Phase II of the UT Martin Fine Arts Building construction project has been renamed the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center.

The facility will be used by the fine and performing arts programs at UT Martin, as well as host guest performers, academic speakers, fundraising events, conferences and regional competitions.

Construction for the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center will cost $40 million and requires a six percent match, or $2.5 million, raised by the university to receive state funding. Currently, the university has raised over $600,000 for the performance center.

“I believe this facility will bring a new level of performers to Northwest Tennessee, enriching the lives of students and community members,” said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, in a letter to donors. The Northwest Tennessee Arts Center is projected to bring more than 26,000 visitors to campus annually, provide new jobs on campus and in the community and is expected to contribute over $400,000 annually to the Northwest Tennessee economy through programs and partnerships in music, visual arts, children’s programming, dance and film.

Phase I of the Fine Arts Building construction was completed in 2013.

To donate to the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center, visit alumni.utm.edu/ntac.

For more information, contact Laura Suiter, UT Foundation director of development, at lsuiter1@utm.edu.

UT Martin will be closed for the winter holiday Monday, Dec. 21 – Friday, Dec. 25, as well as New Year’s Day on Jan. 1, 2021.

Happy holidays & stay safe!
YoUTMs highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Heather Adams, former assistant director of development, is the new assistant director of budget and management reporting in the Division of Finance and Administration. She is now responsible for budget reporting, position and pay review, financial surveys, etc.

Dr. David Dietrich, associate professor of counseling, was named co-associate editor of the Counselor Educators and Researchers section of Career Convergence, the National Career Development Association magazine.

In Memory

Charles Callis, professor emeritus of engineering, died Nov. 29, at the age of 85. Callis began teaching mechanical and electrical engineering at UT Martin in 1964, retired in 1997, and returned to teach post-retirement from 1997-99. Services for Callis were held Dec. 4 at the Edmaiston-Mosely Funeral Home. To view his obituary, click Callis’s portrait.

Welcome New Employees

• Julie Riddell is an administrative support assistant for Honors Programs.
• Evelyn Turner is a custodian with Custodial Services.
• Cory Andrew Sparks is a custodian with Custodial Services.

This section is used to welcome new faculty and staff members as the information becomes available from the Office of Human Resources.

attention

This is a reminder to sign up for DUO, the two-factor authentication for UT Martin accounts. The chancellor’s staff recently approved a deadline of Dec. 14, 2020, for all faculty and staff to register for DUO to increase online security measures.

When enabling DUO for your account, your password will not expire the next time you reset it, which means faculty and staff will not have to reset their password.

To sign up for DUO, go to https://www.utm.edu/2fa. If you would like help signing up for DUO or have other questions, please call the Help Desk at 731-881-7900.

STEWART MEMORIAL - The UT Martin men's basketball team honored late head coach Anthony Stewart during the season-opening game Dec. 2, against the University of Evansville, with a memorial chair and placard. The team won its first game of the season 93-87 in a double overtime contest.

UPDATED CAMPUS HOURS OF OPERA TION

University closed Dec. 21-25, Jan. 1

Boling University Center
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Closed weekends

Paul Meek Library
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Closed weekends

Barnes & Noble Bookstore
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Closed weekends

Bursar’s Office Cashier Window
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Faculty Spotlight: Master Sgt. Conrad Begaye

A young man sat in his living room, where the electric glow of the television painted a scene of heroism and adventure. The advertisement called him to join the United States Army, a call he answered immediately. After 21 years of service and counting, Master Sgt. Conrad Begaye has carried the weight of every protocol and lesson learned with him to provide a solid foundation as he teaches the soldiers of tomorrow.

Although seeing the Army commercial on TV is what spurred him into action, it was not the only force at play in his decision to enlist.

“Half of my family are Marines and Army, (in) Vietnam, and so looking at that, I just wanted to continue the legacy of being in the military,” Begaye said.

