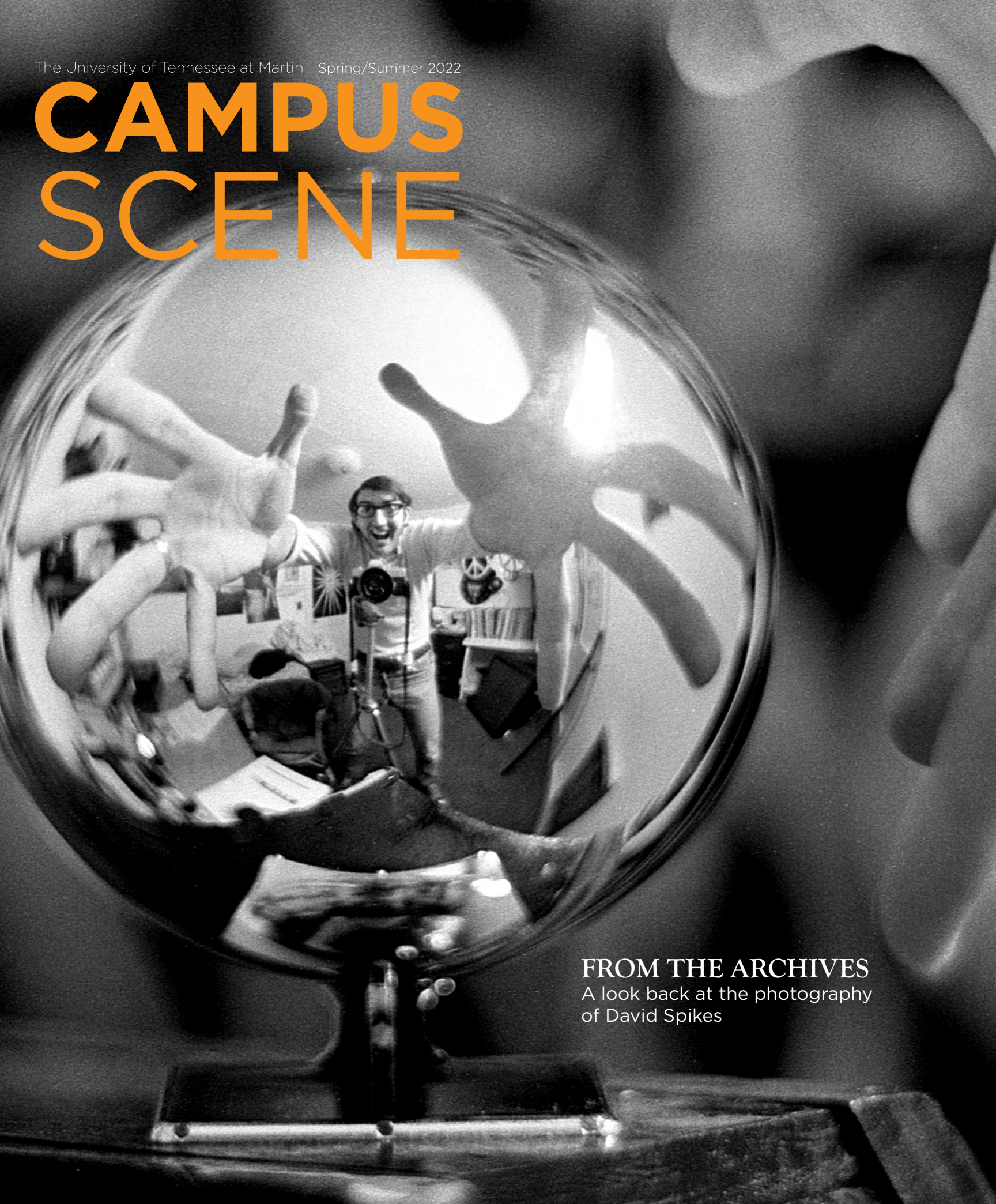


The University of Tennessee at Martin Spring/Summer 2022

CAMPUS SCENE



FROM THE ARCHIVES
A look back at the photography
of David Spikes

CHANCELLOR'S CORNER

UT Martin alumni do amazing things every day. This edition of Campus Scene features a story about a difference that our alumni made when they decided to accomplish something great. UTM alumni joined with others to make the new Martin Public Library a reality.

The vision of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige's administration backed by a determined group of alumni and others led by Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan rolled up their collective sleeves to raise necessary funding for this state-of-the-art facility. Many others contributed, but as the story tells, UT Martin alumni involvement made an impact not only raising funds during the height of the pandemic, but they helped to tell the story about a facility that has the potential to help transform Martin and the region.

The new library shares many key characteristics with UT Martin.

- Providing inclusive centers of learning for all people – UT Martin is a higher education leader in West Tennessee and beyond. The Martin Public Library provides a new “front porch” for Martin and for learning opportunities in the area and region.
- Innovating with the future in mind – UT Martin is forming a Blue Oval City steering committee so that we're ready to welcome this transformational project to West Tennessee. This fall, the new Latimer Engineering and Science Building opens its doors in August to a world of new possibilities for STEM education. The new library reinforces a “town and gown” partnership that's ready to welcome future innovation and education initiatives.
- Welcoming everyone to gather with us – From the arts to athletics at the university to the Tennessee Soybean Festival and other community and regional events in Martin, the university and city are positioned as never before as prime locations for people to gather and see why Northwest Tennessee is a great destination point.

I couldn't be prouder of this university and the community in which we live. The progress we see isn't possible without forward-thinking leaders who see the potential all around us. When you visit the main campus, be sure to travel downtown and see the Martin Public Library. The city and campus skylines are changing to accommodate an exciting future.

All the best,



Dr. Keith S. Carver Jr.







FACULTY SPOTLIGHT ► Dr. Dexter Davis

*Department of Management, Marketing,
and Information Systems*

When it comes to sports, the adage is always “practice makes perfect.” Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sport management, gives students the opportunity to practice for their future careers at one of the largest sporting events in the country: the Super Bowl.

