Search continues for provost/vice chancellor of academic affairs

UT Martin is restarting a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Dr. Jerald Ogg, who held the dual position since 2011, returned to the faculty in the Department of Communications earlier this summer.

Dr. Richard Helgeson, formerly dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, was selected to fill the position for a one-year interim term when the original search ended without a candidate being hired.

The vice chancellor for academic affairs is UT Martin’s chief academic officer. This position articulates a vision for academic affairs, provides leadership for the academic planning process and is responsible for the university’s core academic mission. The university provost directs the institution in the chancellor’s absence.

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of park management in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, includes UT Martin faculty, staff and student representation.

Serving on the search committee with Smartt are Dr. Christopher Brown, professor of philosophy; Heidi Busch, assistant professor, Paul Meek Library; Dr. Chris Caldwell, faculty senate president; Dr. Nell Gullett, professor of finance; Dr. Louis Kolitsch, professor of mathematics; John Hayes, Student Government Association representative; Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director, Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement; Petra McPhearson, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration; Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology; and Dr. Victoria Seng, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

Finalists are anticipated to begin on-campus interviews in the early spring, and the selected candidate will fill the position beginning with the 2018-19 academic year.

Ashlie Czyz, director of human resources programs and executive recruiter for the University of Tennessee System, continues to serve as executive recruiter for this position. For more information or to nominate a candidate or express interest, contact Czyz at aczyz@tennessee.edu.

WestStar Leadership Program accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted for the WestStar Leadership Program’s class of 2018. The application deadline is Oct. 13.

This program is the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee and boasts 978 graduates in its 28-year history. The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to West Tennessee’s development. Each seminar takes place over one-and-a-half days. The program begins Dec. 12 with an opening one-day retreat and ends June 21, 2018, with an evening graduation ceremony.

The WestStar mission is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved and help West Tennessee become a better place, and are willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape West Tennessee’s future.

For additional information or to apply, contact the WestStar Leadership Program at 731-881-7298 or visit utm.edu/departments/weststar.
YoUTMs highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Michelle Merwin, professor of psychology, and Dr. Joseph Ostenson, associate professor of psychology, presented a paper at the American Psychological Association’s annual convention titled “Connecting Students to Lived Experiences,” which was part of a symposium titled “Diverse Voices, Rich Evidence – Critical Approaches to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.”

Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history, has an article titled “Lawrence of Arabia: A Dying Empire’s Cri de Coeur” published in “Film and History: An Interdisciplinary Journal.”

Dr. Ann Gathers, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology, and Andrew Morency (not pictured), lab instructor for the Department of Biological Sciences, made learning science fun this summer with hands-on STEM activities for the children at the Martin Housing Authority’s Learning Enrichment Center.

The activities focused on the science of our senses. Children explored the fundamentals of hearing and smell using everyday objects such as Skittles and tea bags to demonstrate diffusion and balloon amplifiers and comb kazoos for lessons about sound waves. Gathers and Morency also engaged teens at the Crossroads Center in a lesson on vision and gave them the opportunity to handle sheep eyes and discover their own blind spots.

Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history, has an article titled “Lawrence of Arabia: A Dying Empire’s Cri de Coeur” published in “Film and History: An Interdisciplinary Journal.”

ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION – The UT Martin Intensive English Program has completed the one-year review process and received five-year accreditation from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation. CEA is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for English language programs and institutions in the United States. Pictured left are members of UT Martin’s international student community, including current international and exchange students, staff members from the Office of International Admissions and International Programs, and faculty members from various areas of campus that serve high numbers of international students.

Addenda is published weekly during the academic year. Please send Addenda news to Erin Chesnut at echesnut@utm.edu by noon each Thursday for inclusion in the next issue.

If you need a new university headshot, call the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615 to make an appointment, free of charge.
SMITH HONORED – Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, was honored Aug. 31 with the dedication of the Robert M. Smith Legislative Chamber in the Boling University Center. Smith was officially named UT Martin’s 10th chancellor and given the emeritus title during a UT Board of Trustees meeting earlier this year after serving 19 months as interim chancellor beginning in June 2015. Members of the 2016 UT Martin Student Government Association recommended the renaming of the legislative chamber, where both student government and faculty senate meet, in honor of Smith, and he is the first individual to be recognized in this way by the student body. The dedication event, filled to standing-room-only capacity, featured remarks from Chancellor Keith Carver, current SGA president Jordan Long, faculty senate president Chris Caldwell and Smith himself. (l-r) Carver, Long and Smith are pictured after the unveiling.

NEW TOWN AND GOWN MEMBER – The UT Martin and City of Martin Town and Gown Association met for a breakfast meeting Aug. 29 in the Dunagan Alumni Center. Kurt McGuffin, new university athletics director, was the featured speaker, and several reports were offered, including updates by Chancellor Keith Carver and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige. Also, Angela Miller (center), of Miller’s Insurance, was welcomed as a new Town and Gown member. She is joined by Brad Thompson, director of Martin Economic and Community Development, and Jackie Johnson, associate director of UT Martin Alumni Programs and Town and Gown program coordinator.

The UT Martin Jackson Center is hosting its fall semester open house from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 7. The event will include information on degree programs, work-study opportunities, the Tennessee STRONG program and other available resources. The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development will also be represented to help students determine possible career paths. If you are in the area, please make plans to stop by.
ALUM SPEAKS TO FRESHMEN EDUCATION MAJORS – Rhonda Thompson, a 1999 UT Martin education graduate, spoke to Mark Hewitt’s PEP group Aug. 25 in Gallien Auditorium. The freshmen education majors learned about cyber safety and how to avoid social media and online behavior that can hinder opportunities for employment as a teacher. Thompson, who lives in Nashville, is a staff member for the Tennessee Education Association. Hewitt is a lecturer in the Department of Educational Studies.

Reminder

All faculty and staff are required to complete IT security and awareness training through Canvas before Dec. 31. For additional information, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 731-881-7900.

UT Martin to host Family Weekend

Registration for UT Martin’s first Family Weekend is open now at utm.edu/familyweekend. Weekend packages are $25 per person and must be reserved in advance and paid for upon pick-up.

Visit the website for more information on the package, as well as a variety of special events planned for the occasion.

Additional information and assistance can be obtained by contacting Lora McDonald at 731-881-3630.

UT Martin to host Family Weekend

Homecoming 2017

CAPTAIN OF THE CARIBBEAN
Oct. 6-8
Washington Monthly says UT Martin is ‘best bang for the buck’

Washington Monthly’s 2017 college guide and rankings publication lists UT Martin among the “best bang for the buck” schools in the southern United States. UT Martin comes in at number eight on this annual list, up significantly from 17th in 2016. It is the top-ranked Tennessee school in this category, with Tennessee Wesleyan College being the only other in-state school to break the top 20.

Washington Monthly bases its “best bang for the buck” rankings on a series of criteria designed to help students of all income brackets obtain a marketable degree for a reasonable price. Evaluation categories include such items as student loan repayment rates, estimated post-graduation earning potential and percentage of first-generation college students selected for admission.

Washington Monthly rankings are released each September and focus on data gathered in the previous 12-month period.

• Sept. 5-16 – “Guitar as Art” exhibit; Fine Arts Building Gallery
• Sept. 5 – Tennessee Soybean Festival Parade; begins on University Street in front of Hardy M. Graham Stadium; 6:30 p.m.
• Sept. 5 – Live and Let Die, a tribute to Paul McCartney; free admission; Festival Park Stage, downtown Martin; 8 p.m.
• Sept. 6 – Crossroads Luncheon: A Celebration of Civic Organizations; Boling University Center, Duncan Ballroom; noon-1 p.m.; RSVP to Steve Vantrease at svantrease@utm.edu
• Sept. 6 – Martin Area Community Choir, Faith and Community Night; free admission; First Baptist Church sanctuary; 7 p.m.
• Sept. 6 – Alpha Gamma Rho cornhole tournament; Lindell Street; 7:30 p.m.
• Sept. 6 – Echosmith, UT Martin student night; Festival Park Stage, downtown Martin; 9:30 p.m.*
• Sept. 7 – UT Martin Jackson Center open house reception; Jackson; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
• Sept. 7 – Clint Black, soybean celebration concert; free admission; Festival Park Stage, downtown Martin; 8 p.m.
• Sept. 8 – Volleyball vs University of Alabama Birmingham; Skyhawk Fieldhouse; 4:30 p.m.
• Sept. 8 – World Percussion Ensemble performance at Soybean Festival; Virginia Weldon Park; 5 p.m.
• Sept. 8 – Jamaica Me Happy performance at Soybean Festival; Virginia Weldon Park; 6:30 p.m.
• Sept. 8 – Soccer vs Arkansas State; Skyhawk Soccer Field; 7 p.m.
• Sept. 8 – Air Supply; Festival Park Stage, downtown Martin; 9 p.m.*
• Sept. 9 – Softball vs. Jackson State; Bettye Giles Softball Field; 10 a.m.
• Sept. 9 – Volleyball vs Indiana; Skyhawk Fieldhouse; 10 a.m.
• Sept. 9 – Break for Bach, featuring Dr. Elaine Harris, professor of music; and Bethany Ostenson; C. E. Weldon Public Library; 10-11 a.m.
• Sept. 9 – The House Band and Friends, comprised of faculty and staff from UT Martin and WLJT; new Oxford Street Stage on the corner of Oxford and Lindell streets; 7 p.m.
• Sept. 9 – Lynyrd Skynyrd; Festival Park Stage, downtown Martin; 9 p.m.*
• Sept. 10 – Sodexo Sunday Brunch; Boling University Center, Skyhawk Dining Hall; 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

*Admission charge

Reminder

All regular employees must complete a conflict of interest disclosure form by Sept. 15, 2017. Contact the Office of Finance and Administration at 731-881-7800 for more information.

You Tell Me

• Question – What are the fall semester hours for the UT Martin Recycling Center? And where is the center located?
• Answer – The UT Martin Recycling Center is open from 7 a.m.-1 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and from 3-6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the fall 2017 semester. The center is located in the former National Guard Armory building on Moody Avenue. For those new to the area, Moody Avenue is located between Hardy M. Graham Stadium and the Grove Apartment complex on University Street. The Recycling Center is at the end of the road.

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