CJ PROGRAM AWARDED FUNDING

Grant addresses de-escalation, emergency response for law enforcement

A USDA Delta Health Care Services grant has been awarded to the UT Martin Criminal Justice Program for its De-escalation Techniques and Emergency Response Project. The two-year DETER Project is funded at $547,293 and will develop a public-health training facility on the university’s Martin campus to deliver de-escalation and emergency health intervention education and training to reduce the injury and mortality rates of police-citizen encounters.

Jackson State Community College and Carey Counseling Center, Inc., will partner with UT Martin for the project, which includes the purchase of a VirTra judgmental use-of-force simulator and real-life de-escalation training. Drs. Brian Donavant and Cindy Boyles, both UT Martin criminal justice faculty members, wrote the grant and will guide the project.

In the grant proposal, Donavant and Boyles noted that major health organizations, including the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization, recognize the health and mental health impacts of excessive police force. DETER will provide needed training to social workers, mental health professionals and citizen groups, as well as law enforcement officers as now required under Tennessee state law and under consideration in other Delta Region states.

“We’re excited to help police and our local communities reduce violence and improve public health,” Donavant said.

Continued on PAGE 3

Keys to Blue Oval City’s success previewed in WestStar Program

Ford Motor Company’s first new manufacturing plant since the 1960s will change West Tennessee. But until the first all-electric F-Series trucks are manufactured in 2025, much work is ahead to prepare for Blue Oval City, the $5.6 billion

Memphis Regional Megasite development announced in September by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee. Ford and SK Innovation will build a 3,600-acre campus for the project that will create thousands of new jobs in West Tennessee.

UT Martin WestStar’s Lunch-Learn-Leadership Program offered a preview of the future Nov. 10 as Brooxie Carlton, assistant commissioner, Tennessee Department of Community and Rural Development, and Gabby

Bruno, Ford regional director of government affairs, answered questions about Blue Oval City for more than 130 WestStar alumni and invited guests that included many elected officials.

Continued on PAGE 3
Dr. Laura G. Foltz served as the finance evaluator on the SACSCOC Off-Site Review Committee on Nov. 4-5. The committee reviewed three SACSCOC member institutions. This is Foltz’s third time serving as a finance evaluator for SACSCOC; cumulatively, she has reviewed five institutions.

Lane Last, professor of art, recently had a video artwork, “The Structure of Transcendence,” presented at the 9th International Video Art Festival of Camaguey, Cuba. The exhibition was held Nov. 8-10 at the University of Camaguey campus.

Delmond discusses regional food branding

The next event in the UT Martin Research Series features Dr. Anthony Delmond’s investigations into behavioral economic topics in health care, wine economics, and food issues. The public presentation beings at noon Nov. 30 in the Paul Meek Library.

“My research deals largely with regional branding for food and agricultural products,” he notes. This presentation will focus on geographical indications in the wine industry, such as the Napa Valley in California. “That collective reputation utilizes regional identifiers that are developed, maintained, and exploited throughout a deliberate marketing process.”

An assistant professor of agricultural economics, Delmond joined the faculty of UT Martin’s Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources in 2018. He has published on a wide variety of topics – everything from preferences for imported beer in China to the Russian consumers’ willingness to pay for genetically modified food. He has also examined alternative market opportunities for Tennessee-grown corn products, labor market responses to a pandemic, and aspects of the higher education learning experience for students. Dr. Delmond’s research has been supported by $25,000 in external grants in recent years.

Co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library, the monthly UT Martin Research Series highlights the research of campus faculty, staff and students. The event at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 30, is open to the public and will be held in the north reading room of the Paul Meek Library. Light refreshments will be served, and attendees are welcome to bring their lunch for the event.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot 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 Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

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“This is also a great opportunity for our students to gain critical insight and skills for their future careers.”

Karen Perrin, Jackson State assistant professor of criminal justice, said DETER will help to reduce risk to law enforcement officers and the people they serve. “This is a great opportunity for Jackson State, UT Martin and Carey Counseling to work together to facilitate meaningful change for our community,” Perrin stated.

DETER’s specific focus will include diverse and marginalized groups in the Delta Region, which includes West Tennessee and the counties and communities that support these groups. The project will improve public health by training current and aspiring police officers in critical assessment, de-escalation tactics and less-lethal strategies for citizen interaction. DETER will also train social workers and civilian crisis intervention teams, as well as educate adult, youth and minority stakeholders in strategies that reduce public-health risks during police interaction. More information about the DETER Project is available by contacting Donavant at bdonavan@utm.edu or Boyles at cboyles2@utm.edu.

