

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

CAMPUS SCENE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

VOLUME LIV WINTER/SPRING 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

CAPTAIN
20
SKYHAWK
celebrates
TWENTY YEARS





CHANCELLOR'S

Dr. Tom Rakes, *UT Martin Chancellor* CORNER

>>> We continue to celebrate ongoing achievements and successful alumni and students as featured in this issue of the Campus Scene. The issue is special as we provide some historic perspective concerning Captain Skyhawk and how Captain has evolved over a 20-year period of time. This feature reflects the changing nature of UT Martin and our continuing progress toward becoming an even stronger comprehensive institution. From the perspective of competitive academic and athletic programs, our students, alumni, faculty and staff continue to reach new highs and expand levels of achievement. We are excited to share these stories.

Enrollment challenges remain, and more than two dozen different programs, processes, and new scholarship opportunities have been initiated within the past year. We are also nearing the completion of a campus-wide planning effort to roll out a new financial model that will ensure the viability and quality of programs for years to come. Among numerous achievements we have reached, new highs involving fundraising and external grant procurement. In December, two federal grants totaling over \$5.5 million dollars were extended by the U.S. Department of Education. A Teacher Quality partnership grant was received that will enable realignment of our teacher education programs to meet national and state standards and the other, a Trio Grant, to support more robust support for students who need additional mentoring. The academic success of our student athletes is at an all-time high, and the competitiveness of our teams continues to grow in multiple sports.

We are pleased that a new master's degree program in strategic communication will begin this fall with other online graduate programs on the way in sport management education, criminal justice and social work. These programs will not only boost graduate enrollment but also increase our listing within the Carnegie rankings of higher education institutions.

Within the structure of new UT System priorities, we are planning a bold effort to reallocate 6 percent of our total operating budget over the next two years to address priority segments within the university. We will be shifting existing budget support to areas of growth, as well as making enhancements to programs and needs that most positively impact the overall mission and enhancement of our institution.

Results are in from the 2014 Employee Engagement Survey and within the limits of employee-based data. Steps are underway to address numerous areas that we believe will improve the level of employee satisfaction and enhance the quality of the UTM work environment. We are proud to also be a part of a new Town and Gown initiative between UT Martin and the City of Martin. The effort will serve to better connect our students and employees to events, joint programs and planning to enhance the quality of life for everyone. We are also interfacing throughout Weakley County following a daylong planning meeting in Dresden to move forward with efforts to increase partnership linkages and better joint planning to meet multiple needs within the region.

Clearly, change is unfolding at UT Martin, and not surprisingly, we all will be involved in working cooperatively both on and off campus. I sense a growing spirit of expectation as we adjust to the evolving needs of everyone associated with the university and a growing agenda of changes and enhancements involving programs, services and opportunities for growth. Many of you are already aware that May 31 of this year will be my last day as chancellor. In this role I have enjoyed the challenges and ongoing interactions with so many wonderful individuals who reflect the true context of the institution. I will miss the daily opportunity to serve you, but I also look forward to building new interactions directly with our students and re-entering the world of academic scholarship.

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the big picture





UT MARTIN STUDENTS TAKE THIRD PLACE OVERALL IN SAE AERO DESIGN EAST ENGINEERING COMPETITION >>>

Eight engineering students from the University of Tennessee at Martin participated in the SAE Aero Design East competition, March 13-15, in Lakeland, Fla. The team placed third overall, as well as third in the "technological report" and "closest to target" categories. UT Martin was also the highest-ranked American team.

This year's participants are pictured (l-r): Alex Taylor, a senior from Cleveland, Tenn.; Dr. Doug Sterrett, professor of engineering; Eric Wilson, a senior from Martin; Jared Miller, a junior from Dickson; Brad Jones, a senior from Lexington; Cory Bullard, a senior from Booneville, Miss.; Michael Dawson, a senior from Henderson; Jan Brotherton, a senior from Hollow Rock; and Gauri Patel, a junior from Humboldt. Dawson is pursuing an electrical engineering concentration while the other students are pursuing mechanical engineering concentrations. Miller and Patel are projected to serve as team leaders purin the 2016 competition in Fort Worth, Texas.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT >>> Dr. Clinton Smith

*Assistant Professor of
Special Education*

Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor of special education, is more than a teacher. He is also a disciplinarian, counselor, coach and father to his students, most of whom have special-education needs. He believes educators can be most effective when they are involved in the lives of their students, and he has spent the past 27 years as an active participant and supporter of the Special Olympics Program.

At his first teaching job, Smith worked with his students to train for a basketball tournament for the Special Olympics, where they ultimately won first place in the area tournament and fourth place in the state tournament. He has continued his involvement since then in many ways, including coaching the Team Tennessee athletics team in 2006 and 2014 and serving as head basketball coach for the 2010 Team Tennessee traditional basketball team at the Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Neb., where they won the gold medal.

"I have seen so many students over the years increase their self-esteem, improve their social skills by making friendships with their peers with and without disabilities, and develop their skills in various sports," Smith said. "I have also seen the peers without disabilities become more accepting toward their peers with disabilities."

Smith has also served as secretary of the National Education Association Caucus for Educators of Exceptional Children and as president of the Tennessee Council for Exceptional Children. He has been named a Tennessee Education Association Distinguished Educator of Higher Education and a Kappa Delta Pi Master Teacher of Honor. He is currently the area director for Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics, which includes Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley counties. He has participated in the "Over the Edge" program in support of the Special Olympics of Greater Memphis three times, rappelling 24 stories down the I-Bank Tower in Memphis. <<<

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SCENE & HEARD



PAGEANT ROYALTY>>> Carsen Rooney (left), of Cordova, and Shelby Dotson, a UT Martin K-6 elementary education student from Rutherford, claimed the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival and Miss UT Martin titles respectively on January 31. The 2015 combined Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Pageant was held in front of a sold-out audience in the Harriet Fulton Theatre on the UT Martin main campus. Both titleholders will compete in June at the Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant in Jackson. <<<

LEAVING THEIR MARK >>> UT Martin students left their mark on the 45th General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, Nov. 13-16, in Nashville. TISL delegates from UT Martin included John Domanski, Dickson, named an outstanding senator; Rachel Washburn, Summertown, elected to serve as chief justice of the Tennessee Intercollegiate Supreme Court next year, after serving as an associate justice this year; and Elizabeth Sanders, Smithville, elected to serve as secretary of state next year. Dr. Chris Baxter, associate professor of political science, is TISL faculty adviser.

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(l to r): Drs. David Barber, Paula Gale, Kurt Gorman and Julie Hill spent the Spring 2015 semester on Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave.

FOUR UT MARTIN FACULTY MEMBERS WERE AWARDED HAL AND ALMA REAGAN FACULTY LEAVE AWARDS FOR THE 2014-15 ACADEMIC YEAR. >>>

Dr. David Barber, associate professor of history; Dr. Paula Gale, professor of agriculture; Dr. Kurt Gorman, professor of music; and Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music, have spent the spring 2015 semester participating in a variety of academic research and advancement opportunities.

Barber will produce the first chapters of a new book titled "A Hard Rain Fell: SDS and Why It Failed." The work will focus on the history of the American New Left's collapse and analyze the resulting anti-colonial revolution's impact on the United States. He will conduct his research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which serves as the central archive for the Students for a Democratic Society.

Gale will conduct research in the field of soil microbiology at Kansas State. This research will give her experience in cutting-edge techniques to improve and maintain soil health. Gale hopes to bring this new information back to the classroom and keep her students at the forefront of relevant research.

Gorman will expand his doctoral dissertation, which focuses on the introduction of the trumpet to chamber music composition in 1900. His initial survey included 1,200 compositions for trumpet with wind, strings, percussion, keyboard and electronics, and he intends to conduct additional concentrated analysis of musical scores and musicological research in this area.

Hill, president of the Percussive Arts Society, will spend her leave co-authoring a collection of new musical audition etudes for middle and high school percussion students. This collection will initially be used for regional and state auditions in Tennessee, but Hill hopes to ultimately provide the works to state music associations across the country.

The UT Martin Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program enables participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic renewal experiences. Tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service at UT Martin are eligible to apply for a one-year leave at half-salary or a half-year leave at full salary.

The Faculty Research and Development Committee selects awardees.

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(noteworthy)>>>



Dr. Dexter Davis, assistant professor of sports business, is pictured with some of the athletes he taught in China in August 2014.



100 PERCENT PASS RATE ACHIEVED>>> The 2013-14 class of UT Martin dietetic interns achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Registered Dietitians Examination. University officials joined the students for a photo to recognize the achievement. Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Jerald Ogg, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Sue Byrd, chair, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; interns Emily Turbeville, Nolensville; Chelsea Guetherman, Brentwood; Hannah Christiansen, Memphis; Kristen Hagarty, Weddington, N.C.; and Denise Bell, Union City. Also pictured is Dr. Todd Winters, dean, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. <<<

UT MARTIN PROFESSOR TEACHES FORMER CHINESE OLYMPIC ATHLETES

>>> Dr. Dexter Davis is known for taking his sport business students on the road so they can learn firsthand about planning and managing major sports events. Last August, Davis left his UT Martin students at home but took his teaching talents to China to work with former Chinese athletes for two weeks. His challenge was to prepare these former high-profile athletes for life after athletic competition as coaches or administrators in their respective sports.

"The program is designed to take Chinese athletes who have been a member of either a regional, national or Olympic-level team and transition them out of athletics into a role within the world of sport in the country of China, giving them some of the necessary background that they need to be effective administrators, coaches, whatever they may do in those sports that they're involved in," said Davis, assistant director and coordinator for UT Martin's sport business program. The athletes completed six weeks of classes in China and then came to the U.S. for a six-week mentorship program where they visited college and professional teams to learn from coaches and administrators.

The students ranged in age from 22 to 30 and were currently retired or soon-to-be retired from active competition. Years of intensive training hasten a transition to different careers at early ages. One student had earned an Olympic silver medal in synchronized

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swimming and had been involved in the sport since the age of 7. Another female athlete had a bronze medal in fencing and yet another earned a bronze in the butterfly stroke. Class discussions often focused on what the athletes will do when they retire. Davis taught 43 students the first week and 49 the second week of his assignment.

Davis' connection with international teaching goes back to his own years as a student. He completed his doctorate at the United States Sports Academy in Daphne, Ala., which has a large international component, including programs in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Bahrain and Thailand. He began his international work through the academy in Thailand, where he has visited four times. In addition, he's been to Bahrain and Dubai twice each and has taught physical education teachers in Saudi Arabia.

During this trip, Davis was at the Shanghai Sport Institute, which is located on a Chinese military base, so he was restricted where he could go and what he could see. He arrived on Sunday and taught eight hours per day, Monday through Thursday; an exam was given on Friday. Tests were true/false and multiple-choice, as opposed to the comprehensive essay tests he gives his U.S. and UT Martin students. "They're whole educational system is based on true-false, multiple-choice (exams)," he said, necessitated by the complex Chinese language that uses literally thousands of characters. This same schedule was repeated the next week, and he left for home the following Saturday.

"I taught a class in the administrative side of coaching and what are some of the administrative duties coaches have in terms of budgeting and leadership and a variety of management-administrative responsibilities," he said. "The goal is to get through the

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week, teach the class, you give an exam at the end and hope that the people learned the material that you gave them." Group projects were also assigned, and phone calls in the evening from students asking for help sometimes extended the teaching day. The classes were competitive, with only the top 25 of the cohort invited to the U.S. to study

— invitations are largely based on grades and faculty recommendations.

Davis was partnered with outstanding interpreters, one of whom had an exercise physiology degree from Texas A&M and another who was a University of Texas doctoral program graduate in sport management. The latter was especially

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SPORT BUSINESS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO PRO BOWL, SUPER BOWL >>>

For the second consecutive year, UT Martin sport business students traveled to the Super Bowl on Feb. 1 as part of an internship experience created by Dr. Dexter Davis. As a bonus, the students also attended and worked the Pro Bowl on Jan. 25. Both the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl XLIX were held at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. This was Davis' 10th Super Bowl.

At the Pro Bowl, students were involved in coordinating pre-game events, fan activities and post-game hospitality. At the Super Bowl, the students helped manage player appearances. This included assisting with arrival and departure, coordinating autograph signing venues and escorting players between events. Students also assisted with the post-game event, where visitors who had paid an extra fee were allowed onto the field after the trophy had been presented.

Pictured on the field following the game are (l-r) Rachel Robison, a senior from Springville; Ian McGrew, a senior from Troy; Dakota Shanes, a sophomore from Bon Aqua; Davis; Jamison Matney, a senior from Bon Aqua; Ross Landreth, a senior from Selmer; and Courtney Caton, a sophomore from Huntingdon. Caton, Robison and Shanes are marketing majors, while Landreth, Matney and McGrew are sport business majors.

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(noteworthy)>>>

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helpful for interpreting sports jargon that sometimes became part of the classroom conversations. He said they were well-received by the Chinese and treated like experts, but in the end, students are students no matter where the classroom is located.

"I had a kid that slept through my class, and I posted a thing on my Facebook page that says that, 'It doesn't matter whether you're in Tennessee or China, somebody always sleeps through your class,' and then that got some chuckles from some of my friends back here in the states," he said. "But, you know, overall it was great. I think we accomplished a lot and hopefully the Chinese sports system is a little better for us being there."

Reflecting on his international teaching experiences, Davis considers traveling to China a bucket-list item with no definite plans to make another trip. "You know, if I had a choice between Thailand and China, I'm going to Thailand," he said. "I really, really enjoyed my time in Thailand and the opportunities that I had there. "China was a little bit different. It's definitely a third-world country.

... You're an outsider, and they really look at you like an outsider."

Davis did witness one example of how Chinese star athletes are treated, however.

The Shang-hi Sport Institute is the national training center for table tennis. One day in the cafeteria, a buzz began as the top-ranked table tennis player in the world walked through the building. The interpreters told Davis that this player had just won a major tournament and the equivalent of about \$6 million in prize money. But, his success was put into perspective.

"He had to give half of it (his winnings) to the government to pay them back for training him when he was coming up through the ranks," Davis said. "And anything that he wins, the government gets half of it right off the top. ... It's like a tax."

