" at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24, in Watkins Auditorium. Wise was an adviser to the Fisk University Race Relations Institute in Nashville and now regularly appears on CNN and MSNBC to discuss race issues.

More events scheduled for the 2022 Civil Rights Conference include:
- Feb. 10: "Critical Race Theory: What it is and what it isn't," Weakley County Reconciliation Project, 6 p.m. (virtual).
- Feb. 21: "Farming as a Revolutionary Act of Food Sovereignty," The Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network, 6 p.m. (virtual).
- Feb. 25: Free Health Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.
- Feb. 27: "Music of Black Composers," Include UTM, 3 p.m., Fine Arts Building 122.
- Feb. 28: "Nothing to Debate: The Confederate Flag and other symbols of hate in the Age of Trump," Dr. David Coffey, UTM professor and chair of history/philosophy, 5 p.m., Watkins Auditorium.

Visit www.utm.edu/civil-rights to download the full schedule of events. Along with Prewitt, Lindsay Anderson, an associate professor of sociology, and Henri Giles, a lecturer of communications, are co-chairs of this year's conference. For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, contact Prewitt at aprewitt@utm.edu.

The 2022 Civil Rights Conference is sponsored by UTM's Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs. All registrations and virtual events can be accessed at www.utm.edu/civil-rights.
If we hold up the heritage of a white supremacist society ..., we reap only hatred, violence, fear, and our own spiritual impoverishment.

Many white Southerners insist that the Confederate flag they fly so proudly is not a symbol of hate, but a remembrance of, and pride in their heritage.

Unfortunately, Southern heritage, whatever anyone wishes it to be, is almost wholly the heritage of a society defined by slavery, a slaveowners' society. Every day for nearly two and a half centuries, slaveowners, their overseers, slave traders, and even some poor whites, murdered, tortured and brutalized tens of thousands of human beings.

Every day, in this past symbolized by the Confederate flag, slave traders (like Tennessee's still honored Nathan Bedford Forrest) ripped children out from their mothers' arms, selling them away from each other. Might it be possible for whites to go about their daily business untroubled amid thousands of Black women and men inconsolably grieving for their lost children, and those children, weeping and wailing for their lost mothers and fathers?

Many of our Southern ancestors directly participated in the daily horrors of slavery: they bought, and sold, hunted, beat, and murdered human beings.

And beyond this, they raped Black women, thousands and thousands of Black women, with complete impunity, for more than two centuries. The masters, their sons and nephews, their brothers and uncles and cousins, all shared in
the sexual assault on Black women, even violating Black children. The overseers joined in too, and, as opportunity permitted, the poor whites partook of this slaveowner's envied privilege.

What Mary Boykin Chestnut wrote in her diary

Indeed, no white Southerner could escape this sexually lawless' society unscathed. Read the Civil War Diary of Mary Boykin Chesnut.

Chestnut was wife to a prominent South Carolina Senator and slaveowner. "Like the patriarchs of old," Chesnut acknowledged, "our men live all in one house with their wives and their concubines, and the mulattoes one sees in every family exactly resemble the white children — and every lady tells you who is the father of all the mulatto children in everybody's household, but those in her own she seems to think drop from the clouds, or pretends so to think."

How did our plantation mistress, wife to the slaveowner, react when she saw little brown babies "exactly" resembling her white children? Is it any wonder that she always demanded that her husband sell off these, his own children, lest the sight of these brown babies continually recall to her her husband's infidelities? Is it any wonder that our gracious plantation mistress sought outlet for her anger not by confronting her rapist husband, but by acting still more cruelly towards her husband's victim, the violated Black woman?

And the poor non-slaveholding whites? Our slave-owning society made of these poor whites an impoverished, diseased, and degraded people. Any good Southern agricultural land would always come to be owned by the slaveowner. Leaving the poor white Southerner relegated to the infertile waste lands, lands on which he could not sustain his family.

And the slaveowner certainly had no need to hire the poor white's labor — if the slaveowner needed a barn built, or needed his horses shoed, or needed his dinner cooked, his slaves did the work.

Slavery shaped poor white's psychology, too

Indeed, in the face of the crippling insecurity of his own life, the only claim the poor white could make for himself was that at least he was not a slave, at least he was not Black.