After completing his basic training, Begaye attended the U.S. Army Airborne School and Ranger School in Ft. Benning, Georgia. In 2003, he was stationed in Vicenza, Italy, at the Caserma Ederle Army base, and from there was sent to Iraq in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, to Afghanistan in 2005 for Operation Enduring Freedom Campaigns V and VIII, before returning to Afghanistan in 2016 to serve in Operation Freedom’s Sentinel.

As a senior military instructor, Begaye uses his experience to work with the juniors in the UT Martin Army ROTC program to teach them concepts like attack strategy and mountaineering. For Begaye, one of the most rewarding aspects of his work is seeing his students carrying through on what he taught them.

“It makes me very proud when on Thursdays, when we get the whole program together, and my guys, my juniors are out there, they know what they’re doing,” Begaye said. “They know how to explain it. They know how to teach the freshmen and the sophomores, and they also make an impression on the seniors, and that gives me a good feeling in my heart that these guys are actually listening to me.”

Despite how difficult some of his experiences were during deployment, Begaye is thankful he can use them to prepare his cadets for their future military careers.

“I’m grateful for the experience because it helps me help the ROTC cadets, so they can use my experience and eventually hopefully become successful whenever they become lieutenants in the United States Army,” Begaye said.

One of the challenges Begaye spoke of was during his first deployment to Afghanistan in 2007. Begaye and his soldiers were caught in a firefight, resulting in the deaths of six of his men; however, he was able to save several soldiers, one of whom he shielded with his body to protect him from incoming gunfire. Begaye was awarded the Silver Star for his bravery and leadership while under attack. Despite the time that has passed, the events of that day live with him and are some of the many experiences he takes into his work.

“It’s one of those things where you don’t want those medals for valor and stuff like that. … You don’t want to sit there and brag about it,” Begaye said. “It’s one of those things that before, I never really talked about, it’s just one of those places that you just stick in the back of your heart and the back of your mind, but occasionally I’ll open my shell and start talking about stuff.”

Although his men are no longer with him, they live on through those who cherish and remember them. Every year at the anniversaries of their deaths, Begaye checks in with the families of his soldiers to tend to their needs and remember the lives that were lost.

“On certain days of the anniversaries of when these men got killed, I’m always talking to their mothers and their fathers, brothers and sisters. … Nov. 8 and Nov. 9, I always reach out to the families and see how they’re doing, see if there’s anything I can do for them, and we’ll sit there, and we’ll talk, and we’ll cry every once in a while,” Begaye said.

The support he has felt from his soldiers and their families for the past 21 years is also something he feels from the university and Martin community.

“It’s great to see that the school is here to provide that (to the) ROTC military program. The dean, he’s all about the program. I know Chancellor Carver’s really big on the program, so it’s pretty good that we’ve got a lot of support here from the college and the university,” Begaye said.

“Thanks to the people of Martin and the college for being here and supporting the military. It’s always great having that feeling when somebody comes up to you and says, ‘Thank you for your service.’”

By using the experiences he has gained along the way, Begaye hopes to be a strong role model to help his cadets make the best choices they can and to ‘be all (they) can be.’

Feature by Antonia Steele, newswriting intern for the Office of University Relations.

UT Martin’s spring semester will begin Thursday, Jan. 14.
Brooks named fall 2020 Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award recipient

UT Martin has named Kayla Brooks as the recipient of the fall 2020 Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee award for her exemplary job performance and commitment to the university, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brooks is a senior communications major from Dickson and works for both WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk” as the program director and the Student Recreation Center as a yoga instructor. In the midst of the pandemic, Brooks has adapted her responsibilities in unique ways to ensure her duties to the campus community are fulfilled, including recording newscasts in the most acoustically-sound space in her apartment - the bathtub and hosting socially-distanced yoga in the quad.

In her three years at “The Hawk,” Brooks has served as a news reporter, news director and is now the program director responsible for leading the executive team and station staff, writing and editing on-air and online stories, as well as arranging programming on social media. According to Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of communications and faculty adviser of “The Hawk,” of the 43 awards the radio station has won in the 2019-20 academic year, Brooks is responsible for over half.

