The UT Martin Somerville Center will host a grand opening reception beginning at 1 p.m., Aug. 24, at the former Methodist Fayette Hospital, located at 214 Lakeview Road in Somerville. The Somerville location is UT Martin’s fifth educational outreach center in West Tennessee.

“The addition of this center enhances our outreach and truly makes UT Martin the university for all of West Tennessee. Students can now conveniently access our programs from anywhere in the region,” said Dr. Brian Donavant, interim executive director of the UT Martin Office of Educational Outreach.

Announced in June 2016, the Tennessee General Assembly approved $250,000 in recurring funding for the center in the state’s 2016-17 budget. An additional $875,000 in one-time funding was also approved to support the renovation of the hospital facility, which Methodist Healthcare donated to the city of Somerville in July 2015.

“The new UT Martin Somerville Center will quickly become a vital part of our community’s identity,” said Kara Tapp, center director. “I want every student to have the same feeling of belonging that you get when you walk onto the main campus (in Martin). By bringing UT Martin into our hometown, we will be able to offer new opportunities for citizens who would not have had the chance to further their education at distant locations.”

The center offers a variety of general education and other undergraduate courses supporting bachelor’s degree requirements in more than 80 specialized programs, including agricultural business, criminal justice, history, social work, political science, psychology and interdisciplinary studies. General education courses available at this location include art, biology, chemistry, English, math and others. The center also offers periodic ACT preparation courses for high school students.

While the building will be occupied by several tenants, the UT Martin Somerville Center will use about 40 percent of the facility, or approximately 21,000 square feet. Major renovations officially began in December 2016.
YoUTMs highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Charles Bradshaw (right), associate professor of English, recently traveled to University College Cork in Cork, Ireland, to present his paper titled “This Part of Spain is in Something of a Turmoil: Mark Twain and the Un-American Spanish Tradition in ‘A Horse’s Tale’” during the 16th annual Transatlantic Studies Association Conference. Bradshaw was also able to travel to London and conduct research at the British Library on “A Horse’s Tale” and Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show in England as part of a project with the University of Nebraska Press. While in Ireland, Bradshaw ran into UT Martin alumni Cody Jarman (left) and his wife, Madilyn Peay Jarman (center), who are living abroad while Cody completes a Fulbright Scholarship studying Irish literature in Cork.

Lane Last, professor of art, will have a videoart piece titled “Formless” displayed during the Digital Image Competition at the Espacio Enter Festival in the Canary Islands. Espacio Enter is a project created and directed by Artechmedia, a non-profit international cultural organization that aims to foster development of the arts and digital culture.

Dr. Ross Pruitt, associate professor of agricultural economics, recently participated as a panelist during the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association’s August meeting in Chicago, Ill. The panel was titled “Applying the Structure-Conduct-Performance Model to Your Teaching.”

Dr. Julie Hill, professor of music and chair of the Department of Music, and Dr. Shane Jones, assistant professor of music and co-director of percussion studies, presented a lunch-and-learn program Aug. 2 for the Kiwanis Club of Martin. Nineteen Kiwanis members attended the presentation and were able to play percussion instruments from West Africa, Cuba, Haiti and Brazil under Jones’ direction. Jones began working with UT Martin on Aug. 1 and is the newest member of the percussion faculty. John Beale, a junior music major, also assisted with the group presentation. (Pictured right) Jones demonstrates the usage of authentic African instruments for assembled Kiwanis members.
Faculty members receive Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Awards

Three UT Martin faculty members have received Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave awards to pursue academic research and advancement during the 2017-18 academic year.

Dr. Roberto Mancusi, associate professor of music; Dr. Christopher Brown, professor of philosophy; and Dr. Chara Van Horn, assistant professor of communications, chose to take their leave time during the spring 2018 semester.

Mancusi has developed a concert series called “The Big Sing Theory” and plans to perform a concert tour of England during his leave period. He will also use this time to write a book on practical applications for vocal students, which will be considered for publication by the Oxford University Press.

Brown will use his leave to complete a book manuscript titled “St. Thomas Aquinas on God and Human Happiness: Solving Puzzles about Eternal Life,” which has been invited for formal consideration for publication by the Catholic University of America Press. Brown argues that Aquinas' views allow for new ways to solve five puzzles for a traditional Christian understanding of eternal life.