Davis began supervising trips to the Super Bowl around 17 years ago, when his colleague who worked for the Miami Dolphins invited him to bring students to help with hospitality. His group of seven Niagara University students, where he taught at the time, made such a strong impression on the event’s coordinators that Davis was asked to invite students again the next year. When Davis started teaching at UT Martin in 2013, he continued these trips, bringing once-in-a-lifetime experiential opportunities to nine groups of Skyhawks and counting.

“They’re going to see all of the different elements of this major sporting event and how it occurs, and no matter how hard you try in a classroom, you can’t describe the magnitude of that event without being at that event,” Davis said.

At the Super Bowl, students transport guests who are celebrities, retired players or hall of famers to their next event. The students learn the most efficient routes to get each person where they need to be, and their experience translates into diplomacy and time-management skills by assuring that everyone arrives promptly, as well as tactfully answer questions and demands from fans.

Through taking on these duties, students are able to not only apply what they know, but also expand their knowledge by experiencing the hustle and bustle of large sporting events. Even students who have already attended a Super Bowl in the past can find something new to take away from their experience.

“Every one has its own unique characteristics. And so what you learn and what’s funny is the kids that were at Tampa last year are gonna have a completely different experience this year because it’s going to be completely different, but they’re also going to see some very similar things as well, and so learning that is also important,” Davis said.

Davis’ efforts to prepare his students for their future careers resulted in his being named the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher for 2022.

“It’s an incredible honor, you know? It’s the most prestigious teaching award that the university gives out, and it’s pretty cool because ... current students have to evaluate you in the classroom and say, ‘Yeah, this person is a good teacher.’” Not only do students recommend you, but also the college dean, department chair and peers, “So it’s a real honor,” Davis said.

The University of Tennessee at Martin

CAMPUS SCENE

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

Dr. Charley Deal
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

Jackie Johnson
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations
and Annual Giving

Nathan Morgan
Campus Scene Editor, Assistant Director of News and
Visuals, Office of University Relations

Editorial Contributions
Jackie Johnson ('08, '10); Bud Grimes ('78);
Nathan Morgan; Ryne Rickman; Antonia Steele ('22)

Design and Layout
Beth Bodwell ('16); Anna Barnes ('20)

Photo Contributions
Brandon Banks; Steve Mantilla; Nathan Morgan;
David Spikes ('74)

Copy Editors
Norma Coalter; Bud Grimes ('78); Antonia Steele ('22)

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

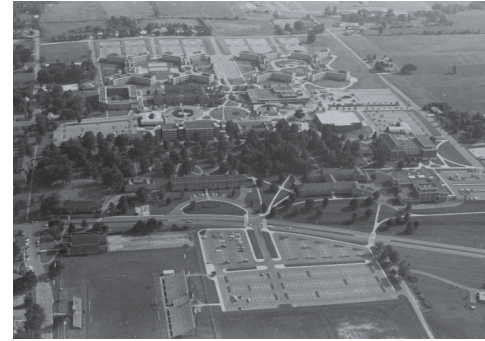
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THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
MARTIN

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Volume CII

Spring/Summer 2022

the **big** picture





IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK – Black-eyed Susans bloom as the sun sets over the Hall-Moody Administration Building, July 2021. The administration building, arguably UT Martin's most recognizable building, was completed in 1959 as an administrative and classroom space. The offices of the chancellor, bursar, registrar and human resources shared the building with the academic departments of education, business administration, English, French and home economics. On February 2, 1968, the building was named the Hall-Moody Administration Building in recognition of the institution's predecessor, the Hall-Moody Institute.

SCENE & HEARD

UT Martin student Mike Woods works at WUTM during the station's "early days."

WUTM COMPLETES 50 YEARS OF BROADCASTING – WUTM 90.3 "The Hawk", UT Martin's award-winning campus radio station, spent the fall 2021 semester celebrating its 50th anniversary the best way the station knew how: interacting with students and the Martin community.

The station had its humble start Sept. 15, 1971, in a small brick building on the corner of Hurt Street and Moody Avenue. The vision for the station was set forth by a group of students and the late Robert Todd, a professor of English and the station's first faculty adviser. The students would use radio equipment that was donated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as well as equipment that was bought from the station's starting money.

"There's nothing quite like starting a radio station from scratch," Dave Nichols, retired radio and television broadcaster, said.

(Continued on page 8)

UNIVERSITY ROADS TO BE NAMED AFTER DR. JERRY D. GRESHAM AND WALKER FAMILY

— In December 2021, UT Martin announced that it will name Farm Road, which connects University Street to Hyndsver-Gardner Road, Jerry D. Gresham Road in memory of Dr. Jerry D. Gresham, professor emeritus of animal science. It was also announced that the road leading to the Veterinary Technology Center will be named Walker Lane in honor of the Walker family, who has donated more than \$29,000 to UT Martin and is strongly connected to the main campus.

Gresham came to UT Martin in 1973 after serving in the U.S. Army for four years and finishing his master's degree and his doctorate in meat science at Oklahoma State University.

During his time at UT Martin, Gresham served as the dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences until his retirement, and his strong ability to manage his budgets with what he liked to call "aggie math" allowed the university to further fund experiential opportunities for agricultural students, such as the UT Martin Teaching and Demonstration Farm.

Gresham supported the university during his lifetime, and his wife, Carolyn, has continued their philanthropy since his death in 2017. The Jerry and Carolyn Gresham Family Scholarship was endowed in their honor, and their two children, **Darryl ('91)** and **Darcia ('95)**, are UT Martin graduates. Over their years of support, the Gresham family has donated more than \$115,000 to the UT Martin campus.

"Jerry Gresham was a man's man. He was like a father to me," said Dr. Wes Totten, chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. "He was my mentor then and his spirit still mentors me today. I can't put a price or measure on the positive influence he has had on me, and I pray that everyone has a Jerry Gresham in their life."

Joe Walker was an employee of UT Martin for nearly 50 years. After serving in the Army and Air Force in World War II, Joe married



his sweetheart, Verna, to whom he was married for 69 years until her death in 2015. He worked at his family farm until 1951, when he began his work at UT Martin as the head of mechanical maintenance. He retired from his full-time position in 1985 and returned as a part-time employee until 2003, when he fully retired.