Brooks also has worked at the Student Recreation Center as a yoga instructor since fall 2018 and hosts weekly classes, whether online or in-person, to promote wellness and good health.

“Kayla Brooks represents the best that the University of Tennessee at Martin has to offer in a student and as a student worker,” said Robinson in Brooks’ nomination letter. “She is smart, dependable, dedicated and reliable in achievement, accuracy, and above all, honest.”

The award is given in honor of the late Beth Maloan, UT Martin director of budgeting and dedicated student employee advocate. A plaque and $1,000 check are presented to a student each spring and fall semester.

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

UT Board of Trustees to hold special meeting Dec. 9

The UT Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting at 3:30 p.m. EST/2:30 p.m. CST on Dec. 9.

Following continued guidance by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding COVID-19 and in compliance with the Tennessee Pledge and local guidelines, the meeting will be held virtually with all board members participating electronically or by telephone. Interested individuals are encouraged to watch the meeting online. The meeting will be webcast live and archived for later viewing; a link to the webcast will be available at tennessee.edu.

Agenda items include:
• Appointment of Carey Whitworth as vice president of government relations and advocacy
• Reduction in UT Knoxville spring 2021 housing rates
• Revisions to the board Policies Governing Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure
• Potential acquisition of Martin Methodist College

The agenda and meeting materials have been posted to the board website and are accessible at: https://trustees.tennessee.edu/.

The board’s Standing Rule Governing Requests to Address the Board has been extended to provide an opportunity to address the board as to matters on the agenda for the special meeting. Requests to address the board may be submitted using the online form or the pdf at: https://trustees.tennessee.edu/requests-to-address-the-board/ . Requests will be accepted until 5 p.m. EST on Monday, Dec. 7. While the board’s Standing Rule will apply, given the current environment regarding COVID-19, accommodations will be granted to allow for remote participation by scheduled speakers.

Anyone with a disability or otherwise needing assistance in connection with this virtual meeting may contact the individuals listed below to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance. Contact may be made in writing, by email, or by telephone and should be received no later than 5 p.m. EST, Tuesday, Dec. 8.

The UT System distributes this notice to all faculty and staff as part of its compliance with the adequate public notice requirement of the state open meetings law.
A COVID-19 Christmas
Drive-thru holiday light shows in Martin and surrounding areas

City of Martin
Nights of Lights Drive-Thru with Santa

Discovery Park of America
2020 Let It Glow Light Show drive-thru exhibit

The City of Martin is hosting a free mini drive-thru Christmas exhibit from 5:30 - 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday in the historic downtown Martin Farmers Market until Dec. 23. Visitors can drive through the market for a North Pole and winter wonderland-themed display. Santa Claus and his elves will visit the exhibit every Friday and Saturday evening to collect letters from children and pass out treats. The event is free, but the city of Martin will also be hosting a canned food drive during event. For more information, call 731-587-3126.

Discovery Park of America is hosting its annual Let It Glow Light Show from 5 - 9 p.m. through Dec. 30. Each car costs $10 to drive through over one million lights decorating the park. To enter the light show in a 15-passenger van costs $25, and charter/school buses cost $50. Tickets can be purchased online at discoverparkofamerica.com or at the gate upon arrival. The Let It Glow Light Show will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas. For more information, call 731-885-5455.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – When will the next edition of the Campus Scene alumni magazine publish?

• **Answer** – The next edition of Campus Scene is printed and will hit mailboxes before Jan. 1. In addition, the non-mailed copies of the magazine will arrive this week for university distribution. The magazine publishes twice per year, and individual stories from the magazine will be pushed out on social media to build interest in this issue. A virtual edition will also be published, and the link will be posted on the Office of University Relations webpage. In January, a sampling of alumni will be surveyed about the magazine. If you receive an email asking for participation in the survey, your candid responses will be appreciated in helping the offices of alumni relations, sports information and university relations produce the best magazine possible.

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