Despite his obligations to the government, the star athlete drove a Cadillac Escalade while other players rode bicycles around the complex. <<<



KELLY MURRAY PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT AWARD>>>

David Weatherly, who graduated December 2014 from UT Martin, was voted by his classmates to receive the Kelly W. Murray Excellence in Portfolio Management Award for fall semester. The award, named for the late son of Dr. Sandra and William Murray, recognizes outstanding effort and dedication managing the UT Martin TVA stock portfolio in conjunction with the TVA Investment Challenge. Sandra Murray, associate professor of education, is pictured with Weatherly following the presentation Dec. 3. TVA's Investment Challenge is a partnership between TVA and 25 universities in its service territory that provides a real-world learning experience in portfolio management by allowing students to manage actual stock portfolios. Weatherly earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a major in finance. The lifelong Hickman, Ky., resident plans to work full-time in the financial services industry while pursuing an MBA degree at UT Martin. Weatherly is president of the Fulton County Board of Levee Commissioners and Weatherly Farms Inc. He is serving his second term as mayor pro tem for the city of Hickman. <<<

LONGTIME COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSOR GARY STEINKE

REFLECTS ON RETIREMENT >>> How long was your tenure at

UT Martin? I retired in December 2014 after 38 years. I taught as a graduate assistant at the University of Michigan and as a faculty member at Indiana State before coming to UT Martin. That makes 41 years in higher education total. I've taught several thousand students over the years.

What brought you to UT Martin? I was working as a radio station sales representative. I was doing very well. One day, I realized I wanted to do something different with my life. I chose teaching — I come from a family of teachers. When I had been at Michigan for two years, I received a letter from Dr. David Briody. He was looking for someone to start the communications program here.

Why did you decide to stay at UT Martin? When I came here, the first thing that struck me was the pretty, clean campus. Then, I got to know the people. Southern people are gentle, nice people. Also, I was fortunate enough to work under great administration like Dr. Milton Simmons and Dr. Jimmy Trentham. They really listened. But, more than anything, it was the students that brought me to UT Martin.

What was your best memory of your years in the classroom?

Two things, really. Number one, placing students in national markets — their success is my success. Number two, when the radio station, WUTM, won the Abraham & Borst Award for Best Overall Campus Radio Station in the nation. I felt then I had kept the promise I made to David Briody in 1977 to help create a nationally-ranked program at UT Martin.

What lessons have you learned? Know your students. I discovered in class to keep my lecture examples relevant to each student. I learned that each generation is unique, and today's students respond and cope with problems differently than my generation.

What characteristics are imperative for students to succeed? Have the confidence to follow your dreams. Do something you love in life. Find out what you do better than anyone else — and someone will pay you to do it.

How has UT Martin changed the most in the 30+ years you've been here? UT Martin was strictly a regional school when I came here. Now, we have students from all over the nation and an international community. You can go anywhere in the country, and people know now about UT Martin — and hold it in high regard.

How has it remained the same? The genuine friendliness of the campus. People know your name and look you in the eye. It's not that way everywhere. I've known a number of students who have changed their attitude toward people after coming to school here.

What makes UT Martin special? Quality. If you're willing to open your mind, you can learn a great deal here. The personal attention given to students here makes a difference.

What is the proudest moment of your tenure at UT Martin? The success of my students. It always has been, and always will be, why I came here.

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Dr. Gary Steinke, retired professor of communications, holds a card he received during his retirement party after 38 years of service to UT Martin.

TOP-20 ONLINE MBA PROGRAM >>> U.S.

News & World Report ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin's online MBA degree program as one of the top-20 online programs nationally. UT Martin is ranked #18 on this year's list, tied with Georgia Southern and Mississippi State universities, and is the highest-ranked program in Tennessee. U.S. News evaluated 223 programs nationwide for the report. For more information, contact the College of Business and Global Affairs at 731-881-7208 or bagrad@utm.edu. <<<

(noteworthy)>>>



Dr. Tracy Rutledge, assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator, explains a concept to her students.

NEW MASTER'S DEGREE IN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

BEGINS FALL 2015>>> UT Martin will offer a Master of Arts in strategic communication beginning with the fall 2015 semester. The program, approved by the UT Board of Trustees during its winter meeting at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, has received final approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The executive-style degree is intended to prepare professionals to plan, create and manage communication to achieve organizational goals. The program will be presented primarily online, with periodic on-campus weekends required.

"Extensive research indicated the need and desire for a master's degree that was professionally focused — as opposed to theoretical preparation for a doctoral program — on developing strategic communication management skills," said Dr. Tracy Rutledge, assistant professor of communications and graduate program coordinator.

Strategic communication integrates skills and concepts from organizational and management communication; marketing communication and sales; public relations; technical communication; and mass communication, and is applicable across a wide variety of career fields. It requires a strong knowledge of traditional, social

and mobile media; the ability to produce effective oral, written and visual messages; and strategic management communication and leadership skills.

The degree program is appropriate for students and professionals from a variety of academic backgrounds, including but not limited to public relations, marketing, mass communication, advertising, business administration, agricultural business and political science.

The coursework is designed to allow working professionals the flexibility to accommodate busy schedules through online assignments, as well as develop networking relationships with faculty mentors and peers through on-campus weekends. The program was developed based on industry research conducted by the Commission on Public Relations Education and the educational standards of the Association of the Education of Journalism and Mass Communication.

All program participants will complete a minimum of 33 credit hours with no final course letter grade lower than a "B." Students will complete 15 hours of core courses, including three professional seminars, each requiring an on-campus weekend at the beginning and end of the semester. These seminars focus on research and writing skills, academic

advising, and the development, defense and completion of a capstone project. Other core courses include applied research methods for professionals and media and communication theory for professionals.

Students will also complete three credit hours in either organizational communication or leadership theory and practice, depending on their career goals. Elective courses will finish the last 18 hours of credit and will be offered in online, face-to-face or hybrid options, as appropriate for the course material. Electives are offered in public relations and marketing communication; mass communication, media management and media production; technical communication; and issues in strategic communication. Students will work with an academic advisor to choose the elective courses which best benefit their individual career paths.

"One of my frustrations as I considered graduate schools was that so few were practical and in tune with current media and market needs. (This program) achieves both in a way that our graduating seniors, alumni and other working professionals have already told us they find very attractive," said Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Communications.

Interested participants must meet the university-wide requirements for graduate admission, as well as the specific requirements for the strategic communication program, noted in the UT Martin graduate catalog. Students may request to transfer up to six semester credit hours from other appropriate graduate programs at accredited universities, subject to approval by the UT Martin Department of Communications graduate faculty.

All applicants should submit application packets to the UT Martin Office of Graduate Studies at 227 Administration Building,

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Martin, TN, 38238. Packets should include a graduate school application, official transcripts from all attended institutions, official GRE test scores, a graduate assistant application, current resume, three current letters of recommendation from professional sources, and a 500-word statement of professional goals and how the strategic communication program would contribute to the achievement of those goals.

For more information, contact Rutledge at 731-881-7554 or by email at trutledge@utm.edu. <<<



LBJ LIBRARY DIRECTOR IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE>>>

Mark Updegrove, director of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin, Texas, was the keynote speaker Feb. 26 for UT Martin's 15th Annual Civil Rights Conference. The conference theme was "LBJ and the Great Society at 50." Updegrove's presentation was titled "LBJ and America's Promise." He has authored three books relating to the American presidency and has conducted exclusive interviews with five U.S. presidents. <<<



NEW EDUCATION GRADUATE OPTIONS>>> The option to earn a library information specialist PreK-12 license is one of three new choices for students seeking a master's degree in education from UT Martin. Graduate students can also focus their studies on either student affairs and college counseling or addictions counseling. The new programs will be offered starting with the fall 2015 semester.

EDUCATION GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFERS NEW CONCENTRATIONS BEGINNING FALL 2015>>>

Students seeking a master's degree in education from UT Martin will have two new counseling concentrations and one new interdisciplinary concentration to choose from, beginning in the fall 2015 semester. Graduate students will be able to focus their studies on either college counseling and student affairs or addictions counseling, or can work toward earning a library information specialist PreK-12 license.

The concentration in college counseling and student affairs will prepare individuals to work in college counseling centers, financial aid, minority affairs and other student affairs services in higher education settings. This degree will help university professionals manage individual student needs within changing college environments by focusing on the development of the student as they grow in a collegiate setting.

The concentration in addictions counseling will prepare counselors to work in a wide range of addiction counseling, treatment and prevention programs, as well

as in mental health counseling settings.

The successful completion of coursework, post-graduate experiential requirements and state licensure exams will lead to careers as Tennessee licensed professional counselors and alcohol and drug abuse counselors.

The library information specialist PreK-12 concentration is designed to give individuals the necessary training to earn a degree or endorsement as a school library information specialist. In the state of Tennessee, individuals must have a teaching license and pass the required coursework and Praxis exams to qualify as a library information specialist. The initial licensure K-12 program will offer a major in teaching plus the necessary endorsement for individuals who need a teaching license. Licensed teachers can enroll in the degree program and/or the endorsement-only option through the interdisciplinary major.

For more information on admissions requirements for these and other education graduate programs, contact Kristy Crawford at 731-881-7123 or by email at kcrawford@utm.edu. <<<

(athletics)>>>



By Ryne Rickman

NEW SKYHAWK BASEBALL COACH RICK ROBINSON LEARNS VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS FROM MISSION TRIP TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC >>>

This past November, almost exactly five months after accepting the position of head baseball coach at UT Martin, Rick Robinson made a familiar decision that would change his life. He spent five days as part of a 178-person staff that taught baseball and spread the gospel to numerous children and their families in Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic.

This was only the second time Robinson had made a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, but these trips are nothing new to his family. His wife, Luann, and daughter, Faithe, have traveled to Peru while Robinson and his sons Rhett and Ryan have made stops across the United States.

Robinson's trip to the Dominican Republic was arranged by SCORE International, a sports ministry entity that has been based out of Chattanooga since 1984. Robinson's first encounter with SCORE International came back in 2012 when John Zeller, the executive director, performed a devotional for Robinson and his Young Harris College team on a spring break trip to Saint Leo University in Florida.

"I really appreciate Coach Robinson," Zeller said. "He's a professional and is very good at what he does. He's a builder of programs and he has a heart for people. I know he's a good coach because he has a heart for kids."

Keith Madison, who won more than 700 games as head baseball coach at the University of Kentucky from 1979-2003, has also gotten to know Robinson through his experiences with SCORE International.

"I have known Coach Robinson for several years and have admired his success as a coach," Madison said. "He is a great competitor and knowledgeable baseball man. I heard him speak at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes function and knew immediately that he is a man of faith and character. These qualities help him to be relentless in the pursuit of excellence and grace both on and off the field."

It turns out that Robinson had gained yet another confidant with SCORE International when he inked his contract to coach at UT Martin. Reese Smith III, a UT Martin graduate and the president of the Jackson Generals minor league baseball team, serves on the SCORE International board of directors, and the two had a chance to catch up and talk baseball a few months prior to the trip.

"I had gone down to a Generals game to throw out the first pitch, and Reese and I wound up sitting together during the game," Robinson said. "He threw out a couple of baseball names

who I knew, and then I said something about the Dominican and Reese just kind of lit up. There was a total connection there."

Robinson's typical day on the Dominican mission trip began at 6 a.m., when he would meet with his smaller group of leaders – including Zeller and Otis Nixon, who stole 620 bases over a 17-year Major League Baseball career. Following a prayer for the day, breakfast would take place around 6:30 a.m.

Another group meeting, where the message for the day would be established, took place at 7 a.m. and the buses were loaded approximately an hour later. The leaders would then put on baseball clinics for area children for the next two hours – teaching as many as 300 to 450 kids each day – before lunch at noon.

"After lunch you would go out and choose what you wanted to do that day," Robinson said. "There were two or three villages you could feed or you also had a boys or girls orphanage to visit. You would go out into the community from 1 p.m. until about 4:30."

Each leader would then contribute \$15 to \$20 to go on a grocery shopping trip at a local supermarket for a menu that a SCORE International representative had already prepared.

"My favorite part was feeding the village," Robinson said. "I went two days to feed a village, and one day we fed 45 families and the other day we fed about 28 families. Basically that \$15 to \$20 worth of food would feed a family for 10-14 days. It was a lot of rice, beans, fish, pasta and things like that."

The leaders would then meet the families they would be feeding at a local church. The entire group would then walk to the home of the family and pray.

Around 7 p.m., the group would come back together and highlight the day's activities. A speaker would then address the crowd for about 30 minutes before calling it a night.

The Dominican Republic is known to be one of the most productive baseball factories in the world. Approximately 13.5 percent of current MLB players were born in the Dominican Republic, and all 30 MLB teams have a complex located in the country. The area boasts Hall of Famer Juan Marichal and 2015 Hall of Fame inductee Pedro Martinez, as well as present stars Albert Pujols and David Ortiz.

In such a baseball-rich area, Robinson was proud to receive the opportunity to teach the fundamentals of the game to the natives.

"SCORE International realized early on that baseball in the Dominican is basically their religion," Robinson said. "They put all of their faith in baseball and if they don't make it, then they have

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Opposite page: Rick Robinson, head baseball coach, is pictured with a young player from the Dominican Republic.

(athletics)>>>



Rick Robinson is pictured with members of a youth baseball team in the Dominican Republic.

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nothing after that. So what SCORE tries to do is to go down and present the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's ok to be a baseball player and to work as hard as you can work to become a baseball player, but there has to be something after baseball and here's the option."

Another takeaway Robinson received from his trip was the poverty of the country, which correlates with its dependence on baseball.

"Baseball is almost a disease in the Dominican, and the only cure for that disease is becoming a MLB player," Robinson said. "If you're a parent and you have a son, then everything you do revolves around them becoming a MLB player to make a living off that son when the majority of them never ever accomplish that. People don't even have concrete floors – it's just metal buildings with basically holes in them. You would go through these sugar cane villages on these dirt roads and all of a sudden, you would open up and see eight baseball fields that are immaculate. You walk out on to the field and in the dugouts, they have bathrooms and running water. It's tough to watch just because I think that baseball has everything out of whack there."

Robinson, who brought his Young Harris team along on his first trip to the Dominican in 2012, brought the giving spirit home to the Skyhawk locker room. Although Robinson's family already sponsors a child from the girls orphanage he visited, the UT Martin baseball team wanted to help out as well. Enter Ramel, a young boy from the Josiah's House orphanage, an upstart children's home lacking sponsorships because it hadn't been around as long as other established orphanages in the community.