Joe's brother, Raphael Walker, worked for the 7-Up Bottling Co. from 1946-56 and for Universal Flavors from 1956-91. Raphael was a military veteran; he served in the Korean War from 1948-49 and in the National Guard from 1950-1953. He served as an alderman for the city of Martin from 1974-76 and was an active member of the Martin Church of Christ for over 40 years. Raphael and his wife, Mildred, were married for 68 years and were long-term partners with UT Martin by renting their large farm located next to the campus to the university.

Raphael's son, Dr. Danny Walker, is an associate professor of veterinary health technology at UT Martin. Danny began teaching at UT Martin after 32 years in small-animal veterinary practice and serves as the lead professor in the Veterinary Health Technology Program.



MURDER TO MERCY, CYNTOIA BROWN-LONG VISITS UT MARTIN

— Cyntoia Brown-Long (center) is pictured with her attorneys, Charles Bone (left) and **J. Houston Gordon ('68)** during a book signing held Feb. 7 in the Nunnelly Family Welcome Center. Brown-Long delivered a keynote address earlier that night for UT Martin's 22nd annual Civil Rights Conference. When she was 16, Brown-Long was sentenced to life for killing a man in self-defense. Fifteen years later, she was granted clemency by former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. Since her release, she has used her platform to advocate for criminal justice reform and the ending of human trafficking.

noteworthy



(Continued from page 6)

During his time at WUTM, Nichols served as the station's first music director, second program director and second student manager.

After a few years of the station being housed under the umbrella of the Department of English, WUTM began to see some changes. Dr. Gary Steinke began his career at UT Martin and along with the late Dorothea Norton established in 1978 what is now the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication. Steinke's experience in the radio industry allowed him to incorporate WUTM into a curriculum specially created for broadcast radio.

Although Steinke would be a faculty member at UT Martin until 2014, he passed the torch to Carla Gesell Streeter after 17 years as adviser. Streeter would serve as adviser for four years, after which Rodney Freed, instructor of MMSC, would take over. Freed would lead the station for two years until Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of MMSC and current faculty adviser, began his UT Martin career in 2001.

INDUCTED INTO ALPHA GAMMA RHO – Dr. Charley Deal ('92, '96),

vice chancellor for university advancement (center), was inducted into the Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho on Feb. 5 in Franklin. His service to the fraternity and support of AGR and UT Martin Greek Life prompted the chapter to invite him to become a member. Deal's initiation follows the induction of Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT System president emeritus, who was welcomed into the chapter in 2016. Other honorary members include Dr. Jim Byford, dean emeritus, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; the late Tennessee Gov. Ned Ray McWherter; the late U.S. Rep. Ed Jones; and the late Dr. Harold Smith, professor emeritus of animal science and dean emeritus, UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. AGR members and others later joined Deal for a photo at the chapter house.

Pictured (l, r) are **Marvin Flatt ('76 adviser)**, Tanner Reese, Dalton Moore, Cyle Rice, Robert Coates, Macon Barrow, Deal, Mom Conley (housemother), Jacob Bell, Murphy Higgs, Braxton

During Robinson's 20 years of service to UT Martin, WUTM's students would win more than 300 awards, including the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Society's Abraham and Borst award in 2012, which recognizes the best radio station overall, regardless of size.

The station began streaming online the next year, which allows anyone to listen to WUTM anytime from anywhere. The station has also begun calling Westview High School's football and basketball games on top of their UT Martin sports coverage. WUTM was chosen to broadcast the TSSAA Region 2A football championship game at Chattanooga on Dec. 4 for Westview.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of their first broadcast, WUTM'S current staff broadcast live from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 17, at the Dunagan Alumni Center where they asked students, faculty and staff, alumni and the local community to drive by and receive a free T-shirt, register for prize giveaways and maybe be interviewed on the air. The staff also made appearances at Quad City during 2021 UT Martin Homecoming and the Paul Meek Library's open house in September to meet students and faculty.

Throughout all of the changes that the station has experienced during its 50 years, the intention behind its creation has stayed the same: to serve the community and prepare students for success in their careers.

"One of my favorite expressions is, 'Don't just do what's required, do what's necessary,' and that's what I try to get these students to do. Don't just do the minimum; do everything you can and a little bit more and you'll see the benefit of it, now as well as later," Robinson said.



Gunter, Tristin Drake, Hunter Bennett and Jake McBride. The Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho was established in 1963 at UT Martin. More than 1,100 members have been initiated since the chapter's installation.

ROY HERRON CONNECTS FAITH AND POLITICS IN NEW BOOK

– **Roy Herron ('75)** has faith in the American people and the good that our American system of government can do for people. The former Tennessee state senator and Dresden native makes the case for connecting faith and politics in his latest book, "Faith in Politics: Southern Political Battles Past and Present." He discussed the book and shared reasons for his optimism about the future during a presentation Nov. 2, 2021, in UT Martin's Paul Meek Library. The book is published by the University of Tennessee Press and provides a selection of his writings over four decades as a legislator, attorney, teacher and Methodist minister.

The UT Martin and Vanderbilt University graduate is a well-known leader and political figure who served as Tennessee state representative from 1987 to 1997 and state senator from 1997 to 2013, representing Weakley County and 10 other counties in West and Middle Tennessee. During this work, he published op-ed essays and articles in Tennessee's leading newspapers and publications from "The Japan Times" to "The Wall Street Journal" on various topics including constitutional liberties, economic justice, health care, politics and more. This new volume collects almost 50 of those pieces and investigates how faith and politics are not mutually exclusive, as well as Herron's belief that faith and spirituality should guide decision making and advocacy in public life.

"I think these essays are at least my best attempt to argue that there's a place for our faith in politics and that when our politics is shaped by our faith, by the best and deepest of our values, that

our politics could be lifegiving and life enhancing and can help us be who we are called to be," Herron said to the audience. He offered several examples both personally and from the book where elected officials from the major political parties cooperated so that government worked for the benefit of the people they served.

