An exhibit in the J. Houston Gordon Museum at UT Martin explores Tennessee’s role in voter registration drives of the 1964 Freedom Summer campaign. Featuring photographs from Nick Lawrence, “The Other Freedom Summer” documents the work of New York college students to register voters in Fayette County. The installation opens Feb. 7 as part of UT Martin’s Civil Rights Conference and continues through April 29.

In 1964, over 68% of Fayette County’s population was African-American, but this majority population accounted for less than 7% of its registered voters. Between May and August, several dozen students and graduates from Cornell University traveled to rural Fayette County to conduct an independent voter registration and education drive. Activists were paired off and assigned one of the county’s 15 election districts and were housed with local families. During the month of June activists walked or rode between rural farms and smallholdings, encouraging adults to register as voters.

One of these young college students was 24-year-old amateur photographer Nick Lawrence. He used his camera to record the routines of voter registration and the sights in the rural world that surrounded him. “Living in the North,” he 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 resulting photographs document the resolve and strength of hard-working rural residents in advancing their right to vote.

The J. Houston Gordon Museum is located within the Paul Meek Library and 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 is available on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link. For more information, contact Sam Richardson, head of special collections and archives, at 731-881-7094.

Activist Danny Watt (left) encourages a resident to register, June 1964. Photo by Nick Lawrence
In Memory

Dr. Margrethe Ahlschwede died Jan. 22, 2022, in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was a 2007 retired professor in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. Ahlschwede and her husband, Bill, joined the UT Martin English faculty in 1992 after she received her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. While at UT Martin she founded the West Tennessee Writing Project (WTWP), a part of the National Writing Project. Through WTWP, Ahlschwede worked extensively with area high school teachers to improve the ways writing is taught. As an outgrowth of WTWP, she also began Voice Lessons: A Faculty Writing Project for UT Martin faculty interested in improving both their students’ skills and their own. The Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference was started by faculty involved in Voice Lessons. She was named a Hardy Graham Distinguished Professor in 1999. Her obituary appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Buttrey and students present at Southern Section of ASAS

Dr. Emalee Buttrey, along with Abigail Ellis, a junior University Scholar and veterinary science major, and Allyson DeNote, a December 2021 animal science graduate, attended the Southern Section American Society of Animal Science meetings in Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 22-25. Buttrey wrapped up her term serving as chair of the teaching and undergraduate education and undergraduate student competition committees. Her abstract, titled "Keeping Animal Science Courses ‘Experiential’ in an Online Classroom," was peer-reviewed and accepted, and she gave a presentation during the teaching and undergraduate education session.

Ellis, a junior University Scholar and veterinary science major, also submitted an abstract for peer review. Her abstract, titled "Evaluating Proactive versus Therapeutic Use of a Theraplate on English-disciplined Horses and the Effects on Lameness," was accepted. She presented her University Scholars research project in the nonruminant session of the meeting and participated in the undergraduate research competition. Ellis placed first in the competition, receiving a plaque and $200 award.

DeNote, a December 2021 UT Martin graduate, hopes to pursue a master's degree in animal science. She was able to network with scientists and educators from the southern region and listen to cutting-edge research presentations.

Two former UTM Skyhawks were also in attendance at the meeting:

Erin Mahoney, a 2020 UT Martin graduate, is currently working on her master’s degree in reproductive physiology at Auburn University. She presented her thesis research titled "Free amino acids at Weaning in the Blood Plasma of Beef Heifers with Differing Reproductive Outcomes Following Estrus Synchronization and Artificial Insemination."

Sarah Montgomery, a 2016 UT Martin graduate, is a Ph.D. student at Mississippi State University. She presented her doctoral research titled "Comparison of Vegetative Indices Using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Satellite Imagery in Heifers Grazing Annual Ryegrass."

“I have had the pleasure of teaching all four of these ladies. I always knew that they were great students but it is truly rewarding to watch them develop academically and professionally,” Buttrey said.
22nd Annual UTM Civil Rights Conference

Examining Restrictions of Freedom

Thursday, February 3
6:00 PM - Virtual
LaTessa Brown
"Who Will Save American Democracy?"

Monday, February 7
6:00 PM - Watkins
Cynoia Brown Long
"My Journey to Redemption"

Tuesday, February 8
5:00 PM - Watkins
Sex Trafficking Panel

Wednesday, February 9
2:00 PM - UC206
Braver Angels' "Bridge Builders Across Differences" Workshop
*Registration required

Thursday, February 10
6:00 PM - Virtual
Critical Race Theory: What It Is and What It Isn’t
*hosted by the Weakley County Reconciliation Project

Wednesday, February 16
7:00 PM - Virtual
"Freedom Libraries: The Untold Story of Libraries for African Americans in the South" with Mike Selby
*hosted by the Paul Meek Library

Thursday, February 17
6:00 PM - Watkins
Hannibal Johnson
"Black Wall Street Remembered"

Friday, February 18
9:00 AM - UC206
Poverty Simulation
*Registration required

Monday, February 21
6:00 PM - Virtual
"Farming as a Revolutionary Act of Food Sovereignty"
*hosted by the Northwest Tennessee Food Network

Tuesday, February 22
7:00 PM - Watkins
Night of Dance
*hosted by Department of Dance and the Black Student Association

Wednesday, February 23
6:00 PM - Watkins
Black History Trivia Show
*hosted by UTM Flight Crew

Thursday, February 24
6:00 PM - Watkins
Tim Wise
*White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*

Friday, February 25
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM - UC Ballroom
Free Health Fair

Sunday, February 27
3:00 PM - Fine Arts 122
"Music of Black Composers" Recital
*hosted by INCLUDE UTM

Monday, February 28
5:00 PM - Watkins
"Nothing to Debate: The Confederate Flag and Other Symbols of Hate in the Age of Trump" with Dr. David Coffey

*All registrations and virtual/livestreamed events can be accessed on www.utm.edu/civilrights
You Tell Me

• **Question** – What is the name change process for university units?

• **Answer** – Proposals for university unit name changes shall be electronically submitted for approval in accordance with the university administrative reporting channels, through the appropriate member of the Chancellor’s Cabinet. Positive endorsements will be forwarded to the chancellor for review with the cabinet, and if approved, they will be forwarded to the UT System for other necessary approvals. Approved name changes, unless otherwise permitted, will become effective with the next academic year to coincide with fiscal year planning for updating publications, signage and budget reporting.” To view the policy in full, visit [https://policy.tennessee.edu/](https://policy.tennessee.edu/).

Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at [www.utm.edu/suggestionbox](http://www.utm.edu/suggestionbox).