"On my visit, I asked which boy is being sponsored the least and Ramel was the one," Robinson said. "So when I came back and talked to the guys, they all felt like they could handle that. It's only \$30 a

month, so basically all a guy has to do is drop in a quarter a week to be able to sponsor him. We have a box in the locker room that we leave in there for the guys, and we've hit our goal every month."

While Robinson intends to return to the Dominican every chance he can, there is a recently-approved NCAA rule that allows collegiate teams to play internationally once every four years. In fact, Vanderbilt and Virginia – the 2014 national champion and runner up, respectively – visited the Dominican last year.

"Basically, it's a spring training type of thing before you can start your season," Robinson said. "That time of the year – November to January – is their professional season in the Dominican, so they played most of the minor league teams. I would love to take our team, but the trip at Young Harris cost us almost \$48,000. There would have to be a financial miracle in place for us to be able to justify taking a trip like that."

For now, Robinson will continue to work hand-in-hand with Zeller to ensure that SCORE International provides top-notch mission trips.

"I got to know John and learn a lot more about SCORE because he was one of the original founders," Robinson said. "I learned what kind of courage and faith it takes to basically create and sustain an organization like SCORE, which is 100 percent donation-run."

"Just in the Dominican alone, we've taken boxing, golf, tennis, volleyball, baseball, basketball and soccer teams," Zeller said. "We also run into Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Haiti and Cuba."

Robinson has a simple piece of advice to anyone who has interest in taking a mission trip.

"I think that you need to start out by praying really hard about it to make sure that's what you're supposed to do," Robinson said. "If there's any indication that that's what you're supposed to do, then you need to make every effort to do it." <<<

PETER DALTON HIRED AS NEW UT MARTIN CROSS COUNTRY COACH >>>

UT Martin Athletics Director Julio Freire announced the hiring of Peter Dalton as the seventh head cross country coach in program history after longtime coach Gordon Sanders announced his retirement from the program in mid-December 2014. Sanders led the Skyhawks for 10 seasons while seeing several records revitalize the program standards.

"I am thankful to Coach Sanders for his many years of service to UT Martin and Skyhawk student-athletes," said Freire. "We wish him and his wife the very best in their new endeavors."

Dalton comes to UT Martin after a stellar career at King University, where he turned the men's and women's cross country teams into NCAA Division II Southeast Region powers. Dalton served as head men's and women's cross country coach for the past seven years. He also served as a coach in the track and field program, including the title of head coach from 2010-12.

"We are fortunate to attract a cross country coach of Peter Dalton's character and ability," said Freire. "His competitive record is unbelievable, and I am equally impressed by his commitment to the academic and social development of the student-athletes. Peter will be an outstanding addition to UT Martin, Skyhawk athletics and West Tennessee."

"It is both humbling and exciting to be a part of Skyhawk nation," Dalton said. "Athletics Director Julio Freire has clearly explained the vision for the future, and I am ready to put my experience to work so we can achieve our goals as a team, department and institution."

Dalton led the King cross country teams through their transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II. In their first-ever NCAA Regional meet in 2010, the King women's cross country team finished second at the NCAA Southeast Regional Championships, becoming King's first team to qualify for an NCAA Championship in the first year as a full NCAA Division II member.

The women followed that up with a third-place finish in their first Conference Carolinas Championship in 2011, before running off a string of three consecutive conference championships from 2012-14. On the men's side, King has finished as the Conference Carolinas runner-up during each of his four years in the conference and has twice qualified for the NCAA Championships by finishing in the top three at the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship in 2012 and 2013.

Dalton has been named Conference Carolinas Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year each of the past three seasons and has earned three Track and Field Conference Coach of the

>>> Dalton, continued on page 20



NEW HEAD COACH >>> Peter Dalton replaced longtime coach Gordon Sanders as head coach of the UT Martin Cross Country Team.



McMILLAN BREAKS UT MARTIN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WINS RECORD >>>

Kevin McMillan became UT Martin's all-time winningest women's basketball coach in January, needing only six seasons to accomplish the feat. The 79-59 Skyhawk victory at Tennessee Tech provided McMillan with 106 wins, which passed both Nadine Gearin (1969-78) and Gary and Kim Van Atta (1996-2004).

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(athletics)>>>

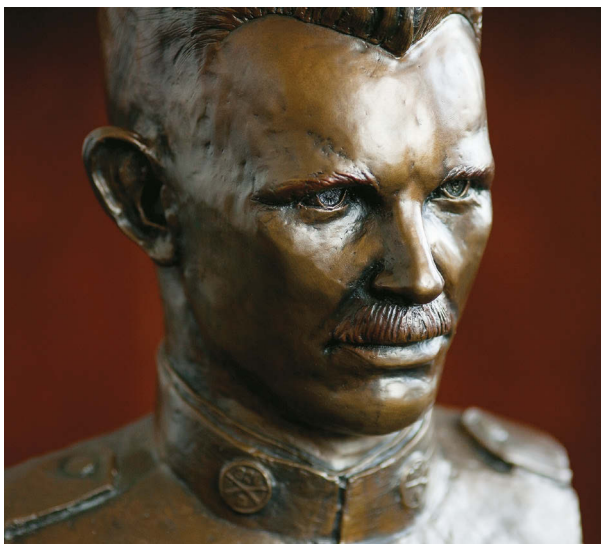
>>> Dalton, continued from page 19

Year awards. All of these awards came in the 2012-13 season that saw King win three of a possible four Conference Carolinas track and field championships.

“Peter is one of the most talented young distance coaches in the country,” said David Hicks, King University athletic director. “In a matter of four years, he has taken a newcomer and complete unknown in NCAA Division II and transformed King into a regional cross country power. The University of Tennessee at Martin is gaining a tremendous coach who will lead their programs into prominence in NCAA Division I.”

Including four Conference Carolinas championships in indoor and outdoor track and field from 2012-13, Dalton led the Tornados to a total of seven Conference Carolinas championships in cross country and track and field and coached three different teams and multiple

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SKYHAWK FOOTBALL CLAIMS SGT. YORK TROPHY AGAIN >>>

This past fall, under head coach Jason Simpson, the UT Martin football team won the Sgt. York Trophy for the third time in the last five years.

The Sgt. York Trophy goes to the winner of the quadrangular season series among the four OVC football playing schools located in the state of Tennessee.

The Skyhawks swept the series against Tennessee Tech, Austin Peay and Tennessee State in 2014 and owns a 16-8 all-time record in the series, the best mark of the four schools.

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individuals to the NCAA Championships. In addition, the cross country teams consistently finished with a GPA among the highest in the country, receiving the USTFCCA Scholar Team award multiple times.

Nearly every King record in cross country and track has been broken during the last seven years, and numerous student-athletes have earned all-conference and all-region honors, in addition to numerous individual and team academic honors.

Coaching runs in the Dalton family, as his father was a seven-time Irish National team manager for the World Champions. Continuous involvement at the highest coaching levels worldwide has prepared Dalton with all the necessary knowledge, passion and love of the sport to help give back to those that wish to succeed. Dalton’s coaching exposure began at an early age under the tutelage of Irish Olympians Noel Berkeley and Gerry McGrath. Both Olympic legends have scientifically studied the art of distance running at the highest level, and that experience is the foundation of Coach Dalton’s coaching philosophy. Dalton was also fortunate enough to experience first-hand the coaching theories of NCAA Hall of Fame Coach Dave Walker during his time as a student-athlete at East Tennessee State University.

Dalton received his bachelor’s degree in psychology from East Tennessee State University, where he was a four-year cross country and track and field athlete for the Buccaneers. Dalton, a two-year captain, led the Buccaneers to the inaugural Atlantic Sun Indoor Track and Field Conference Championships and to the highest Buccaneer Cross Country conference finish in 12 years. Dalton was named to numerous all-conference and all-academic teams for both cross country and track and field during his time at ETSU, and was named the Buccaneers MVP for two consecutive seasons.

Before arriving at East Tennessee State University, Dalton competed eight times for his native Ireland. As part of the D.S.D. Athletic Club, Dalton and his teammates won a record-setting eight consecutive national team titles and went on to finish third at the European Junior Clubs Cross Country Championships. He rose to prominence when he captured Ireland’s first ever international victory at the British and Irish Mountain Running Championships and went on to secure a 21st place finish at the World Championships.

Dalton will take over a program that boasts prominent players on both squads. The junior duo of Justin Morgan and Hayley Doty each earned invitations to the NCAA South Regional competition awards after pacing their respective squads in every meet this fall while posting numerous personal bests and earning team most valuable performer honors.

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Nelson Davis (far right) poses with coach John Luthi (center) and the UT Martin Rodeo team, who won the College National Finals Rodeo in 2014.

NELSON DAVIS NAMED TENNESSEE ATHLETIC TRAINERS' SOCIETY COLLEGE TRAINER OF THE YEAR>>> Nelson

Davis, who has served as an assistant athletic trainer at UT Martin since 2007, was awarded the Eugene Smith/Mickey O'Brien College Athletic Trainer of the Year award as part of the 2015 Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society annual meeting in Nashville.

Davis was selected after nominations from his colleagues and peers in the sports medicine and athletic training profession. The College Athletic Trainer of the Year award, given annually since 1990, is named for former head athletic trainers Eugene Smith, of then Memphis State University, and Mickey O'Brien, who served at the University of Tennessee. Davis is only the second UT Martin athletic trainer to earn this prestigious award, following Linda Barker in 2000.

An Illinois native, Davis earned his athletic training license from the state of Tennessee in 1998. He also became a certified athletic trainer through the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification during that same year.

In addition to his athletic trainer duties, Davis also serves as an assistant coach with the UT Martin rodeo team. He helped guide the men's team to the 2014 College National Finals Rodeo championship last spring, marking the first time a team from east of the Mississippi River captured the nation's top rodeo honors.

Davis was inducted into the UT Martin Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2007, after being named an honorary rodeo team member in 1997. He was recognized with a service award by the Ozark Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and also earned sports medicine service awards from the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association in 1998 and from the National High School Rodeo Association in 2013.

Davis graduated cum laude from UT Martin in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health, with a minor in sports medicine. He is married to the former Lynn Houston, of Martin, and has three children from a previous marriage (Taiga, Jordan and Dusty). <<<

UTM ATHLETICS WELL-REPRESENTED IN TENNESSEE SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2015>>>

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame announced its Class of 2015 inductees today and the University of Tennessee at Martin has two honorees in the exclusive class. The UT Martin men's rodeo team was named as one of five Amateur Teams of the Year, while Dacotah Faught was named the Female Amateur Athlete of the Year for 2013-14.

Coached by John Luthi, the UT Martin men's rodeo team made history last season by becoming the first team east of the Mississippi River to win the national rodeo championship. Six UT Martin cowboys combined for 755 team points and sat atop the College National Finals Rodeo standings for the final five days of the event, which took place in Casper, Wyo., June 15-21.

The UT Martin men's rodeo team will be recognized alongside the Cumberland University baseball team (NAIA national champions), the University of Tennessee tennis doubles team of Mikelis Libietis and Hunter Reese (NCAA Division-I national champions), the Vanderbilt University baseball team (NCAA Division-I national champions) and the Walters State Community College golf team (NJCAA Division-II national champions).

A native of Amenia, N.D., Faught was the Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year and earned All-OVC first team honors in smallbore, All-OVC second team status in air rifle, as well as OVC All-Newcomer accolades in both smallbore and air rifle. She capped off her remarkable debut season with an appearance in the NCAA Championships, where she finished eighth nationally in air rifle.

Both UT Martin representatives will be officially enshrined during the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame ceremony on June 6 at the Omni Hotel in Nashville. <<<

(university advancement)>>>



<<<(Our Sincere Thanks)

WESTSTAR RECEIVES \$250,000 DEFERRED GIFT >>>

Dr. Robert and Ramona Smith, of Franklin, have made a \$250,000 deferred gift to the WestStar Leadership Program. Smith, president-emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, was a co-founder of WestStar and served as the program's executive director from 1990 until his departure from UT Martin in 1999.

"We strongly believe our communities and our region will respond to inspired leadership," Smith said. "We see that the people involved with WestStar – whether as alums, trustees, friends or staff – are dedicated to improving West Tennessee, and we felt it was important to provide some tangible way to assure their work is made possible."

WestStar was founded with the goal of bringing like-minded community and civic leaders together to focus on issues facing West Tennessee and create a network of individuals to advocate for the resources needed to improve local communities.

"The Smiths represent the very best in that they are choosing to support a unique, community-based program linking the university with stakeholders throughout the region. Doing so helps ensure the success and sustainability of WestStar as a premier leadership program," said Chancellor Tom Rakes.

"The vision and foundation established by Dr. Smith and others have created this wonderful mechanism for economic development and social engagement across West Tennessee," added Charley Deal, WestStar executive director. "This gift will allow us to address the changing regional landscape and continue to develop a premier leadership program recognized throughout the United States."

Smith was recognized by Rakes during homecoming festivities in October 2014 as the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for University Service, presented annually to an individual whose contributions enable the university to meet its mission of service to the region. He has also been selected by Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT system president, to serve as UT Martin's interim chancellor beginning June 1. <<<

Opposite page (l to r): Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, Ramona Smith and Dr. Robert Smith, president-emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, co-founder of WestStar and the program's executive director from 1990 until his departure from UT Martin in 1999. He will also serve as UT Martin interim chancellor, beginning June 1.

UT MARTIN'S WESTSTAR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY >>>

Discovery Park of America in Union City provided the backdrop Nov. 6 for the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program's 25th anniversary celebration. Approximately 200 program alumni and guests reconnected and mingled amid Dinosaur Hall exhibits as they celebrated a leadership program that includes 710 graduates since its inception. The program's 26th class will graduate in June.

Among those attending the event were Dr. Bob Smith and UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan ('68), credited as WestStar co-founders and both former program executive directors. Smith is president-emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, and Dunagan is UT Martin chancellor emeritus. Charley Deal ('92, '96), the program's current executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations, and

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Pictured at the celebration event are (l to r) Charley Deal, WestStar executive director and UT Martin assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations; Dr. Bob Smith, president-emeritus of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania; Virginia Grimes, WestStar coordinator; and Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus. Smith and Dunagan are credited as WestStar co-founders, and both are former executive directors of the program. Not pictured is David Belote, also a former WestStar executive director.