While noting the good that government can accomplish, the author and attorney described what he called "endless partisanship" that threatens the cooperation needed to move the country forward. "At a time like this, ladies and gentlemen, part of what I want to do in the book and in this conversation is to lift up other people who did it differently." His examples of bipartisan accomplishments included famous Tennessee leaders Howard Baker, Ned Ray McWherter, Jimmy Quillen and Lamar Alexander.

Herron closed by telling the audience that his "faith in politics" is really about his faith in people and what we can do collectively to address important challenges. "In a word, if my message tonight is anything, it is that I do have faith in politics because I have faith in 'we the people,' and I think the possibilities for us when we do it right, when we do it loving one another, the possibilities are enormous," he said.

"Faith in Politics" includes historic photos and cartoons drawn by well-known Knoxville editorial cartoonist Charlie Daniel. The book is available through the University of Tennessee Press at www.utpress.org or by calling 1-800-621-2736 with 100% of Herron's royalties going to support college scholarships for Tennessee students.

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FULLY FUNDS UT MARTIN 'TEST HUB'

– The proposed Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology (TEST) Hub at UT Martin took a major step forward in April when the Tennessee General Assembly completely funded the \$18 million facility in a budget appropriations amendment. Once completed, the TEST Hub will provide hands-on manufacturing engineering education and a regional innovation hub that will support workforce and economic development for future generations. **Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon) ('96)**, **Sen. Ken Yager (R-Kingston) ('69)**, House Majority Leader William Lamberth (R-Portland) and **Rep. Tandy Darby (R-Greenfield) ('96)** filed the budget item and advocated for the project. Stevens, Yager and Darby are UT Martin graduates.

The TEST Hub will be located on the west side of the UT Martin main campus and combine educational facilities, entrepreneurial centers and manufacturing workshops surrounding a shared industrial maker space. Through partnership with the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and Dyersburg State Community



College, the facility will offer educational opportunities at the certificate, associate and bachelor's degree levels, as well as career and technical education (CTE) opportunities for the region's high schools.

"We're grateful to members of the Senate and House across the state and to UT President Randy Boyd who share our vision for the region's future," Chancellor Keith Carver said.

the **big** picture
athletics





LENDING A HAND – Members of the UT Martin soccer team clean up debris outside of a house along Main St. in Dresden. Over 100 volunteers from various UT Martin groups turned out on Feb. 26 to help with clean up efforts in Dresden. The area was hit by an EF-3 tornado on Dec. 10, 2021, leaving damage and debris for miles. The groups that participated included UT Martin athletic teams: football, soccer, volleyball, beach volleyball, track and cross country, rifle, equestrian and softball; UT Martin fraternities and sororities: Alpha Omicron Pi and Pi Kappa Alpha; and UT Martin alumni.

athletics



SKYHAWK MEN'S HOOPS HELPS OUT DRESDEN COMMUNITY AFTER TORNADO – Freshman Josiah Morris (left) and sophomore Chris Nix (right) help load a refrigerator from a tornado-damaged house and into a trailer in Dresden. The entire Skyhawk men's basketball players and coaching staff assisted in local relief efforts after the historic tornado passed through the area on Dec. 10.



UT MARTIN ATHLETICS BOASTS A GPA INCREASE FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT SEMESTER

– UT Martin athletics shattered a school record with a 3.31 cumulative Grade Point Average for the 2021 fall term, extending the department's best academic performance for four consecutive semesters.

The rise in academic excellence began in the spring 2020 semester as the Skyhawk student-athletes combined for a 3.26 GPA. That number increased to a 3.28 GPA in fall 2020 before a 3.29 GPA was posted in the spring of 2021.

All in all, 261 UT Martin student-athletes maintained at least a 3.0 GPA in the 2021 fall term, 29 of whom recorded unblemished 4.0 GPAs.

SKYHAWK FOOTBALL ALUMS EARNING LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL HEAD COACHING GIGS

– A trio of UT Martin football alums are helping mold the next generation of high schoolers in West Tennessee.

Jarod Neal ('15), who quarterbacked the Skyhawks from 2012-15, is coming off a record-setting second season as head coach at Westview High School in Martin. The Hendersonville native guided the Chargers to their first-ever Class 2A state championship, capping off a 14-1 season with a 55-14 win over Hampton High School in the finals, held in Chattanooga. Neal was an All-OVC second teamer as a senior and ranks second in school history in career touchdown passes (53) and career passing yards (6,526).

After serving as Westview's defensive coordinator for three years, **Ben Johnson ('13, '20)** was named head football coach at South Gibson High School on Jan. 20. The Primm Springs native was an All-American linebacker for the Skyhawks, competing from 2010-13 and leading the team in tackles for three straight seasons from 2011 through 2013. He was named an All-OVC performer twice and an OVC All-Newcomer once in his storied career as he still ranks in the program's top-10 in total tackles (330), tackles for loss (25) and forced fumbles (five).

On the same day that Johnson was introduced as head coach at South Gibson, his former Skyhawk teammate **Derek Carr ('12)** was promoted to head coach at Milan High School. Carr had spent the previous two seasons as the program's offensive coordinator, helping the Bulldogs go 11-2 and finish as Class 3A state runner-up in 2020. The McKenzie native, who was inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in October 2021, still ranks in the top-10 in OVC history in pass completions (665), passing touchdowns (69), passing yards (8,428) and total offense (8,484). He was named to the All-OVC second team as a senior, completing his collegiate playing career that lasted from 2008-12.



JOHN LUTHI SET TO RETIRE AFTER 25 REMARKABLE YEARS AS UT MARTIN RODEO COACH

— A true legend in the rodeo industry, John Luthi announced his retirement as UT Martin head rodeo coach at the conclusion of the 2021-22 season.

Luthi was hired as UT Martin's head coach in 1997 and developed the program into a powerhouse in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. His tireless efforts were rewarded during the historic 2013-14 season where UT Martin became the first collegiate team located east of the Mississippi River to win the national men's rodeo team championship. That came one year after Luthi was

crowned as the NIRA's Coach of the Year.