For two centuries our poor white traded away the possibility of a better life for himself and took in compensation only the thin gruel that he was better than the poor Black.

Southern society based itself upon the degradation of millions and millions of human beings. That is the heritage represented by the Confederate flag. "Our new government," boasted Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens in 1861, "is founded upon ... the great truth that the Negro is not equal to the white man. That slavery ... is his natural and normal condition."

No one can deny that Southern heritage, and American heritage, which has always taken its lead on race from the South, is a white supremacist heritage.

Those who fly the Confederate flag may not be motivated by hate.

But we must all understand this too: if we uphold the heritage of a white supremacist society, even if we do so in denial of what that heritage really is, in the end, we reap only hatred, violence, fear, and our own spiritual impoverishment, as is testified to by the entirety of this country's history.

David Barber is a professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
UT Martin sets 2022 summer orientation and registration dates

The University of Tennessee at Martin will hold 2022 Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) and Transfer Orientation sessions both virtually and in person starting in April at the main campus.
Registration for SOAR opens Tuesday, Feb. 1, and is required for all incoming freshmen. Students can register for SOAR through the myUTMartin portal and must upload immunization records or immunization exemption documentation via Med+Proctor before attending.
In-person orientation dates will be held in the Boling University Center, while online sessions will be held over Zoom. To best protect participants, in-person events are subject to change according to university policy and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Tennessee Department of Health pandemic recommendations.
In-person orientation dates are as follows:
Friday, April 22 – Transfer Orientation
Monday, May 23 – SOAR
Tuesday, May 24 – SOAR
Thursday, June 9 – Transfer Orientation
Friday, June 10 – SOAR
Monday, June 20 – SOAR
Monday, July 11 – SOAR
Wednesday, July 13 – Transfer Orientation
Monday, July 25 – SOAR
Virtual orientation dates are as follows:
Wednesday, June 22 – Transfer Orientation, SOAR
Friday, Aug. 5 – Transfer Orientation, SOAR
For more information, contact Destin Tucker, director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, at dtucker3@utm.edu, or admissions at admitme@utm.edu.
2021 Telethon of Stars raised more than $87,000 for kids and adults with disabilities

Todd Faulkner
Feb 15, 2022

PADUCAH — The money raised for the 65th Telethon of Stars was distributed to area organizations Tuesday during a luncheon at Walker Hall in Paducah. In the 2021 Lions Clubs/WPSD Telethon of Stars, viewers helped raise $87,227.70.

The largest portion, $79,242.08, will partially fund Easterseals West Kentucky, which in turn funds programs for adults and children with disabilities.

Cassie Wooley is director of development and marketing at Easterseals.

"The support that the Lions Club gives to us makes such an impact each year on what we are able to continue to provide with new programs and new support for our clients who come and visit us," Wooley said.

The Paducah Lions Club is working with southern Illinois area Lion Clubs to create a special account to use for the area's $5,564.82 in telethon donations. They'll use the fund for people with special needs in their communities.

The University of Tennessee at Martin's Infant Stimulation program received $2,318.23, and a center will be chosen in Missouri to receive $102.67.
UT Martin to give potential students test flight in college life

February 15, 2022 by Tristan Fletcher (https://www.wbbjtv.com/author/tristan-fletcher/)

MARTIN, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee at Martin is giving potential students a test flight in college life.

Seniors and juniors will be able to tour the UT Martin campus, meet with staff and students, and see what college life is like to those already living it.

UT Martin says its Test Flight Academic Preview Day will begin at 8 a.m. on Feb. 21.

You will be able to check-in at the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium, followed by an official welcome at 8:45 a.m.

There will be an administrative fair, and then tours at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. at your area of interest.

