

The University of Tennessee at Martin Summer/Fall 2018

CAMPUS SCENE

**DEDICATION.
PASSION.
DRIVE.**

YOUNG ALUMNI IN THE
ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

SHANNON HALTERS ('02)

KRISTA ROSER ('06)

CHARLES BRUBAKER ('12)

STORY ON **PAGE 44**

CHANCELLOR'S CORNER

Dr. Keith Carver, *UT Martin Chancellor*

Gratitude.

That's the word I'm focusing on this fall semester.

As I approach the end of my second year as chancellor at UT Martin, I can honestly say I am grateful.

I am grateful for our students. Our current students come from 89 Tennessee counties, 45 states and 22 foreign countries. They bring excitement to our campus and meaning to our work.

I am grateful for our faculty. Our faculty are focused on educating our students. They serve as teachers, mentors and advisers. They are incredibly talented and tremendously committed to their life's work.

I am grateful for our staff. We have a group of dedicated team members who put our students first. They provide a nurturing environment where our students can feel safe and intellectually challenged.

I am grateful for our alumni and friends. Last year UT Martin received a total of \$7.5 million in private gifts. Our supporters are generous and loyal.

I am grateful for this region. West Tennessee is home to many of our students, but it becomes a "home away from home" for others. We are proud to be located in West Tennessee.

Take a moment and do an inventory of what you are grateful for this fall. I'm hopeful that UT Martin is among the items on your list.

This campus is special. I feel it with each walk across our beautiful quad. I hear it in the voices of our students. I witness it in the relationships between our faculty and students.

Thank you for making UT Martin an incredible place to study and learn! I am grateful for your continued investment in your university.



Dr. Keith S. Carver Jr.







FACULTY SPOTLIGHT ► Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History

Department of History and Philosophy

Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls considers herself to be not only a professor of history but a crosser of frontiers.

"As a historian, I see my role as that of breaking frontiers in order to bring new understanding that will lead to healing the past," she said. "Ultimately, history is a life-giving process. Remembering the past brings it back to life. That is perhaps its most exciting aspect for me."

As a native of Alsace, a region in northeastern France with roots in both Switzerland and Germany, Carls understands first-hand how a country's changing allegiances can shape the lives of its population. Conflicts between European countries have shaped and reshaped the landscape of her homeland for centuries, and Carls has dedicated her professional life to understanding the history that has changed life for so many.

"Bringing the forgotten aspects of history to life is my passion. One example is the history of Eastern Europe, which I have for three decades incorporated into my teaching, research and writing. This has been my lifelong purpose," she said.

Carls, who is also a literary critic and translator, originally intended to enter the French Diplomatic Corps. After missing the deadline to apply, she decided to bring her knowledge to the classroom instead.

"I love being an educator because I learn from my students as much as I teach them. Being an educator keeps you young!" she said. "I want (my students) to be 'woke.' I like this term; it says it all: be awake, be aware, be present to the world. That is the best way one becomes empowered. I teach my students to tell the story as truthfully and completely as they can, with sensitivity and civility."

Carls is the author of hundreds of articles and 16 books, including "Europe from War to War 1914-1945," co-authored with her husband, and a musical collaboration titled "A Soul at Play: Voices from Three Continents," which showcases the poetry of Japanese author Shizue Ogawa.

The University of Tennessee at Martin

CAMPUS SCENE

Dr. Keith S. Carver Jr., Chancellor
The University of Tennessee at Martin

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Dr. Joe DiPietro, President
The University of Tennessee System

Andy Wilson
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

Jackie Johnson
Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations

Nathan Morgan
Campus Scene Editor, Assistant Director of University
Relations and Coordinator of Photographic Services

Editorial Contributions
Erin Chesnut ('12); Charley Deal ('92, '96);
Bud Grimes ('78); Nathan Morgan; Ryne Rickman

Design and Layout
David Deaton ('10)

Photo Contributions
Bud Grimes; Raffe Lazarian;
Nathan Morgan; Blythe Thomas;
Murray Riss; Trevor Ruskowski

Copy Editors
Erin Chesnut; Norma Coalter; Bud Grimes

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Comments and feedback may be directed to
Nathan Morgan, Campus Scene Editor,
nmorga15@utm.edu, 304 Administration Building,
Martin, TN 38238, 731-881-7617.

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MARTIN

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the **big** picture





CHILDREN'S CENTER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS ▶ The Margaret N. Perry Children's Center on UT Martin's main campus celebrated 25 years in its current location with a reception April 30. The center moved into the current building on Pat Head Summitt Drive in 1993 and was named for Dr. Margaret Perry, UT Martin's sixth chancellor, in 1998. Perry (above) was present at the reception and spoke following comments from Chancellor Keith Carver. Leanne Snider, longtime director of the children's center, also spoke about the impact the center has had on generations of Martin residents. She says 1,279 children have been enrolled at the current location. See story on page 26. ◀

SCENE & HEARD

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IGNITING INNOVATION – Dave Ramsey, personal money-management expert and national radio personality, spoke on the “power of intentionality” April 19 during the Ned Ray McWherter Institute’s Igniting Innovation event. See story on page 8.



FLEA MARKET FIND ▶ Thanks to the generosity of a Greensburg, Indiana, couple, a composite photo of the 1911 Hall-Moody Institute junior class was returned to UT Martin this spring. The photo, hidden behind a print of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper," was inadvertently purchased by Wilma and Charles Flory during their trip to a Nashville flea market in April. The Florys, who are collectors of "The Last Supper" art, purchased the print to add to their collection. After returning home to Indiana to reframe her flea market find, Wilma discovered the Hall-Moody Institute composite sandwiched between the print and the back of the frame. "It really was a surprise, and I didn't have the heart to destroy it," said Wilma. "We were just thrilled to be able to find a home for it." The composite is now housed in the university archives. ◀

noteworthy



Dave Ramsey (center) is pictured with UT System President Joe DiPietro (left) and Chancellor Keith Carver.

DAVE RAMSEY URGES AUDIENCE TO LEARN FROM MISTAKES ▶ Dave Ramsey, personal money-management expert and national radio personality, spoke on the “power of intentionality” April 19 during the UT Martin Ned Ray McWherter Institute’s Igniting Innovation event.

Ramsey reflected on his first trip up the financial ladder not long after graduating from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He said he made mistakes after obtaining close to \$4 million in real estate property, and the bank notes came due.

“We hit rock bottom – ‘splat!’” he said. “I went from nothing to rich to nothing. ... I sat around and whined and complained to everybody else. ... I blamed everybody else for a while, and then I figured out it was my fault. I think they call that growing up.”

Ramsey is a well-known voice on money and business. His company, Ramsey Solutions, is committed to helping people regain control of their money, build wealth, grow leadership skills and enhance their lives through personal development. Ramsey has authored seven best-selling books, and “The Dave Ramsey Show” is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on more than 600 radio stations and digitally through podcasts, online audio streaming and a 24-hour online streaming video channel.

However, his first attempts to break into the financial management world were less than perfect. In fact, he fell short of his distribution goals for the “Financial Peace University” program during its first four years on the market. Now, after decades of persistence, that course is taught all over the world, to many United States military personnel and to 41 percent of high school students.

Ramsey told more than 300 people in attendance that failure is not only an expected part of life, it is the part of life that truly makes successful people who they are.

“If you’ve made a mistake, learn from your mistake and put something fresh in to offset the junk in your life. If you’ve made a mistake that means you’re breathing. ... If you haven’t made any, you’re not trying hard enough,” he said.

Ramsey appeared as keynote speaker of the 2018 Igniting Innovation event – a fundraiser for UT Martin’s Ned Ray McWherter Institute. NRMI is a selective program that focuses on promoting innovation by offering students a three-year experience to grow both individually and collaboratively through mentorships, domestic and international travel, networking events and professional development training.

The evening, organized by the institute’s sophomore class, was reserved for table sponsors and invited guests and raised approximately \$40,000 for the institute. ◀

UT MARTIN RECEIVES VETERAN RECONNECT GRANT ▶ UT Martin is one of 14 institutions statewide to receive a 2018 Veteran Reconnect Grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. THEC awarded a total of \$889,277 through the grant program this year, and UT Martin received \$78,570.

According to a THEC press release, the 2018 grants are focused on improving prior-learning assessments for student veterans returning to college. This assessment process examines a veteran's military training and grants equivalent college credit for skills obtained during service, potentially allowing student veterans to complete their degrees in shorter periods of time. Selected institutions are responsible for developing and improving evaluation processes while ensuring this information is readily accessible to both prospective and incoming student veterans.

The Veteran Reconnect Grant Program is part of Gov. Bill Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative to increase the number of Tennessee adults with postsecondary degrees or certificates to 55 percent by



(l-r) Students Zach Barker, Melissa Walker, Tyler Shaw and Bo Pate are all members of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

the year 2025. UT Martin Veteran Services is now housed in the Office of Academic Records. ◀

UT MARTIN TAKES A NEW APPROACH TO ATHLETIC BAND PROGRAM ▶ UT Martin's athletic band took on a new format this semester. The ensemble functions as it has in the past but no longer performs marching drill during pregame and halftime of football games.

"This is an exciting change that reimagines the ways athletic bands can serve the university and community," said Dr. Julie Hill, music department chair. Hill said the decision was made after discussions with faculty, current students and alumni, as well as a consideration of other factors, including curriculum, finances and philosophy. "This innovative and streamlined approach is aimed at a balanced and comprehensive experience with ensemble music education," she added.

Non-traditional attire has replaced formal marching band uniforms, and the students focus on high-quality, energetic musical performances that support the team and fans. Other marching band activities, such as the Soybean Festival Parade and the annual

West Tennessee Marching Championships for high school bands, will continue.

"We want to emphasize that we value the athletic band (members) and their vital role to campus and community. The athletic band program is alive and well, and we feel that this change will be a positive step for growth," said Hill. "The band will continue to be an integral part of home football games, homecoming, area parades and other traditional events. Our goal is to deliver a product of which our current students, fans and alumni may be proud."

"The restructured university band program will be a better fit for a university of our size," said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. "Athletic bands are not specifically funded through intercollegiate athletics at UT Martin, but instead supported through the academic music operating budget, so this new direction better serves our music students while also providing a sustainable model." ◀

Join us for *fall preview day* November 10!

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UT MARTIN ADDS NEW BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM ▶

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees met June 22 in Knoxville and approved plans for UT Martin to offer a new Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business, effective this semester.

The new coursework expands a previous concentration where students earning a degree in general agriculture could take select courses in agricultural business. Now, students can earn a specialized bachelor's degree in agricultural business with concentrations in areas such as agricultural marketing or agricultural finance.

"There is a large demand for agribusiness professionals. Approximately 47 percent of all agriculture jobs are directly related to agribusiness," said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics. "New students who enter the program will benefit from a specialized degree, which will allow them to compete with existing agribusiness programs. They will be able to market their degree as an agricultural business degree as opposed to a traditional agriculture degree."

Mehlhorn said students already pursuing the existing agricultural business concentration can choose whether to move to the new catalog requirements for the independent degree program or continue on their current course of study. Students beginning classes this semester were automatically enrolled in the new degree program.

This program has been in the planning stages for the past two years, and Mehlhorn says all new courses are taught by existing faculty members with no new hires anticipated.

UT MARTIN NOW A SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS ▶ The UT Martin main campus and all educational outreach centers are smoke-free as of July 1, 2018.

The smoke-free policy states that "the University of Tennessee at Martin promotes a healthy (and) safe work, educational and living environment. Furthermore, our campus community acknowledges that long-term health hazards may accrue to people who are subjected to second-hand smoke. A smoke-free UT Martin campus encourages a green and clean environment, prepares our faculty, staff and students for other smoke-free environments in their future, and can be a source of UT and UT Martin pride in supporting a major wellness initiative."

This policy applies to all faculty, staff and students, as well as campus visitors and contractors, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Dr. Ross Pruitt, associate professor of agricultural economics, lectures to an agricultural management class outside Brehm Hall.

With the addition of this new program, UT Martin now offers 18 bachelor's degree programs with more than 100 specialized concentrations, as well as five graduate-level programs. The new Bachelor of Science in agricultural business is offered through the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources within the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. ◀

It includes e-cigarettes and applies to all areas owned or operated by the university. This comprises university buildings, including adjacent sidewalks and building entrances; outdoor property and grounds, including parking lots and recreational areas; indoor and outdoor athletic facilities and venues; and all motor vehicles owned or rented by the university. Smoking is also prohibited inside personal vehicles parked on university property.

There are no longer any designated smoking areas on university property. Those found to be in violation of this policy will be reported to UT Martin supervisors, the Office of Student Affairs or the Department of Public Safety, as appropriate.

To read the policy in full or access smoking-cessation resources, visit utm.edu/departments/ehs. ◀

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CHANCELLOR CARVER PARTICIPATES IN LEADERSHIP

TENNESSEE ▶ Chancellor Keith Carver is one of 45 leaders from rural and urban communities across Tennessee to participate in the sixth Leadership Tennessee class. Class members will spend the coming year engaging in collaborative, non-partisan dialogue on issues of statewide importance. Members represent each geographic region of the state and come from the health care, education, economic development, government, tourism and agriculture industries. Leadership Tennessee is an initiative of the Lipscomb University College of Leadership and Public Service in Nashville.

"It's an honor to be selected to the 2018-19 class of Leadership Tennessee," Carver said. "I'm excited to represent rural West Tennessee and UT Martin in this statewide initiative."

"With the selection of Leadership Tennessee Class VI, we're excited to welcome another group of outstanding Tennesseans to the network of leaders who are committed to finding solutions to some of the state's most pressing issues," said Cathy Cate, Leadership Tennessee executive director. "Chancellor Carver's perspective as a post-secondary leader and a member of a rural, West Tennessee community will enhance the voices of this representative group of Tennesseans. We look forward to learning more about UT Martin's role in the postsecondary landscape, the importance of the region in the state's success and learning from Chancellor Carver's experiences."

Leadership Tennessee selects a new class of leaders annually to visit different regions and communities across Tennessee and analyze important issues faced by Tennesseans. To date, Leadership Tennessee has built a network of 175 leaders across the state.