Luthi oversaw 19 Ozark Region championships in his UT Martin tenure, nabbing 14 on the men's side and five with the women's squad. He guided the men's team to eight top-10 national finishes since 2005 and mentored Jeff Askey, who won the 2020 national bull riding championship.

In addition, Luthi was a big part of annually producing one of the best collegiate rodeos in the country on the UT Martin campus. The spring college rodeo was named "Rodeo of the Year" by the Ozark Region a whopping 13 times in a 14-year span.



KEVIN MCMILLAN ACHIEVES 250TH CAREER VICTORY AS SKYHAWK HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

— With a home victory over Austin Peay on Feb. 14, UT Martin head women's basketball coach Kevin McMillan accomplished history as he became just the sixth individual (men's or women's coach) to win 250 career games in Ohio Valley Conference basketball history.

It was the latest in a long string of accolades for McMillan, who wrapped up his 13th season at the helm of the Skyhawk women's basketball program in 2021-22. The Arkadelphia, Arkansas, native has been named OVC Coach of the Year on four different occasions, combining to win 10 OVC championships (six regular season, four tournament). Overall, UT Martin has qualified for the postseason nine times since McMillan took over as head coach in 2009.

TAKEEM YOUNG EARNS PRESTIGIOUS OVC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD — Takeem Young, a redshirt senior on the Skyhawk football team, was spotlighted as one of only six individuals to earn the Ohio Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2021-22 campaign.

The award is the highest individual honor that can be earned by OVC student-athletes and is given annually to three men and three women for their accomplishments in both the classroom and athletic arena, as well as their leadership qualities.

A Greeneville native, Young served as team captain for the 2021 UT Martin football squad that won its second OVC championship in school history while concluding the season with its highest ever

national ranking (12th).

In the classroom, Young maintained a 3.88 GPA while majoring in exercise science and wellness with a minor in nutrition. He was responsible for a 2020-21 OVC Medal of Honor (for a perfect 4.0 GPA) and was a four-time OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll recipient.

Young was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and produced vast volunteer experience with the Special Olympics and SHAPE Club. He also helped with voter registration on campus and collecting food items for Captain's Pantry to help alleviate food insecurities for UT Martin students.

— FROM THE —

ARCHIVES

DAVID SPIKES' NEGATIVES



■ David Spikes (right) is pictured with his friend and fellow photographer, the late Emmett Edwards ('76).

INSIDE OF UT Martin's Special Collections and Archives a cardboard box labeled "Spikes Negatives" written in Sharpie sits on a shelf. At first glance, the box, filled to the top with negative sleeves, looks unassuming. One would never know the treasure trove of history it contains. Life at UT Martin captured in fractions of seconds and recorded on thin strips of polyester. There are photos of Pat Head (Summitt) as a student-athlete, photos of iconic musical artists like Jerry Lee Lewis and Olivia Newton-John, photos of Vanguard Theatre, and photos of everyday life at UTM. These images, however, are not the work of a professional photographer, but rather a student photographer named **David Spikes ('74)**.

Spikes, a Martin native, started at UT Martin in fall 1968. At the time he had no plans of being a

photographer. However, his plans changed when he left UTM to fulfill his military obligation. During that time Spikes enrolled in an Army photography school and quickly fell in love with the craft.

Spikes returned to UTM in the fall of 1970 and eventually began working for the student newspaper (The Pacer) and the yearbook (The Spirit) in 1972. This was a turning point for a young Spikes. He went from being an observer of history to a recorder of history.

And, like any good documentary photographer, Spikes was always prepared. "I used an old Army gas mask bag. It worked just perfect for me over my left shoulder. And then I had three cameras. I had them with me all the time, so I could take pictures whenever I saw anything," said Spikes.





■ (above, left to right) A student rides a bike in the quad; Students perform in the Fine Arts Building; An escaped bull from the UT Martin farm is pursued by Martin Police, May 20, 1973.

The 1970s were an important time for storytelling at UT Martin. Both *The Pacer* and *The Spirit* were thriving thanks to Spikes and his colleagues, the late **Walt Lowe** ('73), **Bill Jennings** ('10), the late **Emmett Edwards** ('76) and Gary Richardson. Together the group covered all happenings on campus that were relevant to students. But, perhaps more importantly, they captured an authentic view of life at UT Martin, and the Martin community, in the 1970s.

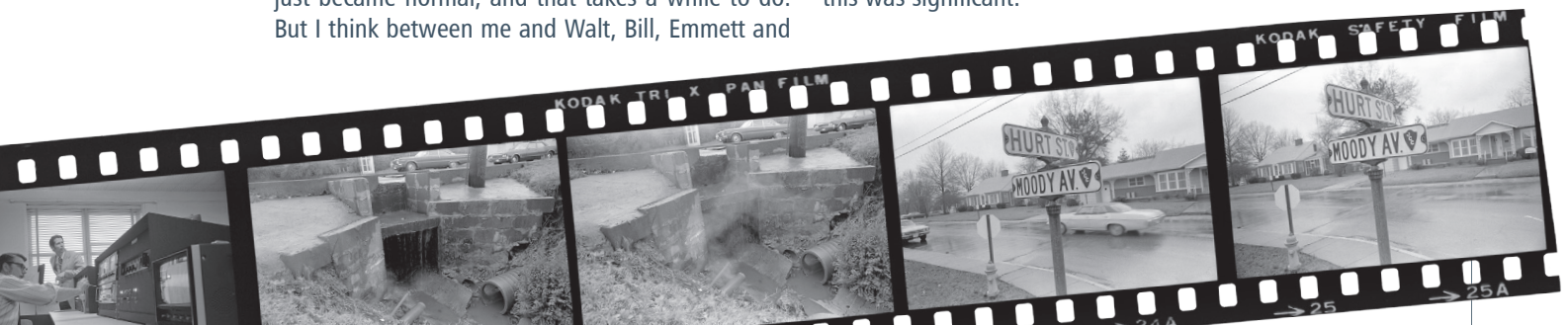
"People get used to you being there and taking pictures with the cameras. And so you get to a point to where they didn't perform for the camera. They got relaxed with me just taking pictures. And I got a lot of what I call 'candid shots' because people just became normal, and that takes a while to do. But I think between me and Walt, Bill, Emmett and

Gary, there was usually a photographer around somewhere. So everybody just got used to having their pictures made."

