Roy Herron
Connects Faith
And Politics In
New Book

Roy Herron has faith in the American people and the good that our American system of government can do for people. The former Tennessee state senator and Dresden, Tennessee, native makes the case for connecting faith and politics in his latest book, “Faith in Politics: Southern Political Battles Past and Present.” He discussed the book and shared reasons for his optimism about the future during a presentation Tuesday, Nov. 2, in UT Martin’s Paul Meek Library. The book is published by the University of Tennessee Press and provides a selection of his writings over four

UT Martin to host Veterans Week Activities

UT Martin will honor active military personnel and veterans during the week of Nov. 8-12.

On Monday, Nov. 8, the 129th Army Band performed from noon-12:30 p.m. in room 136 of the Fine Arts Building. The 129th Army Band is headquartered at Houston Barracks in Nashville and led by Chief Warrant Officer Billy Stepp and Acting First Sergeant, Sergeant First Class Tim Keyser.

The UT Martin Veterans Services team and ROTC students will travel to W.D. Bill Manning State Veterans’ Home in Humboldt on Tuesday, Nov. 9, to thank the residents for their service.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to join the “veterans walk” through the quad at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Participants are encouraged to wear patriotic clothing. The walk will begin at the battlefield cross monument outside Paul Meek Library.

On Thursday, Nov. 11, a Veterans Day program will be broadcast at utm.edu/veteransday2021 and will be archived on the UT Martin YouTube account for later viewing. This year’s keynote speaker is Assistant Commissioner Patrick Rice of Tennessee Veteran Affairs.

The community is invited to a Zoom event on Friday, Nov. 12, to hear from local veteran groups. Speakers will include representatives from the Weakley County Veterans Affairs office, Combat Veterans Association, and many others. Contact Jason Earley, veteran services coordinator, at jearley3@utm.edu for the link.

The week will conclude with a Veterans Bowl flag football game at 11 a.m. at the intramural field behind the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

For more information about these events, call 731-881-1689.
Dr. Jason DeVito, professor of mathematics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics recently gave online presentations on his research in two separate international seminars: The Irish Geometry Seminar, hosted by National University of Ireland at Galway, Ireland, and the Durham Geometry and Topology seminar, hosted by Durham University, U.K. Dr. DeVito has also been invited to give a presentation in the Geometry and Topology Seminar at the Philipps-Universität Marburg, in Germany. The presentation, titled “Double Disk Bundles,” was recorded by Durham University and is available at this link.

Dr. Mercan Derafshi, assistant professor of fashion merchandising in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, recently presented her research at the International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA) annual conference. The title of her presentation was, “Application of Experience Based Learning: Wardrobe Analysis Project.”

FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITY – Dr. Phil Cavalier, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, recently met with of the Faculty Learning Community to discuss progress on research projects and the challenges that came from teaching labs long-distance. Members in attendance included Dr. Bethany Wolters, assistant professor of plant and soil science; Dr. Adam Bruner, assistant professor of chemistry; Dr. Tony Delmond, assistant professor of agricultural economics; and Dr. Tim Dasinger, assistant professor of health and human performance. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Bonnie Daniel, a specialist in the Instructional Technology Center.
decades as a legislator, attorney, teacher, and Methodist minister.

The UT Martin and Vanderbilt University graduate is a well-known leader and political figure who served as Tennessee state representative from 1987 to 1997 and state senator from 1997 to 2013, representing Weakley County and 10 other counties in West and Middle Tennessee. During this work, he published op-ed essays and articles in Tennessee’s leading newspapers and publications from “The Japan Times” to “The Wall Street Journal” on various topics including constitutional liberties, economic justice, health care, politics and more. This new volume collects almost 50 of those pieces and investigates how faith and politics are not mutually exclusive, as well as Herron’s belief that faith and spirituality should guide decision making and advocacy in public life.

“I think these essays are at least my best attempt to argue that there’s a place for our faith in politics and that when our politics is shaped by our faith, by the best and deepest of our values, that our politics could be lifegiving and life enhancing and can help us be who we are called to be,” Herron said to the audience. He offered several examples both personally and from the book where elected officials from the major political parties cooperated so that government worked for the benefit of the people they served.

Herron’s most personal story recalled the complicated pregnancy of his wife, Nancy, that threatened the lives of the couple’s twin sons. Thanks to a talented physician educated in public universities, surfactant developed through publicly funded research, and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s Newborn Intensive Care Unit that also benefited from government research, both babies were safely born. “By God’s grace and what we, the American people, did through our governments, those babies survived,” Herron said.