The UT Martin Criminal Justice Program awards a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and partners with the Law Enforcement Innovation Center, an agency of the UT Institute of Public Service, to offer the National Forensic Academy Collegiate Program. The NFA Collegiate Program held its 10th program this past summer. Learn more about the UT Martin Criminal Justice Program at www.utm.edu/departments/crimjust/.

UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program previewed Blue Oval City during a Lunch-Learn-Leadership program Nov. 10 at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. The Ford Motor Company’s first new manufacturing plant since the 1960s will produce all-electric F-Series trucks at the $5.6 billion Memphis Regional Megasite development announced in September by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee. Ford and SK Innovation will build a 3,600-acre campus for the project that will create thousands of new jobs in West Tennessee. Gabby Bruno (pictured on the screen), Ford regional director of government affairs, and Brooxie Carlton, assistant commissioner, Tennessee Department of Community and Rural Development, answered questions about the project for more than 130 WestStar alumni and invited guests that included many elected officials.

The program was held at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. Carlton, a 2014 WestStar graduate, and Bruno, who participated by Zoom, answered questions from Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for university advancement, and Chancellor Keith Carver. Audience questions followed to complete the program.

Carlton noted early in her comments that Blue Oval City’s size and the spinoff companies that will support the project will require a prepared workforce. “It comes up in every single conversation that I have and making sure that you’re preparing your workforce,” she said. From high schools to colleges and universities, the job of educating a qualified workforce is critical to the project’s success. “Traditionally, for every one direct automotive assembly job, there are another seven plus indirect jobs that are created from suppliers into the local businesses like restaurants and retail stores that employees frequent,” Bruno said. “Definitely being prepared for the change that we know is coming will be key.”

Other keys to the projects success include planning for smart growth, Ford’s community involvement in the region and learning from other communities that have experienced similar announcements such as Spring Hill and Chattanooga. You can read the entire story here.
UT Martin honors faculty and staff who served 20 and 25 years at the university during the annual Service Awards Luncheon on Oct. 26

UT MARTIN EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE – Pictured (l,r) are Chancellor Keith Carver; Sheryl Breeden, College of Business and Global Affairs; Karen Elmore, Paul Meek Library; Tomi McCutchen, Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication; and UT System President Randy Boyd. Not pictured are Tonia Cox, Office of Academic Records; Jerry Garcia, Department of Public Safety; and Melanie Morris, Office of Interdisciplinary Studies.

UT MARTIN EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE – Pictured (seated, l,r) are Scarlett McKinney, Information Technology Services; Erica Bell, Office of Educational Outreach; Dana Breland, Paul Meek Library; Dr. Lori Littleton, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; Bonnie Daniel, Instructional Technology Center; (back row) Chancellor Keith Carver; Dr. Richard Robinson, Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication; Dr. Thomas Blanchard, Department of Biological Sciences; Craig Ingram, Information Technology Services; Eric Simmons, Office of Campus Recreation; Dr. George Daniel, Division of Student Affairs; William Lewis, Building Services; and UT System President Randy Boyd. Not pictured are Dr. Laura Brown, Department of Health and Human Performance; Dr. Gloria Browning, Department of Nursing; Dr. David Coffey, Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Carol Eckert, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts; Dr. Elaine Harriss, Department of Music; Dr. Heidi Huse, Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages; Tara Jahr, Bursar’s Office; and Brian Johnson, Department of Psychology.

DR. DANIEL PIGG PRESENTS AS FACULTY SCHOLAR – Dr. Daniel Pigg, professor of English and UT Martin’s fall 2021 Featured Faculty Scholar, discussed his experiences during his decades of research in his presentation “How to Support Your Local Medievalist: Teaching and Researching Medieval Literature at UT Martin” on Oct. 25. Pictured (l,r) are Chancellor Keith Carver, Pigg, and Dr. Lynn Alexander, the dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

JACKSON SYMPHONY TRIP – On the evening of Saturday, Nov. 6, Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish, Dr. Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese and Dr. Chuck Hammond, professor of German led a group of 15 UT Martin students to see the Jackson Symphony perform Beethoven’s 1st and 9th Symphonies and dine at The Blacksmith Restaurant in Jackson. The Symphony was accompanied by the UT Martin Choirs.
CONGRATULATIONS
SKYHAWKS!

2021 OVC CHAMPIONS
You Tell Me

• Question – Remind me what I do when I receive spam or possible phishing emails. I know it’s important to report it.

• Answer – Yes, reporting these kinds of email is important and is covered in the annual SANS security awareness training. When you receive suspicious email, report it to abuse@utm.edu and also use the “Report Message” button to submit the email as “junk” to Microsoft. IT can immediately block emails, and reporting to Microsoft helps to teach the algorithms which emails are bad. If you only want to take one of these steps, using the “Report Message” button is recommended. Remember - You Are the Shield.

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