The event is free, but you will need to pre-register. You can call (731) 881-7020 for more information.
WESTVIEW HOSA PROMOTES BE THE MATCH — UTM's Captain Skyhawk majors in school spirit and promotes kindness. The school mascot proved to be a ready role model at Saturday's games against Tennessee State when Westview HOSA students set up a "Be the Match" information table and encouraged being swabbed to find viable bone marrow donors. Members of HOSA – Future Health Professionals (formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America) advocating for the cause were Ashlee Carter, Gloria Hogan and Nastasia Smith. Westview advisors are Jessica McGuffin and Carolyn Glover. The HOSA national service project is Be the Match, a drive to get people to add their names to the registry of possible bone marrow donors. According to HOSA resources, every three minutes, someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer, such as leukemia. For many patients, a blood stem cell transplant is their only hope. However, 70% of patients needing a transplant do not have a matched family member. McGuffin noted that while potential donors must be between 18 and 40 years old, students under 18, can join the pre-registry to stay up to date and receive a reminder to join on their 18th birthday. The Westview students have been calling attention to the issue since National HOSA Week in November.
Chancellor comes to chamber

Keith Carver, chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin, speaks during an appearance at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce Thursday morning. Carver spoke to a large gathering about how things are going at UTM, pointing out that freshman enrollment was up 14% in the fall of 2021. He also praised former Paris mayor Sam Tharpe for his work with a program named "Call Me Mister," which Tharpe heads up at UT Martin. The program aims to encourage young black men to go into the teaching profession. Carver also visited HCHS.
Online business, bachelor’s programs earn national rankings for UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin received national accolades from the U.S. News and World Report 2022 Best Online Programs, including a top 50 ranking for the online master of business administration program.

U.S. News and World Report ranks academic programs based on the excellence of students, graduation rates and instructor credentials.

The UT Martin Online MBA program tied 42nd out of 331 universities nationally.

The MBA program is housed in the College of Business and Global Affairs and is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AACSB International. Open to students in all fields, the online MBA is cohort-based, with about 25 students per cohort. The program is designed to be completed in as few as 18 months.

“I was extremely pleased to hear about our Online MBA program being ranked 42nd in the nation and one of the top programs in the state of Tennessee,” said Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs.

“I am inspired by the news and proud of our outstanding team of faculty and staff, as well as our students, for their commitment to continuously enhance the reputation of our university.”

UT Martin’s online bachelor’s degree programs tied for 101 out of 363 ranked universities in the report, and the online master’s in education also made the list by tying for 192 out of 327 universities.

“We are proud of the efforts our faculty and staff take to engage students and ensure they receive a high-quality education,” said Dr. Adam Wilson, UT Martin online director. “Our online programs enable students to be successful and earn an affordable degree on their schedule.”

For more information about UT Martin online degree programs, visit www.utm.edu/online github.
Cyntoia Brown-Long Speaks at Civil Rights Conference

Cyntoia Brown-Long delivered the keynote address February 7 for the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference, being held at the main campus. When she was 16, Brown-Long was sentenced to life for killing a man in self-defense. Fifteen years later, she was granted clemency by former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. Since her release, she has used her platform to advocate for criminal justice reform and the ending of human trafficking. Brown-Long, along with her attorneys Charles Bone and UT Martin graduate J. Houston Gordon, also participated as guest lecturers in the introduction to criminal justice course and held a Q&A session with mass media and strategic communication students during their visit. A book signing was also held after her address. The Civil Rights Conference will continue until February 28.

Cyntoia Brown-Long

LIBRARIANS GATHER FOR PRESENTATION AT KIWANIS — Dr. Erik Nordberg (center), dean of the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin, presented the February 2 program for the Martin Kiwanis Club. With him (L to R) are Roberta Peacock, Kiwanis member and retired director of Martin Public Library; Jenny Claiborne, director of children’s and youth services at Martin Public Library; Ann Gathers, Kiwanis president-elect; and Bill Austin, Kiwanis vice president. Dr. Nordberg outlined the history of libraries at UT Martin from the Hall Moody Institute in 1900 through the present, discussed the library’s mission of information literacy and information services, and emphasized collaboration within the university and with area libraries. He also highlighted some of the special areas of the library, including the Alliene and Jimmie S. Corbitt Special Collections, the West Tennessee Heritage Study Center, and the J. Houston Gordon Museum. He said that a core part of the academic mission of the Paul Meek Library is to instruct students and others to locate, evaluate, and incorporate high quality scholarly information into their decision making. Ann Gathers presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Nordberg showing that a donation has been made in his honor to Martin Public Library.