"Leadership Tennessee helps you build relationships across multiple industries and sectors, public and private, but more importantly it builds opportunities for partnerships," said Maya Bugg, recent Class V graduate and CEO, Tennessee Charter School Center.

Other class members from West Tennessee outside of Memphis include **Jake Bynum ('06)**, Weakley County mayor; Commissioner Jai Templeton, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Dr. Logan Hampton, president, Lane College; **Justice Roger Page (attended '73-'75)**, Tennessee Supreme Court; Dr. Lisa Piercey, executive vice president, West Tennessee Healthcare; and **Lindsay Frilling ('01,'02)**, certified economic developer and CEO, Obion County Joint Economic Development Council.

Carver, Bynum, Templeton, Piercy and Frilling are all graduates of the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program. ◀



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your favorite stories!

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UT BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES UT MARTIN STRATEGIC PLAN

▶ Chancellor Keith Carver presented the university's strategic plan to the former UT Board of Trustees Subcommittee on Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities during the board's annual meeting June 22 in Knoxville. The plan was later approved by the full board and became effective immediately.

"UT Martin is on an impressive trajectory," said UT President Joe DiPietro. "This new strategic plan will help keep the campus growing and strong. It sets concise and important goals and has the metrics to measure outcomes and achievement."

"We are grateful for the UT Board of Trustees' endorsement of the UT Martin Strategic Plan. This five-year plan will be used to educate students, drive discovery and maximize our impact on the surrounding region. I am excited about UT Martin's path forward," said Carver.

UT Martin's strategic plan is intended to serve as a university blueprint and guide the institution through the year 2023. It was created with input and direction from both current and retired faculty and staff members, current students, alumni, donors, stakeholders and local community members.

"I think it's wonderful that UT Martin has initiated a long-term plan that it has not had (previously). It is beneficial not only for the campus (and) for the students but also the West Tennessee economy," said Julia Wells, a former UT trustee from Tennessee's eighth district. "I see UT Martin on an upward trend, and I think this plan will enhance the movement that is occurring there. We're excited about UT Martin and what it can offer to West Tennessee and the region."

The plan is based on five goals, each with individual objectives to help guide university decisions in that area.

First, UT Martin will prepare graduates to be responsible, informed and engaged citizens in their workplaces and larger communities. To this end, UT Martin is committed to providing top-tier academic programs with hands-on experiences both inside and outside of the classroom and will put a priority on helping students develop essential life skills.

Second, the university will recruit, retain and graduate students who are prepared for careers, professions and life. UT Martin plans to do this by implementing a strategic enrollment plan and encouraging student participation in co-curricular programs such as internships and mentorships. The university intends to recruit high-caliber students and help them gain real-world experience in professions for which they are well-suited.

The third goal commits UT Martin to creating a campus that is open, accessible and welcoming to all. Increasing visibility for the



Chancellor Keith Carver presents the UT Martin Strategic Plan to the former UT Board of Trustees during its annual meeting June 22 in Knoxville.

Office of Multicultural Affairs is a key component in achieving this goal, as is recruiting a diverse pool of faculty and staff members.

UT Martin also plans to promote the responsible use of resources by enhancing revenue; implementing competitive salary and compensation plans; and prioritizing facilities growth and improvements.

Finally, UT Martin is committed to improving the prosperity of West Tennessee and increasing the university's visibility through service and advocacy in the region. Moving forward, UT Martin will continue to promote civic engagement through service learning, internships, research and travel study, and coordinate outreach and community activities to support research and economic development.

"The city of Martin and UT Martin enjoy a Town and Gown relationship that is critical to the success of both the city and the university. It is meaningful to know that the university cares not only about the campus experience but also about the community experience from a resident and business perspective," said **Brad Thompson ('96)**, director of community development for the city of Martin. "This plan gives UT Martin a clear directive to strengthen academia and increase recruitment, which will ultimately have a positive economic impact on the region."

Progress reports and meeting notes from previous strategic plan meetings are available at utm.edu/strategic. The website also provides a list of steering committee members, a timeline for plan implementation and a feedback form for those wishing to comment on the plan's components. ◀

MEMORIAL DAY HONORS SACRIFICES ► U.S. Army Col. **David Strauss ('93)** spoke May 25 during the university's annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony outside the Hall-Moody Administration Building.

Strauss enlisted in the Army as a military intelligence voice interceptor in 1983 and later attended UT Martin on a Green to Gold Scholarship. He received a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation in 1993 and was selected to become a civil affairs officer in 2004, a post he still holds today.

In honor of Memorial Day, Strauss shared the story of a friend and former comrade-in-arms, Capt. Timothy Ian McGovern, of Idaville, Indiana.

McGovern served as brigade engineer officer during the Iraq War at a time when improvised explosive devices were in heavy use in and around Mosul. In this position, he was responsible for coordinating the protection of areas which blasts from car bombs and other IEDs had rendered vulnerable.

"That's when I really found Tim in his natural light," said Strauss. "You see, Tim was responsible for coordinating all that, but he didn't actually have to go out on the ground. He could do everything that he needed to do from the safety of the forward operating base, or FOB. But instead, he would ride on the vehicles. . . . He would make sure that the support was on the ground, and he would make sure it was right. And because he routinely went out to the blast areas, he quickly knew exactly what was needed when a blast occurred."

He was later promoted to serve as commander of the only engineer company in the brigade, a position with dangerous responsibilities.

"The main job of the engineer company was route clearance. They had to go out and find IEDs, disarm them and render them harmless, reduce them and remove them so that other convoys and the local populace could travel in safety," he explained. According to Strauss, route clearance teams would often encounter enemy forces in the process of placing explosive devices and find themselves in even greater danger.

"There was no requirement for (Tim) to go out and actually conduct route clearance. (However,) he would not ask soldiers (to do) that which he would not do himself," said Strauss. McGovern was killed Oct. 31, 2007, while engaging the enemy during a patrol.

"Instead of looking at this tragic event with sadness – and it is

sad – I would ask you instead to celebrate all the Tim McGovern's of our military. You see, Tim did not do what was expected of him. Tim did so much more," said Strauss. "There is a strength of character that only comes out when a service member, knowing the dangers, willingly steps forward in the service of our country and says, 'I'll do that job.'

"On Memorial Day, we all remember all of the fallen soldiers and service members, but I think it's a special time to reflect on the greatness of a country that inspires the actions and the sacrifices of the Tim McGovern's of this world," he continued. He urged the audience to go forward not simply in observance of Memorial Day, but in celebration of the lives lost in battle and the country so many have died to protect.

Chancellor Keith Carver thanked Strauss for his remarks and thanked the audience for their attendance. The program ended with a 21-gun salute from the Department of Public Safety and City of Martin Police Department and the playing of "Taps" by music student Chloe Lollar, of Humboldt. ◀



Col. David Strauss is a 1993 UT Martin graduate.

noteworthy



Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education

CLINTON SMITH WINS HAROLD LOVE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD ▶

Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education, is one of five higher education faculty and staff members statewide to win a 2018 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award, as chosen by a Tennessee Higher Education Commission taskforce. The award was officially presented during a reception April 27 in Nashville.

Smith has taught in the Department of Educational Studies since 2012 and focuses on teaching future educators how to instruct children with various kinds of special needs. He has also served as director of the Area 7 Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics since 2014.

“Dr. Smith teaches by example, and his students benefit from his efforts both in the community and in his classroom. But it is

not only his college students who profit, it is the students who participate in regional Special Olympics events and their teachers and family members who watch them succeed in their chosen competitions,” wrote Chancellor Keith Carver in Smith’s nomination letter.

The mission of Area 7 Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The experience gives participants continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

As director, Smith organizes events and activities for special-needs students in his service area and raises funds to support Special Olympics. He has helped raise almost \$65,000 for the organization through events such as the Polar Plunge, Over the Edge rappelling challenge and Unity 5K race, as well as through grants and partnerships with other area organizations.

He was selected to be track and field coach of Team Tennessee for the Special Olympics USA national games in 2014 and received the Master Teacher of Honor award from the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education in 2016. He has also served on the board of directors of the Tennessee Education Association and as secretary of the National Education Association Caucus for Educators of Exceptional Children. Smith is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin and was named Kiwanian of the Year in 2015.

The Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award is named for the late state representative Harold Love, who was instrumental in passing legislation to create community service recognition programs at the state level in 1991. Each year, five students and five faculty and staff members from the state’s higher education institutions are chosen from nominations statewide.

Kameron Echols ('17) won one of the student awards in 2017 for his work with the Martin Housing Authority. ◀



(l -r) Petra Rencher McPhearson and Dr. Shadow Robinson



(l-r) Amy Belew and John Abel

UNIVERSITY FILLS KEY ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

► UT Martin has completed national searches to fill three administrative appointments so far this year.

Petra Rencher McPhearson was named vice chancellor for finance and administration in April. She previously filled this position in an interim capacity and was one of four finalists to participate in open-forum campus discussions this spring. She began working for UT Martin in 2011 and previously served as both interim director and director of budget and management reporting. She also held several positions with the UT Health Science Center in Memphis and Bethel University in McKenzie before coming to Martin.

Dr. Shadow Robinson became dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences in July after previously serving as chair of the department of physics and director of the Compass Curriculum at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. He has also held teaching positions at the University of Southern Indiana, Eastern Kentucky University and Lexington Community College.

Amy Belew ('02), previously serving as interim chief information officer, accepted the position permanently after a national search. She served in an interim role since November 2016 and helped the campus community navigate transitions to the Office 365 Exchange service and the Canvas learning management system during that time.

Belew first joined UT Martin in 2000 as a systems analyst. She then served as an IT administrator until 2012 before moving into a role as interim assistant chief information officer and interim director of systems administration and infrastructure, academic computing, security, video network, applications development and operations.

A national search is underway to fill the role of vice chancellor for student affairs left open by the retirement of the previous vice chancellor, Dr. Margaret Toston, in July. **John Abel ('99,'02)**, formerly assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, is serving as the role of interim vice chancellor. ◀



noteworthy

STUDENTS FEEL CONNECTED, CONFIDENT, SAFE ▶ According to a survey of more than 900 students enrolled at UT Martin during the spring 2018 semester, students feel connected to and encouraged by their professors, are confident in the skills they learn in the classroom and feel safe in the campus community.

These results were reported in the third and final phase of a two-year research project conducted by Gallup Inc. to determine how academic and social experiences at UT Martin impact both current students and alumni.

While UT Martin scored higher than the national average in a number of areas, the results reinforce the continuing message that UT Martin faculty and staff care about the long-term accomplishments of their students and want to help them succeed however possible.

Survey responses show that UT Martin students are more likely than their national counterparts to seek the help and advice of faculty mentors. Sixty-seven percent of respondents say they meet with faculty members two or more times per year (compared to 59 percent nationally), and 61 percent of respondents say they talk to faculty and staff members about their career options often (compared to 45 percent nationally).

UT Martin faculty also make an effort to assist students with their career choices, and 79 percent of respondents say they have had a faculty-initiated conversation about their careers during their time at UT Martin. Only 63 percent of national respondents could say the same thing. Students also report having faculty mentors who encourage them, feeling important to their professors on a personal level, and having at least one faculty member who makes them excited about learning.

Eighty-eight percent of survey participants either agree or strongly agree that UT Martin is committed to academic excellence, and the same percentage feels academically challenged by their major coursework. Finally, 82 percent of respondents have someone at UT Martin they can count on to help plan their course to graduation, and 89 percent know where to go with questions about degree requirements.

UT Martin also surpassed national averages in areas where students were asked about the value, quality and relevance of their education both inside and outside of the classroom. Fifty-seven percent of respondents strongly agree they will graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the workplace, while only 36 percent of students nationally felt the same.

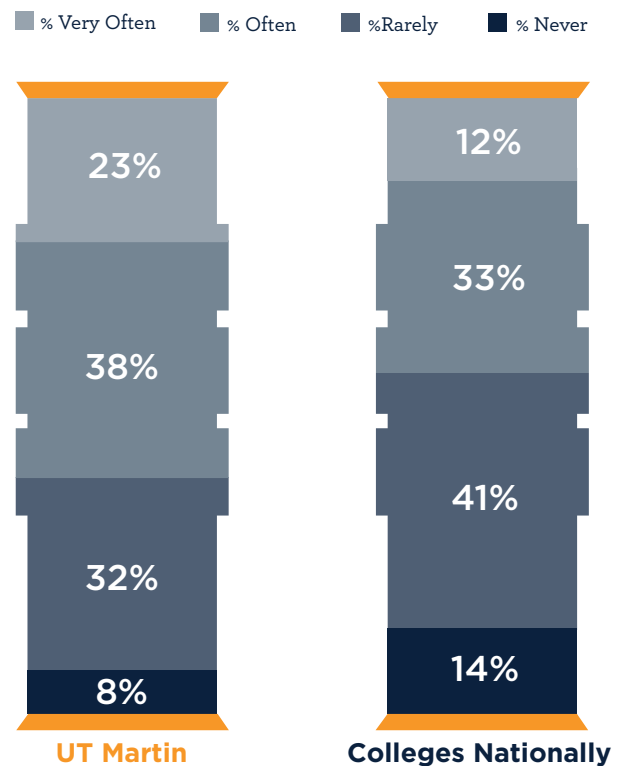
UT Martin's results show almost double the number of positive responses to questions regarding whether the education received at

UT Martin is worth the cost, as compared to the national average. In fact, 60 percent of survey respondents say they would still enroll at UT Martin if they could make the decision over again.