Van Horn will use her time to expand her doctoral dissertation into a book examining the influence of conspiracy theories on official discourse. She plans to specifically focus on the intersection between conspiracy theories and the Warren and 9/11 Commission reports. Van Horn will also present her research at the Popular Culture/American Culture Association Joint Conference in Bloomington, Ind.

UT Martin's Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to enable participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic renewal experiences. Tenured faculty members with six or more years of fulltime service at UT Martin are eligible to apply for awards.

For more information on applying for the Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program or on current or past recipients, contact the UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts at 731-881-7015.

New Degree Works program introduced for students and advisers

UT Martin will soon be home to a new software program called Degree Works Flight Plan, which is designed to increase the ease and effectiveness of advising for individual students.

The introduction of this program is one of several initiatives funded through the Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. UT Martin is in year three of this five-year grant.

Degree Works Flight Plan will work with the existing Banner system and allow current students to easily see what courses are still unfulfilled for their degrees. Students can also make theoretical changes to their pathways to see how a change of major or minor might affect their graduation progress before making such a change official.

Prospective students can input previously earned college credits such as dual enrollment and distance learning courses to evaluate how those courses will factor into their proposed UT Martin coursework.

Transfer students from other institutions can use the transfer equivalency self-service component to input existing credits and see how and where those credits will be applied toward the continuation of a UT Martin degree.

Advisers will be able to create semester-by-semester plans for each student to be saved inside the software, as well as leave notes on each student's account.

The program will be effective for students in catalog years 2013-14 and forward, while the CAPP program will remain active for previous catalog years.

Degree Works Flight Plan should be fully available for use during the spring 2018 preregistration and advising process.
Dr. Danny Walker, associate professor of animal science, recently received the Elsevier Award for Teaching Excellence from the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators.

The Elsevier Award for Teaching Excellence is intended to honor those educators who are recognized by their students and colleagues as exceptional instructors. Nominations are taken from across the country, and one educator is selected every two years. The award was presented during the AVTE national symposium Aug. 4 in Albuquerque, N.M.

“Dr. Walker certainly deserves this award, and it is a great recognition for UT Martin and our veterinary technology program,” said Dr. Jason Roberts, associate professor of animal science and director of UT Martin’s Veterinary Health Technology Program.

Several of Walker’s students and colleagues submitted nomination materials on his behalf, and the letters show the vital role he has played in the lives of many.

“This man has been probably the biggest foundation of my career. Not only did he teach me in undergrad, but he set me up for my career and helped me find my passion in life,” wrote Kelly Kennedy, a former student now a licensed veterinary medical technician at Memphis Veterinary Specialists.

“Dr. Walker has a way of teaching material that makes learning fun and exciting. He makes you want to learn this material instead of ‘having to’ learn the material. He makes it his personal goal to make sure everyone succeeds,” wrote Renee Stubblefield, a former student who is now an instructor in the program Walker helped establish.

UT Martin is one of fewer than 30 institutions in the country to offer four-year academic instruction in veterinary health technology. Students who graduate from the UT Martin program also complete six weeks of on-site, hands-on internship experience at a regional veterinary hospital, clinic or laboratory.
UT Martin begins new strategic planning process

UT Martin is in the process of creating a new strategic plan to direct university efforts for the next five years. An email sent from Chancellor Carver to all faculty and staff urges employees to take an active role in this process and participate when asked to provide feedback on university goals. The text of that email is included below:

Campus Community:

The UT Martin campus will begin an intense strategic planning process this fall to define our campus’ strategic vision and priorities moving forward through 2023. UT Martin’s plan will focus on the success of our students, effectiveness of our faculty and collaboration with our community, as well as on our continued reputation as a premier, regional public institution.

For this process to be successful, we need to hear from you! We need everyone to engage in the process as we develop this new plan over the next five months.

We already know UT Martin has a substantial impact on the West Tennessee economy, both in terms of monetary gain and workforce enhancement, but we need your ideas and recommendations for how to continue to achieve excellence in other ways.

Dr. Rich Helgeson, our interim provost, and Mr. Tom Griscom, our strategic planning consultant, will guide us through the process of listening to, collecting and synthesizing information from hundreds of conversations, interviews and planning sessions with students, faculty, staff, alumni and other key groups to find out what makes UT Martin a premier university and how we can continue to build on that foundation.