While noting the good that government can accomplish, the author and attorney described what he called “endless partisanship” that threatens the cooperation needed to move the country forward. “At a time like this, ladies and gentlemen, part of what I want to do in the book and in this conversation is to lift up other people who did it differently.” His examples of bipartisan accomplishments included famous Tennessee leaders Howard Baker, Ned Ray McWherter, Jimmy Quillen and Lamar Alexander.

Herron described Baker as one of his heroes and the “father of the modern Republican Party in Tennessee.” Baker worked with President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, to pass the Panama Canal Treaty and with other Democrats to establish the Clean Air Act. “Give him his credit. He (Baker) could be and was at times partisan when the election time came around,” Herron said. “But when it wasn’t election time, when it was time to govern, Howard Baker treated everybody the way you’d want to be treated in accordance with the Golden Rule – he worked with everybody in both parties.”

Also gifted at working across political party lines was Weakley County native Ned Ray McWherter. The former Democratic Tennessee speaker of the house and governor worked with U.S. Rep. Jimmy Quillen, a Republican representing the state’s first congressional district, to establish East Tennessee State University’s Quillen College of Medicine. McWherter was speaker of the house at the time and understood that the Tri-Cities was closer to Canada than the one state medical school in Memphis, and that part of the state desperately needed a medical school. “Ned McWherter and Jimmy Quillen worked together, and lives were saved because of that effort, because of that work,” he said.

Also saving lives was the work of then Republican Gov. Lamar Alexander andSpeaker McWherter to create a road program in Tennessee that began under Alexander and was completed when McWherter became governor. In addition to creating economic opportunities, Herron said the road program also saved countless lives. “We may not think of that first, but not only does it make it quicker, more convenient and easier to travel, but those divided highways have saved thousands of lives across this state, and that’s something they (McWherter and Alexander) did in a bipartisan way, ” he said.

Herron closed by telling the audience that his “faith in politics” is really about his faith in people and what we can do collectively to address important challenges. “In a word, if my message tonight is anything, it is that I do have faith in politics because I have faith in ‘we the people,’ and I think the possibilities are enormous,” he said.

“Faith in Politics” includes historic photos and cartoons drawn by well-known Knoxville editorial cartoonist Charlie Daniel. The book is available through the University of Tennessee Press at www.utpress.org or by calling 1-800-621-2736 with 100% of Herron’s royalties going to support college scholarships for Tennessee students.
FALL PREVIEW DAY A SUCCESS – The second and final Fall Preview Day for 2021 welcomed more than 600 participants to campus Nov. 6. Of that total, 272 were prospective students. Part of the Fall Preview Day crowd is pictured at the Information Fair held in the Elam Center. The event also included a welcome from Chancellor Keith Carver, a student panel, departmental visits and a campus tour. Fall Preview Day guests also had the opportunity to attend the home football game that afternoon with Tennessee State University.

You Tell Me

• Question – The holiday closing schedule says that UT Martin will be closed Dec. 24, 2021, and doesn’t reopen until Jan. 3, 2022. Is this correct?

• Answer – Yes, this is correct. Because Jan. 1, 2022, falls on a Saturday, the New Year’s Day holiday will be observed Friday, Dec. 31. Offices will reopen Monday, Jan. 3. Spring semester classes begin Thursday, Jan. 13.

SOCcer competes for tournament title – Emely van der Vliet, a sophomore from Rosmalen, Netherlands, competes in the OVC Tournament Championship match Nov. 7 at Skyhawk Soccer Field against Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The regular-season champion Skyhawks fell in a 1-0 heartbreaker in the first overtime period to SIUE, falling short in the team’s bid for a berth in the NCAA post-season tournament. The Skyhawks enjoyed a successful 2021 campaign with five Skyhawks earning All-OVC honors; Kamryn Chappell earning Defensive Player of the Year; Parker Gelinas earning Freshman of the Year honors; and Phil McNamara earning OVC Coach of the Year for the third time. Emely van der Vliet earned national attention two days earlier with a “SportsCenter Top 10” worthy game-winning goal against Tennessee Tech that sent the Skyhawks to the championship match.

The 18th Annual Empty Bowls

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 20, Student Life Center (119 Moody Street)

You Tell Me

• Question – The holiday closing schedule says that UT Martin will be closed Dec. 24, 2021, and doesn’t reopen until Jan. 3, 2022. Is this correct?

• Answer – Yes, this is correct. Because Jan. 1, 2022, falls on a Saturday, the New Year’s Day holiday will be observed Friday, Dec. 31. Offices will reopen Monday, Jan. 3. Spring semester classes begin Thursday, Jan. 13.

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