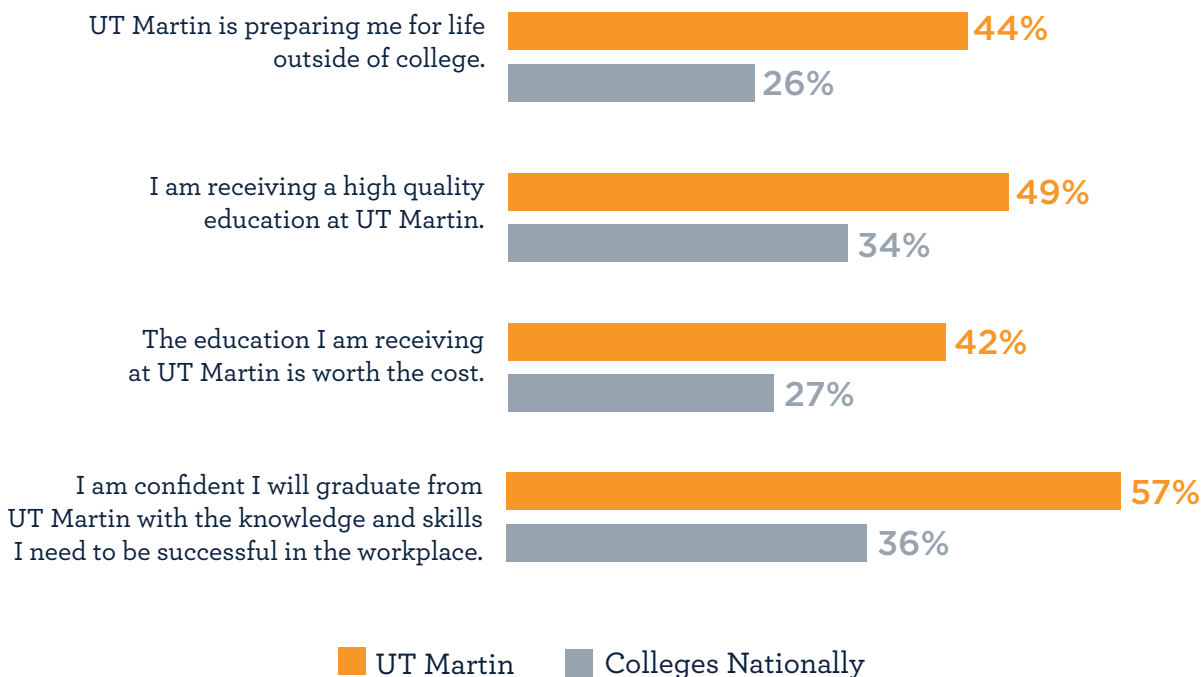
Finally, UT Martin students report feeling safe on campus (60 percent) and comfortable sharing unpopular ideas in class (33 percent). The national averages for the same questions are 39 and 22 percent, respectively. The survey also indicates that 54 percent of respondents feel UT Martin would do the right thing if a student reported a sexual assault, as compared to only 36 percent of students nationally who are confident in their institutions.

Phase one of this project exclusively surveyed university alumni to discover how their UT Martin experiences impacted their lives after graduation. The results from 2,623 responses showed intense alumni pride and attachment to their alma mater. Phase two dealt with qualitative responses from 20 phone interviews with alumni who graduated between 2011 and 2016 and also yielded positive results. ◀

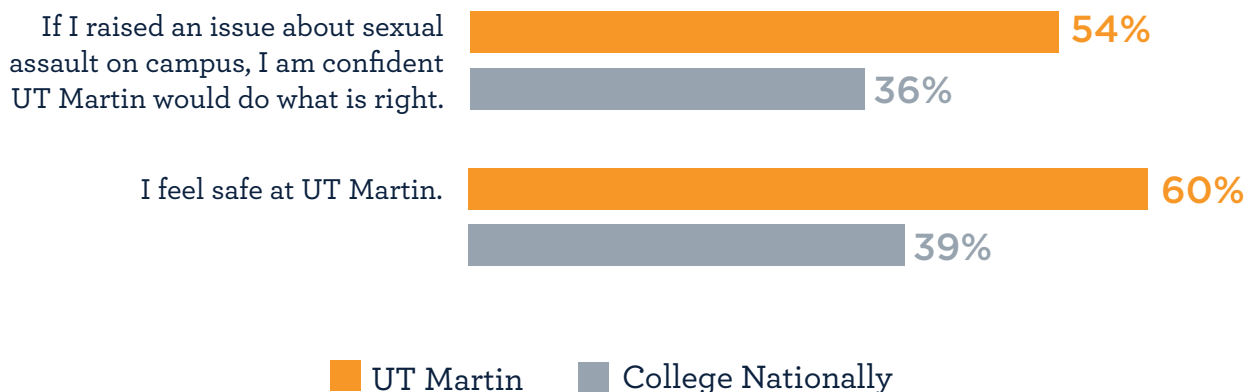
Since enrolling at UT Martin, how often have you spoken with faculty and staff members about potential career options?



PERCEPTIONS OF PREPAREDNESS (% STRONGLY AGREE)



STUDENTS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN UT MARTIN (% STRONGLY AGREE)



the **big** picture
athletics





HARBAUGH VISITS UT MARTIN ▶ Jim Harbaugh, head football coach at the University of Michigan, co-hosted a camp with UT Martin head coach Jason Simpson on June 2 in Hardy Graham Stadium. Harbaugh, arguably one of the biggest names in college football, came to UT Martin to give more than 200 students from across across multiple states in the Southeast ...an opportunity to learn new skills and improve their upcoming seasons. ◀

athletics

JENKINS READY FOR SECOND YEAR IN CHARGE OF SKYHAWK BASEBALL PROGRAM ▶ Ryan Jenkins is a true baseball lifer.

The second-year Skyhawk skipper may be one of the youngest Division I head baseball coaches in the nation, but his entire life has revolved around the game he fell in love with at a young age.

"I'm old-school in my beliefs in baseball," Jenkins said. "I've always been at a baseball field – that's been my place where I felt comfortable. I love the people that the game attracts. I don't think I would have ever been happy really doing anything other than coaching or playing baseball."

Jenkins came to UT Martin as an assistant coach in July 2017 before being promoted to interim head coach in December. About two-thirds of the way through the 2018 season, Skyhawk athletic director Kurt McGuffin removed the interim tag from his title.

"Our student-athletes really embraced Ryan's style of coaching," McGuffin said. "He is an excellent leader whose passion for teaching and development is second to none. We are excited about



the long-term vision for the UT Martin baseball program."

Jenkins hails from Millbrook, Alabama, and he grew up idolizing Chipper Jones and the Atlanta Braves. He became a prep star at Stanhope Elmore High School before blossoming into an All-Southeastern Conference catcher at Auburn University. He hit above .300 for his four-year career and still ranks in the school's top-10 list for throwing out runners caught stealing (28).

His position on the diamond perhaps directly led to Jenkins' future career choice.

"As a catcher, you're a leader on the field," Jenkins said. "You have so many different hats you wear on a given day. You have to know everything that the pitchers are doing, the different sign systems, where the position players and outfielders are supposed to be. You have to have oversight of everything that is going on in the field. It helps you manage a game and be able to call a game."

The Kansas City Royals selected Jenkins in the 17th round of the 2010 MLB Draft, and he went on to play professionally for three years before returning to his alma mater to complete his bachelor's degree. He spent the next three seasons working with the Tiger program as a student assistant and strength and conditioning coach.

"When my playing days were over, I wanted to get into coaching," Jenkins said. "I wanted to help guys the way that I had been helped when I was chasing my dream. I take it really seriously – a lot of these guys are invested in it, and it's what they love doing. I want to make sure that we can provide the best environment for them to develop as players and to have a good experience."

During his time as a student-athlete and member of the support staff at Auburn, Jenkins learned under seven men who would eventually become Division I head coaches. He used that time to mold his current coaching philosophies.

"You take away something that you like from everybody," Jenkins said. "For me, it was always about people and the relationships you have with them. One of my biggest mentors – assistant coach Matt Heath – is actually coaching here now. His passion for the game is something I always wanted to make sure I had when I showed up to the field. Another coach that I look up to... is Butch Thompson. The way that he treats people and how much he cares about the players and the program there at Auburn set a great example for me."

In addition to Heath, Jenkins brought Hunter Morris, a former

Auburn teammate and 2010 SEC Player of the Year, to the Skyhawk coaching staff this offseason. He believes this staff's past experiences are well-equipped to help UT Martin on the recruiting trail.

"We are selling player development," Jenkins said. "All of our players have dreams and aspirations of playing beyond college. Our biggest sell is always going to be coming in and having a coaching staff that's been able to play professionally while also having a background in coaching guys that have made that transition and been drafted. As a staff, we want to prepare them for what the next step is and put them in a position where they can find themselves playing professionally if that's what they want to do."

Jenkins' first season as a head coach featured a youth movement that is sure to set the tone for the UT Martin program moving forward. Freshmen manned four of the starting infield spots as the Skyhawks boasted an All-OVC first teamer, two OVC All-Newcomers and a Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Freshman All-American. UT Martin knocked off Southern Mississippi, ranked number 13, and posted a victory against OVC champion Tennessee Tech, who finished the season ranked No. 11 nationally after winning 53 games and advancing to a NCAA Super Regional.

"The players that we currently have here are what attracted me to UT Martin," Jenkins said. "One of our short-term goals is for us to change what people believe about our program and what they think about UT Martin baseball. We want to make sure that the players that are involved with our program are proud to be here. We also want the alumni that played here to get back on campus and get them involved."

For now, Jenkins knows that efforts to change the mindset of his program are based upon accountability.

"Our guys love showing up to the park every day," Jenkins said. "When you get into coaching, you have to understand that it has to be selfless. If you can't find joy in the success of the players you are coaching, you're not in it for the right reasons." ◀



UT MARTIN ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES 2018 HALL OF FAME

CLASS ▶ Former UT Martin athletes Jenny Bain (softball, 2009-12), Kasey Copeland (volleyball, 2009-12), Brady Wahlberg (football, 2002-05) and Dick Windbigler (baseball, 1970-73) will be inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame as the class of 2018 during homecoming weekend.

Bain led UT Martin to four different Ohio Valley Conference championships and the school's first two NCAA Regional appearances during her career. The program's only three-time All-OVC first team honoree, she was a key member of the 2012 team that tallied a school-record 23 OVC victories. The Hendersonville native was OVC Freshman of the Year in 2009 and is UT Martin's all-time leader in games played (238), hits (237), doubles (54), home runs (40), runs batted in (170), total bases (411) and extra-base hits (94).

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Copeland is the OVC's all-time digs leader with 2,606 digs over four seasons. She also shattered the NCAA single-season record with 852 digs in 2011, nabbing AVCA honorable mention All-American status during her junior campaign. She earned All-OVC accolades in three different years and was the OVC Defensive Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons (2010 and 2011). She set a school record for most OVC Defensive Player of the Week awards in a career (10) and claimed the program's single-match digs record with 46 against Eastern Kentucky in 2011.

Wahlberg left UT Martin as the program's all-time leader in passing yards (6,247) and total offense (7,387 yards). The Panama City, Florida, native was an All-OVC quarterback as a senior and left UT Martin tied for the third-most completions in OVC history (584). He accounted for 51 overall touchdowns (35 passing, 16 rushing) and is still the school's single-game leader in pass completions (44) and pass attempts (65) — both coming against Jacksonville State in 2003. He was one of just three males to earn an OVC Scholar-Athlete Award during the 2004-05 season.

Windbigler, from Mansfield, Ohio, helped guide UT Martin to a 94-43-1 record and the school's first two trips to the NCAA Tournament over his three seasons. He still ranks first in program history with 26 career victories and was named an All-Gulf South Conference honoree in 1973 after posting a 6-0 record with a 2.00 ERA. He was the starting pitcher in UT Martin's 1971 NCAA Midwest Regional Tournament game, which was the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. He also served as UT Martin's head coach in 1976, guiding the then-Pacers to a 23-16 overall record. ◀

**FOOTBALL ALUM JOE ESTE NAMED TENNESSEE
SPORTS HALL OF FAME CHARACTER AWARD
RECIPIENT** by Ryne Rickman



Joe Este, who starred for the Skyhawk football team in 2016-17, received the 2018 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Character Award at the annual "Champion Within" luncheon this spring at the Omni Nashville.

Este juggled life as a collegiate student-athlete while also raising his two nephews, Christopher and Zackary. Este's days would typically begin at 5:45 a.m. when he took his two nephews to school. He would then attend classes from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. before picking them up. The three would often attend UT Martin football practice during the late afternoon or early evening before Este helped the boys with homework and tucked them into bed.

The family atmosphere at UT Martin was one of the biggest draws for Este once he completed his eligibility at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Mississippi. The Skyhawk coaches, staff and players took in young Christopher and Zackary as their own sons or younger brothers during Este's two-year tenure.

Este is in the process of adopting his nephews after also



providing his homeless mother with a new home and life stability. He graduated from UT Martin with a degree in health and human performance in December 2017.

A native of Kenner, Louisiana, Este earned a start at safety in 22 of his 23 career games, logging 129 tackles (11.5 for loss), four interceptions, 22 passes defended (including 18 pass breakups), one forced fumble and one fumble recovery. He led the team in passes defended and pass breakups in each of his two seasons in a UT Martin uniform, helping guide a highly praised defensive unit. During Este's senior season in 2017, the Skyhawks led the Ohio Valley Conference in scoring defense (14.3 points per game) and ranked in the top-10 in the Football Championship Subdivision in 10 different defensive categories.

Receiving the character award coincided with the start of a busy summer for Este, who earned a rookie minicamp tryout with the Tennessee Titans before signing a contract as an undrafted free agent in May. He saw playing time in the Preseason Week 1 contest, tallying a tackle against the Green Bay Packers before being waived Aug. 11. ◀

Former Skyhawk Joe Este participates in organized team activities with the Tennessee Titans. Este signed with the Titans as an undrafted free agent in May and later saw playing time against the Green Bay Packers before being waived Aug. 11.





ALL-TIME SKYHAWK GREAT LESTER HUDSON WINS CHINESE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

by **Ryne Rickman**

Former two-time All-American **Lester Hudson ('09)** helped the UT Martin program to its first-ever Ohio Valley Conference men's basketball championship during his senior season in 2008-09.

Almost a decade later, Hudson once again produced a first-ever championship moment as he helped the Liaoning Flying Leopards win the 2018 Chinese Basketball Association championship. Although Liaoning is a founding member of the CBA, it was the team's first title after reaching the CBA Finals six previous times in its 23-year history.

Hudson was crowned as Finals Most Valuable Player, tossing in 30.5 points per game to help the Flying Leopards to a four-game sweep over the Zhejiang Guangsha. The 2017-18 campaign marked Hudson's fourth season with the Liaoning organization.

