UT Martin will host its annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at 9 a.m., May 24, in the north plaza between the Boling University center and the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin main campus. The ceremony will include the installation of a military battle cross outside the library. An open house for the UT Martin Veteran’s Lounge, which has relocated to room 131 in Gooch Hall, will follow the ceremony.

Col. Jack Usery (U.S. Army) will serve as this year’s ceremony speaker. Usery graduated from UT Martin in 1991 and has served in the military for more than 30 years. He is currently the senior adviser to the adjutant general at Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville. A photo of the Martin native went viral online in 2017 after a bystander saw him stand at attention to salute a passing funeral procession in the pouring rain.

Members of the Jones-Walker VFW Post 4862 in Union City will present the colors, and Hannah Kent, a UT Martin music education major from Humboldt, will sing the national anthem at the start of the program. Usery will speak following an official welcome from Chancellor Keith Carver.

Chloe Lollar, a UT Martin alumna from Martin, will play Taps at the conclusion of the program.

Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday in May and serves to honor those who have died in the protection of the United States of America. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was renamed upon becoming a federal holiday in 1971.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

UT Martin is safest college in Tennessee

UT Martin is the safest college campus in the state of Tennessee, according to the 2019 ranking by yourlocaalsecurity.com. This website uses the U.S. Department of Education’s campus safety and security analysis as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s uniform crime report to rank colleges in each state and nationwide.

The ranking includes 435 public, private and non-profit colleges offering both two and four-year degrees with at least 5,000 students enrolled. The study primarily considers four main factors: hate crimes per enrolled students, violence against women per enrolled females, property crimes per population and violent crimes per population.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation recently released the Crime on Campus Report for 2018 and shows low crime numbers for UT Martin. University data shows that 61 group A, or more serious, offenses were reported on the UT Martin campus in 2018, and 34 of these were resolved by the Department of Public Safety.

For the full story, visit the UT Martin news archive.
Governor’s Schools return to campus

UT Martin will again host both the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities and the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences on the main campus next month.

Humanities students will arrive June 2 and depart June 28. These students reside in Cooper Hall and take classes largely in the Andy Holt Humanities Building and Gooch Hall, although some activities are held in other areas.

Agricultural Science students arrive June 1 and depart June 28. These students also reside in Cooper Hall and take classes mainly in Brehm Hall and on the teaching farm complex.

All faculty and staff are urged to welcome these students.

Veterinary health technology program receives full accreditation

The American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities elevated the UT Martin Veterinary Health Technology Program to full accreditation status during its April 25-28 meeting. The program has enjoyed initial accreditation status since it was first reviewed during the spring 2014 semester.

The program welcomed its first students in 2011 as one of fewer than 25 four-year veterinary health technology programs nationwide, and the first class graduated in spring 2014. Since the program’s creation, 176 students have completed both academic and internship requirements for graduation.

Program graduates each earn a bachelor’s degree in agriculture with a major in animal science and an emphasis in veterinary health technology. They must then sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam to become licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee.

The UT Martin program features hands-on experience with small, large and exotic animal species in areas such as surgery, nursing, radiology and others. Four veterinarians and four veterinary technologists teach in the program, which includes a required six-week internship with a veterinary clinic, referral or teaching hospital, zoo or laboratory prior to graduation.

Addenda is published bi-weekly during the summer semester. The next issue will be June 3. Please send submissions to Erin Chesnut by noon on Thursdays. Click here to submit.

Veterinary health technology program receives full accreditation

Governor’s Schools return to campus
Champion of chemistry retires after 54 years of service

Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry, will officially retire from university service May 31 after 54 years in the classroom. Airee is UT Martin’s longest-serving faculty member.

He joined the UT Martin faculty July 7, 1965, as an assistant professor of physical sciences at the UT Martin Branch, and has seen many changes during more than five decades of service. He served on the UT Martin Faculty Senate the first year it was formed and was re-elected twice in later years. He also helped the UT Martin bachelor’s degree program in chemistry earn accreditation from the American Chemical Society.

Airee chartered the UT Martin chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (now known as the Student Members of the American Chemical Society) in 1971. This chapter is the most decorated chapter in ACS history and holds more than 30 Outstanding Ratings, more than any chapter in the nation, and has received a Green Chapter Award every year since the award was created, an honor no other chapter can claim.