UT Martin Online Programs Earn National Rankings

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For more information about UT Martin online degree programs, visit www.utm.edu/online.
Farming as a Revolutionary Act of Food Sovereignty: Free Film Viewing

Local Food Network Partners with Civil Rights Conference

NORTHWEST TENNESSEE
(February 13) — On Monday, February 21, at 6 p.m., the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network is hosting a virtual film screening and discussion as part of the month-long 2022 Civil Rights Conference themed, “Suppression of the Soul: Examining Restrictions of Freedom,” sponsored by The University of Tennessee at Martin.

"Farming as a Revolutionary Act of Food Sovereignty" is a 20-minute documentary that helps the audience learn about important concepts to improve access to local food systems. Following the documentary will be a panel discussion with Somlynn Rorie, the creator and Executive Producer of the film series, and Josh Acre, president and CEO of Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA). The panelists will discuss the factors and barriers of food sovereignty in their communities and solutions through farming, education, and community conversation.

The Local Food Network is very excited to participate in this year’s Civil Rights Conference hosting two guest panelists who will focus on the concept of food sovereignty, the right of all people to have healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods,” stated Caroline Ideus, Outreach Director of the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network. “We hope the film and discussion will shed light on civil rights issues of indigenous populations, and share ideas to help solve complex problems through food in all of our communities.”

Somlynn Rorie is the creator and Executive Producer of the Good Food Film Series, a collection of 12 short documentary films that bring to light the challenges affecting Arizona farmers, ranchers, and growers, as well as the communities working to build a local, resilient food system. She is also the Manager of Food and Farm Initiatives for the non-profit organization, Local First Arizona. Somlynn is a passionate advocate for the local food movement and for building programs that support Arizona’s local farming community.

Josh Acre is President & CEO of Partnership With Native Americans, one of the largest Native-led and Native-serving organizations in the United States. A citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, he has more than 20 years of experience in Indigenous leadership, tribal law, social work with low-income families, and the advancement of Native communities. Through his work with PWNA and other groups, Josh is knowledgeable of complex issues such as food insecurity, the digital divide, and emergency response affecting the tribes and other communities across the U.S.

The film screening is hosted by the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network, a local non-profit which serves as a catalyst for a thriving and equitable local food system that is accessible to ALL in Northwest Tennessee.

Their vision is to create a sustainable regional food system that utilizes locally grown and produced foods to promote healthy individuals, equitable communities, and thriving local economies. To register, visit www.utm.edu/departments/civilrights and share this event from www.facebook.com/UTMNLFPN.
John Luthi announces intent to retire as UTM head rodeo coach following 2021-22 campaign

Following a quarter century of established dominance in the realm of collegiate rodeo, UT Martin head coach John Luthi will retire at the end of the 2021-22 season.

Hired to lead the UT Martin rodeo program in 1997, Luthi developed the Skyhawks into a powerhouse in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. His hard work came to fruition during the 2013-14 season when the UT Martin men became the first collegiate squad located east of the Mississippi River to win a national championship rodeo team title.

"There is no doubt that Coach Luthi has earned his retirement," Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. "John is one of the most tireless workers I have ever been around in my 20 plus years in collegiate athletics and he carried that persona into his tenure as a head coach here. He built a true team culture centered around positive life choices that has left a lasting impact on his student-athletes forever. Anybody who knows Coach Luthi knows how much of a family man he is and we wish him many years of rest and relaxation with his wife Diane and daughter Katelyn."

Under Luthi's direction, the UT Martin men's program tallied 14 Ozark Region championships and finished with a top-10 national ranking on eight different occasions since 2005. Additionally, he oversaw the UT Martin women's team who accounted for five Ozark Region titles in his tenure.
"Words cannot express how fortunate and blessed I have been to serve as the UT Martin head rodeo coach for 25 years," Luthi said. "Back in 1997, the search committee took a chance on a cowboy from Kansas to lead this special program and I am forever indebted to them for bringing me to this wonderful community. There are many people behind the success of the UT Martin rodeo program and my wife and I would like to thank all of our student-athletes and the rodeo booster club for the memories we will cherish on a daily basis. After 41 years as a collegiate head coach, I thank God for the opportunities but I feel it is time to turn the page."