The 34-year-old Hudson has spent parts of seven seasons in the CBA, making six All-Star teams and winning International MVP honors during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons. He is the only player in league history to win multiple International MVP awards, though former NBA players Stephon Marbury, Michael Beasley, Jimmer Fredette and Courtney Fortson have claimed one each.

Overall, Hudson has accumulated 8,500 points in his CBA career – tallying averages of 29.3 points, 7.0 rebounds, 5.1 assists and 2.6 steals over 290 games. He also has played in the NBA for parts of four seasons, seeing time in 57 combined games for the Boston Celtics (2009-10), Memphis Grizzlies (2009-10, 2011-12), Washington Wizards (2010-11), Cleveland Cavaliers (2011-12) and Los Angeles Clippers (2014-15).

Hudson took the collegiate basketball world by storm in his debut season at UT Martin, notching the first quadruple-double in NCAA Division I history with 25 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals against Central Baptist on Nov. 13, 2007. He set the OVC record for most points in a single season (880) as a senior in 2008-09, the same season he helped guide UT Martin to its first-ever Division I postseason appearance. He became the first Skyhawk to be selected in the NBA Draft when the Boston Celtics nabbed him in the second round (No. 58 overall) in 2009. ◀



Lester Hudson poses with the Championship trophy after the Liaoning Flying Leopards win.

advancement



MICHELLE HORTON REMEMBERED ▶ Family, friends, colleagues and former students gathered July 27 to dedicate the Michelle Horton Tribute Garden at UT Martin. The garden is located on the quadrangle side of the Sociology Building where the late educator both studied as a student and taught as a faculty member. Horton died of cancer May 20, 2016, and more than \$10,000 was raised to create the garden in her memory. Pictured (l -r) are Chancellor Keith Carver; Michelle Horton's daughter, Shelby, husband, Paul, and son, Lane, all of McKenzie; and Cindy West, dean, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences. Shelby attends the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and Lane is a junior at McKenzie High School. ◀

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES: 25 YEARS WITH THE MARGARET N. PERRY CHILDREN'S CENTER ▶ More than 1,270 children have passed through the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center in the past 25 years, and director Leanne Snider has been there to welcome them all. When the building celebrated its silver anniversary with a reception April 30, 2018, many of those students returned with their own children, now the second generation enrolled at the center.

However, Snider remembers a time when the colorful building did not stand on Pat Head Summitt Drive.

Before the center's completion in the spring of 1993, UT Martin operated three separate childcare programs in various locations across campus: Happy House, a full-day program from birth to 5 years; the Nursery School morning program for ages 3-4 years; and the Pace Five Program in the afternoon for those not yet in kindergarten.

Faced with duplicated services, immediate facility repairs and growing local demand, then-Chancellor Margaret Perry decided to bring the programs together under a new roof.

"Happy House was located in the Meek House (and) the Smith House (on the east edge of campus), and there was a portable building behind the two homes. The buildings were literally falling down around us, and the administration knew something had to be done. So the process of building a new facility began," said Snider. "In the spring of 1992, I was approached to see if I would be willing to direct all three programs until the building was completed, and at that time all children would be moved into one facility. I agreed, and the rest is history."

Snider joined Dr. Marti Herndon, representing the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Angie O'Brien, representing the Nursery School and Pace Five Program, on a special committee to determine what accommodations were needed to meet the needs of local children. The new children's center, officially opened in March 1993 and dedicated April 30 of that year, hosts 99 children from ages 6 weeks to 12 years and serves as an educational laboratory for UT Martin students in various programs, including family and consumer sciences and educational studies.

"On Friday, March 12, we closed the doors to Happy House at 5:30 p.m., and we opened the doors to the children's center at 6:30 a.m. on Monday, March 15. Ten men and myself moved the contents of four buildings into the center on Saturday. My family and I straightened the rooms on Sunday, and the children arrived on Monday," said Snider. She says the center's cook, Betty Oliver, and her husband, Bobby, helped the Snider family relocate the Happy House kitchen on Friday night and were set up to serve two meals and a snack by Monday morning.

The new facility, later named the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center in the spring of 1998, is the last campus building constructed entirely by the UT Martin Physical Plant. Rick Bradberry, project supervisor, retired this spring after 40 years of university service. Before leaving his position as foreman of the UT Martin Carpentry Shop, Bradberry named the children's center as his most memorable project in four decades of work.

Derry Rogers, current foreman of the UT Martin Plumbing Shop, is one of fewer than five members of the original construction crew still employed by the university, and he has fond memories of the worksite.

"I think it is very fortunate that the university had the kind of talent here that was able to build a building like this. We've had some very good carpenters and electricians and plumbers and craftsmen work through the physical plant over the years," he said. "This is the last project they built from the ground up. I'm proud to have been a part of that."

Snider, who celebrated 42 years with the university this fall, spoke at the anniversary reception and recalled many memories of her years as program director.

"A lot of children have come through this center, but they have touched my life," she said. "They keep me inspired; they keep me young, and as long as I am able, I will continue doing what I'm doing."

Dr. Margaret Perry also spoke during the ceremony and thanked all the teachers, students, staff members and community supporters who have kept the center running for the past 25 years. A commemorative plaque installed at the center includes a statement Perry made during the original dedication ceremony in 1993: "We are proud of this facility. We built it for the children for today and tomorrow, and they deserve it."

And more than a thousand children later, they still do. ◀

The Margaret N. Perry Children's Center is operated through the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. It serves the children of UT Martin students, faculty and staff as well as local community members.



(from top) This archive photo shows Dr. Margaret Perry, UT Martin's sixth chancellor, with Brandt Gibson ('15) and several other children who were enrolled at the UT Martin Children's Center when it first opened in its current location; Children from the center's pre-kindergarten class perform for their parents and other reception attendees during the center's silver anniversary celebration this April.

advancement



Warner Pace (left), owner of Kirkland's Antiques, Gifts and Interiors in Martin, is pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver inside his store on Lindell Street. Pace made an estate pledge to the university that will help support student scholarships and the Ned Ray McWherter Institute.

DONORS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ▶

UT Martin surpassed \$7.5 million in annual giving during the 2017-18 year thanks to the support of thousands of university donors. This total breaks the university's previous five-year fundraising average of \$5.9 million.

"I'm extremely grateful for the generosity of the University of Tennessee at Martin's alumni, friends and business partners this past year," said Chancellor Keith Carver. "Our future success depends on continued investment into our people and programs. There's much enthusiasm on campus about our path forward."

The four largest gifts in this fiscal year total \$5 million and will directly benefit UT Martin students through scholarships and program enhancements.

Dr. Joyce Smith ('53), and Dr. Ted Mosch, professor emeritus of political science, left the university a combined \$2.2 million through their estates. Smith, of Huntsville, Alabama, died in March, and Mosch died in July (see story on page 42). Both of these gifts will support scholarships campus-wide. An additional pledge from an anonymous donor will specifically be used to support agricultural scholarships after the donor's death.

Warner Pace ('75, '85), owner of Kirkland's Antiques, Gifts

and Interiors in Martin, made the fourth pledge in support of campus scholarships and the Ned Ray McWherter Institute. The institute, named after the Weakley County native and former governor, seeks to prepare select students to change northwest Tennessee's economy and workforce through entrepreneurship and collaboration.

"UT Martin gave me a great start back in the fall of 1970, and I later finished with two degrees. I had to always work to pay my way, but I am thankful for my parents who instilled a great work ethic in me. I want to give back and make a difference in students' lives for years to come – those who are willing to work," said Pace.

The fourth-annual Captain's Challenge fundraising event, held during "I Heart UTM" week in April, raised more than \$312,000 in 24 hours and supported more than 140 different campus areas. A total of 1,030 alumni in 38 states and eight countries participated in this event.

Fundraising priorities for the 2018-19 academic year include regional and statewide scholarships, the Ned Ray McWherter Institute, a proposed Innovation and Product Realization Facility, and the addition of a concert hall to the Fine Arts Building.

"Including the university in your estate plans can bring peace of mind that your donation will be used as you request and will assist UT Martin for years to come," said Andy Wilson, vice chancellor for university advancement. ◀

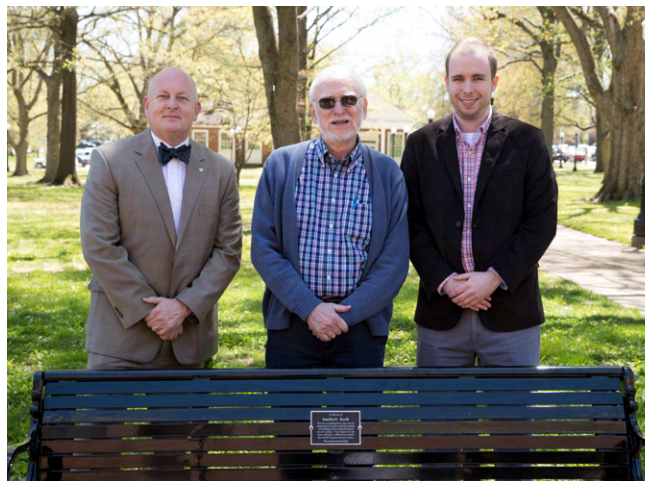
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social media



CAPTAIN'S CHALLENGE ▶ The UT Martin Alumni Relations Office thanks the many alumni who took the time to support the university during the 24-hour Captain's Challenge campaign. The program was reduced from a week to one day, and you responded in kind. Thank you for your continued financial support and your belief that UT Martin changes lives.

Matching Gift Donors:

- Bill Blankenship** - Overall Match
- Mike and Ann Swaim** - Athletics
- Van and Shirley Swaim** - Athletics
- Alex and Kate Bynum** - Athletics
- Todd and Jennifer Hampton** - Athletics
- David Murphy** - Athletics
- Jimmy and Alonna Tosh** - College of Ag and Applied Sciences
- Jim and Bargar Wingett** - College of Business and Global Affairs
- Barbara Briggs** - College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences
- Kent and Elizabeth Landers** - College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- Jason and Robin Overby** - University Scholars Scholarship
- Nick and Cathy Dunagan** - Class of 1968 Challenge



FRIEND AND MENTOR ▶ A bench in the campus quadrangle was dedicated April 20 in memory of Sandra Koch, a former faculty member and the late wife of Dr. Malcolm Koch (center), executive director of the Center for International Education. **Nathan Daniels ('16, right)** hosted the dedication in honor of the influence Sandra Koch had on his studies and career before her death in August 2016. The bench was purchased by the International Club using funds raised during the 2017 Captain's Challenge event. Koch and Daniels are pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver. ◀

2018 Captain's Challenge

140
SUPPORTED
AREAS ON CAMPUS

24
hours

over
1,030
ONLINE GIFTS

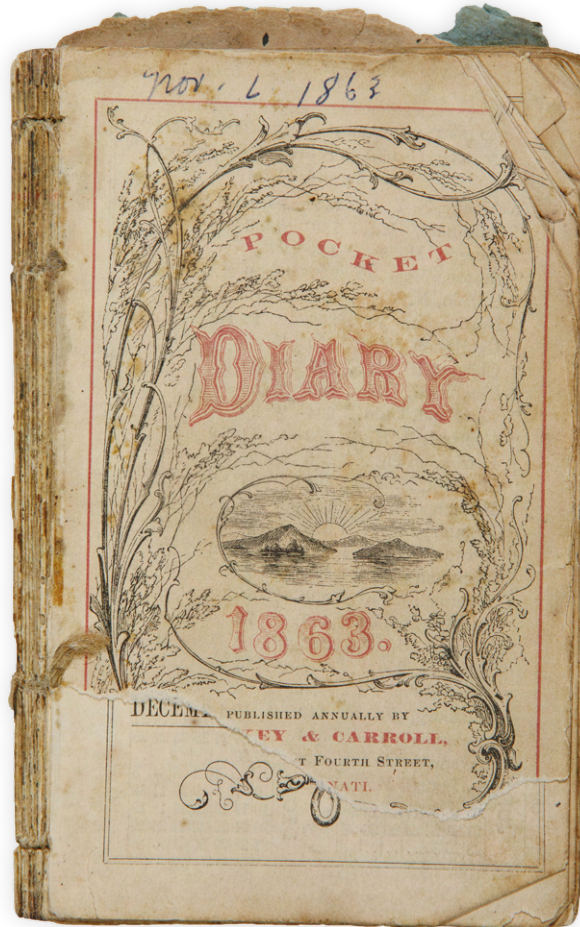


Over \$312,000 Raised!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE CIVIL WAR

Martin Van Buren Oldham, of Weakley County, joined the Confederate Army as a private soldier at Camp Beauregard, outside of Jackson, on May 23, 1861. Oldham's diaries record life for the week after his capture at the Battle of Perrysville and before his incarceration as a prisoner of war in Camp Dent, a federal prison camp near Louisville, Kentucky.



A photograph of Martin Van Buren Oldham

THE YEAR IS 1863, and the Civil War rages on. The Union Army has control of Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga. The Confederates are fighting hard to prevent Northern movement southward, but to no avail. During this time, West Tennessee, as much of the rest of the country, was divided. Brother truly battled against brother as some local residents chose to fight with the Union Army. Others, like Charles Wright, a school teacher from Troy, sided with the Confederacy – a choice that ultimately earned him a 16-month stint at Rock Island Prison, a United States prisoner-of-war camp located on an island in the Mississippi River between Davenport, Iowa and Moline, Illinois. While at the prison, Wright made friends with other inmates and would often write letters home for those who could not write. As a gift for this service, a few of his fellow inmates constructed a chair for him using scrap wood from the prison. Today, the chair, along with various other Civil War era artifacts belonging to Wright, are housed in the Paul Meek Library's Corbitt Special Collections. To see more Civil War artifacts from UT Martin's collection, visit utm.edu/campusscene. "From the Archives" is a feature highlighting unique and interesting items from the Alliene and Jimmie S. Corbitt Special Collections. For more information or to make a donation, contact UT Martin Special Collections and Archives at 731-881-7094 or speccoll@utm.edu.