(university advancement)>>>



(l to r) Phyllis Rauchle, Lindsay Frilling (B.S. '01, M.B.A. '02), Henry Lewis ('73), Lolly Bearden (UTK '85) and John Warner.

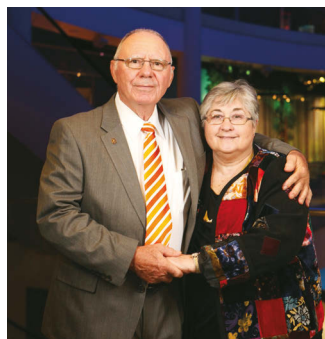
>>> WestStar, continued from page 23

Virginia Grimes, longtime WestStar coordinator, also attended along with members of the program's board of trustees, alumni council and event planning committee. Deal emceed the event.

WestStar is the state's oldest and largest regional leadership program and was created in 1989 to serve West Tennessee by offering leadership development and education for selected participants. Class members typically come from diverse professions and have varied volunteer leadership experiences. Chamber of commerce and economic development professionals, bankers, government personnel, health-care professionals, educators, business professionals and elected officials are regularly represented in classes.

In its 25-year history, WestStar graduates have taken leadership roles for the growth and development of their communities, counties and the state. Graduates have gained elected office, been driving forces in many local and regional initiatives, and have taken volunteerism to a higher level. Still others have made it a priority to see that the networks and collaborations formed by class members during the program thrive and that WestStar continues to prepare participants to assume future leadership roles.

A common bond among WestStar participants is devotion to individual civic responsibility.



(clockwise from top left) Alyssa ('09) and Jake ('06) Bynum; Phyllis (M.S. '91) and Joe Brasher (B.S. '71); John (M.S. '75) and Janie Clark; Dr. Jim ('66) and Daryl (B.S. '94, M.S. '00) Byford.

LaRenda Scarbrough, of Huntingdon, who began a 25-year real estate career at the time of her WestStar experience, was a member of the program's 1990 inaugural class. Then, as now, she recalled that the program formed to bring leaders together for the region's benefit. "West Tennessee is always struggling to keep up from an economic standpoint with the rest of the state," she said. "And we just felt like, as a group, maybe we could do more to bring attention to all of the good points about West Tennessee."

Scarbrough said WestStar fills an important role because "leaders within a community feed upon other leaders that they meet from the other parts of West Tennessee" and benefit from being "with other people who have aspirations."

The program includes nine specially-designed seminar programs that address contemporary issues important to West Tennessee's future. Following an orientation session in December, two-day seminars follow from January through June in locations throughout West Tennessee, including a Nashville stop to visit the city center. Class members complete their experience with a June graduation event in Jackson.

Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor, said WestStar's role is important "because of the demographics and the location for the folks in this part of Tennessee."

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(clockwise from top left) Dr. Nell (B.S. '76, M.B.A. '81) and Jacky (B.S. '73, M.S. '93) Gullett; Carolyn and Harold Nance; Discovery Park in Union City.

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"We don't have the metropolitan base that so many areas have, and these are the movers and shakers for our region who come through the same leadership program," Rakes said, adding, "None of us can manage it by ourselves anymore, and this (WestStar) gives us a structure, an infrastructure, and somebody 25 years ago was smart to get ahead of this. And with 700-plus folks that have graduated from it, we actually have our own little network that can go on for years and years."

Anthony Haynes ('88), Trenton native and University of Tennessee vice president for government relations and advocacy, joined Dr. Keith Carver, a Crockett County native and executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro, in representing the UT System at the event. Haynes is a regular WestStar presenter, and Carver is a 2009 program graduate.

"It (WestStar) brings together some of the best leadership and the brightest minds that are going to help improve the quality of life, improve the opportunity for economic development (for West Tennessee)," Haynes said. He also compared WestStar with the best leadership programs. "I think the way it's approached, its core content and its aspirations for its leaders far exceed anything that I've ever read about or experienced myself."

WestStar not only conducts each WestStar class but also offers leadership-development opportunities annually to the public. Among those are the African American Leadership Conference, the Working Women's Conference and the West Tennessee Small Business Conference, in addition to assisting with youth leadership development. The FutureStar Leadership Summit for middle school students and the RisingStar Leadership Summit for high school juniors and seniors, both in their fourth years, provide leadership-education experiences on UT Martin's main campus.

Recognizing the benefits of WestStar, sponsors provide annual support to the program. Sponsors include Alexander, Thompson & Arnold, CPA; Bank of Ripley; Shannon Cotter; First Bank; First State Bank; HTL Advantage; Haywood County/City of Brownsville; Northwest Tennessee Development District/Human Resource Agency; Hardee, Martin, Donahoe, Owens & Wright P.A./The Victory 93.7 FM; Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC; Southwest Tennessee Development District; Tennessee Valley Authority; The TENNERGY Corp.; Tennessee District of the TRANE Company; TLM Associates, Inc.; USDA Rural Development; Cary Vaughn; West Tennessee Healthcare; West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation and the West Tennessee Industrial Association.

Bob Smith sees what he calls "the magic of WestStar" remaining strong through its leadership and board members staying true to the program's original purpose of teaching and promoting regionalism.

"There was just a real belief in this region that we needed to look at things on a regional level, that all boats would rise, that we didn't need to be in internal competition with each other within our communities, within our counties," Smith said. "I mean we're in this together, and when something good happens within this region, then it happens for all of the region."

Even with the support the program enjoys, Smith said WestStar program leaders must look ahead to remain relevant. "(WestStar has) got to continue to evolve and stay ahead of where the current thinking is about the needs for West Tennessee," he said. "And the next stage of that is going to be a bold and courageous strategic plan to set the path ahead."

As for the program's longevity and celebrating a quarter of a century of leadership education, he added, "We had a vision for what leadership should be like. The vision captivated leaders in this region such that each succeeding class embraced it to carry the program forward."

Information about WestStar is available at www.utm.edu/weststar. Follow WestStar on Facebook and Twitter. <<<

dream **BIG**

by Erin Chesnut

The typical grade-school student changes career dreams dozens of times before high school graduation. **Kelly Harris ('04)**, however, found her path at age eight while touring the research laboratories at Meharry Medical College, and is now well on her way to receiving a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences next May, with a focus on gastrointestinal cancer research.

“The research bug just bit me!” said Harris. “As I got older I tried different areas, but nothing held my interest. I decided, ‘If I’m going to do something for the long term, it should be something I’m excited about.’”

Harris was brought to UT Martin by a relative and quickly decided to stay. “My high school was a small, private institution, so Martin gave me the small classroom sizes I was looking for – especially once you get into your major courses after freshman year,” she explained. “I felt like I could get more one-on-one time with my professors and not be just a number.”

Harris never lost sight of her dream to enter the medical research field, and let that aspiration guide her choice of college as well. “Getting into the medical field is very competitive, and at Martin the professors had been working in their areas for a long time and had done real research, so I felt I could get better mentoring and find out how to beat the barriers for getting past the college level,” she explained. “Even just taking the GRE – having my questions answered about how to study and how long to study and tips for taking it really made a difference; at a bigger university you don’t get that.”

She took advantage of Martin’s approachable atmosphere and developed personal relationships with several of her instructors. Dr. David Sammons, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at that time, was her primary academic advisor. “I knew what I wanted to do, but he helped me with what to do. I had a goal in mind, it was just about figuring out how to get there,” said Harris. She also turned to Deborah Williams-Boyd, advisor to the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, for help navigating the college system and adapting to life on her own.

“During that time when you’re alone and you’re trying to balance social and academics, one or the other tends to

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lack, so it's great to have that support," said Harris. "With Martin's size and the one-on-one interaction you're always having, you always have people who care about you. It really matters to have people you can talk to and who take time out of their schedules to give you advice."

Harris was also a member of Spanish Club, Tri Beta and Mu Epsilon Theta during her time at UT Martin, but her favorite memories center around the annual homecoming festivities and the small-town feel of the area. "I loved the quad walk and how the band would play on their way to the field. I also enjoy supporting the little mom-and-pop places. Whenever I go back, my first stop is always K&N (on Lindell Street). The must-have is their pink lemonade slush," she said.

Harris received a Bachelor of Science in biology in 2004 and went to work first in a research pathology lab with a focus on gastrointestinal cancer, and then in a similar lab geared toward prostate cancer research. Her time in these laboratories focused her interest on cancer research and the various triggers associated with the disease. She began a master's program in molecular biology at Middle Tennessee State University in 2006 to decide once and for all if research was really what she wanted to do every day. The research bug bit her again and she was hooked for the long run.

In 2010, she was accepted into Meharry Medical College and met Dr. Aramandla Ramesh, who wanted to focus his research on the effects of a high-fat diet on gastrointestinal cancer. Harris's master's project, which focused on obesity, and her experience in a related research lab made her a perfect fit for Ramesh's laboratory team. "I wanted to use what I already knew and still be able to build on it and learn something new," she said.

She is now studying in the biochemistry and cancer biology department at Meharry and is a part of the Health Policy Scholars Program, which allows students with an interest in health policy and social science research to work toward the completion of a certificate in health science in conjunction with their terminal degrees. Her research, titled "Interplay of Western diet and benzo(a)pyrene exposure on colon carcinogenesis in a PIRC rat model," seeks to explain a known link between a high-fat "Western" diet and an increased risk of colon cancer.

"In the existing research, there is a correlation between consuming fatty foods and an increased chance of getting colon cancer. But no one really knows how it happens; no

one knows the link biologically," she explained. A toxicant called benzo(a)pyrene is present in our daily environment, as well as in fried and barbequed foods, among other sources. It is not something that can be avoided, but it is something known to increase the risk of cancer when exposed in large enough quantities. "I thought it would be a good starting point, since researchers know it causes cancer and we know it's in the foods we eat anyway. So I'm taking a known pathway in our foods that causes cancer and seeing how a high-fat diet will enhance it, if there is an enhancement, to accelerate the process."

The National Institutes of Health awarded Harris the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award in 2014 to help fund her education and her research goals. Her preliminary findings and research strategy had to receive a high score from an initial screening panel before being forwarded to a relevant research agency for a decision on funding. Harris was granted \$85,352, which has provided increased flexibility in her research decisions. "The award gives me the ability to open my project to areas I probably couldn't have before due to funding issues. I've also been able to expand my career development opportunities because I now have travel funds for conferences and networking with other researchers in various fields," said Harris. The award will also support her Ph.D. training for the next two years.

Harris is slated to graduate in May 2016. Before she crosses the stage at Meharry, she would like to leave behind a solid foundation to support future researchers in their goal to understand cancer. "I would really like to provide a biological link. I want to show exactly how Western diet is affecting the body – to not only say that fatty foods increase the risk of colon cancer, but to be able to explain how and why that occurs," she said.

She hopes to complete a post-doctoral program in the future and incorporate her experience with colon cancer research into the next phase of her professional life. She would like to return home to Memphis and work with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "(St. Jude) is more pediatric cancer, of course, but I'm hoping some things I have learned as far as diet might have links to pediatric cancers while children are in-utero – maybe they have been affected by the mother's diet," Harris explained. She is also looking into possibilities with the NIH and several biomedical research facilities in San Antonio, Texas. <<<

by Bud Grimes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



CAPTAIN SKYHAWK CELEBRATES 20TH BIRTHDAY – PACER PETE AND PACE-HER POLLY REMEMBERED



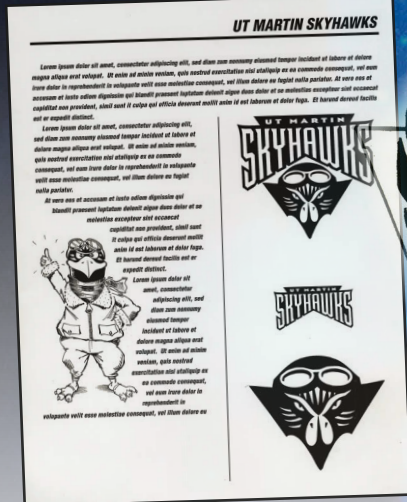
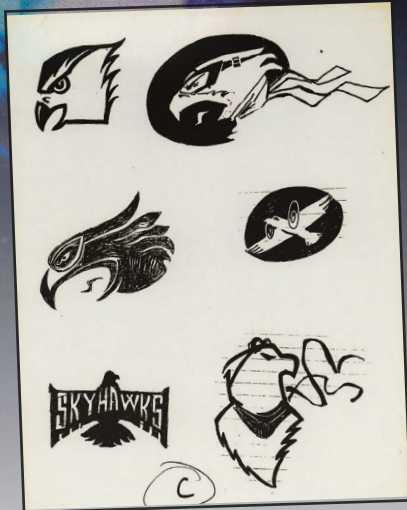
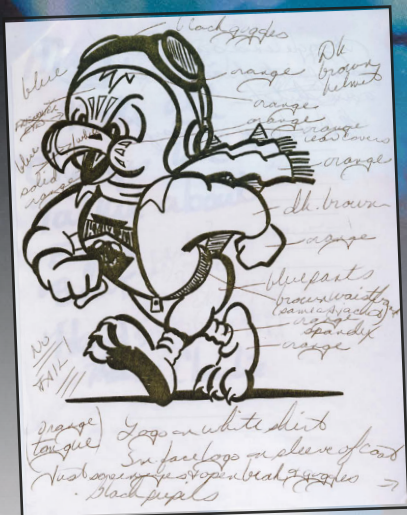
It's the year 1995. The Internet is in its infancy, the Dow Jones closes above 4,000 for the first time, the Houston Rockets win the NBA championship and East Tennessee begins using area code 423. The listing at historyorb.com lacks two more important citations – UT Martin's Skyhawk logo was unveiled in April of that year, followed in the fall with the introduction and naming of the Captain Skyhawk mascot.

Mascot milestones are worthy of remembrance. These larger-than-life characters are as much a part of a college's identity as libraries, quadrangles, homecoming and cheerleaders. From their beginnings to today's high-profile roles in everything from college admissions recruiting to ESPN's classic Sportscenter ads, college mascots link alumni, students and legions of sports fans to the universities and the teams they love and support.

UT Martin has its own rich and colorful mascot history, one that began with a horse and sulky in the early 1980s, evolved into Pacer Pete and Pace-Her Polly and eventually introduced Captain Skyhawk in 1995. These characters and symbols link UT Martin school spirit and branding to the university's NCAA Division I athletics program. Many have contributed to this long history, including those who have proudly worn the costumes and become Pacer Pete, Pace-Her Polly and Captain Skyhawk for countless UT Martin fans.

Twenty years have now passed since Captain Skyhawk's creation, so it's time for a look back.

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(opposite page) The current Captain Skyhawk. (above) Captain Skyhawk and Skyhawk early logo sketches from 1995, created by Dye, Van, Mol and Lawrence.

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THE EARLY YEARS

Nicknames are a colorful and descriptive part of a college's history, and UT Martin has been known by several such names. In Bob Carroll's book "The University of Tennessee at Martin: The First One Hundred Years," he noted that UT Junior College teams were known as the Junior Volunteers, a name that evolved into the Baby Vols or Little Vols when UTJC became a senior college in 1951. "A welcome change occurred in 1971 when the athletic teams at UT Martin received a new nickname," he wrote, as the student body chose Pacers as the new nickname in a close vote.

Some important questions remained unanswered, including what a Pacer really was and the development of an actual mascot. "Later, it was decided that the pacer horse would be the mascot, and the Martin Bank purchased a horse and a sulky for the school in 1981," Carroll added. "Shortly afterwards, Chuckie (the horse) made his appearance at football games. Following a touchdown, the

original driver, Curtis Sullivan, would enjoy a ride in the sulky as Chuckie paced around the field."

Charlie Rayburn and his wife, Judy, came to UT Martin in August 1973, well before any type of athletics mascot was established (read about the Rayburns in Campus Scene, 2014 Summer/Fall edition, page 8). He taught physical education full-time and assumed cheer squad coaching duties from Bettye Giles in 1974. Giles, the university's director of women's athletics from 1972-94 and the only person to hold the position, is credited with starting and leading the cheer squad until she devoted full time to athletics administration.

The late Ray Mears, legendary University of Tennessee Vols basketball coach and UT Martin men's athletics director in the 1980s, took the first step toward a university mascot when he created the horse and sulky concept. "He was also the one that gave me the go-ahead to work on a mascot in animated form," Rayburn said. "He saw the horse could only be

used for football and for parades like homecoming."

Rayburn believed that costume-based mascots would be a good idea. "Mascots at that time were just starting to appear at major universities. Also, the San Diego Chicken was starting to catch fire for baseball and other (sports) venues," he said. "This seemed like something we needed since it could be seen firsthand and touched and carried the school logo on it. The mascot was an extension of the team people could identify with."

Interestingly, the University of Tennessee's trademark licensing program began in 1983, highlighting the university's timely interest in protecting its name, logos and other university identifiers – including mascots. The university also sought to protect and share in the financial benefits of a comprehensive licensing program.

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(l to r) A commemorative drawing of Captain Skyhawk and Pacer Pete and Pace-Her Polly by students in the League of Striving Artists; Pacer Pete with fans.

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THE BIRTH OF PACER PETE AND PACE-HER POLLY



Rayburn's initial idea for Pacer Pete first took shape in 1975. "The only thing that I remember thinking about was the Road Runner on cartoons. It seemed to fit, so I just went with it," he said. Rayburn had to first seek approval to pursue his mascot idea and then secure the funding to pay for the costume, and Ray Mears offered the support he needed.

"Coach Mears was all for it because he loved those types of things that brought attention to the program and the teams," he said. Rayburn contacted Stage Craft, Inc., in Cincinnati, Ohio, and sent them his ideas, eventually traveling to the company's facility and meeting with an artist. The costume was developed during the fall and unveiled early the next year during a home basketball game.

The company gave him basic ideas on what to do with the costume, specifically to be cautious around small children, never remove the head and never speak. Otherwise, he was on his own to give life to the Pacer Pete character. "I did the first half of a basketball game the first time Pete was introduced to UTM, and I then gave the uniform over to Bill Cochran who was my first (student) mascot and probably my best mascot," he said. "That night he (Cochran) inherited a very sweaty uniform."

Pacer Pete proved popular with fans and quickly created a demand for guest appearances. A second character evolved when Bettye Giles wanted a female version of Pacer Pete, so Pace-Her Polly was created. Enthusiasm for Pacer Pete and Pace-Her Polly was such that someone, usually a cheerleader, had to accompany and protect the mascots, as people would pull and tug at the costumes, hoping to elicit some kind of action or routine.



Original concept art for Pacer-Her Polly (top) and Pacer Pete.

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(l to r) Captain Skyhawk drawing by a UT Martin Student; Pacer Pete with more fans.

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Great stories and mascots are a perfect combination, and Pacer Pete and Pace-Her Polly were no different. “Once, when I did Pete at a Nashville Sounds ballgame, it was a night game and at 10 p.m. it was still 89 degrees. I thought I would pass out,” Rayburn said. “The Sounds players were giving me any and everything to drink. Before the night was over I had lost 15 pounds of water weight.” While wearing the costume that same night, he joined country music legend Conway Twitty for a photo after Twitty had sung the national anthem.

“Also, when Bill (Cochran) was working an afternoon football game and it was very warm that day, he sweated so much in the gloves he wore, you could see water coming out of the ends of the fingers when he would wave his arms.”

The two mascots enjoyed long, successful runs by adding to the game experience and entertaining UT Martin fans. Then, in 1994, Benny Hollis arrived as the university’s first athletics director for both men’s and women’s programs. He brought with him an idea for dramatic change in UT Martin’s athletic identity.

SKYHAWKS TAKE FLIGHT IN 1995

Hollis noticed after his May arrival that consistently branded UT Martin athletics merchandise was hard to find. The campus bookstore offered the most choices, while area retail stores offered few if any options. He saw merchandise sales and branding potential by making athletics logo and mascot changes. Chancellor Margaret Perry approved her new AD’s idea, and a change in the university’s athletics identity began.

Hollis presented a proposal to an appointed logo-mascot “search committee” that met for the first time Nov. 30, 1994. “I have no predetermined ideas about what we should do,” he wrote in the proposal’s cover page. “But I am open to any suggestions or thoughts you may have in helping us solve this problem for the betterment of UTM.”

Hollis, a well-known athletics administrator and basketball coach, who spoke with a distinguished Louisiana drawl, did offer direction to the 14-member committee on how the selection process would work. First and foremost, he wanted to involve students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community, and he wanted a professional agency to assist in the logo and mascot design and creation.

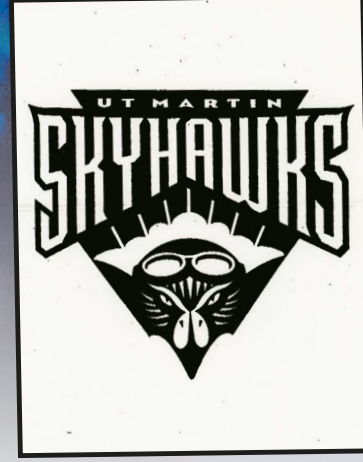
As for the logo and mascot, he asked that both be gender-neutral and distinctly identified with UT Martin. A series of meetings, many open to observers and the media, were scheduled starting in January 1995 and culminating with an announcement and celebration in late spring. Dye Van Mol & Lawrence, a well-known Nashville public relations firm, was selected to coordinate the creative work and produce the new logo and mascot for a cost of \$18,000.

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(left) The updated Captain caricature created by Trevor Ruskowski, then university photographer; (center, right and below) early black and white Skyhawk logo drawings that were considered during the development process.

Numerous meetings, discussions and related news media coverage followed, with many offering the committee opinions and suggestions on what to do and which direction to take. After much work, the March 2, 1995, edition of The Pacer's front-page headline proclaimed "Committee goes with Skyhawks." Final approvals were made by university administration, and refinements to the logo artwork and mascot design were completed. Coach Hollis and Chancellor Perry made a formal public announcement and unveiled the logo late afternoon on April 25 between Ellington Hall and the Boling University Center.

The Skyhawk mascot's first public appearance followed that fall in a history-making night for UT Martin sports. The first-ever Skyhawk-named football team welcomed Bethel College to Martin on Thursday, Sept. 7, and came away with what The Pacer described in its Sept. 14 edition as "the most lopsided football victory in the school's history," defeating Bethel 97-7. The margin of victory quickly became a national story, somewhat overshadowing the name change and mascot introduction. But that same Pacer also featured an entry form for student suggestions to name the mascot, so conversations surrounding the logo and mascot change continued.

An editor's note in the Jan. 18, 1996 Pacer documented the twists and turns of the eventual mascot naming. The first mascot name chosen in the initial contest was "Chippy," but after the announcement during a home

football game, the word was soon discovered to carry a little-known meaning that rendered "Chippy" an inappropriate choice. A second student ballot – minus gender-specific names that had appeared on the previous ballot – was published Nov. 2 in The Pacer and included "Captain" – which was ultimately chosen.

The selection of Skyhawks and then "Captain" as the mascot's official name was not without bumps in the road. News coverage noted at times that students weren't involved in the decisions as much as they needed or wanted to be. Then there were alumni who did not embrace any form of transition from the longstanding "Pacers" moniker, so any relative success or failure of the initial changeover was hard to determine.

However, one success for Benny Hollis, who died in March 2011, was seeing an increase in apparel and merchandise sales, one of his goals for the change. A university news release reported that royalty payments from sales of UT Martin apparel and merchandise increased 20 percent through December 1995, based on numbers provided by the UT Office of Indicia Licensing.

"The increase in merchandise royalties is gratifying," said Chancellor Perry in the release. "This confirms the Skyhawk emblem is selling and that the change was a move in the right direction."

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20 YEARS LATER

A person would be hard-pressed to find someone more knowledgeable than Charlie Rayburn about college mascots and their significance to a college and its athletics program. He even wrote a manual on mascot performance while working for the National Cheerleaders Association. While fans might view mascots as bringing school spirit and excitement to college athletics, their impact goes beyond game events. Rayburn witnessed two major mascot introductions during his UT Martin career, neither of which was easy to accomplish without plenty of work behind the scenes.

“Identity is a hard thing in athletics. It was always, ‘What is a Pacer,’ and now, ‘What is a Skyhawk?’ You just can’t win,” Rayburn said. “I would have liked to had a makeover (of Pacer Pete and Pace-Her Polly), but no one wanted to go that route, so we just evolved once again. It was just an era that we went through for more growth.”

Rayburn sees mascots as more relevant today than ever before.

“Like before, people want to identify with the team. The mascot is one of the easiest ways of doing that,” he said. “You can see, touch and feel a part of the university.”

He also noted that things have changed over the years in the world of college mascots. “More restrictions have been put into place where there used to be none. Now they have national competitions for mascots. I taught mascots on a national level for about five years, and it was big business.”

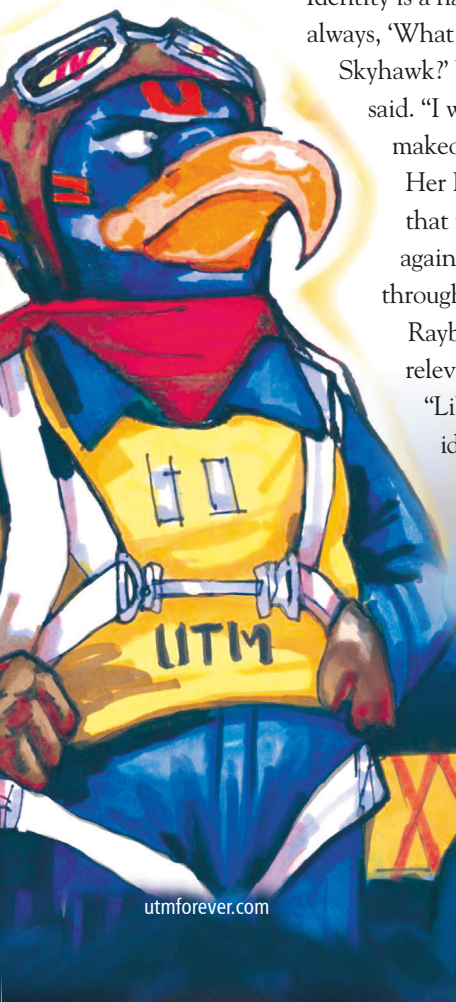
UT Martin’s athletics program has enjoyed many milestones and notable personalities along the way. Among those notable personalities are Pacer Pete, Pace-Her Polly, Captain Skyhawk and people like Charlie Rayburn and countless others who brought these mascots to life, both encouraging school spirit and entertaining generations of UT Martin fans.

So thank you Charlie, Bettye Giles and Coach Mears. And thank you Coach Hollis and Chancellor Perry for taking a risk to re-brand UT Martin athletics.

By the way, happy 20th birthday Captain Skyhawk! May you have many happy returns and preside over many more victories for the teams that carry your name. <<<

(This story was made possible by a combination of email and in-person interviews with Charlie and Judy Rayburn, document searches by Karen Elmore in the Paul Meek Library Archives, and Bob Carroll’s book about the university’s history. Persons who have worn the Pacer Pete, Pace-Her Polly or Captain Skyhawk mascot suits are invited to send your name, the years you wore the costume and where you currently live to Bud Grimes at bgrimes@utm.edu. A list will be published in a future Campus Scene.)

We would like to thank the UT Martin League of Striving Artists (featured members Carly Christiansen, Thomas Kendall and Tyler Allen) for portions of the artwork used in this story.



edible

SUCCESS

*Family-Owned
Sausage Company
is Nationwide!*

by Carmen Wagster



Roger Williams (right), owner of Williams Sausage Company in Union City, stands outside the plant with his son, Bret, a current UTM student majoring in accounting; (opposite page, top to bottom) various steps in the Williams Sausage manufacturing process.

When driving through Union City, take a detour past Discovery Park of America and turn down a few curvy, country roads. Amid the farms and fields sits the Williams Sausage Company, a locally owned and operated sausage production plant with 10 acres of land, 185,000-square-foot of factory space, and 550 employees, steeped in regional history and treasured as an heirloom to the Williams' family.

Roger Williams ('81), president of Williams Sausage and former UT Martin accounting major, follows the example set by his father, Harold Williams, as he pioneered Williams Sausage Company in 1958.

"One of my father's favorite sayings was, 'How can you tell someone else how to do it, if you can't do it yourself?'" Roger has been president of Williams Sausage since 1998, but has made it a point to know and understand the ins and outs of its operation since he was young.

Harold Williams got his start in the meat-butchering trade before he ever thought about processing and selling sausage. After graduating from high school, Harold began working for Reelfoot Packing Company, where he learned about butchering. However, he was drafted into the army to serve in the Korean War not long after starting his job.

"When he was drafted, the Army found out he knew how to cut meat," Roger said. Sure enough, butchering became his trade. It was during his service that he met his future business partner, Albert Partin, who was already heir to a long line of family-owned sausage plants.

After serving in the Korean War, Harold took a position with General Motors in Detroit. However, he was laid off about a year and a half later, which prompted him to inquire about Partin's family business.

"They had a plant in Kentucky, one in Missouri and one in Illinois," Roger said. According to Roger, Partin told Harold, "You know, we don't have a plant in Tennessee. Why don't you come back and let's start one?"

The family of Hazel Williams, Roger's mother, offered 10 acres of their farmland to help get Harold's "custom killing," also known as meat-butchering, business off the ground. At that time, Harold's sausage business was only a side gig.

"When he first started, my mother and grandmother actually sewed the [sausage packaging] bags. They were cloth bags. They just bought cloth and would sew them on a sewing machine and stuff the meat in them, tying it with a string," Roger recalled. His whole family and extended family were involved in helping Harold get his business started.

Harold decided to turn his focus away from custom butchering to put more emphasis on sausage production. In

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(left) Sausage, egg and cheese croissants are made assembly line style; Grogan's mild country sausage in its final packaging; (opposite page, top to bottom) a box of Williams Sausage patties; sausage, egg and cheese croissants are packaged; Williams Sausage is available with a variety of seasonings.

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the beginning, Harold had few available resources. He worked from a small tin building on his father-in-law's property and bought three sows (female pigs) with money borrowed from his in-laws. For deliveries, he drove an old pickup truck carrying used Coca-Cola coolers full of sausage to sell.

It is often said that the third time's a charm, and that was the truth for Harold. With only three sows to his name and no additional cash, Harold took a deep breath and charged forward with the hope that his knack for processing quality sausage would be evident to his first customers.

Unfortunately, not long after he returned with the sows, one of them passed away. Left with only two chances to sell sausage to the Obion County community, Harold processed the second sow and went to every small market in town to sell his first batch of sausage. He quickly discovered most markets already had a sausage source.

"His first batch, he basically had to give it away in samples. So, he went back and the next week, he said, 'I'll kill that last hog and go back around, and if they don't buy it this time, then I'll just be in the custom kill business, and I won't fool with the sausage,'" Roger said. "So, when he went back around the next week, they all said, 'Well, that was pretty good sausage. We'll buy some,' and that's how he got his start. He started in 1958; I was born in 1959."

Until 1972, Williams Sausage was a state-inspected company, but Harold bought a refrigerated truck that year, which made it possible for the business to grow. "From '58-'72, he did the custom-kill work and sold in Tennessee. In 1972, we became federally inspected. When you become federally inspected, then you have a USDA inspector in your plant all the time. They have an office here, and we have usually two inspectors here at all times," Roger explained.

Once Williams Sausage became a federally inspected business, Harold felt it was time to turn the focus of the business away from butchering and more toward sausage production.

"In '72, he quit doing the custom-kill work because the sausage business had gotten bigger. We only sold what we call chubs, which are rolls of sausage—the one-pound and two-pound—and a sliced sausage patty that we sold to restaurants," Roger said of the shift in focus.

After graduating from UT Martin in 1981, Roger felt compelled to move the business in a different direction, and proposed that Williams Sausage expand its market by selling to food service distributors.

"Today, we make private label brand sausage for Kroger nationwide. We make private label sausage for WalMart nationwide," Roger said. "For Kroger, we make the Heritage Farm brand, which is the lower-end; we call it the economy brand. At WalMart, we make the Great Value brand, which is a higher-end, whole hog product."

Williams Sausage also produces and sells fully-cooked sausage and premade breakfast sandwiches, including sausage biscuits and sausage, egg and cheese croissants for their private labels.

Harold passed away in 1998, shortly after Roger became president of Williams Sausage. "We probably haven't gone three years without adding on to our plant. We started in the old tin building and as we could afford it, we started adding onto the plant and growing the business," Roger said. "So we went from 1958 with zero dollars in sales to this year being about \$130 million in sales."

Keeping Williams Sausage a family-owned business is important to Roger. His brother, David Williams, is a

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part owner; his son-in-law and daughter, Mark and Lesley Anderson, work for the company, and his son, Bret Williams, a senior at UT Martin, works during school holidays and plans to stay with the business after he graduates.

Roger followed his father's advice about knowing the business before running the business, and Bret is now following in his father's footsteps. "Bret, he works here. He works in the summer and over Christmas break. Being able to start at the bottom and go all in ... he's done everything from being down in the sewer system fixing pipes to whatever it takes," Roger said.

The value, Roger says, of running a local business is that the company plays an active role in the local community. "For the community, one thing I like about being family-owned is that our money stays here. When a big corporation owns the company, the payroll is here and it's good for the jobs, but our money doesn't go off to Chicago or somewhere else. It stays in the local economy. We use local vendors as much as we can" he said.

The community also benefits from the business being family owned and operated. "I've grown up in the community," Roger said. "I know the county and the city leaders. If we need something, we know who to contact and they have really been good to help us. When we built out here, there was no infrastructure—water lines, electric lines, sewer lines. As we grew, we had to put all that stuff in. Our water and our sewer come from Union City, which is 10 miles away."

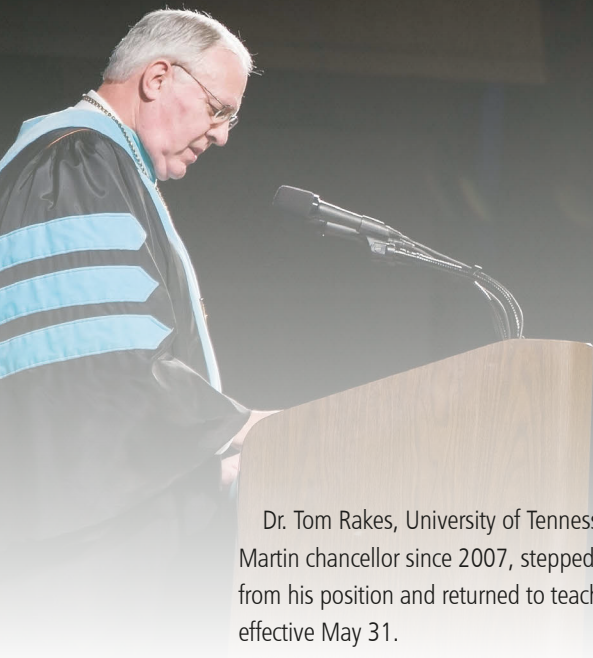
Harold's "all in" philosophy that drives the Williams Sausage Company's success was reiterated to Roger when he attended UT Martin. "My favorite professor was a guy named John Fletcher. He was a finance professor. Dr. Fletcher had worked in private industry. He had so much real-world experience. He always had a big influence on me," Roger said. "He taught us that college is not about learning a specific discipline, it's about teaching you how to learn. You need to continue to learn when you get out of college."

Even today, Roger continues to stay on top of the many operations that take place around the plant, and he is even more excited that he is able to pass his knowledge along to Bret, who is also an accounting major.

Bret has his heart set on continuing with the family business. "Ever since I was little, I wanted to be a part of this, do what my dad did and be a part of the family business," he said. As Bret walked across the commencement stage on May 2, 2015, he looked ahead to helping keep the Williams Sausage family tradition alive.

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DR. TOM RAKES

ends his service as UT Martin Chancellor

Dr. Tom Rakes, University of Tennessee at Martin chancellor since 2007, stepped down from his position and returned to teaching, effective May 31.

Rakes held various administrative positions during his 23-year tenure at the University of Memphis through 1995. He came to UT Martin in 2002 from the University of Louisiana at Monroe where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and interim president. Rakes came to UT Martin to serve as vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of educational studies. He was named provost in 2005, followed by his election as chancellor two years later by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

The university has registered notable growth during his administration in online enrollment and the completion of over \$100 million in capital and maintenance projects. Academic successes by students and student-athletes both in competition and in the classroom also marked his time at UT Martin.

"The university is solid financially, and the main campus infrastructure and extended-campus centers are in excellent condition," said Rakes. "I am proud to have been a part of this university. I believe this is an exciting time for UT Martin and look forward to seeing the campus move forward under new leadership."

UT President Joe DiPietro described Rakes' service as chancellor as a time of major milestones.

"UT Martin is a unique and important part of the UT System, and Chancellor Rakes has led, nurtured and guided UT Martin in distinguished fashion through a strategic effort to expand the campus' reach into West Tennessee to better serve the needs of non-traditional and working students in surrounding communities with satellite centers at Parsons, Selmer, Ripley and Jackson. In addition, under Chancellor Rakes' leadership, the campus has built and opened state-of-the-art new facilities, including a fine arts building, student housing, and the student-driven and student-funded recreation center.

"His leadership was key to the outstanding success UT Martin had in the system-wide, \$1 billion Campaign for Tennessee, in which UT Martin became the first UT campus to meet its campaign goal, \$43 million, and continued its fundraising success until the campaign's official conclusion in 2011 with a total of \$57,254,633 raised for UT Martin.

"Chancellor Rakes has served UT Martin both in his current capacity and for five years as provost, and I am glad he has chosen to continue to serve in the classroom as he enters this new chapter. He is a strong advocate for the needs of students, and he has a great understanding of both the student population and its needs that UT Martin serves."

Specific milestones during Dr. Rakes' administration include the university's highest-ever enrollment of 8,469 students in the fall of 2010, the opening of a

new Student Recreation Center during that same year, the expanded Fine Arts Building in 2013, and a major renovation and remodeling of the university's dining facilities and bookstore that reopened in the fall of 2014 in the Boling University Center. Expansions were also completed at UT Martin centers in Parsons, Ripley, and Selmer. A new Jackson Center location opened in fall 2011.

Rakes is a member of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission Performance Funding Standards Review Committee, the Complete College Act Funding Formula Committee, and a founding member of the Tennessee Campus Compact Board of Directors. He is past chair and currently serves on the Ohio Valley Conference Council of Presidents. Rakes is also a member of the executive committee of the Tennessee College Association.

Active in public service, Rakes serves on the Weakley County United Way Board of Directors and the Weakley County Economic Development Board where he serves as chair of the WCED Committee on Professional Services, Health, and Education.

"I look forward to returning to the faculty and working more directly with UTM students," said Rakes, who during his university teaching career has over 160 refereed presentations and publications along with 24 books to his credit. "The University of Tennessee at Martin has a bright future, and I look forward to my new role within the institution."



Tom Rakes Administration Highlights

SEPTEMBER 2007: UT Martin Ripley Center opens.

SPRING 2008: West Tennessee Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory opens.

SUMMER 2008: Business Administration Building reopens following renovations.

FALL 2008: Undergraduate admissions standards raised.

FALL 2008: University Village-Phase II housing opens.

OCT. 10, 2009: Brehm Hall expansion opens.

FALL 2009: McNairy County Center/Selmer expansion completed.

FALL 2010: Online BS/BA degree in business management begins.

FEB. 28, 2011: Baseball-Softball Fieldhouse opening ceremony held.

AUGUST 2011: Commemorated the 30th anniversary of the official partnership between Hirosaki University and UT Martin with a visit to Hirosaki as a guest of the university president.

SEPTEMBER 2011: Honored UT Martin's first African American student to enroll at the university and the first student to graduate from UTM in "Celebrating 50 Years of African American Achievement."

FALL 2011: The seven-year Campaign for Tennessee concluded with UT Martin's more than doubling its initial \$25 million goal with a campaign total exceeding \$58 million.

FALL 2011: UT Martin becomes the first All-Steinway School in the UT System.

APRIL 2012: Campus lighting project completed at a cost of \$3.2 million.

OCTOBER 2012: Statues unveiled outside of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center to honor three pioneers in women's athletics: Pat Head Summitt, Bettye Giles and Nadine Gearin.

FEBRUARY 7, 2013: Ripley Center celebrates 8,000-square-foot expansion.

SPRING 2013: Data from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission revealed that UT Martin has the most satisfied students and the second highest graduation rate among Tennessee public universities.

FALL 2013: Since 2008, \$62.5 million expended by UT Martin in capital improvements and maintenance projects.

AUGUST 18, 2013: Renovated and expanded Fine Arts Building opens.

AUGUST 2013: Ned McWherter Institute for Collaboration and Innovation begins.

OCT. 4, 2013: Dedication held for the Rhodes Golf Center and Grover Page Team Room.

OCT. 5, 2013: Ground is broken for the new UT Martin Sorority Village.

SPRING 2014: A Complete College Tennessee Act report showed UT Martin as having the greatest productivity gains of any of Tennessee's nine public institutions.

APRIL 2015: UT Martin alumni giving rate tops 8 percent, the highest in university history.

MAY 2014: The Veterinary Health Technology Option is notified of initial accreditation, and the first 20 students graduate from the program May 3.

JUNE 2014: Men's rodeo team wins national championship.

AUGUST 28, 2014: Opening of the new West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation Nursing Wing

SEPT. 11, 2014: Grand reopening of the relocated Barnes & Noble Bookstore (\$350,000) and remodeled and expanded Sodexo Dining Services area (\$3.25 million).

OCTOBER 2014: UT Martin receives a five-year Title III grant totaling more than \$1.9 million from the U.S. Department of Education.

NOVEMBER 2014: UT Martin receives a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the university's largest ever external grant.

NOVEMBER 2014: WestStar Leadership Program celebrates 25 years.

FEBRUARY 2015: New Master of Arts in strategic communication announced.

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ALUMNI NEWS

(the real deal)>>>



May 1 will bring about new changes for UT Martin Alumni as we bid farewell to **Mr. Andrew Hart** (UTM '04, '06). Andrew has been instrumental in alumni programming for young alumni and I Heart UTM week. He will begin his new duties as director of career services for the UT Alumni Association on May 11. Congratulations and good luck, Andrew.

Everyone loves a good challenge, right! UT Martin alumni more than meet the challenge from Bill Blankenship, Jenifer Horbelt, Jerry Reese, Cathy and Nick Dunagan, and several UTM students! During I Heart UTM week, April 20-24, Captain's Challenge was introduced to alumni and friends through different social media outlets. The concept was simple. The goal was achieved. The outcome will be life changing.

Through the use of Facebook, Twitter, websites, and email, UT Martin alumni were challenged to raise \$50,000 in just 120 hours! Funds were donated to student scholarships, faculty enhancement funds, campus beatification, and many other gift funds. Gifts of all sizes led to the success of this challenge. In many cases, your dollar was matched with another dollar!

I have people tell me they love to read my article, something I take great pride in writing. But nothing makes my heart swell with blue and orange pride than when I get a note saying this person made their first ever gift to the university. They are investing in our university's future and it is quite the humbling experience. I hope you will consider taking this challenge next spring by investing your money in the future, of our university. The dividend is a greater tomorrow for our students.

And remember...I Heart UTM is a weeklong celebration of a lifetime commitment to your alma mater! Oh yes, by the way, we raised more than \$151,397 in 120 hours for UT Martin! Thank you to everyone who participated, to the champions who spread the word, and to Bill Blankenship who matched the first \$25,000! Go Skyhawks!

Charly Deal
('92, '96)

SEE MORE ONLINE

For the most up-to-date information, news and event schedules, check out the alumni website at www.utmforever.com. Now you can stay connected, share news and photos and network all through utmforever.com.



(spotlight on alums)>>>

GET INVOLVED!

As an alum of UT Martin, your continued engagement and involvement are critical to our success. Your personal commitment of time, talent and treasure will ensure our future growth and success. Visit our website to discover meaningful ways you can impact your university:

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- >Alumni Council
- >Development Council
- >Mentoring Program
- >Young Alumni Council
- >Speak Out for UT
- >Alumni in the Classroom

UTMFOREVER.COM

In addition to visiting the website, also feel free to write, call or email the UT Martin Alumni Association for more information.

Office of Alumni Relations
Dunagan Alumni Center
1900 Alumni Way
Martin, TN 38238
(731) 881-7610
alumni@utm.edu



Dr. Paul Chandler pictured in his home office in Dresden.

UT MARTIN ALUM RECOGNIZED BY PENN STATE>>>

(Campus Scene acknowledges Sally Bair, Penn State University, for the news release announcing Dr. Chandler's award. Bud Grimes added information from a subsequent interview.) **Dr. Paul Chandler ('59)** is a humble and accomplished man, and he is quick to give credit where credit is due. "I'll make the statement and stand on it very strongly that everything that I know is the result of a cow," he said in a January interview. "I either learned it directly from the cow or indirectly because of the cow." The owner of Chandler & Associates, Inc., in Dresden, was named the 2014 Dairy Science Distinguished Alumnus by Penn State's Department of Animal Science and was recognized in November at a departmental ceremony. "I was astounded somewhat, because I had to figure out what it was for," Chandler said of receiving the award. "And I think there was a couple of projects that was key in my career that made me stand out."

Chandler received his bachelor's degree from UT Martin and master's degree from the UT Knoxville and then earned his doctorate from Penn State University, where he was a graduate assistant and dairy science instructor. Before founding his own consulting firm in 1978, he was a professor in the Virginia Tech Department of Dairy Science.

Raised on his family's farm in Dresden, Chandler has fond memories of his UT Martin days. "I remember a very enjoyable learning experience, very close interaction with teachers, and everyone involved for the good of the students," he said. "And I picked up a lot of things from going through UT Martin that I have tried over the years to

>>> [continued on next page](#)

(congratulations)>>>**>>> continued from previous page**

incorporate in my interaction with students and different industry people in the act of teaching and discussing (various) things.”

As the principal dairy nutrition consultant in his own company, Chandler has clients that include dairy producers and feed companies throughout the U.S. He continues to work with H.J. Baker & Bro., for whom he developed two products: Pro-Lak, a combination of protein sources designed to supply a complement of amino acids to the lactating cow, and Metabolys®, a rumen-protected lysine.

The dairy scientist was honored in 1997 with the American Dairy Science Association Applied Dairy Nutrition Award. In his nomination papers, he was called an innovative leader in the applied dairy cattle field with the unique ability to be research-based yet, at the same time, very practical.

Chandler is well known as a mentor, supporting and nurturing students, many of whom continue to make significant contributions to the industry.

His research on Methionine as one of the two limiting amino acids in high-producing cows is considered groundbreaking. He was one of the earliest to use what is now called Meta-Analysis to prove or disprove various theories, assembling data from various experiments and developing a model to incorporate each set of data, making it possible to prove or disprove a hypothesis.

One of Chandler’s significant accomplishments was developing a ration-balancing program that was easily understood by cooperative extension agents. Data was transmitted over a phone line in the mid-70s, and the use of the program throughout Virginia moved those dairy producers ahead of the competition.

For years Chandler wrote an article for Feedstuffs on a bi-weekly basis. Feedstuffs

>>> Chandler, continued on page 48**Miranda Fickert ('99, '01)>>>**

has been named regional commercial team lead for U.S. Bank in Southeast Missouri. She received bachelor’s degrees in marketing and accounting from UT Martin in 1999 and a Master of Accountancy, also from UT Martin, in 2001. She has worked for U.S. Bank for 10 years, serving as credit analyst, commercial relationship manager and market president before moving to her current position. Fickert was named a U.S. Bank Annual Pinnacle Honoree in 2010 and 2011. She is a Certified Public Accountant and serves as a board member for the U.S. Bank Development Network. Fickert resides in Popular Bluff, Mo., with her husband, Ryan, and



their son, Jake. She is active in her local community and serves as board president of the Boys and Girls Club of Popular Bluff. She is also involved with Poplar Bluff Kiwanis, St. Jude Popular Bluff Heroes and the Community Cares Corporation. <<<

Dr. Gordon Smith ('84)>>>

began his duties Feb. 2 as the new head of the Kansas State University Department of Grain Science and Industry in the College of Agriculture. He earned UT Martin degrees in biology and chemistry, and a master’s degree in organic chemistry and a doctorate in food science from Texas A&M University. As a food science scholar, he has authored or co-authored published research involving food product creation, food product tests and shelf-life stability. Smith has also served as a co-author on food science book chapters and has developed or co-developed nearly 20 patents or patent-pending technologies in food manufacturing. He is the son of Dr. Al Smith, professor emeritus of horticulture. (Source: K-State Research and Extension News)

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(spotlight on alums)>>>



Original charter members are pictured with the restored charter.

A RETURN TO CAMPUS>>> Twenty-four of 30 charter members and more than 40 initiated brothers, wives and little sisters of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, Delta Upsilon Chapter, returned to campus during the Homecoming 2014 activities for their first reunion in more than 30 years. The

now inactive chapter was founded on the UT Martin campus in the spring of 1984. The three-day reunion included the naming of a board of governors and the creation of two annual legacy scholarships named after deceased charter members Greg Box and Tony Coleman. Fraternity members were also presented with the original charter document, which was discovered and restored by a little sister. Brothers returned to the Martin campus from as far as California, Texas and Florida for the event. Fraternity alumni **Richard and Kay Stegall, Keith and Dana Lawrence, Scott and Shelly Robbins, Geri Khoury, Stacy Hicks, Cindy Schmidt** and **Joe Lofaro** were instrumental in the planning of the reunion. <<<

Dr. Daniel Donaldson II ('99) was a keynote speaker at the 2015 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebration, Jan. 19, sponsored by the UT Martin Black Student Association and the city of Martin. Donaldson (pictured above) graduated from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education and received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis in 2005. He is currently working at the EyeCare Center of Martin, where he has been since August 2008. He is a member of the American Optometric Association. He and his wife, Alicia, have two children, Brianna (17) and Nathan (15). <<<

NOT EVERYONE'S HIGHER EDUCATION TIMELINE IS THE SAME >>> Some people know exactly what career they want to pursue before attending their first class, but some need time and experience to find direction.

In 1997, **Tina Sullivan**, a Fayette County native, was a bright-eyed 18-year-old freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Sullivan wanted to study biology but faced some difficulties in her coursework and changed her focus to psychology. After experiencing additional setbacks, Sullivan made the decision to step back from higher education and look for a job instead.

"My mother and father made me see that I needed to get a job that would help me go forward with a career. So, I became a flight attendant," Sullivan recalled. "After being on academic probation from UT Martin, I was not eager to go back to school at that time. I guess maturity-wise, I wasn't ready to commit to a career path."

After working as a flight attendant, Sullivan was offered a position in 2001 with Ring Industrial Group, part of Ring Companies, located in Oakland, Tenn. In 2006, she began working with another branch of the Ring Companies —Rapac —which supplies environmentally friendly products for sustainable packaging. Not long after accepting this position, Rapac reopened the door to higher education and asked Sullivan if she'd like to go back to school.

She initially enrolled at Southwest Community College in Memphis, which helped her step back into the role of a student. After marrying UT Martin alum John Sullivan ('05), Tina began researching ways to balance life as a wife, mother, full-time employee and student.

While researching flexible and convenient degree programs, Sullivan rediscovered UT Martin and contacted Dr. John Overby, chair and professor, Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems, about the online business program. Finally, she knew exactly where she wanted to complete her degree.

"[UT] Martin was a comfortable environment for me," Sullivan said. "It was also convenient and reasonable (cost)."

When Sullivan began work on her business degree from UT Martin, she learned she had mentors available to help her. "I had a student assigned to me as an advisor, and I asked Dr. Ed Knight to take me under his wing. He told me, 'You didn't need guidance. You needed support.' That's what kept me positive in the whole experience," she said.

"I loved that the online program was easy to follow, but it was also challenging. You have to be self-disciplined because it's up to you to get the curriculum," she added. Sullivan recalled many nights



Sullivan (right) received her diploma from Chancellor Tom Rakes during commencement exercises in May 2012.

when she and her kids were doing homework at the same time, an experience Sullivan said she would not have traded for anything.

In May 2012, Sullivan completed her Bachelor of Science in business administration. She considered skipping her chance to walk across the stage at the spring commencement ceremony, but her husband changed her mind. "If anything, do it for your kids and do it for me. You've worked really hard. You need to appreciate the degree you worked for," he told her.

In June of that same year, Sullivan was offered a promotion at Rapac and became the customer service coordinator. She received another promotion to customer services and logistics manager in October 2014.

As Sullivan looks to the future, she is considering returning to UT Martin again, this time to pursue a Master of Business Administration, which is available either on campus or online.

Sullivan is proud of her accomplishments at UT Martin. "I have a solid degree that people will recognize," she said. "It's never too late. I'm glad I finished it." <<<

(spotlight on alums)>>>



Nathan Powers (left) is pictured at fall 2014 commencement exercises with his wife, Emily.

GRADUATE EARNS AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE WORK>>>

Nathan Powers' journey through college ended when he received a bachelor's degree in information systems during the 2014 fall commencement exercises at UT Martin. However, his contributions to the university as a student worker will long be remember and appreciated.

Powers, 26, filled a part-time student worker position in which he regularly inspected about 1,000 fire extinguishers and automated external defibrillators – a job that kept him on the move during his final two years in college and put his classroom knowledge to practical use. His hard work and ingenuity earned him the Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award for fall semester.

The award, presented in November and named after the late Beth Maloan, included a plaque and \$1,000 recognizing outstanding student work performance. The award is named after the late Maloan, director of budgeting and payroll at the time of her death in 2001 and a proponent of experience-based work opportunities for students.

"I was very honored (to receive the award)," Powers said. "It's very prestigious in my mind because I've always been taught to do the best job you can, no matter what you're doing."

Powers, who is from Possum Trot, near Humboldt, attended Gibson County High School and played saxophone in the band. His parents, Clayton and Paula, taught him the importance of helping people and stirred his interest in emergency management. Paula is currently training and operations officer for Gibson County Emergency Management Agency, where her volunteer work turned into a full-time position. His own volunteer experience with the county's EMA began at age eight.

"During natural disasters I would help with storm spotting," Powers said. "I went to all those classes and learned how to do that." He also earned his amateur radio license and voiced a nightly weather report from his home-based weather station. "It was kind of funny hearing this little eight-year-old kid come over the radio to some of the guys," he recalled.

Powers' early experience prepared him for one of the region's most tragic weather events. In spring 2006, he decided to skip his senior marching band trip to Hawaii, so he was home when the April 2 tornado outbreak occurred in West Tennessee. Bradford and the surrounding area in Gibson County were among the hardest hit. "As soon as it was clear enough for us to get our equipment moving, we were there on the scene and just doing everything we could to help people," he said.

A few months later, Powers enrolled at UT Martin as an engineering student, but his career goals lacked direction – leading to a change in 2010 influenced by his emergency management background. "I like building things, and the (engineering) theory just wasn't as interesting to me as I thought it was going to be," he said. "So, I left the university and went to work at Weakley County Emergency Management and Emergency 911 Center, and there I helped to upgrade their entire 911 system to get it next-gen 911 ready."

This part-time work opportunity led Powers to focus more clearly on his interests, and he returned to the university in fall 2012 to study information systems. Along with a fresh start in college came another work opportunity with the university's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Among his safety-related duties: a monthly inspection of more than 900 portable fire extinguishers and some 50 AEDs to ensure them to be in proper working order.

"I was basically given a list of all the equipment and where it was located, a set of keys and basic instructions on my responsibilities as far as what I was supposed to check," he explained. "And I had to take care of managing my time all on my own and just make sure that everything was checked out each month per National Fire Protection Association specifications."

Not only did Powers accomplish these primary duties, but with programming assistance from Steve Lemond in the Office of Information Technology Services, he also helped implement a tracking system for the monthly inspections. He considers this his biggest accomplishment, which was made possible by applying what he learned in an information systems course project.

"Before we were doing this all with pen and paper on a clipboard, and we moved this to the digital age using an iPad, bar codes and a database system set up over in the IT department,"

>>> continued on next page

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he said. "It cuts out a lot of the paperwork we had to do after we did our monthly checks."