“Professor S.K. Airee, the faculty adviser of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Student Affiliates chapter, deserves special commendation. Few faculty members are willing to make the great commitment of time and energy that a successful chapter requires of its adviser. It takes more than exceptional effort to be recognized as an outstanding chapter; it takes the nurturing attention of dedicated staff. Professor Airee’s efforts certainly represent the best in undergraduate education and mentoring around the country,” wrote ACS President Brian Rushton in a letter to then-UT Martin Chancellor Margaret Perry in 1995.

“Remarks like these humbled and inspired me, but the most cherished reward was the light of pride in the students’ eyes after they successfully executed a difficult project year in and year out,” said Airee. “Dr. Abigail Shelton has now very ably taken over as (chapter) adviser.”

Under Airee’s leadership, the chapter has coordinated more than 35 high school science bowls, 30 area collegiate chemistry meetings, 30 Boy Scouts of America chemistry merit badge clinics, 20 local chemistry Olympiads, and 30 weeks of National Chemistry Week activities.

Airee has been affiliated with the American Chemical Society in one way or another for the past 61 years. In addition to his classroom work, he worked closely with the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS and served as chair in 1992 and councilor from 1999-2010. He also spent eight years as co-editor and producer of the Kentucky-Illinois-Missouri-Arkansas-Tennessee Chemistry News and Views Exchange, a publication sponsored by five chemistry departments and two local ACS sections. This publication was distributed to approximately 1,000 high school chemistry teachers and ACS members in the five-state region.

He is the recipient of numerous university, industry and community service awards, including the UT Distinguished Service Professorship Award in 2016, the Dr. Joe Johnson Lifetime Service Award from the University of Tennessee System in 2015, the UT Martin Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award in 2006 and Kiwanian of the Year in 1968.

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“Scientists have the uncanny ability to be critical about everything and focus mainly on what needs improvement/optimization. S.K. has an eye for what is good. He recognizes the positive aspects of any accomplishment and readily shows pride for good work, whether his own or that of others. S.K. sees the best in people and believes the best about people,” said Dr. Genessa Smith, associate professor of chemistry and one of Airee’s longtime colleagues. “He has been a champion of chemistry for a very long time, and I have no doubt retirement will not change that.”

The Airee family has initiated three endowment funds – the Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service, the S.K. and Shashi Airee Scholarship, and the Monsanto SAACS Fund – to help UT Martin students fund their education. Airee is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, and he and his wife, Shashi, have three children, all of whom are UT Martin and UT Health Science Center alumni.

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Dr. Michael Hernon, professor emeritus of music, died May 15. He joined the faculty in the Department of Music in 1973 and taught music appreciation, music history, French horn, and brass repertoire and pedagogy for 38 years. He was the author of numerous publications, including “French Horn Discography,” published by Greenwood Press. A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m., June 1, in the Fine Arts Building with visitation at noon. Memorial donations can be made to the Department of Music.

In Memory

VIGIL – (below) A candlelight vigil in honor of Decora Alexander, a freshman health and human performance major who died May 11, was held May 16 in Hardy Graham Stadium. Alexander’s friends, family, teachers, coworkers and others listened as individuals shared memories of her life. (left) Members of the UT Martin Dance Team, of which Alexander was a part, returned to campus to comfort each other in their time of loss. The team released 20 purple and white balloons – one for each year of Alexander’s life – in her memory. Many members of the crowd wore purple to promote awareness of domestic violence. See more photos from the vigil here.

 Donate used textbooks to student veterans! SPONSORED BY THE SKYHAWK VETERAN’S ASSOCIATION

Call Johnny Dyer at (731)881-1689 for details.

Title VI training

All UT employees are required to complete K@TE training regarding Title VI responsibilities. This presentation lasts approximately 15 minutes and is loaded as a required course in the K@TE system. To complete this training, click here and choose UT employee login and use your NetID and password.
First UT Martin Somerville Center grad sets sights on law enforcement career

Kavarius Hester, of Somerville, received his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice May 4 during university commencement exercises.