(below) A letter written by George W. Nowlin to his brother Wade after the Battle of Stones River near Murfreesboro in December 1862. Nowlin, who served in the 31st Tennessee Infantry during the Civil War, was a Greenfield resident and wrote to let his family know the events of that four-day battle and his part in them. The letter was donated to UT Martin in 2015 by Nowlin's relatives, Sharon and Bill Shannon, of Michigan, and Tommy and Paula Thomas, of Dresden.



(left) A photograph of Charles Wright



(above) A photograph belonging to Charles Wright of a black prison guard from Rock Island Prison, dated Dec. 16, 1864. The man is identified on the back of the photograph as Henry Rankin, Company G, 108th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry.

(right) A hand-built chair constructed by Confederate prisoners for their friend and fellow prisoner, Charles Wright, sometime between January 1864 and June 1865.



(left) A photograph belonging to Charles Wright of President Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession down Lake Street in Chicago, May 1, 1865. After being released from Rock Island Prison, Wright returned to teach in Obion County but eventually moved to Chicago, where he died in 1905.



‘It was like we had just killed Santa Claus’

Globetrotters’ historic winning streak ends in 1971 game at UT Martin

By PARKER FRANKLIN

(Courtesy of the Murray Ledger & Times)



The Harlem Globetrotters and New York Nationals playing a basketball game on April 5, 1966, what is now known as Skyhawk Fieldhouse, on April 5, 1966.

If you’re a fan of basketball or entertainment in general, odds are you’ve heard of the Harlem Globetrotters. For decades, the team has combined athleticism and wacky antics in exhibition basketball games all around the globe.

You probably also know the number-one thing about the Globetrotters is that they always win. For thousands of games, the team has come out on top against their opponent, typically the Washington Generals.

It’s like wrestling – the games are scripted to provide a fun and entertaining experience for the spectators. Often, the Globetrotters pull off incredible moves like dunks, jump shots, no-look passes and other feats while the Generals mostly play straight basketball.

The rules of the game are bent to suit the Globetrotters’ theatrics, and the outcome is decided well before the game is played. The Globetrotters might be scripted to be down in points



for a while, but they always come back and the audience gets a feel-good story.

According to the team's website, the Generals have lost "well over 17,000" games to the Globetrotters over the years.

There are a handful of moments, in all the games between the Globetrotters and the Generals (whose name changes occasionally in their matches), where it's the Generals that earn the win.

The exact number of Generals victories is uncertain; the website says three, though various media outlets have reported up to six.

The Washington Generals Fan Blog at washingtongeneralsfan.blogspot.com, run by Dan Pratt, of Oklahoma, reports the earliest defeat was posted Nov. 2, 1957, in St. Joseph, Michigan.

The second came in 1971 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

That day was just like any other for Dick and Barbara

Hutcherson, a native Tennessee couple from the area who were looking for a fun night out for them and their 2-year-old son.

Barbara, a retired UT Martin faculty member, said you likely haven't heard of this game; just about no one has.

"It happened during Christmas break in January before the students had come back," she said. "Therefore, our campus has no account of it, because it was a student-run newspaper and they were gone. There were no pictures, no article or anything about it."

"The account of it did not appear in the Weakley County Press, and it didn't appear in the 1972 yearbook," she continued. "There is a vague picture at UTM, and it's a picture of a Globetrotter. There's no caption for it and no explanation. It's on a page with other random pictures of things that went on, and that's the only visual account anyone's been able to find on it."

According to UT Martin, the Globetrotters played at the university some five years before their legendary loss (see photo left). Barbara said the team had also played in McKenzie and Jackson in the '50s. At the time, they received a less-than-warm reception; no restaurants would feed the team, so Barbara said they ate a post-game meal of bologna, crackers and cheese at the back of a supermarket.

After the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Globetrotters had a much warmer welcome in Martin.

The Hutchersons were excited; they had seen the Globetrotters before, and couldn't wait to watch them play at UT Martin.

"They're so entertaining," Dick said. "Everybody was excited to have the Globetrotters here."

On that fateful winter night – the exact date of the game is unknown – the Hutchersons made their way to what is now the Skyhawk Fieldhouse, an almost a brand-new building at the time.

In the book "The Legend of Red Klotz: How Basketball's Loss Leader Won Over the World—14,000 Times" by Tim Kelly, Generals owner and player Red Klotz described the game as "just another one-night stand."

Kelly writes that no one affiliated with the Generals gave any indication that something was off that night. The Hutchersons said the same thing. They took their seats and sat back for the show.

"It was just a good time," Dick said. "We loved watching Meadowlark Lemon (a Globetrotters player). He was so funny, like a clown. And he was pulling off all these tricks. It was something to see."

Pratt offers a different take.

"That night the Trotters toned down the jokes, leaving the game more often a case of the (New Jersey) Reds and the Harlem Globetrotters playing a more traditional basketball game," he wrote in a post about the game in 2011.



The actual name the Generals took that night is disputed. The team often took on different aliases to mix things up when they inevitably lost; Kelly and the Generals fan blog say they were the New Jersey Reds that night, while the Hutchersons remember it being just the Generals.

In his book, Kelly wrote that it was a packed house that night. The field house sat about 3,000 people.

Dick and **Barbara Hutcherson ('67, '71)** said that as the game went on, the Globetrotters never took a commanding lead. Pratt's blog notes the team found itself down a dozen points with just two minutes to go.

"Apparently, the Globetrotters didn't realize that they were beginning to lag behind," Pratt wrote. "Not surprising, as the score is almost a formality in most games between these two teams, especially as the night goes on."

Kelly's book quotes Klotz as saying the Reds just couldn't miss that night.

"It seemed like the rim was the size of a trash can lid for us and a thimble for them," Klotz reportedly said. "Everything we were throwing into the general area of the basket was going in. We were getting every rebound, and we were stopping them defensively."

The book also claims that the crowd was getting restless as the game went on because their Globetrotters weren't putting on the clinic they had expected.

Both Kelly and Pratt wrote of rumors about a possible off-court dispute before that infamous game in Martin, though Klotz disputed it.

Either way, when the Globetrotters realized they had a very real chance of losing, they played hard.

"We just assumed that they were going to win it at that point," Dick said. "We thought it was just a choreographed deal and they were going to come back at the end."

"We held out thinking there would be some sort of spectacular comeback or something," Barbara added.

And there was – to an extent. While the game had no official box score or record kept, the Hutchersons and Pratt's blog recall an offensive flurry from the Globetrotters that closed the gap.

With a handful of seconds left in the game, they took a one-point lead over the Generals. That moment is when the script – if there even was one that night – truly began to flip.

Kelly writes that in the time-out huddle, Klotz demanded the ball. Maybe it was because he intended to miss or to save one of his players from being the one that sunk a game winner over the Globetrotters. No one knows for sure, though Klotz has said he



simply wanted to take the shot.

"This was no different than a pickup game in the schoolyard," Kelly's book quotes Klotz as saying. "I want the ball in my hand at the end. If my team has a chance to win, I want to take it. Some guys shy away from the ball in that situation. I am always going to want the ball.

"If they can't beat us with all that talent, with all those show plays, with the referees calling it their way, with the support of the fans, well, then it's not our fault if they lose, is it?"

The teams took the court, and it was up to Klotz to make that final shot.

You probably figured it out already, but that shot connected and his team took the lead with what Kelly wrote were three seconds remaining.

"That shot was not supposed to go in," Dick said.

"That didn't happen according to plan," added Barbara.

It was up to the Globetrotters and Meadowlark Lemon to take one final shot.

It missed. Game over.

Despite the clock operator's best efforts to keep the game going and give the Harlem favorites one more shot at preserving the status quo, the team's gargantuan winning streak was gone in a flash.

"It was like we had just killed Santa Claus," Klotz is quoted as saying.

Kelly wrote that the crowd began to boo and jeer as the Generals headed into the locker room to celebrate with orange soda. The Globetrotters retreated to their room, though Lemon reportedly stopped to congratulate Klotz's team on their moment in history.

The Hutchersons don't recall quite as dramatic a scene, though they said they understand why the crowd might have been disappointed.

"It was just funny to us," Dick said. "We thought it was entertaining, and the score didn't really matter too much, win or lose. We knew they were just entertainers, not true competitors."

"From our point of view, we just wanted to be there that night," Barbara said. "It was a big event to go to and be supportive of."

The Hutchersons said that fateful night more than 40 years ago is one they won't ever forget.

"It was something else to be a part of that," Dick said. "It's just something you don't see happen." ◀

I WAS THERE

- SHARING HARLEM GLOBETROTTER MEMORIES

The January 1971 loss by the Harlem Globetrotters in what is now the Skyhawk Fieldhouse remains etched in the memories of those who witnessed the historic game. They share some of their stories ...

"My best memory was of Meadowlark Lemon missing the shot at the end after one of the other team had just made a shot and taken the lead. The crowd seemed very surprised that the Globetrotters had lost. I suppose that I, like everyone else, always thought that the Globetrotters won and thought there had been a mistake."

Tim Barrington ('80)

"I was there! I would have been 10 or 11 years old. I remember sitting on or very near the front row at midcourt and enjoying all the trick shots. I remember that the 'Generals' wore green uniforms, and their point guard was a very short red-headed guy. It was disappointing to see the Globetrotters lose, and I'm not sure that I knew at the time that they weren't supposed to lose, but now I realize how special it was."

Bill Brundige ('83)

"I was at the game and remember Red Klotz hit the last shot for the Generals, and (the) Globetrotters missed their last shot. ... The Globetrotters appeared to horse around too much for the close score and got beat. It was an exciting atmosphere at that time with a packed (crowd) at the old fieldhouse."

Jerry Carpenter ('66)

"I was at the game. I was working the concession stand and can show you the exact spot where I was standing. The 'Trotters let their traveling opponents build a lead while intending to make a dramatic comeback. They stopped the clock at times to give the 'Trotters time to catch up. Meadowlark Lemon missed a half court hook shot for the win."

He recalled that the late educational studies faculty member Dr. Don McCracken told his son Sky ('88), "Don't forget this. This is historic."

Phil Dane (MBA '84)

"My sister, Paula Osbron Miller, was a student at UTM during this time. My grandfather, Leander Wimberley, who was in his late 70s, always enjoyed the Harlem Globetrotters when they played on TV. He was an avid fan and would laugh and laugh over their antics. My family purchased tickets to take him to the game. Throughout the ballgame, he watched every movement on the court and laughed at every joke and clapped at every point gained. I was so disappointed for him when they lost the game. However, for him he talked and talked about seeing the history of one of their rare losses. He was not disappointed at all and talked about this game until his death a few years later in May of 1973. This game has always been a special memory for my family and one none of us will forget."

Joyce Osbron Smothers ('77, '81)

"I was in my senior year, and I had always been a Globetrotter fan. Getting to see the Globetrotters play was exciting, but their loss was something you knew was a historic event, and you were present for it! When the subject comes up even today about their loss I always say, 'I was there and saw it.'"

Mike Stockdale ('71, '75)

UT Martin Alumni assist with new city library

by Erin Chesnut



An artist's architectural rendering of the proposed library shows a two-story structure facing Lindell Street.

UT Martin alumni are giving back to the community through the funding and design of a new library for the city of Martin. While the Martin Public Library Foundation includes many UT Martin graduates, **Dr. Nick Dunagan ('68)**, chancellor emeritus and current foundation president, and his wife, **Cathy ('68); Langdon Unger ('80)**, former foundation president; and **David Warren ('67)**, library consultant and major project donor, are serving in key leadership positions.

Unger, a local attorney, served as the first president of the Martin Public Library Foundation and established the organization

to receive charitable donations toward the funding of the new building and its services. Dunagan took over as the foundation's second president to focus on fundraising and make a difference in the future of the community.

"One of the reasons that I'm involved is because I think this is really going to be great for the community, and I'm excited about it," he said. "It was something that my wife (Cathy) and I talked about, and we both felt that this was an issue ... that could really make a difference for the community. So we said, 'Let's put our time and effort into this.' I'm out in front, but she offers a lot of

good advice, also.”

Dunagan says the city has received a \$5.5 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Program but still needs to raise approximately \$1.5 million to complete the necessary funds.

The new library will have numerous features including a large children’s area and a teen zone, community meeting spaces, a dedicated genealogy research room, and workshop areas where community classes in skills such as cooking, sewing and painting can be taught. The two-story building will anchor the downtown Martin area on the corner of Lindell Street and University Street where the Martin Police Department and UT Martin REED Center currently sit. The police department will relocate to a new building currently under construction north of town.

Warren, who has designed libraries all over the world, is working with the Jackson-based architectural firm TLM Associates Inc. to ensure the new Martin library is truly a modern, state-of-the-art facility of which the community can be proud.

“(Warren) has provided untold credibility, suggestions and expertise. In addition to being a major donor, he’s looking at all of our plans and making sure that we have a 21st century library,” said Dunagan.

Dunagan feels the construction of a modern library will not only serve current Martin residents but assist with the recruitment of employees to work in area industries, including UT Martin.

“I think (the library) will be a very positive recruiting tool for UT Martin as well as anybody that’s looking to settle in Martin, whether they’re with MTD or any other business, or a business that’s looking to locate here in the future. . . . (People moving in) want a safe environment. They want an environment that’s going to be conducive to their kids getting the very best foundation for an education,” he said.

According to Dunagan, the current C.E. Weldon Library building is a historic landmark in the community, having previously served as the town post office, and will be maintained as a city building after the construction of the new library.

Construction on the new building is anticipated to begin in mid-2019 with hopes that the facility will open to the public in 2020. ◀

(top) Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor emeritus, is the current president of the Martin Public Library Foundation. (bottom) David Warren, project consultant and major donor, is pictured in the Paul Meek Library.



MAKING THINGS THAT DO THINGS:

YOUNG ENGINEER APPLIES SKILLS TO REFRIGERATION INDUSTRY

story and photos by **Bud Grimes**

Creating things is in Michael Dawson's DNA. In summer 2017 he developed a wireless ignition system for a local church's fireworks show. Dawson saw a challenge and enjoyed using both ingenuity and common sense to make shooting fireworks safer. The 2015 UT Martin engineering graduate brings the same attitude daily to Monogram Refrigeration LLC in Selmer, where the company makes high-end refrigerators for home and commercial use. The company tagline – Elevate Everything – also describes this young engineer's work ethic and how he's building a successful career.