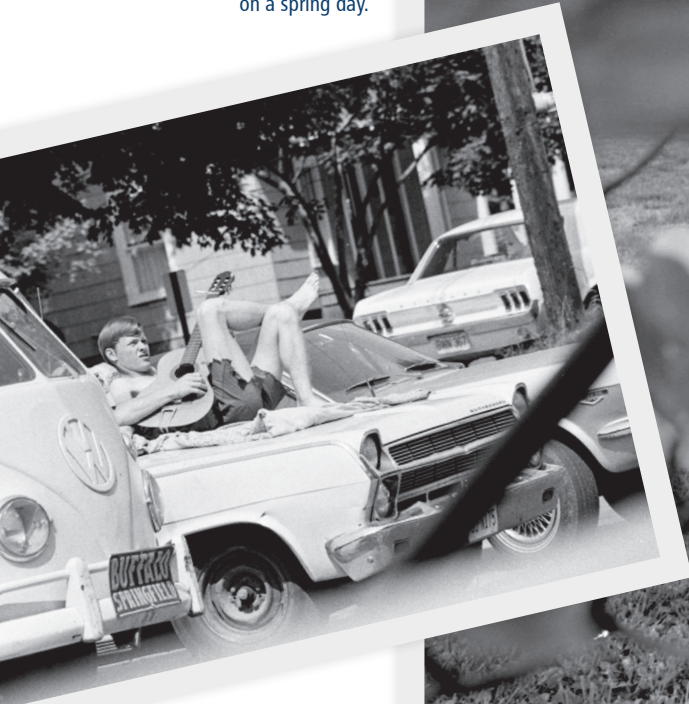
When they weren't in class, they were taking photos.

"There were a lot of days where going to school was secondary to taking pictures," said Spikes.

And Spikes took a lot of pictures. His film and chemistry were provided by the university, allowing him to shoot photos whenever he wanted, which he says helped him grow as a photographer. Additionally, for each photo that was published, Spikes would make \$1. For a "poor college student" this was significant.

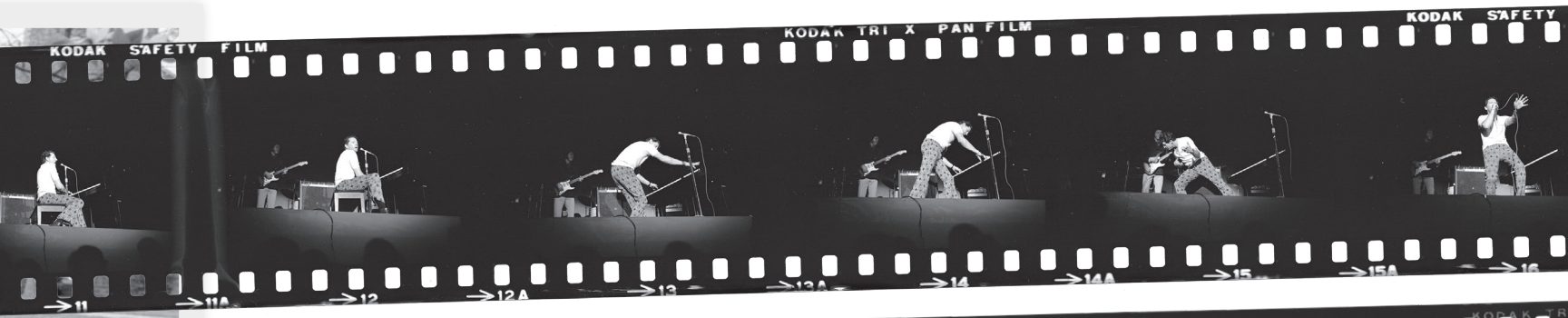


■ (below, left to right) A student plays guitar while sitting on a car; Mike Beeler and Carol Reid relax in the quad on a spring day.



■ (left to right) Crews work on renovations at the Boling University Center, ca. 1972; Pat Head (Summitt) is honored by UT Martin Lady Pacers head coach Nadine Gearin during a jersey retirement ceremony for Head, Feb. 19, 1974. Head, who suffered a season-ending knee injury earlier in the year, became the first woman at UTM to be honored in this way.





"That's how you existed, a dollar at a time," said Spikes.

Paying for food was also a challenge. But Spikes and his friends had a solution for that as well. They often sneaked food from the dining hall by stashing it in Kodak photo paper boxes, which were marked as "light sensitive material," so they were never asked to open them. Events that served food were also a target for the group.

"We went to every event you could possibly imagine. All the church organizations would have luncheons and gatherings, and the fraternities, and just every event, especially banquets, we would all volunteer to shoot pictures of because we always got fed. ... That was another way to save a little money and to get around and see everybody and take pictures. I got to do a lot of things I never would've done had I not been a photographer."

Spikes donated his negatives to UT Martin Special Collections and Archives in the early 2000s.

"I always had a real sense of history, and I'd much rather have those negatives be used and accessible by anybody that wanted them there at UT because there's just so many. I've got so many pictures that I'm still trying to scan in. It just takes a lot of time.

"I still discover negatives I don't remember that I shot. And it's just like finding new material all over

again. It's just great. So I was motivated by a sense of history, getting older and a tax break. That (tax break) was a motivation, too. And I didn't want 'em to just rot away in my attic somewhere because I have no children. I have nobody to leave these things to. And I just thought, 'Why don't I give (them) to UT Martin? They can use (them).'"

Vintage photos don't just happen, and many times, the David Spikes of the world are the unlikely historians who give us important glimpses of the past. He honed his eye for photography at UT Martin and left a legacy that will be appreciated and treasured by future generations.

"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.

■ (above top) The legendary Jerry Lee Lewis performs at UTM. (below) Dr. Phil Watkins and the late Chancellor Larry McGehee are pictured.



■ (above) Students line up outside of the former ROTC Building between Cooper Hall and the Holt Humanities Building. The building was demolished in 1988.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

UT Martin Alumni Step Up to Support New Martin Public Library

By **Bud Grimes**

Photos by **Steve Mantilla & Nathan Morgan**



Visitors to the new Martin Public Library won't see them, but UT Martin alumni fingerprints cover the sparkling new \$14 million facility. University alumni stepped up in multiple ways to support the project, and prominent among those fingerprints are those of **Dr. Nick Dunagan ('68)**, UT Martin chancellor emeritus. Work with transformational events and projects is nothing new for Dunagan, and now his name will be associated with the state-of-the-art building that sits at the intersection of University and Lindell streets in downtown Martin. Current and former university alumni joined Dunagan to forever change the city's skyline and future with a library that welcomes knowledge seekers of all ages and provides a gathering place for the area and region.

The new library, which opened in August 2021, sits across from the former U.S. Post Office that was home to the C.E. Weldon Public Library since 1968. A renovation and expansion in 2000 brought needed improvements to the historic location, but years later UTM alum and Martin Mayor **Randy Brundige** and his administration envisioned more for the community. "My team and I had been discussing our next big project and that we wanted to do something impactful for the community that was lasting and something that was iconic to the community," Brundige said. "We knew that we wanted to do a library project."

The idea took a significant step forward in 2014 when former Martin resident **David Warren ('67)**, a veteran library director and consultant, visited Brundige and offered his consulting services



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MARTIN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

COMMUNITY



at no cost. Warren retired in 2009 following a long library career that included 30 years as executive director of the Richland County Public Library in Columbia, South Carolina. Even though he had been away from Martin for decades, Warren brought a special passion to the project. "I grew up using the Martin Public Library as a child through my pre-college years," he said. "My mother worked for the Reelfoot Regional Library during my childhood, and as a teenager, I also began working there on a part-time basis while in high school and at UTM." Besides his personal interest, Warren brought valuable expertise and his own generosity to the table. "I proposed founding a library foundation as the first step in this process," he said. "This was followed by offering my assistance and a financial gift to help make this a reality."

Discussions continued, and the Martin Public Library Foundation was formed two years later to raise \$1.5 million in private funding. Martin attorney **Lang Unger ('80)** was the founding president of the foundation and was responsible for organizing and getting the foundation off to a positive start. Dunagan was asked to become a founding member, and although he retired in 2007 from the university, the challenge and the greater purpose of seeing a new library built was something that he couldn't pass up. "I thought it (the library) was a really a good project, something that's good for the community," Dunagan said, whose role accelerated in 2018 when he was elected the foundation's president and chief fundraising officer. "It soon became obvious that our fundraising goal of \$1.5 million was going to be a stretch, and it was going to take a lot of dedicated time," Dunagan said. "I had the time and a little fundraising experience and agreed to jump in. . . . I was already working with several of the lead donors, so I just continued to do what I was already doing, plus work to increase the foundation board's involvement."

Organizing library fundraising became the top priority, and Dunagan joined others by investing considerable time raising

KNOWLEDGE

VISION



money and documenting gifts. **"Nancy Culver** was very instrumental in developing a gift-record system accepting gifts, acknowledging the gifts and making sure that the designated gifts went to the area indicated," he said. "All of her efforts were important in constructing the beautiful giving wall that you see when you enter the library." A major fundraising boost came when Martin natives and UTM alums Culver and **David Spikes ('74)** mobilized Martin High School alumni to raise \$660,000 through donors from 20 states.

Although the library enjoyed broad support, not everyone agreed with the need for the facility. Communicating was a key to addressing concerns – whether speaking to a civic club, posting on social media or through a media story, Dunagan and the foundation team used every opportunity to tell the library's story. "Anytime you are a proponent of change, there is going to be questioning of the need and outright opposition to a change in the status quo," he said. "All-in-all, I would say that it was minimal, but it was there. Hopefully, we faced it (opposition) in a productive manner." Brundige is accustomed to feedback as an elected official, but the project's outcome won over new supporters. "Through educating the public and talking about all of the opportunity the new library will afford the general public now and for generations to come, we overcame much of the negativity," Brundige said. "However, once we opened the doors, it is very difficult to say anything negative about the building."

Clearly the least-anticipated project challenge was the pandemic, and COVID-19 cast a menacing shadow on the project starting in March 2020. Everything was impacted from fundraising to meetings. "Good fundraising is based on one-on-one contact and getting out and being among the people and all this," Dunagan said. "Well, that came to a screeching halt (with the pandemic). Even our foundation meetings had to be Zoom meetings. We could do a lot of planning, but people were fearful of getting sick."

However, foundation members persevered, and library donors came through in the end. "I can't tell you any one business or one person that said, 'I'd like to do this, but I'm just not sure right now because of where we are with COVID,'" he said.

While the pandemic created its share of challenges, several important funding victories happened along the way. One was securing a \$400,000 state library grant that Dunagan asked retired UT Martin English faculty member **Jeanna Wright ('70, '73)** to pursue. She accepted the complex task of gathering information, writing and submitting the grant in time to secure the funding. Then, there was the brick campaign that raised a surprising \$50,000 near the library's completion that allowed technology, furniture and other amenities to be purchased and complete the library's interior.

The hard work by many was on display during a soft opening Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021, only 21 months following the groundbreaking. The event held special meaning for Dunagan, who remembers "standing on that stage, looking at 400 donors gathered in front of the podium and feeling pride in what this community had just accomplished." He added, "It was also fun to be standing in the lobby to see the reaction of the donors to the facility that they were touring for the first time." Visitors then and into the future have many reasons to be amazed.

The library's website highlights facility



CONNECTION

features such as “one of the coolest children’s libraries in the state,” genealogical resources, makerspace, computers and media technology, and a community meeting room. The library’s north-facing stage provides a permanent venue for the arts and music and welcomed its first Tennessee Soybean Festival musical competition and entertainment in September to provide a glimpse of Martin’s newest community gathering place.