The 2013 NIRA Coach of the Year, Luthi helped UT Martin extend its streak of 46 College National Finals Rodeo appearances in 47 years. He coached 2010 national bull riding champion Jeff Askey, who is among the dozens of student-athletes who went on to compete professionally following their UT Martin days.

Luthi also helped produce and promote one of the best events in the nation in the UT Martin Annual Spring College Rodeo, which takes place at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Pavilion every April. The event has been named the Ozark Region's "Rodeo of the Year" 13 times in the span of 14 years.

A Gridley, Kan., native, Luthi came to UT Martin from Fort Scott Community College, where he was the head coach of the rodeo program from 1981-97 and also served as an assistant athletics director during his final three years.

As a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association from 1978-90, Luthi was a five-time Prairie Circuit qualifier in bareback riding and a three-time qualifier in bull riding. He won 15 all-around saddles during his sterling 22-year career as a contestant.

McGuffin anticipates high interest in the UT Martin rodeo head coaching gig, as the job will officially be posted within the next week.

"We will be thorough in the search process to find our new head rodeo coach," McGuffin said. "Our track record here at UT Martin speaks for itself. The next head coach has some big shoes to fill but we look forward to identifying the right person for the job to help sustain our high level of success."
Summit to address education in Jackson on March 4

February 21, 2022 by Tristan Fletcher

MARTIN, Tenn. — The WestTeach Program is hosting a summit in Jackson in March.

Photo ID: Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for University Advancement, welcomed guests to the West Tennessee Education Summit in 2020. Pictured on the panel (l to r) are former Tennessee State Senator Dolores Gresham and Tennessee State Representatives Mark White and Debra Moody.

The news release from the University of Tennessee at Martin says the West Tennessee Education Summit will focus on bringing change to curriculum to enhance workforce development.

The release says a panel of teachers, superintendents, private business owners, school board members and legislators will talk about challenges in the classrooms and will end with an update on the Blue Oval City project.

"The summit allows us to bring together stakeholders in the community to have a conversation about how we can work together to ensure we are setting our students up to be successful," said Kandace Jackson, a transition case manager for Weakley County Schools and WestTeach graduate.

The summit will be from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on March 4 in the West Tennessee Agriculture Research & Education Center.
WESTVIEW AG STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Westview students have recently wrapped up an irrigation lesson in Landscape and Turf Management where students worked on their plumbing skills by designing and building irrigation bases that they used to test out multiple irrigation heads. Ag Science classes are preparing for Lower Skills by learning about electrical wiring and small engine part identification. Dual enrollment Greenhouse management students participated in a soils lab with Drs. Bethany Wolters and Isaac Lepcha from the UTM Agriculture department where they learned about soil structure and composition.
John Luthi announces retirement

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(See Page 17, Column 6)
UTM HOSTED TEST FLIGHT ACADEMIC PREVIEW DAY — The University of Tennessee at Martin held a Test Flight Academic Preview Day on Monday at the main campus. High school juniors and seniors were invited to tour the campus, meet with faculty members and students in areas of interest, and learn about what college life has to offer. An administrative fair featuring representatives from the offices of undergraduate admissions, financial aid and scholarships, housing and others were open during the registration period. Students toured the campus, attended a tour of an academic department of interest and met with faculty in that field of study.
UTM professor uses math to describe universe shape

The February event in the University of Tennessee at Martin Research Series will take a deep dive into mathematical theory.

Dr. Jason DeVito, professor of mathematics and statistics, has been studying the mathematical tools that allow us to measure and understand complex physical structures.

The public presentation begins at noon Thursday in the Paul Meek Library and will be livestreamed.

In academic terms, DeVito’s research deals with the “manifolds of non-negative and positive sectional curvature, especially those with symmetry.” His presentation, however, will translate this work for a general audience, showing how geometry and topology allow for a mathematical description of curved objects including our known universe.

“Don’t be scared,” he said. “There won’t be a quiz. It is amazing what math can tell us about the world around us.”