Dawson was born in Modesto, California, and moved with his family to Henderson at the age of three when his father accepted a transfer option to Proctor & Gamble Co. in Jackson. Dawson attended Chester County High School, graduated in 2010 and entered UT Martin to pursue an engineering degree. "I grew up making things," he said. "I jumped around between the different concentrations for a while and landed on electrical (engineering), ... I really liked the idea of making things do things."

While at UT Martin, Dawson was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, both of which offered opportunities to work on small projects and visit different industries in the region. "I'm huge on projects," he said. "At school in my free time, I always had something going on, either making a custom speaker, or like a watering system, or I like green energy and stuff like that, too. ... Kind of the neatest thing about engineering is, whatever you can think of, you can actually turn a thought into a physical product."

A point of pride in his college years was having a key role as a member of the 2015 senior engineering design team that competed in the SAE Aero Design East competition in Lakeland, Florida. The team entered the highly competitive advanced class, which requires significant electronics knowhow to be successful. The electronics engineering component of the project required a model airplane to drop a humanitarian package close to a target zone, and Dawson was the only team member with this level of electronics knowledge.

"He (Dawson) designed on his own the entire electronics suite for the airplane and even fabricated his own circuit boards and

Michael Dawson is pictured in the Monogram plant's lobby, just outside the assembly line for the plant's Columns refrigerator.

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wrote his own code, and I just remember him being tenacious with it," said Dr. Doug Sterrett professor of engineering and the project's pilot. "I mean he was adamant about not buying something off the shelf (permissible in the competition). He wanted to design and fabricate it, which is admirable."

In addition to the excitement of hitting the target zone during the final round of competition, Sterrett still laughs as he remembers Dawson's mother surprising the unsuspecting pilot (Sterrett) with a celebratory bear hug from behind just as the plane landed. The team placed third overall and third in the "technological report" and "closest to target" categories. This group was the first UT Martin team to compete in this category and the first to earn medals of any kind on behalf of the university. UT Martin was also the highest-ranked American team in this year of competition.

In addition to a proud mother, the airplane-design project resulted in several takeaways for Dawson. "That's where I actually learned how to do my wireless communication, the hands-on for it, and how to process data," he said. "So, I mean for me, I learned some very, very important skills from that competition." Teamwork and dedication also factored into the project's success. "We (the team) probably spent more time together than we did in school," he recalled. "Every weekend we were together at school and after hours every single day. Yeah, we spent an incredible amount of time just hanging out and working together."

Dawson sandwiched the senior design project between two career-shaping cooperative education experiences at Monogram Refrigeration during the summers of 2014 and 2015. Internships and co-ops vary for college students, Dawson said, but Monogram placed him in a significant role as an electrical engineer and gave him a specific challenge. At that time, the company was experiencing unresolved transformer failures in completed refrigerators, and this became Dawson's primary project.

"We ended up designing what's called an 'ALT test'— an accelerated life test," he said. "I built this big fixture that ran these transformers through accelerated failure tests, so it's high temperature, high humidity and normal loads but at a really, really accelerated rate. We could see why (the transformers were) failing, and it represented what was going on in real life to a T." Dawson's test determined that the transformer fuses were hydroscopic, meaning they absorbed water and deteriorated over time. "So, we rejected all of our inventory of that transformer and got new ones and fixed the problem," he said. "I was extremely proud of that."

Even better for the company were the savings made possible as the result of an improved service-call rate that reduced future costs. "That was like a (one-time) \$320,000 cost avoidance by changing

to the new transformers and rejecting the old ones," said Dawson. "It was a big savings for the company." The improved transformers remain in use today, and Dawson's successful co-op work, along with an engineering opening at the plant, helped open the door to a full-time position with Monogram. He began as a lead-production engineer following his fall 2015 graduation.

Ray Deming, Monogram plant manager and a WestStar Leadership Program graduate, noted the value of real-world experiences for college students in an industrial setting. "The experience of performing work in an actual industrial environment will not only give the student a great perspective on potential future employment but will also help them decide if this is what they truly want to pursue," Deming wrote in an email. "The co-op experience is important to Monogram Refrigeration because we hope to use their abilities and fresh eyes to work on problem issues for us during their time here. ..."

"Often in West Tennessee, it is difficult to recruit engineering talent, so the co-op experience is another avenue of talent for us," he added.

Monogram is owned by GE Appliances, which is now owned by China's Haier Group Corp. that purchased the unit in 2016. In addition to producing built-in, high-end residential refrigeration, the Selmer facility recently added Zoneline air conditioning units to its manufacturing line. The plant also produces the Monogram Columns refrigerator, now includes 500,000 square feet and is one of McNairy County's largest employers.

Dawson is gaining responsibility as the company expands — from college co-op positions, to production engineer, to line supervisor for the Columns startup — and in April he returned to a new role in engineering. He is now seal systems specialist, which involves working with new technologies to improve lab capabilities and the quality of seal systems in refrigeration and air conditioning. He also chairs the plant's change implementation board that approves or denies engineering changes to refrigerator cabinets.

No matter his Monogram role, Dawson appreciates opportunities to create and innovate, such as when he became line supervisor for the Columns model startup project. An existing warehouse was expanded, and manufacturing lines and sheet metal departments were added for the new product line. One of Dawson's assignments was to develop a new bell system to alert employees about work breaks and return times. Instead of a standard bell system, Dawson added custom audio tracks to alert team members when breaks begin and end. He even included a sound that reminds those on break that work will soon resume.

"It's more of an encouraging sound to come back from break,"

he said of the innovative alert. "I try to really think through the design and make intelligent decisions that way." He joked and added, "My boss said it's kind of my millennial side coming through, trying to be nice and encourage people."

Dawson is optimistic about his future with Monogram and plans to acquire more knowledge and make himself more valuable to the company. Courses and training are offered at the GE headquarters in Louisville, and pursuing an online master's degree in mechanical engineering is another possibility. He advises students who want an engineering career to seek internships and cooperative education experiences – definite resume highlights as employers

Michael Dawson is pictured above the Monogram Columns refrigerator assembly line where he served as supervisor for the Columns startup.

consider new graduates for entry-level positions. He added one other piece of advice that has served him well: "Do projects, especially for engineering," he said. "I feel like all my engineering side projects that I did for my own goals and other people really helped me understand what I was doing in school and practice what I was learning."

Fireworks explode, bells ring and model airplanes hit their drop-zone targets when Michael Dawson applies his engineering skills to a project. His ingenuity and passion for making things better will keep this engineer's career out of the deep freeze at one of the world's premier high-end refrigerator producers. ◀





This late 1990s photo shows Dr. Ted Mosch (center) in the Paul Meek Library's replica of Gov. Ned Ray McWherter's office. Kyle Williams (left) and Suzanne Perry ('99,'00) are also pictured.

Generations of UT Martin students *Remember* Ted Mosch

by **Bud Grimes**

Dr. Ted Mosch lived a full life as a teacher, scholar and world traveler. But the UT Martin political science professor, who died July 3, 2018, will likely be remembered most as a mentor and friend to countless university students. A generous gift from his estate to UT Martin will ensure that he continues to help students into the future (see scholarship story on page 28).

Dale Allen ('81) is a Nashville attorney and former UT Martin SGA president who counts Mosch as both a friend and a mentor and credits Mosch for encouraging him to pursue a career in law. "He demanded that I attend law school, and I enjoyed working with him when he was the legislative intern adviser," Allen wrote in an email. "I have kept the letters that he would send to me while traveling abroad – very detailed and just amazing how much he enjoyed traveling the world and meeting people."

Mosch was born Sept. 13, 1937, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude with a political science degree from Ripon College in Wisconsin. He earned master's degrees in education and social work from the University of Wisconsin and both a master of arts and his doctorate in political science from the University of Oklahoma.

Mosch served in the U.S. Army on active duty with the rank of first lieutenant before serving as a teaching assistant at both the University of Wisconsin and the University of Oklahoma. He began his tenure at UT Martin in 1970, was granted educational leave to attend the National War College in Washington, D.C., from 1981-82, and served on the United States Army Intelligence Center and faculty at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, from 1983-88, where he earned the rank of colonel.

Mosch returned to UT Martin in 1988 and served as a professor and adviser in the Department of History and Political Science until his retirement in 2002. He traveled extensively for both professional and personal growth during that time and served as the UT Martin/Hirosaki University Exchange Professor to Japan in 2000.

Mosch earned multiple awards for teaching and scholarship, including the Outstanding Teaching Award, UT National Alumni Association (1974, 1990); Excellence in Advising Award, UT Martin (1990, 1995); Outstanding Advisor Award, UT Martin (2000); Distinguished Professorship, UT National Alumni Association (1996 – annually until retirement); Student Government Association Outstanding Teaching Award, UT Martin (1998, 1999); and UT College of Law Honor for 31 years of pre-law advising (2001). The military also honored him numerous times for his service.

His retirement brought many former students back to campus to congratulate and thank him for his contributions to UT Martin and their lives. The Ted Mosch Scholarship Fund was established in his honor, and he pledged to endow the fund to help with the cost of tuition for international students.

Mosch is known for his successful military and educational careers, but his former students remember him most because he truly cared about them. **Kyle Williams ('98, UT College of Law '01)** possibly captured Mosch's legacy best when he purchased a Paul Meek Library brick in honor of his professor. The inscription simply reads, "Dr. Ted Mosch. Advisor, Mentor, Friend." ◀

DEDICATION. PASSION. DRIVE.

YOUNG ALUMNI IN THE
ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

STORY BY ERIN CHESNUT

PHOTOS BY NATHAN MORGAN



Krista Roser works with one of her clients prior to an event. As a fashion stylist, Roser's responsibilities include preparing clients for interviews, performances and red carpet events and making sure their images match their professional brands from head to toe. Roser's client roster includes names such as Kelsea Ballerini and Florida Georgia Line.

Fashion stylist Krista Roser ('06) found her calling during a college trip to New Orleans. Actress **Shannon Halters ('02)** always knew she wanted to be on the big screen. Cartoonist **Charles Brubaker ('12)** sold his first cartoon at age 16. All three started at the ground level in their respective entertainment fields and are testaments to how hard work and passion pay off in a world that's all about who you know and where you've been.

Finding a Niche

Roser, of Dyersburg, originally enrolled at UT Martin with an undeclared major and an uncertain aim in life. After a history club trip to New Orleans and a visit to Saks Fifth Avenue, Roser discovered the university's fashion merchandising program and made a switch. Since then, her career has been about working her way up the ladder, from retail sales to celebrity stylist, and maintaining a network of clients and associates along the way.

"Right after college, I moved to New York City and started a job in merchandising for designers' corporate offices. The recession hit these types of jobs hard in 2006, but in 2007 I received a job with Men's Warehouse working toward entering their buying office," she said.

Four years later, Men's Warehouse ended their practice of hiring internal candidates to the buying office. Managing locations in the Nashville area at the time, Roser felt trapped in a market where she had never intended to stay. However, not one to wait for life to happen, she started looking for new ways to enter the fashion world.

"I decided to look for new areas in the fashion industry that were still needed and growing at that time, and I started styling on some small jobs through people I met in my stores," she said. "I then started working as a fashion editor for a digital magazine in the wedding industry based in New York. During this job, I learned about the fashion publicity industry, something I wasn't knowledgeable about previously."

Still searching for a home in the busy fashion world, Roser realized country music stars were not using their personal images to make branding statements like their counterparts in New York City and Los Angeles often did. Armed with new professional experience, Roser returned to Nashville and began filling this void with a network of new clients.

"I was able to showcase these relationships (between fashion and professional image) and show how they can build an artist from an image-brand perspective," she said. "Through people I met in my Men's Warehouse stores, I was able to book meetings with

managers and confirm some clients."

Today, Roser's client roster includes names such as Kelsea Ballerini and Florida Georgia Line.

"My clients inspire me – their music, their message, their personalities," she said. "Every day is different. That's one of the things I love most about what I do. ... You pretty much have to be ready for anything."

As a fashion stylist, Roser's responsibilities include preparing clients for interviews, performances and red carpet events and making sure their images match their professional brands from



Krista Roser

head to toe. She usually attends red carpet events in person to make sure each client can put his or her best foot forward – in the perfect designer shoe, of course.

"I am there to make sure everything looks perfect before each photo, and I'm there for any 'oops' occasions. You never, ever want a wardrobe malfunction!" she said. "Most of the time I have more than one client at an event, so I'm making sure everyone is taken care of and getting changed when they are supposed to for performances and such. There is always a lot of running around."

Roser admits that most of her work is not glitz and glamour, and

newcomers to the industry have to be willing to prove their worth.

"It's a hustle, and it isn't for everyone. You have to really have a passion for it. There are long hours, a lot of high energy, high stress and very little pay in the beginning," she said. "You have to be willing to work hard for little to nothing in the beginning and willing to do the work. Interning and assisting already established stylists is a great way to learn about it and grow into your own clients. ...

"Start working in the industry as soon as you can. Start with internships; it's all about your experiences and the relationships you make along the way," she added.

Making Connections

While Roser is backstage, Shannon Halters, known by the stage name Shannon Ashe, is on set preparing to assume a new personality – often complete with a husband and children she met that morning.

Originally from Mt. Juliet, Ashe began her acting career at the age of 16 with a national commercial for Honda generators. However, she, like Roser, has worked many positions over the years to help build the network needed for success in the entertainment industry. After graduating with a business administration degree and moving to Nashville, Ashe worked in information technology recruiting while filming infomercials and modeling men's watches on the home shopping network.

Later, she sold medical devices while dancing for the Tennessee Titans and the Nashville Predators for two seasons. It was this unlikely choice that helped Ashe get a foothold in the Nashville entertainment world.

"That was great for helping me get to know people in this business and make connections," she said. "Even though people don't realize it, because Nashville is so small, anything entertainment-related helps you get more connected with people and be able to get bigger and better opportunities. I got to do all kinds of things through the Preds and the Titans that really helped me make a lot of connections."

After moving to Connecticut with her husband, Ashe spent several years in account sales before deciding to dedicate herself to the original dream of acting in New York City.

"I finally realized that I'd been in this place now for three years to be an actress in New York (City), and I haven't done any of it," she said. "I started going to New York as soon as I could. I started looking for an agent and knocking on doors, putting myself out there, taking some classes. I finally got an agent and started booking work."



Actress Shannon Halters, known by the stage name Shannon Ashe, poses for photos at Noelle, a boutique hotel in downtown Nashville. Halters began her acting career at the age of 16 with a national commercial for Honda generators. Most recently Halters has done commercial work for iDevices, Home Goods and Friendly's Restaurants, and has made appearances on "The Dr. Oz Show" and a one-time role on the CBS hit crime drama "Blue Bloods," starring Tom Selleck and Donnie Wahlberg.

Ashe booked a commercial for iDevices, a home technology branch of the Apple Corp., which began opening doors to larger jobs.

"(iDevices) really helped launch a lot of commercial work for me, and I got to know a lot of people through that because it was a long shoot over several days. ... And then I got calls through people I met there to do other commercials right away," she said. This network eventually led to recurring appearances on "The Dr. Oz Show" and a one-time role on the hit crime drama "Blue Bloods," starring Tom Selleck and Donnie Wahlberg.

Ashe has also done national commercials for Home Goods and Friendly's Restaurants, among other clients, and has a role in the movie "Breakdown," showing in film festivals this year. As she continues to improve her craft, Ashe says she hopes to book more roles playing characters who are very different from herself.

"I love dark roles. ... Being an actress, it lets me tell someone

else's story. I don't want to tell my story or what other people think is my story," she said. "My favorite role, so far, (is when) I was a drug-addicted mother. It was fun for me because I get stereotyped a lot. ... People want me to be a Stepford housewife or a trophy wife or a socialite because that's how they see me. So being able to play this woman that was a drug-addicted mother wasn't about my looks. It was about being a character and showing that story of this little boy who lived with his mother who just couldn't get her life together. That's probably my proudest moment. It was a short film; it wasn't anything huge that a lot of people have seen, but it was me able to showcase that I actually have real talent. I'm not just here to be the person that you think you see in front of you."

Ashe says those looking to find time on camera need to approach the business for the right reasons and with the knowledge that the largest part of success is trial and error.

"You have to audition, audition, audition, which is money out of your pocket all the time. If you don't have any connections, like me, and you're starting from scratch, you need to do your research. You need to know the business. You need to know who you need to get in front of," she said. "Be persistent, and not just persistent, but you have to know that this is really what you want more than anything. Not just 'I want to be famous.' If you go in there and just think, 'I want to be famous,' ... you're already in it for the wrong reasons and you're not going to last. ..."

"You just have to go in knowing that you have a desire to create something that's going to move people and show them something. And if you really have that passion to do that, then you'll stick it out."

Building Character(s)

Away from the lights of New York City, Charles Brubaker's work is gaining popularity among cartoon artists. In a world often filled with quick wit, classic puns and stinging one-liners, Brubaker's current characters keep up the banter with a series of stories from a feline perspective.

The Martin artist is responsible for the "Ask A Cat" and "Fuzzy Princess" comics, often drawing on the antics of his own cats for inspiration. "Ask A Cat" is published online at gocomics.com by the Andrews McMeel Syndicate, home of "Calvin and Hobbes" and "Doonesbury," and "Fuzzy Princess" is featured in two print comic books available for purchase on Amazon.com.

"A lot of my strips (for 'Ask A Cat') are based on my cats' antics and also on my readers – whatever questions my readers send me," he said. While "Ask A Cat" is a weekly one-panel comic, "Fuzzy Princess" is a comic series intended for younger readers.

"I was at a comic convention in Baltimore (Maryland), and I met this guy named Frank Cammuso who does kids' graphic novels called 'The Misadventures of Salem Hyde.' I showed him my 'Ask A Cat' strips, and he suggested I try doing graphic novels for kids or middle grade," he said. "I was at the convention, and I noticed that there were a lot of creators doing comics about princesses going on adventures.... So I just jokingly said to myself, 'I already do comics about cats, why don't I make a cat princess comic?'" And so the fuzzy princess was born.

Creating a comic strip has more steps than many readers realize, including the drafting of the overall story arc.

"With 'Fuzzy Princess,' I draw a really detailed outline ... basically paragraphs on what happens and what the character does, maybe with a couple lines of dialogue if I think they should be included in the finished product," said Brubaker. "Then I start sketching it – very rough sketches with lines and dialogue, which can still be changed when I start the proper drawing, but this gives me something to start with. After that I do the pencils. ..."

"I do the pencils digitally with a tablet using Clip Studio Paint. I sketch digitally; that way I can edit the roughs easily and change the shapes. ... I write the dialogue so I know how big the balloons should be. ... Once I'm satisfied with the pencils, I print it out and go to my drawing table where I ink it on separate paper using my fountain pen. Then I scan it back in and add the letters using a font of my handwriting that I made," he explained. "I'd say the only difference in the process is that I leave 'Ask A Cat' as a black-and-white strip, while 'Fuzzy Princess' is in color."

Many modern cartoonists create both sketches and ink drawings digitally, but Brubaker prefers the physical process of inking by hand.

"Honestly, I just like how the line art looks when I ink it on paper.





Cartoonist Charles Brubaker develops the art for his cartoons from his home in Martin. Brubaker the creator is responsible for the “Ask A Cat” and “Fuzzy Princess” comics, often drawing on the antics of his own cats for inspiration. Many modern cartoonists create both sketches and ink drawings digitally, but Brubaker prefers the physical process of inking by hand.

Also, I just really like doing it traditionally. I really like my fountain pen. There’s something very Zen about inking, especially by hand. I actually really enjoy that part, where a lot of artists say that doing the line art is their least favorite part,” he said.

Brubaker, who drew comics for “The Pacer” student newspaper while an undergraduate, has created a professional network of cartoonists from across America by attending conventions and trade shows to showcase his work. The walls of his home studio are covered in original sketches and art from artists like Jim Davis (“Garfield”), Sherm Cohen (“SpongeBob SquarePants”) and others who have appreciated his creations.

In addition to his two primary comic strips, Brubaker is also a storyboard artist for the YouTube cartoon “Pencilmation” and contributes work to the SpongeBob comic series. Growing up in Japan, he drew early inspiration from a mix of classic Japanese manga comics and the “Stars and Stripes” military newspaper available where he lived. He was inspired to draw his own strips after reading his first

“Calvin and Hobbes” collection and sold his first professional cartoon panel to The Eagleville Times in Rutherford County at the age of 16.

Moving forward, he hopes to republish the “Fuzzy Princess” books in color and publish a second “Ask A Cat” book in 2019. He also has plans to expand a horror-comedy comic called “Ghost Cat,” which has been a periodic project for the past few years. He advises new cartoonists to get their start in newspaper comics to learn basic composition and format before working up to more complex pieces.

While Roser, Ashe and Brubaker have found homes in different parts of the entertainment industry, their journeys tell similar stories. All three started out small – sometimes working in related fields just outside their intended career areas – and built professional networks that later helped open doors to bigger opportunities. All three continue to climb the ladders of recognition and success in their respective areas, and all three are proud to have gotten their start at UT Martin. ◀



TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF BEAN MAGIC

PHOTOS BY NATHAN MORGAN



The 25th-annual Tennessee Soybean Festival featured entertainment acts ranging from traditional concerts to live shark shows and daredevil stunt performers. The traditional carnival and craft fair surrounded a downtown concert venue where the Jackson Symphony, Switchfoot, 38 Special and Foreigner entertained crowds throughout the week. Country artists Gretchen Wilson and Big & Rich were booked to perform as well, but the shows were ultimately cancelled because of severe weather. Chancellor Keith Carver served as keynote speaker Sept. 5 during the annual Soybean Festival Prayer Breakfast, and many UT Martin organizations, including the new Aviators band ensemble, joined the fun Sept. 4 during the Soybean Festival Parade into downtown Martin.





(left) Jordan Ramey shows community members a barred owl during Magical Martin Day at Virginia Weldon Park.



(above) The Nerveless Nocks perform a daredevil thrill show. (left) Chancellor Keith Carver speaks during the Soybean Festival's Mayor's Luncheon.



(right) Switchfoot performs during UT Martin student night at the festival.



(above) The Aviators perform during the Soybean Festival Parade into downtown Martin.



(right) UT Martin's New Pacer Singers perform "I Wanna Know What Love Is" with Foreigner.

FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT UTM.EDU/CAMPUSSCENE

ALUMNI NEWS

Director's Note

“Student recruitment is everyone’s job.”

Those of us who work at UT Martin have heard this phrase many times over the past few years. Recruiting new students is no longer just something the admissions counselors do – it’s something we can all do every day! UT Martin has made strides to increase enrollment during years where many universities are seeing a decline, and the help of alumni and employees outside the Office of Undergraduate Admissions makes a big impact on that final total.

The Office of Alumni Relations has taken this priority to heart. This summer, we started the Write-A-Skyhawk campaign, during which a limited number of alumni were asked to write welcome letters to incoming students and share their love for UT Martin. The response was overwhelming! In less than 24 hours, 160 alumni volunteered to write 10 students each. We’ve received numerous emails and social media posts about how much the letters meant, not only to students who received them, but to alumni who wrote them as well.

We as alumni are the first line of recruitment when we share our UT Martin experiences with others. Who better to speak to prospective students than friends and family members who have experienced first-hand the many opportunities UTM can provide?

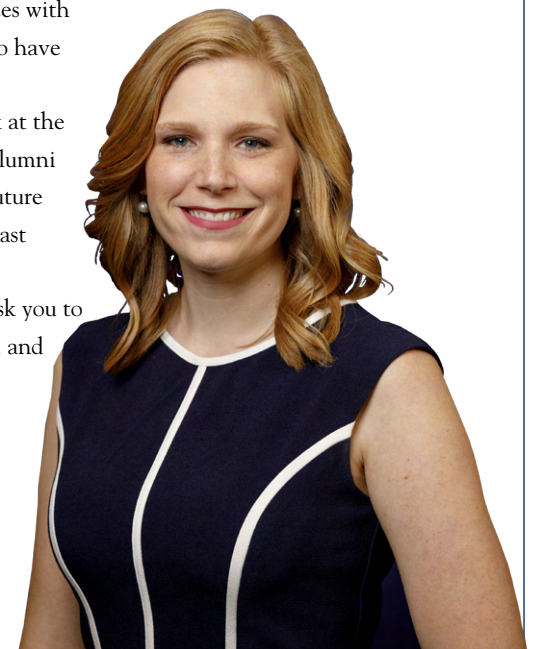
Homecoming week, Oct. 22-28, is a great opportunity to give a Future Skyhawk a look at the UT Martin campus. This year’s theme is “Where in the World is Captain?” Stop by the alumni tent Oct. 27 during Quad City to pick up a special gift for your recruit! Then, take our Future Skyhawk to the homecoming football game and watch the Skyhawks take on the Southeast Missouri Redhawks.

There are so many ways to show potential students what UT Martin means to you! I ask you to be on the lookout for ways to engage prospective and incoming students in the next year, and don’t hesitate to let the Office of Alumni Relations know if we can ever be of assistance.

Thank you for always being #UTMproud!

Jackie Johnson
Interim Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
Class of '08 and '10

SEE MORE ONLINE
For the most up-to-date information, news and event schedules, check out the alumni website at utmforever.com.



UTMAlumni

spotlight on alums

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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, feel free to write, call or email the UT Martin Office of Alumni Relations for more information.

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



Dr. Suzzette Goldman ('83, '84) is the new director for hospitality and tourism initiatives at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. In the newly-created position, Goldman will provide leadership for the expansion of UAM's hospitality management initiatives, including working with the existing hospitality management programs at the UAM Colleges of Technology at Crossett and McGehee to help develop a curriculum that focuses on marketing and tourism. Goldman is also charged with developing plans for recruitment and marketing of the existing two-year degree programs on both the Crossett and McGehee campuses and will provide management oversight of properties owned by UAM. (Information courtesy of a UAM press release.)

spotlight on alums



Jim Bishop ('84) became chief financial officer of Sullivan County Community Hospital in Sullivan, Indiana, in April. "We are delighted to attract a seasoned professional like Jim Bishop to this critical position," said Michelle Franklin, hospital CEO. "His leadership will be instrumental in advancing our efforts to improve the health of our patients and the community." Bishop graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He brings more than 30 years of health-care industry experience as a CFO in both for-profit and not-for profit facilities. (Information courtesy of the Terra Haute Tribune Star.)

Melisa Hayes Moore ('06) became a member of Burch Porter & Johnson, PLLC, in January and is the second African American woman to become a member/partner in the firm's history. She was also included among the Top 40 Under 40 by the Memphis Business Journal in 2014 and voted a Superlawyers Rising Star in both 2016 and 2017. She earned bachelor's degrees in both education and criminal justice from UT Martin in 2006.



Randy Potts ('87) has retired after 30 years as recorder and certified municipal finance officer for the city of Greenfield. He began working in this capacity March 1, 1988, and retired June 22 of this year. He served with four mayors and 26 board members during his tenure. Potts and his wife, Cheryl, have three children who are also UT Martin alumni – **Denise Douglas ('00)**, **Kelsey Verdell ('12)** and **Dalton Potts ('15)** – and four grandchildren. Potts currently serves as pastor of the New Home Baptist Church in Martin and is treasurer of the Beulah Baptist Association in Union City.



Becker's Healthcare named **Dr. Stephen Mansfield ('86)**, president of Methodist Health System based in Dallas, Texas, one of the 100 great leaders in health-care for 2018. Becker's describes those included as leaders who work to "improve the quality of care and solve the toughest problems in health-care today." Mansfield has helped Methodist Health System grow from two hospitals to 10 hospitals and numerous physician clinics under the MHS brand. The network has also grown from just under 3,000 employees to more than 8,500 employees and is routinely recognized as a "best place to work." Before joining MHS in 2006, Mansfield served as president and CEO of St. Vincent Health System based in Little Rock, Arkansas. (Information courtesy of Methodist Health System and Becker's Healthcare.)