We need you to be part of this. I personally ask each one of you to respond if you are contacted for an interview or asked to participate in a survey.

Your unique insights are vital to the development of UT Martin’s new strategic vision, and I encourage you to share your thoughts and suggestions with the planning team as we work to identify our campus priorities for the next five years.

I am excited about this process and eager to work with all our key constituent groups to develop this new strategic plan for UT Martin’s future.

Thank you in advance for your continued commitment to UT Martin and for your support of this planning process. You will be hearing more about this plan and the specific steps involved in the months to come.

All the best,

Keith Carver, Chancellor

Reminder

All faculty and staff are required to complete IT security and awareness training through Canvas before Dec. 31. For additional information, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 731-881-7900.

Football season tickets are now on sale!
Call Fran Spears at 731-881-7207 to get yours today.
Calendar

- **Aug. 15** - Training: Canvas for Beginners: Getting Started with Canvas; 9-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 17** - Training: Canvas: Tests and Quizzes; 9-10 a.m.*
- **Aug. 17** - Training: Canvas: Creating Assignments and Managing Grades; 10-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 17** - Training: Office 365: Overview for Faculty and Staff; 1-2 p.m.*
- **Aug. 18** - Training: Canvas for Beginners: Getting Started with Canvas; 9-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 18** - Training: Canvas: Conferences; 1-2 p.m.*
- **Aug. 21** - Training: Canvas: An Overview of the new LMS; 9-10 a.m.*
- **Aug. 21** - Fall faculty meeting and chancellor’s update; Watkins Auditorium; 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- **Aug. 21** - Training: Canvas: Creating Assignments and Managing Grades; 10-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 21** - Training: Canvas: Tests and Quizzes; 11 a.m.-noon*
- **Aug. 22** - Training: Canvas for Beginners: Getting Started with Canvas; 9-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 22** - Training: Office 365: Overview for Faculty and Staff; 1-2 p.m.*
- **Aug. 23** - Training: Canvas: An Overview of the new LMS; 9-10 a.m.*
- **Aug. 23** - Training: Canvas: Creating Assignments and Managing Grades; 10-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 23** - Training: Canvas: Tests and Quizzes; 11 a.m.-noon*
- **Aug. 24** - Training: Canvas: An Overview of the new LMS; 9-10 a.m.*
- **Aug. 24** - Training: Canvas: Creating Assignments and Managing Grades; 10-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 24** - Training: Office 365: Overview for Faculty and Staff; 9-10 a.m.*
- **Aug. 24** - Training: Canvas: Conferences; 10-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 25-27** - Welcome Weekend for incoming freshmen
- **Aug. 25** - Training: Canvas: An Overview of the new LMS; 9-10 a.m.*
- **Aug. 25** - Training: Canvas: Creating Assignments and Managing Grades; 10-11 a.m.*
- **Aug. 25** - Training: Canvas: Tests and Quizzes; 11 a.m.-noon*
- **Aug. 25** - Legacy Luncheon; Paul Meek Library; 11 a.m.-noon
- **Aug. 28** - First day of fall classes, main campus and all centers

*All ITC training workshops are held in room 215 of the Paul Meek Library. Register online to attend.

You Tell Me

**Question** – Can the university make sporting event ticket prices more affordable for families – especially children? Why do homecoming tickets cost more? And, can the university find a way to accept credit cards for tickets?

**Answer** – UT Martin does have “premium games” (Murray State basketball is an example) that cost more to attend than the normal ticket price. This is the trend for all of college athletics; for example, Tennessee Vols football charges more for tickets when playing the University of Alabama than other opponents. In UT Martin’s case, the challenge is balancing the need for athletics revenue while also remaining affordable for the Skyhawk fan base. The good news is that prices for football and basketball have not increased this year, and a premium-priced home game in football is not on the schedule. The homecoming game will be treated like every other game in terms of ticket cost. Football pricing for fall 2017 is as follows: Chair Seats – $20.00; Reserved Bench Back – $18.00; and General Admission – $15.00. Groups of 10 or more may buy advanced tickets for $12.00 each. As for credit card payment, the university is not equipped to take credit or debit cards the day of the game. Advanced tickets may be purchased by credit or debit card by calling 881-7207. Tickets purchased in advance can be picked up at the Skyhawk Ticket Office or at “Will Call” on game day.

Submit your questions to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu.