Dr. Keith Carver to be recommended as next UT Martin chancellor

Dr. Keith Carver, executive assistant to the president of the University of Tennessee System, has been selected by UT President Joe DiPietro to serve as the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

DiPietro will recommend Carver’s election to the post by the UT Board of Trustees during its Oct. 13-14 meeting in Knoxville.

“Keith brings a tremendous amount of knowledge and love for UT Martin to this role,” DiPietro said. “He understands the culture and communities of Northwest Tennessee and has extensive relationships on campus, in the community and across the state. He recognizes the progress UT Martin has made as a campus to address critical issues and identify new opportunities.”

Pending approval by the board, Carver’s effective start date will be Jan. 3. An internal search to fill the executive assistant position will begin soon, with the intent of having someone in place by the end of the year.

Carver will replace Dr. Tom Rakes, who in April 2015 announced he was returning to the classroom. Dr. Bob Smith has served as interim chancellor since May 2015.

Previously, Smith was president of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and he was dean of UT Martin’s School of Arts and Sciences from 1987 to 1999.

“I’m grateful to Bob for his superior leadership as interim chancellor,” DiPietro said. “He’s done an exceptional job enhancing our mission to serve the people, communities and businesses of West Tennessee.”

The search for the next UT Martin chancellor began in March 2016 and was conducted by a 21-member committee of faculty, staff, students and community members chaired by UT Chattanooga Chancellor Steve Angle.

The committee selected four candidates to bring to campus for open forums in August and September.

Carver has served as executive assistant to the president since January 2011. Prior to that, he held roles at UT campuses in Knoxville, Martin and Memphis, including serving as interim vice chancellor for development and alumni affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin.

He held several positions at UT Knoxville including assistant director and director of development and alumni affairs for the College of Law, program director for the Office of Student Activities and co-director of TeamVOLS.

He also worked as director of special projects and coordinator of experiential education at Marietta College in Ohio for two years.

Carver has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Memphis, a master’s degree in college student personnel and educational leadership from UT Knoxville and a doctoral degree from UT Knoxville. His doctoral dissertation was titled, “A Study of Presidential Derailment in Public Research Universities.”

Keith and his wife, Hollianne, are the parents of a daughter, Carson, and two sons, Jack Thomas (J.T.) and Britton.
Dr. Mark Simmons, director of choral activities, and a group of UT Martin students have partnered with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra to take a reduced children’s version of Mozart’s opera “The Magic Flute” into elementary schools, children’s hospital wards and centers for adults with intellectual disabilities. The first set of performances took place Sept. 14 at St. Mary’s Catholic School of Jackson and the Therapy and Learning Center of Jackson.

Several entries in the Paul Meek Library’s Play-Doh Sculpture Contest received awards Sept. 21 after staff members tallied 222 submitted votes. Twenty-six sculptures competed for the honor of first-place, which went to Heather Wilson with her creation, “Dragon.” Only two votes separated first and second place, which went to Jessica Herman with “Playful Puppy.” Third through ninth-place awards were also given.

The executive committee for the College of Business and Global Affairs has voted to support both Dr. Melanie Bruce (above), assistant professor of marketing, and Dr. Carrie Humphreys (not pictured), assistant professor of political science, with CBGA New Faculty Grants. These grants will allow Bruce to lead a December travel study to Australia, with Humphreys assisting. The support comes in part because their efforts will support student experiential learning.

Dr. Matthew Braddock, assistant professor of philosophy, recently gave an academic presentation at the international MANCEPT conference on political philosophy at the Manchester Centre for Political Theory, University of Manchester, United Kingdom. His presentation was titled “Guidance from precautionary principles: should we treat vegetative and minimally conscious patients as persons?”

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Applications for the 2017 Giving Circle grant program must be submitted to the UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts via Evisions by Oct. 28 for review. For more information, contact Jennifer Cooper at 731-881-7011.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE – Three UT Martin students were elected to executive offices during the Tennessee Collegiate Chapter of the National Association for Music Education kick off Sept. 10 at Middle Tennessee State University. Pictured (l-r) are Ebonee Woodland, elected vice president of the state chapter; Jenna Kirby, elected secretary of the state chapter; Dr. Jamila McWhirter, MTSU host; Michael Keenan, elected president of the West Tennessee chapter; and Garrett Doo, president of the Middle Tennessee chapter.

The Addenda newsletter is published weekly during the academic year. Send your Addenda news to Erin Chesnut at echesnut@utm.edu by noon on Thursdays.
Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board funds UT Martin research

The Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board has recently awarded the University of Tennessee at Martin three grants, totaling more than $34,000, to support faculty research projects.

Drs. Barbara Darroch, Paula Gale and Sandy Mehlhorn, all from the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, were grant recipients.

Darroch will conduct a project titled “The Effect of Planting and Maturity Group on Plant Development and Yield of Soybeans” to evaluate the effect of seeding date on representative soybean cultivators from different soybean maturity groups.

A replicated field trial will look at early and late seeding dates, which will be similar to standard seeding dates used by farmers when planting soybeans after no winter cover crop (early date) or after wheat has been harvested in late spring or early summer.

Gale’s project, titled “Measuring Water Dynamics in Soybean Production Systems: A Student Learning Opportunity,” involves measuring both percolation and infiltration of water in soybean production systems under a variety of different winter cover crops. This project is student-centered and will provide students with a full spectrum of research experiences, from experiential design to data interpretation and presentation.

“Project RTOT: Enhancing Unmanned Aerial System-based Precision Agriculture Education by Integrating Research, Teaching and Outreach in Tennessee,” conducted by Mehlhorn, takes a three-fold approach to integrate research, teaching and outreach based on a collaborative effort between UT Martin and Middle Tennessee State University, two of Tennessee’s non-land-grant universities. The overall theme is to enhance unmanned aerial system-based precision agriculture.

This initiative benefits producers, agronomists and economists through UAS-centered remote sensing research within different cropping systems; helps students and faculty members through instrument acquisition and teaching enhancement; and improves public understanding and awareness of UAS-based technology through outreach activities.

“The Tennessee Soybean Promotion (Board is a) great partner to the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. (It) understand(s) our mission of including students in applied research to answer important questions in soybean production,” said Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

The Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board strives to ensure soybean farmers have access to the best tools, resources and information to help address issues they face in the field. Providing sponsored funding opportunities for colleges like UT Martin allows the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board to invest and leverage soybean checkoff dollars to maximize profit opportunities for soybean farmers.

Closing the Loop

This is a recurring section to recognize offices and departments that have gathered data and used it to make informed decisions for the positive impact of their area.

Hortense Parrish Writing Center

The Hortense Parrish Writing Center requires visitors to log in and out when visiting the center and using its services. These attendance records are maintained by an attendance coordinator and track daily, weekly and semester visitor rates. The attendance numbers, combined with an analysis of current and expected course offerings, is used to make decisions such as hours of operation, types of services and number of staff on duty.

The center also keeps data on the types of questions asked of staff members and the kinds of tutoring services requested. It was found that many students ask for assistance using APA documentation style, so references materials on this style were purchased for the center’s library. Writing tutors were also given special training on APA style and how to assist the students who use it. Additional staff training and online reference tutorials have also been created and applied based on this data.

Data shows that students who return to the Writing Center and complete multiple tutoring sessions have improved attitude and involvement in the sessions. Professors of introductory-level English courses were asked to encourage writing assignments that incorporate a discussion with a writing tutor in order to maintain this trend.
The Tennessee Great War Commission, established by Gov. Bill Haslam, will host Dr. Sean McMeekin, prize-winning author and professor of history at Bard College in New York, as the Carls-Schwerdfeger lecturer Oct. 3 in Jackson.

McMeekin will give a presentation titled “The War of 1914: An Avoidable Catastrophe” at 7:15 p.m. in Union University’s G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel.

An art exhibit featuring World War I propaganda posters from 1917-1918 is also on display Oct. 1-Nov. 15 in the Germantown Community Library.

These are the first of several West Tennessee events hosted by the TGWC as part of its mission to tell the story of the Volunteer State and its citizens during World War I.

A symposium will be held Nov. 4-6 at various locations in the Jackson area. Speakers from across the country will be featured at this event to discuss a variety of issues related to the Great War and the Tennesseans who served in it. All events are free and open to the public.

The commission and its events are sponsored in part by the University of Tennessee at Martin as well as many other statewide organizations.

For more information, contact Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam distinguished professor of history at UT Martin and a member of the TGWC, at accarls@utm.edu or 731-881-7472.

The Addenda is looking for contributors to a new bi-monthly column. October’s topic is: Travel Stories or advice

Submissions of approximately 400 words should be sent to Erin Chesnut at echesnut@utm.edu. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and AP style. Submissions will be chosen at the discretion of the University Relations staff and should not contain inflammatory content. Depending on interest and submission quality, this article will run on the second and fourth Monday of the month.

You Tell Me

UT Martin Q&A

• Question – Who chooses the annual UT Martin homecoming theme?

• Answer – The Undergraduate Alumni Council, comprised of current UT Martin students, develops homecoming theme suggestions and forwards these to the homecoming committee. The homecoming committee chooses a theme and then sends the idea to the vice chancellor for university advancement and the chancellor for final approval. This year’s theme is “Superheroes with Captain Skyhawk,” with original artwork created by students from the League of Striving Artists under the direction of Jason Stout, associate professor of art. This is the second year for students to develop the homecoming artwork that appears on T-shirts and other promotional items. (Homecoming T-shirts are now on sale through the Office of Alumni Relations.)

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