Dr. Gary Bledsoe ('89) was named director of the newly formed school of engineering within Saint Louis University's Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology, effective July 1. This new school will combine four existing engineering departments including the department of biomedical engineering, of which Bledsoe has been the chair since 2016. He also leads the interfacial biomaterials/biomechanics lab on SLU's campus. Bledsoe earned a bachelor's degree in engineering technology from UT Martin and both master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Memphis.



Retired Lt. Col. D. K. Clark ('73) and his wife, **Melinda Clark ('77)**, donated three limited-edition war prints to the university during a presentation April 18.

"This is our way of giving back a little bit of what UT Martin meant to us," said D.K. Clark. This set includes prints titled "Distant Thunder," which honors military involvement in the westward expansion of the United States; "We live to honor them," which memorializes the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War; and "Remembrance," which honors those who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq since Sept. 11, 2001.

D. K. Clark gave this last print specifically to honor the sacrifice of fellow UT Martin alum Marine Capt. **Brent Morel ('99)**

who died defending his platoon near Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004.

Pictured after the ceremony are (l-r) Dr. Malcolm Koch, executive director of the UT Martin Center for International Education; Dr. Rich Helgeson, then interim university provost; Molly and Mike Morel, parents of the late Cpt. Brent Morel; Lt. Col. D.K. Clark (U.S. Army, ret.); **Johnny Dyer ('13)**, veterans services coordinator; Lt. Gen. **John Castellaw ('72)** (U.S. Marine Corps, ret.); Sgt. Bo Pate, National Guard recruiter; Dr. Todd Winters, dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; **Ben Jones ('01)**, associate director of university development; and Cpt. Darren Ekey, Skyhawk ROTC Battalion.



Dr. Nell Gullett ('76, '81) and **Dr. Kimberly Williams ('95)**, both UT Martin faculty members, received University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher awards June 1 during the UTAA Board of Governors' awards dinner. Gullett, professor of finance, began working with UT Martin in 1975, eventually becoming a full professor in 1998. Gullett has received numerous awards during her career, including 18 teaching awards from the College of Business and Global Affairs, three UT Martin Outstanding Educator awards and three consecutive Distinguished Service Professor awards from the UT National Alumni Association. She has also received the UTAA Outstanding Teacher Award on two other occasions (1994 and 2005). Williams, associate professor of education, accepted a position at UT Martin in 2013. She serves as director of UT Martin's Teacher Quality Partnership Grant through the U.S. Department of Education and is heavily involved with designing and presenting special workshops to benefit West Tennessee educators.

spotlight on alums



When George Pasley and **Tomi McCutchen ('83, '05)** began preparing for their wedding in 2017, they knew they needed to take an alternative route when it came to gifts. With two homes already full of household goods, the pair instead requested donations to UT Martin's Skyhawks Share Meal Program, a sum that

ultimately came to \$2,385.

McCutchen is a longtime instructor of communications and grew up in Weakley County. She is also a two-time UT Martin alumna with bachelor's degrees in communications and geography.

The Skyhawks Share Meal Program was established in March 2017 by the Student Government Association in an effort to help students who struggle with food insecurity. Meals can be donated to the program at \$5 each, and students in need apply to have meals added to their student cards.

According to **John Abel ('99, '02)**, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, 380 meals had been distributed as of the spring 2018 semester, and the Pasley/McCutchen donation added 477 meals to the bank at a time when resources were running low.

"The folks in the (student affairs) office were just overwhelmed. It was getting late in the semester, and they didn't have much

money left, and students were starting to run out of money," said Pasley. "There was a definite need, and all of a sudden we were able to fill it. So we were tickled for that."

"You can't think if you're hungry. You can't focus. You can't make the grades you need to make to keep your financial aid or pass your classes or continue on," she added. "Hunger is a very basic issue, a basic need. You can't focus on anything if you're starving half to death. ... For people who are truly hungry, it becomes an overwhelming thing."

The Skyhawks Share Meal Program accepts donations in person in the Skyhawk Dining Hall on designated donation days only, but the online donation portal is open year-round. Those wishing to contribute can do so at utm.edu/skyhawksshare.

Alumni, faculty and staff from the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts have started a fundraising effort to rename the university's Vanguard Little Theatre after the late Bill Snyder, professor emeritus of theatre.

Snyder, longtime director of the UT Martin Vanguard Theatre, died in March 2008. He retired from UT Martin in 1996 after 32 years of teaching and is estimated to have directed more than 150 productions during his time at the university. He was named a University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Distinguished Professor in 1990.

In addition to his work at UT Martin, Snyder was also a New York actor, playwright, producer and director. One of his plays, "The Days and Nights of BeeBee

Fenstermaker," ran for 304 performances Off-Broadway at the Sheridan Square Playhouse in New York City.

"I personally credit Bill with much of what I have achieved as an artist, or frankly as a human being in my life and my career. I've missed him every day since his retirement," said **Doug Cook ('77)**, chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. "The Vanguard Little Theatre is our newer, smaller theatre space. It's a space designed with Bill in mind. He was always fond of intimate theatre spaces, and I think our Little Theatre venue would have pleased him greatly."

Supporters have established a goal to raise \$100,000 to finance the renaming in honor of Snyder's legacy. Those wishing to support this effort can do so



Bill Snyder (left), professor emeritus of theatre, is shown speaking to **Kim Barber Knoll ('83)** during a Vanguard Theatre production of Woody Allen's "Don't Drink The Water." Knoll, an alumna from Gleason, is now coordinator of theatre at LaGrange College in LaGrange, Georgia.

online at utmforever.com/snydertheatre or by contacting the UT Martin Division of University Advancement at 731-881-7620.

in memory

Names, hometowns and dates of death are noted. Names listed either attended or graduated from UT Martin, unless otherwise noted.

- **Phillip Moore Carr**, of Dresden, Jan. 16, 2018.
- **Joe Brown Cothran**, of Jackson, March 23, 2018.
- **Ben Lindbergh Crittendon**, of Martin, July 22, 2018.
- **Dr. Robert Erk**, of Martin, Dec. 6, 2017.
- **Thomas "Tom" Gregory Hyde**, of Murfreesboro, May 17, 2018.
- **Dr. Ronald Warren Kilgore**, of Martin, Aug. 2, 2018 (retired faculty member).
- **Col. Theodore (Ted) Mosch, Ph.D.**, of Martin, July 3, 2018 (retired faculty member). (See stories on pages 28 and page 43.)
- **Dr. Earl Norwood**, of Wenatchee, Washington, June 28, 2018 (retired faculty member).
- **Dennis Wayne Parton Jr.**, of Knoxville/Seymour, July 3, 2018.
- **Joyce Marie Pounds**, of Martin, March 29, 2018 (retired staff member).
- **Laura "Michelle" Rankin**, of Henning, July 4, 2018.
- **Betty Raspberry**, of Martin, Aug. 27, 2018 (retired faculty member).
- **Kristi Lynn Robbins Rezabek**, of Jackson, May 4, 2018.
- **Dr. Gopal K. Sharma**, of Lexington, South Carolina, Sept. 1, 2018 (retired faculty member).
- **Dr. Joyce Smith**, of Huntsville, Alabama, March 30, 2018 (see story on page 28).
- **Deborah Lynn "Debbie" Sweeney**, of Memphis, June 29, 2018.
- **Gary Lee Tuck**, of Martin, Aug. 15, 2017.
- **June Vaughan Wright**, of Martin, Aug. 3, 2018.
- **Dr. Tom Noble**, of Martin, Sept. 11, 2018 (retired faculty member).

we want to know

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 Home Phone: _____ Cell 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



MARTIN

class notes

1960

Dr. Harriette Lavenue ('60) retired in 2014 after 47 years as a professor at the University of Memphis.

1969

Jerry Morgan ('69) has retired from employment as a defense contractor with Northrop Grumman.

1971

Ronald Lembo ('71) married Annette Bellacosa in June.

1976

Cynthia Luna ('76) has spent her career teaching physical education and health in both Georgia and Louisiana. She has recently begun teaching adapted motor physical education for special needs students and those with exceptionalities.

David Stockett ('76) has worked for the state of Tennessee for 36 years and is now manager of the EHR provider incentive program.

1979

Jennifer Baird Ailes ('79) is the owner of A & A Court Reporting and has served Franklin, Nashville, Dickson and Murfreesboro for 16 years.

Dr. Buddy Bibb ('79) retired as director of Tipton County schools June 30, 2018. He was a graduate of Munford High School and began teaching in 1979 at Munford-Ellis Jr. High School. He and his wife, **Sally ('79)**, live in Munford. Bibb is also a graduate of the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program.

1981

Gary Hawkinson ('81) has been promoted to director of continuous improvement with Phoenix Stamping Group.

Jennifer Smith Kot ('81) is a business consultant with Life Management Consulting. She and her husband, Mitchell, have spent four years in Czechoslovakia, two years in Russia and 11 years in Vietnam helping establish successful businesses.

1984

Barney Barker ('84) spent more than 30 years as a public school band director at both the middle and high school levels. He is now retired and spends his time teaching private, individual and ensemble lessons, performing in musical theatre and running a small business.

1991

Christy Carter ('91) has been a preschool teacher for 20 years and is the author of "Thank you, God... for dirt and worms."

Renee Bailey Iacona ('91) was promoted to vice president of biometrics and information sciences therapeutic area head of oncology and immuno-oncology at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. This is her 17th year with the company.

1992

Monica Reese Fuqua ('92) married Bryan Fuqua in March. Her son, **Caleb Shumake**, is a 2017 UT Martin graduate.

Catherine Matthews ('92) was appointed international vice president of education for the Alpha Gamma Delta

International Fraternity on June 30 during the organization's 50th international convention in San Antonio, Texas.

1995

Julie Lumpkins Basler ('95) has completed a four-year term as a higher education commissioner for the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. She was elected chair of the commission in 2017-18.

Shane Joyner ('95) has worked for Tyson Foods for 22 years and is currently the live operations manager for Obion County. He and his wife, **Mary Margaret ('95)**, have two children.

1996

Leigh Anne Rainey ('96) is the new principal of Mt. Juliet High School. She has spent more than 22 years in the classroom and in education administration.

1998

Janet Pilcher Cagley ('98) has earned tenure with North Orange Continuing Education.

Andrea Deason Pierpoint ('98) graduated from the Nashville School of Law in May.

2002

Kevin Barron ('02) has become a certified revenue cycle leader with Healthcare Business Insights after completing 29 education modules and a comprehensive examination. He is also a fellow with both the College of American Health Care Executives and the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

2007

Kristin Wiseman Sides ('07) is vice president of operations for Event Logistics Inc.

2008

Stephanie Ryan Malin ('08) and **Steven Malin ('06)** married in 2013. Stephanie is now director of communications at Louisiana State University's Manship School of Communications.

2009

Roger Dunn ('09) is a program officer managing a portfolio for AmeriCorps National Service Programs. He is working toward a master's degree in geography with a focus on sustainability from Central Connecticut State University. He married Heather Begina in 2011, and they have two young children.

2011

Laura Butkovic ('11) received a Master of Arts degree in Christian ministries from Asbury Theological Seminary and is a certified candidate with the United Methodist Church.

Raven King Macon ('11) married Terry Macon in 2016 and has worked to receive a master's degree in human resource management in December.

2012

Matthew Fitzgerald ('12) is part of the 2018 class with the NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship.

2014

Sarah Thompkins ('14) earned a master's degree in education from Carson-Newman University and is now the assistant women's soccer coach at Illinois

State University.

Megan White ('14) graduated with her doctorate of physical therapy from the University of Toledo in May.

2015

Niki Hensley Cardosi ('15) married Allen Cardosi in July 2017.

Mary Clayton ('15) graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law with a juris doctor degree.

Amy Maksimowicz Sullinger ('15) married Kyle Sullinger in December 2017.

2016

Kayla Fuller ('16) is a photographer for WVLT-TV in Knoxville. She won an EMMY with her station for their coverage of the Gatlinburg wildfire.

Russell Milam ('16) is a graduate student at Murray State University, where he teaches undergraduate non-major biology labs while pursuing a master's degree in biology. His thesis centers on endangered Indiana bats. He married his wife, **Lauren ('16)**, in September 2017.

2017

Courtney Caton ('17) has been promoted to online marketing analyst on the corporate marketing team with HCA Healthcare.

James Clay Palmer ('17) has received a full assistantship for the Master of Fine Arts painting program at the University of Memphis.

2018

Kaleb Byars ('18) is working toward a juris doctorate degree at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Elysia Duke ('18) started a Master of Public Administration degree program this year at Murray State.

John Matthews ('18) married **Courtney Matthews ('18)** this year. John has since become a software engineer with Tata Consultancy Services.

Amber Mitchell ('18) is pursuing a master's degree at Union University.

Rachel Wilson ('18) works for the city of Memphis and is pursuing a master's degree in criminal justice at the University of Memphis.





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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ► Ashley Jackson, *Nashville*



Ashley Jackson, a deaf-blind student, navigates the UT Martin campus with her guide dog, Mr. Bunkers. Jackson is a junior concentrating in child and family studies and intends to help children find the opportunities and resources they need to succeed in the classroom and in life.

Ashley Jackson is a deaf-blind student who wants to help future generations learn from the challenges she has personally faced. On track to graduate in December, Jackson is completing a degree in family and consumer sciences with a concentration in child and family studies. She hopes to help young children take advantage of the resources available to help them succeed in the classroom and in life.

"I want to be a mediator between the

parents and children who have special needs or are at-risk," she said. "(A career counselor) told me about a position called an education assistant, and you work with a child who needs special attention in a special-needs classroom. She suggested it might be something I would like to start off with."

Jackson's experiences as a deaf-blind individual give her unique insight into what children with vision, hearing and mobility challenges face on a daily

basis. This knowledge also gives her an advantage when helping parents and families understand what opportunities are available for children facing similar struggles.

She hopes to pursue her master's degree in either public speaking or communications at Gallaudet, a university for the deaf in Washington, D.C., after graduating from UT Martin.

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