DeVito joined the university faculty in 2011 and has been published in a variety of journals, including Involuc, a Journal of Mathematics, Geometriae Dedicata and Documenta Mathematica.

He is currently the principal investigator on a three-year project supported by a $99,262 grant from the National Science Foundation and was also a 2020-21 recipient of UT Martin’s Reagan Leave awards. Together with his colleague, Dr. Steve Elliott, DeVito convenes the annual Middle School Math contest that is open to all West Tennessee students in grades 6-8.

Co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library, the monthly UT Martin Research Series highlights the research of campus faculty, staff and students. Thursday’s noon-time event will be held in the North Reading Room of the Paul Meek Library. Light refreshments will be served, and attendees are welcome to bring their lunch to the event.

The link to the livestream is https://youtu.be/nCI-KRE1fxI.

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 Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.
Learning and utilizing editing techniques is one portion of the Agriculture Communications contest. Team members Joscelyn Parker, Madison Youngblood, Karlee Dalton and Audrey Hart were eager to display their skills during the 2022 Ag Comm competition on Jan. 20 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The team chose to highlight the Botanical Gardens at Atkins-Porter with their media plan. The plan included using social media, advertising and other techniques to attract the public’s attention.
Team hopes to improve Atkins-Porter botanical garden

BY AUDREY HART

Four local FFA students have developed a media plan they are hoping to use to promote, utilize and expand the botanical garden with the historical Atkins-Porter neighborhood.

Paris FFA members Joscelyn Parker, Karlee Dalton, Madison Youngblood and Audrey Hart have been working with their advisor Laura Moss on the project. They have setting goals for the garden and seeking evaluation measurements to carry out these goals.

They presented their plan for the garden during a competition at the University of Tennessee at Martin on Jan. 20 where placed first in the district and third in the region.

The project grew out of the group's study of agricultural communications as a possible career developmental class. The studies include using social media, advertising and hosting events to bring their project to the public's attention.

The group is inviting the public to visit the garden which is located on Jackson Street in Paris or follow the group on social media to keep up how the garden is growing.
SIGN LANGUAGE COURSE OFFERED

The University of Tennessee at Martin is offering begin-
ner-level sign language courses. The courses, taught by Nancy
Strong, will meet at 1:30-4:30 p.m., Saturdays, March 19 and 26, and
April 16 and 23. The courses are enrolling now and are open on a
first-come, first-served basis.

The courses consist of two
three-hour sessions each, where
students will learn more than
100 signs and how to count from
one to 19 in sign language and
will participate in games and
activities to reinforce what they
learn. Students will also study
the differences between Signed
Exact English, signed English,
and American Sign Language
as well as some cultural notes
related to those who are deaf.
Out-of-class assignments will be
available through LifePrint.com.
Registration is $45 per person.

Online registration and pay-
ment are required for all courses.
To register, visit https://www.
utm.edu/departments/degree/courses/general/signlan-
guage.php. For more information,
contact Jennifer Cooper at jicoop-
er@utm.edu.

EDUCATION SUMMIT PLANNED

The WestTeach Program, sponsored by the University of
Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program, will host
the West Tennessee Education Summit from 8-11:45 a.m., March
4, at the West Tennessee Agriculture Research & Education
Center in Jackson. This summit was started as a class project
by the WestTeach Class of 2019
and is being continued by the
class of 2021. This summit will
focus on facilitating change in curriculum to enhance workforce
development. A panel of teachers, superintendents, private business
owners, school board members

and legislators will discuss chal-
genese faced in the classroom.
The program will conclude with
an update on the Blue Oval City
project. Those involved in work-
force development and education
are invited to attend. Registera-
tion is free, but individuals must
pre-register by March 1 at www.
utm.edu/weststar For more infor-
mation about this event, contact
Virginia Grimes, WestStar assis-
tant director, at 731-881-7767 or
vgrimes@utm.edu.

UTM’s Vanguard Theatre Presents ‘The Flick’

The University of Tennessee at Martin's
Department of Vis-
ual and Theatre Arts
would like to welcome
the public to attend
the Vanguard Theatre's
spring production of
Annie Baker's “The
Flick.”