Powers' supervisors were impressed with his achievements and said so when completing the Beth Maloan Award nomination form. "Nathan Powers' abilities, initiative, enthusiasm and support for our entire campus program allow him to stand out among his peers," wrote Doug Sliger, the university's emergency management coordinator and safety specialist. "Mr. Powers will continue to be a positive reflection on the University of Tennessee at Martin long after his graduation."

Nathan's wife, **Emily ('10, '13)**, originally from Trenton, said that her husband "relished the challenge of making the system easier for whoever comes after him."

"He is just a hard worker in everything he does," she said. "He has a passion for making everything better and doing his best." Lessons learned as a child still matter to Nathan Powers. He has never outgrown his desire to help others, and he knows that good things happen when you do your best. <<<



ALUMS BRING RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO UT MARTIN >>>

Students from Ridgeway High School in Memphis visited UT Martin last fall, a visit made possible by the Office of Alumni Relations and university alumni who are staff members at the school. Students toured portions of the campus and learned about UT Martin academic programs and other opportunities. The Office of Minority Affairs also assisted with the half-day visit. Pictured after activities concluded and as students were preparing to depart for Memphis are **Charley Deal ('92, '96)**, assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations; **Regina Carter ('91)** school counselor; **Ben Hartsfield ('92)** assistant principal; and Dr. Annie Jones, UT Martin Office of Minority Affairs. <<<



Andrew Hart ('04,'06), assistant director of alumni affairs and annual giving, was recognized as one of the UTFI Board of Directors Award winners for 2014 at a foundation board meeting on Feb. 3. Hart works with the annual giving program and young alumni programming. He began his work with Alumni Relations in 2011 after spending seven years as a public school teacher in the Weakley County School System. He received a bachelor's degree in education in 2004 and a master's degree in educational administration and supervision in 2006, both from UT Martin. Pictured are (l-r): Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for UT Martin University Advancement; **Charlie Moore ('60)**, UT Foundation board member; **Bill Blankenship ('56)**, UT Foundation board member; Hart; Steve Morris, chair, UT Foundation board of directors; and Dr. Lynn Alexander, board member and dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. <<<

(spotlight on alums)>>>

**SANDRA BRACKETT ('69) RETIRES WITH 45 YEARS OF SERVICE>>>**

University colleagues and friends gathered Dec. 18 in the Holland McCombs Center to honor Sandra Brackett (seated, center) for 45 years of service in the UT Martin Office of Academic Records. She officially retired Dec. 31. Brackett, of Sharon, began in the office as a student worker and continued in that role until she earned her degree. She became a full-time staff member in July 1969 following her graduation. Attending the reception were (standing, l to r) Tonia Cox, **Patsy Potts ('04, '09)**, Janice Parham, Sandy Holland, **Dr. Brandy Cartmell ('98)**, Emily Knudsen (retired staff member), Cheryl Branon, Ann Kelly (retired staff member) and Teresa Erwin; (seated, l to r) LeAnne Perry, Brackett and Cherie Edwards.

<<<

>>> Chandler, continued from page 44.

is widely read by feed manufacturers throughout the country and the world, and his ability to explain difficult nutrition concepts and their use in practical situations was invaluable. He also provided three-and-a-half minute radio nutrition updates as part of DAIRYLINE. He has been lauded for being able to talk in laymen's terms and use his innate "cow sense" combined with technical expertise to educate and train.

He credits a three-year period spent at the UT Agricultural Research Laboratory at Oak Ridge for making him a successful scientist. "I had contact with scientists from all over the world and it opened my eyes," he said in a Penn State news release.

Chandler worked in Hungary as a consultant for the U.S. Feed Grain Council and prepared written material on nutrition-based on courses he taught at Penn State and Virginia Tech, highlighting the need to feed cows for profit. On subsequent visits to Hungary, he learned that the government had obtained a copy and labeled it "U.S. Propaganda." Nevertheless, the Hungarian underground continued to read and use the material, something Chandler considers "one of the highlights of my career."

He has been a member of the American Dairy Science Association, the American

Society of Animal Science, the American Institute of Nutrition, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Animal Nutrition Research Council, Sigma XI, Gamma Sigma Delta and the American Registry of Certified Animal Scientists.

Chandler lives on his family's farm in Dresden, where his educational endeavors began with the strong support of his parents, Russell and Nannie Thomas Chandler. He expresses gratitude for the strong support of two "life mates." He is married to Jane Butts Chandler, a neighbor with whom he reconnected after the death of his first wife, Patsy Miller Chandler, whom he met when she was a librarian at the Oak Ridge facility. He has two adult daughters, Pamela Sue and Paula Yvonne.

"He (Chandler) has had an enormous impact on both the industry and individual dairy producers through his ability to communicate effectively," said Dr. Terry Etherton, Penn State animal science department head and Distinguished Professor of Animal Nutrition. "His creative approach and forward thinking have been invaluable." <<<



Dale Allen ('80), a partner at Adams and Reese, LLP, in Nashville, has been elected chairman of the board of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Allen has been a TPAC board member since 2013 and will serve a three-year term as chairman. At Adams and Reese, Allen is a corporate lawyer concentrating on transportation, government relations and regulatory law. He is an active member of the Conference of Freight Counsel and Transportation Lawyers of America and also serves on the board of the National Guard Association of the United States Educational Foundation. Allen has served more than 27 years in the Tennessee Army National Guard and currently holds the rank of colonel as a Command Judge Advocate General. <<<

(class notes)>>>**1966****Eileen Mitchell Lowery ('66)**

retired in 1997 after many years of teaching in the Washington, D.C., area, as well as at a few overseas posts.

After UT Martin, she went on to complete a master's degree in home economics from UT Knoxville in 1970. Her husband, **David ('67)**, is retired from working with the U.S. government. They live in Williamsburg, Va., and have two children, Jason and Meghan. They would love to hear from members of Zeta Tau Alpha and Pikes from the 1960s. Eileen's email: libra101343@verizon.net.

1975

Gary Daniel ('75), a member of the 1974 UT Martin livestock judging team, became president of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association at the TCA's 30th Annual Convention and Trade Show on Jan. 17 in Murfreesboro. Daniel, of Cypress Inn, earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He and his wife, Shirley, also had two daughters earn UT Martin degrees: **Michelle Daniel Rowlett ('04)** and **Melissa Daniel Weber ('06)**. (Source: Tennessee Cattlemen's Association).

1981

Terry M. Todd ('81) is a market executive at FSG Bank in Chattanooga. He enjoys playing golf and boating. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Chattanooga and have a son, Blake, 21. Email: ttodd@fsgbank.com.

>>>

(we want to know)>>>

Please fill out the information below and mail it to us, or go to utmforever.com and let us know what you have been up to or update your address if it has changed.

Full Name (include maiden name, if applicable): _____
 Years Attended: _____ through _____ School/College of: _____
 Degree(s): _____ Major: _____
 Home Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____
 Occupation: _____ Business Name or Employer: _____
 Business Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Your Email Address: _____
 Would you like your Email address published in Campus Scene? Yes No

Full Name of Spouse: _____
 Did your spouse attend UT Martin? Yes No
 Years Attended: _____ through _____ School/College of: _____
 Degree(s): _____ Major: _____
 Occupation: _____ Business Name of Employer: _____
 Business Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Spouse's Email Address: _____
 Names and Ages of Children: _____

Additional News (honors, promotions, etc.): _____

List your current hobbies: _____

Would you consider taking an active leadership role in UT Martin alumni activities? Yes No

Would you like this information published in Campus Scene? Yes No

If you know anyone who may be interested in UT Martin and is a high school junior or senior, please give us his or her name and address.

Enclose a recent color headshot photo, if possible. No low-resolution digital photos, please! Photographs cannot be returned to you. Every effort will be made to use all color headshots submitted. However, space considerations and/or photo quality may prevent us from using submitted photos in some instances. Email photos to alumni@utm.edu.

Fill out, clip and return this form to:
 UT Alumni Association – Martin Office
 Dunagan Alumni Center
 1900 Alumni Way
 Martin, TN 38238

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(class notes)>>>

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1982

Janis Dawn Brown Brownlee ('82) is chief of staff to the provost at the University of Memphis. Her son, Nathan, 18, is a freshman at UT Knoxville. She currently lives in Lakeland. Email: JBrownle@Memphis.edu.

1985

Pamela Beck Marshall ('85) is a registered nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. She completed her Master of Science in nursing in 2012 and teaches nursing clinical. She and her husband, David, live in Saline, Mich., and have two children, Stephen, 21, and Sarah, 20. Email: pambeckmarshall@yahoo.com.

1988



Joe Lofaro ('88, '12), former sports information director and university editor, has authored his first non-fiction book, titled "Drafted, When

the Elite Rise to Gridiron Glory." The book, published by Red Streets Media in Fulton, Ky., tells the story of 12 UT Martin football players drafted into the NFL. Lofaro's second book, "We Held Our Helmets High," is due out in August 2015.

1991

Ken White ('91) retired after more than 30 years in the Gibson County special school district. He was a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal and athletic director. He enjoys hunting, fishing and participating in Civil War reenactments. He is the current chairman of the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame. He lives in Trenton with his wife, Joetta, and their son K.J., 14. Email: whitek1234@hotmail.com.

1995

Col. Tommy Baker ('95), of Huntingdon, was appointed in January as Tennessee's Assistant Adjutant General. He was commissioned in 1985 from the Tennessee Military Academy, and in addition to his UT Martin degree, also received a master's degree from Touro University. He was deployed to Kuwait in 2004 and again in 2008 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He has earned numerous awards, including the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal. He and his wife, Camille, have two children: Hillari and Cody. (Courtesy Thunderbolt Broadcasting)



Tony Parker ('95)

is the assistant commissioner of prisons for the Tennessee Department of Corrections. He

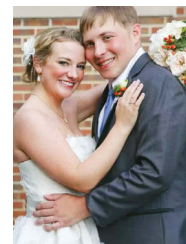
previously served as warden of the Northwest Correctional Complex in Lake County and once held the distinction of being the youngest warden in Tennessee's correctional system (see Tennessee Alumnus, May 2009 online edition, "He Holds the Key," and Campus Scene, Summer/Fall 2009, "Youngest Tennessee Warden Makes a Difference). In addition to his UT Martin degree, he earned a master's degree in March 2012 from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

1996

Tasha C. Blakney ('96) is a lawyer at the firm of Eldridge and Blakney, P.C., which she co-founded in Knoxville. She was recently elected president of the Knoxville Bar Association. She and her husband, Michael Rogers, live in Knoxville

with their daughters, Caroline, 17, and Katie, 13. Email: tblakney@eblaw.us.

2008



Ben Hogan ('08)

married **Anne Albrecht ('09)** on June 14, 2014. They met at UT Martin in the spring of 2005. Ben was a

communications major; he now produces the Eric Hasseltine Show at 92.9 ESPN. Anne was a performing arts major; she now teaches learning lab and directs the theater productions at Holy Rosary School. The couple lives in Memphis. Anne's email: annehogan2486@gmail.com. <<<

(in memory)>>>

Judge **Mike Faulk ('75)**, of Church Hill, passed away Nov. 11, 2014.

Walter Haden, of South Fulton, Ky., passed away Oct. 28, 2014 (retired UT Martin faculty).

Mary Hill, of Martin, passed away Nov. 7, 2014 (retired UT Martin staff).

Dr. James Nichols ('48), of Nashville, passed away Jan. 6, 2015 (1991 UTM Outstanding Alumni Award recipient).

Kellen Phillips, of Savannah, passed away Dec. 2, 2014 (UT Martin student).

Stan Sieber, of Martin, passed away Feb. 5, 2015 (retired UT Martin faculty).

Whitley Southerland ('13), passed away March 15, 2015.

Betty Bass Todd ('48), of Medina, passed away Nov. 21, 2014.

Margaret Weaver, of Martin, passed away Nov. 10, 2014 (retired UT Martin faculty).

Ed Neil White ('73), of Martin, passed away Feb. 24, 2015 (retired UT Martin Staff).



Artwork by the UT Martin League of Striving Artists (featured members: Carly Christiansen and Thomas Kendall).

<<<(one last thought)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT >>> Rachel Robison, marketing major, Paris



I want to work in sports marketing

>>> **Rachel Robison** understands that in order to live the total collegiate experience, a student should get involved, stay connected and take on new challenges.

Robison, a senior marketing major from Paris, always knew business would be a good fit for her, and at UT Martin she feels prepared to navigate the corporate world.

"I always knew I was business-oriented. ... I would be the boss of a business and make my friends or my little sister be my employees. I knew from the very beginning that I should be doing something in business but I didn't know what that was," Robison said.

However, when she started taking business classes, she was determined to find her strengths. "My first semester that I was in the business building, I took a wide variety of classes. I took an accounting class, a finance class, management, marketing and political science just to see what I felt like was best for me, and it was definitely marketing."

Sports marketing is something Robison is particularly interested in, and the College of Business and Global Affairs has presented several opportunities to help her obtain hands-on experiences in her desired field.

"Since I've been at UT Martin, I've had a lot of chances for experiential

learning. I have gotten to go to the 48th Super Bowl in New Jersey. ... She also went back to the 49th Super Bowl in February.

But her trips to the Super Bowl are not the only exciting experiences she's had at UT Martin. Robison and three other advertising students were also selected to attend the Advertising Women of New York Conference in New York City in November 2014.

Robison has the personality and practical experience to succeed in the business world, and with the opportunities that UT Martin has afforded her, she feels prepared to step off the commencement stage in May and into a successful marketing career.

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TENNESSEE **UT**
MARTIN

UT Alumni Association – Martin Office
Dunagan Alumni Center
1900 Alumni Way
Martin, TN 38238

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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DISCOVER THE TOTAL COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCE.

Don't let the idea of out-of-state tuition get in the way of attending the college that is right for you. If you can picture it, we want you to pursue it. At UT Martin, we offer an out-of-state tuition waiver and scholarship opportunities to help you achieve your goals.

PREMIUM OUT-OF-STATE TUITION (POST) SCHOLARSHIP

(February 1 application deadline)

> Financial Award

- \$7,800 per year (approximately)

> Qualifications

- Meet regular admission requirements
- Live in UTM housing for the first two years
- Purchase a 15-meal plan for the first two years
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident



Aisha Earves, Tyrone Ga.
Communications Major

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