His accomplishment is also a point of pride for students, faculty and staff at the UT Martin Somerville Center, as well as a contingent of supporters from Fayette County who were present to see Hester cross the commencement stage. The new college graduate holds the distinction of being the first student to enroll in UT Martin classes when they were first offered in Somerville and then complete all of his college credits at the center to earn his degree. His success will help to inspire others who can follow in his footsteps and earn a University of Tennessee degree without leaving Fayette County.

Hester not only earned a college degree, but he also followed his interest in criminal justice that will allow him to pursue his law enforcement career goals. “It (law enforcement) was something that I always wanted to do because I love watching shows like Law and Order, SVU and CSI, and it was something that always grabbed my interest,” he said, adding, “The main thing is I like to help people.”

Read the full story in the UT Martin news archive.
BENCH PRESENTATION – The UT Martin League of Striving Artists presented four book benches to the Paul Meek Library on April 18. These benches were painted by student members of the League of Striving Artists under the oversight of faculty adviser Jason Stout (center, left), associate professor of art. They are currently on display inside the library.

NEW OFFICERS – Officers Ryan Schaeffer (left) and Harvey Anthony (right) were sworn in May 17 as members of the UT Martin Department of Public Safety. They are pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver.

UT Transparency Initiative
UT Interim President Randy Boyd’s UT Transparency Initiative seeks to make commonly-requested information available to the public for all UT campuses. This information, including entries for UT Martin, can be found at tennessee.edu/transparency.
Kid College returns to West Tennessee

Parents of children entering kindergarten through fifth grade can register their children for UT Martin Kid College activities in one of four locations this June.

The most comprehensive Kid College events will be held June 10-14 on the UT Martin main campus. Registration at this location is $30 per class, per child, with a maximum of five classes per child. The first class block begins at 9 a.m., and final pickup is at 3 p.m. Individual schedules will vary based on class selection. Some courses have individual supply fees which must be paid directly to the course instructor on the first day of class. The initial registration fee includes a Kid College T-shirt.

Class choices for children entering kindergarten through second grade include disc golf, science lab, kids in the kitchen, bowling, mission to Mars, basketball and painting, among others. Options for children entering third through fifth grades include adventures in engineering, animal careers, karate, yoga, violin, mission to Mars, science lab, painting and soccer, among others. A full list of available courses can be found on the Kid College website at utm.edu/kidcollege.

Kid College will also be held at the UT Martin Somerville Center from 8:15-11:50 a.m., June 3-7, and include courses on scientific explorers, outdoor adventures, art and reading. The Parsons Center will host Kid College from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., June 24-27, and include courses on animal habitats, outdoor adventures, theatre and recycled crafts. The McNairy County Center/Selmer will host activities from 8:30-11:45 a.m., June 24-28, and include courses on exploring the rainforest, creating jungle art and cultures of the jungle.

Registration at these three locations is $95 per child and includes a Kid College T-shirt and supplies for all courses. Parents will be sent an email the week prior to Kid College containing additional information for this year’s activities. Please contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104 if you do not receive this email.

Visit utm.edu/kidcollege to register online, see a complete list of course options and find extended information for parents. For assistance or more information, contact UT Martin outreach at 731-881-7104.

May/June Calendar

- **May 20** – SOAR session; Boling University Center; 8:30 a.m.
- **May 21** – SOAR session; Boling University Center; 8:30 a.m.
- **May 24** – Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony; University Center plaza; 9 a.m.
- **May 27** – Memorial Day observed; no classes and administrative offices closed
- **May 30** – Administrative drop date for summer semester
- **May 30** – UT Martin choro ensemble; Rhythm on the Rails, Discovery Park of America, Union City; 6:30 p.m.; admission
- **May 31** – Maymester classes end
- **May 31** – Transfer and Adult Orientation session; Boling University Center; 9 a.m.
- **June 3** – Summer 1 begins
- **June 3** – Maymester grades due
- **June 7** – SOAR session; Boling University Center; 8:30 a.m.
- **June 9-15** – Rodeo competes in 71st annual College National Finals Rodeo; Casper, Wyoming
- **June 18** – Transfer and Adult Orientation session; Boling University Center; 9 a.m.
- **June 20** – Skyhawk Club Golf Tournament; Persimmon Hills Golf Course in Sharon; 11 a.m.
- **June 21** – SOAR session; Boling University Center; 8:30 a.m.