A comedy of
the mundane, “The Flick”
follows three under-
paid movie ushers as
they carry out the

dious labor that keeps
the worn-out theatre
running.

Actors featured in
this performance in-
clude Paul Watkins as
Sam, James Williams II
as Avery, Ryesa McGe-
hee as Rose, and Ethan
Elliott as Dreaming
Man/Skyler.

Tickets go on sale
February 28 and are
$15 for adults and $10
for students.

Tickets may be pur-
chased online with a
credit card up until the
day of the showing, or
with cash or check at
the Box Office, which
opens one hour prior
to showtime. Showings
will be at 7 p.m. on
March 4, 5, 10, 11, 12
and 3 p.m. on March 6.

For more informa-
tion, contact the Van-
guard Box Office at 731-
881-7400.
UTM Rodeo Coach Luthi Announces Retirement Plans

MARTIN (February 18) — Following a quarter-century of established dominance in the realm of collegiate rodeo, University of Tennessee at Martin head coach John Luthi will retire at the end of the 2021-22 season.

Hired to lead the UT Martin rodeo program in 1997, Luthi developed the Skyhawks into a powerhouse in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. His hard work came to fruition during the 2013-14 season when the UT Martin men became the first collegiate squad located east of the Mississippi River to win a national championship rodeo team title.

“There is no doubt that Coach Luthi has earned his retirement,” Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin said. “John is one of the most tireless workers I have ever been around in my 20-plus years in collegiate athletics and he carried that persona into his tenure as a head coach here. He built a true team culture centered around positive life choices that has left a lasting impact on his student-athletes forever. Anybody who knows Coach Luthi knows how much of a family man he is and we wish him many years of rest and relaxation with his wife Diane and daughter Katelyn.”

Under Luthi’s direction, the UT Martin men’s program tallied 14 Ozark Region championships and finished with a top-10 national ranking on eight different occasions since 2005. Additionally, he oversaw the UT Martin women’s team who accounted for five Ozark Region titles in his tenure.

“Words cannot express how fortunate and blessed I have been to serve as the UT Martin head rodeo coach for 25 years,” Luthi said. “Back in 1997, the search committee took a chance on a cowboy from Kansas to lead this special program and I am forever indebted to them for bringing me to this wonderful community. There are many people behind the success of the UT Martin rodeo program and my wife and I would like to thank all of our student-athletes and the rodeo booster club for the memories we will cherish on a daily basis. After 41 years as a collegiate head coach, I thank God for the opportunities but I feel it is time to turn the page.”

The 2013 NIRA Coach of the Year, Luthi helped UT Martin extend its streak of 46 College National Finals Rodeo appearances in 47 years. He coached 2010 national bull riding champion Jeff Askey, who is among the dozens of student-athletes who went on to compete professionally following their UT Martin days.

Luthi also helped produce and promote one of the best events in the nation in the UT Martin Annual Spring College Rodeo, which takes place at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Pavilion every April. The event has been named the Ozark Region’s “Rodeo of the Year” 15 times in the span of 14 years.

A Gridley, Kansas, native, Luthi came to UT Martin from Fort Scott Community College, where he was the head coach of the rodeo program from 1981-97 and also served as an assistant athletics director during his final three years.

As a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association from 1978-90, Luthi was a five-time Prairie Circuit qualifier in bareback riding and a three-time qualifier in bull riding. He won 15 all-around saddles during his sterling 22-year career as a contestant.

McGuffin anticipates high interest in the UT Martin rodeo head coaching gig, as the job will officially be posted within the next week.

“We will be thorough in the search process to find our new head rodeo coach,” McGuffin said. “Our track record here at UT Martin speaks for itself. The next head coach has some big shoes to fill but we look forward to identifying the right person for the job to help sustain our high level of success.”
The UT Martin main campus and regional centers in Parsons and Ripley will delay opening until 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Feb. 24. Classes and offices at these locations will open at 11 a.m.

The UT Martin Jackson Center located at Jackson State Community College is closed all day Feb. 24 because of Jackson State's inclement weather closure. Information is posted at www.utm.edu (http://www.utm.edu/).