Another key feature is the 3,500-square-foot multipurpose Martin Event Center that can be reconfigured from multiple rooms to a single large event space. “We have really been overwhelmed at the support of the event center space. . . . We knew there was a need but had no idea the need was this great,” said **Brad Thompson ('96)**, Martin director of community development. Thompson noted that event center space has been booked each weekend since the library opened, accommodating approximately 300 events or meetings and more than 6,000 people.

Now that the doors are open, how do people react to the library? “It’s more that I see it than hear it,” Thompson said. “It’s the expression on their faces that does it for me. The wide eyes of wonderment and the smiling expressions of joy tell me we accomplished what we set out to do.” Seeing the results carries even more meaning for others. Much like fellow librarian David Warren, Mary Carpenter “literally grew up in the shadow of the project,” and she’s excited to consider the impact that the library will have on the city and region.

Carpenter ('77) not only shared Warren’s enthusiasm for the project but also brought complementary professional background and knowledge to the process. She completed her career in 2021 as regional director for the Obion River Region of the Tennessee State Library and Archives and was director when the Obion County Public Library in Union City opened its new facility in November 2003. To Carpenter, the results go well beyond the impressive structure.

“The new city of Martin library is a dream-come-true library,” she said. “The design, the technology, the library philosophy that we all own the library together in equal portions – all equaling the realization that there is something there for everyone – not just

books.” She suggested a defining statement from the American Library Association that maybe best describes how the new facility



will reach generations of users: "Libraries today are less about what they have for people and more about what they do for and with people."

UT Martin alumni are rightfully proud of what's been accomplished, and several remain in library foundation leadership positions, including **Larry Snider ('67)**, former vice president and current president; **Tommy Legins ('90)**, chief financial officer; **Ann Swaim ('89)**, current vice president; and **Misty Menees ('98)**, public relations chair.

Brundige values the "town and gown" relationship between the university and the city and its impact on the new library and other projects. "We have a real asset in UT Martin, and the leadership, faculty, staff and students play a huge role in helping make Martin the community it is," he said. "I know that, and I have experienced it firsthand with this project and other economic, community and retail-development projects where the city has been successful."

The past, present and future of the university and city are forever connected, and a permanent symbol of what "town and gown" can accomplish welcomes everyone to downtown Martin. For Nick Dunagan and all who helped to make the Martin Public Library become a reality,...

THE FUTURE IS
UNFOLDING **ONE BOOK**,
ONE COMMUNITY EVENT
& **ONE SMILE** AT A TIME.

For a proud Martin community, an old quote rings true: "The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library."

Editor's Note: Email and voice interviews provided content for this story. Learn more about the Martin Public Library at martinpubliclibrary.org or facebook.com/martinpubliclibrary



IMPACT



the Iris will

BLOOM

again

SKYHAWKS VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH CLEANUP AFTER DRESDEN TORNADO

On the night of Dec. 10, 2021, Dresden, the county seat of Weakley County, took a direct hit from EF-3 tornado. The storm — part of a highly destructive and deadly storm system that tracked hundreds of miles across multiple states — wiped out a chunk of the city’s historic

downtown, and injured eight people. City hall and the fire department were damaged, along with about 200 homes and 21 businesses. Two churches were destroyed.

Cleanup from the devastating storm continued in February when UT Martin sent over 100 volunteers from various student and alumni groups to help, and volunteers are still needed to this day. If you’re interested in helping, please visit weakleycountyttn.gov/tornadoreources for more information.

Photos by **Steve Mantilla & Nathan Morgan**



■ (opposite page) Student and alumni volunteers collect debris along Main St. in Dresden. (left) Members of the UT Martin soccer team open trash bags as they set off to help with cleanup of the city.



■ (above) Bethany Hart, associate director of alumni programs for UT Martin Alumni Relations, cleans debris from a hillside behind a business on Pikeview St. (below, left) Students carry trash to a pile near the road. (below, right) Members of the UT Martin football team walk down Maple St. looking for debris to collect.



ALUMNI NEWS

A Note From Alumni Relations

I'm sure each of us can think of professional and personal mentors who have influenced our careers and life decisions. Many of those for me were found right here at UT Martin. I've relied on those mentors to offer a different perspective at times and to give me motivation to continue on to my goals.

While some of our mentors come to us, oftentimes we seek out mentors or even find that up-and-coming star that we know could use some guidance. We look to those who have gone before us. We also seek those to whom we can give a helping hand to avoid mistakes we might have made.

Nearing my sixth year working with UT Martin alumni, one of the most requested services from alumni is to provide a way to meet mentors and mentees. The UTM Young Alumni Council has been particularly interested in mentorship for the past few years.

A couple of years ago, a group of UT alumni and career service staff members met to begin planning how we could provide this much-needed service. We had all received the same request, with no way to organize the behind-the-scenes logistics to make it a user-friendly program. Now, thanks to the UT Foundation and the UT Alumni Association, we have a way to provide this much-requested service to all University of Tennessee alumni.

Connect UT is a place where University of Tennessee alumni can connect with each other to seek advice and to offer advice to those coming behind us. After the initial registration is completed, alumni are added to their campus subgroup(s). I encourage you to use this platform to find a mentor or be available to serve as one for anyone needing advice in your field. Let us help one another.

Sign up today at connectut.tennessee.edu.

Jackie Johnson

Jackie Johnson ('08, '10)

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations and Annual Giving

UTMAlumni

SEE MORE ONLINE

For the most up-to-date information, news and event schedules, check out the alumni website at alumni.utm.edu.



spotlight on alums

GET INVOLVED!

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

- ▶ **Volunteer Opportunities**
- ▶ **Reunions**
- ▶ **Alumni Council**
- ▶ **Development Council**
- ▶ **Mentoring Program**
- ▶ **Young Alumni Council**
- ▶ **Speak Out for UT**
- ▶ **Alumni in the Classroom**

ALUMNI.UTM.EDU

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



Linzie Mullins ('10), of Memphis, received the 2020 CMA Music Teacher of Excellence Award, which consists of a \$2,500 personal award as well as an additional \$2,500 to fund classroom resources. Her application process included recommendations, a questionnaire about her classroom environment and teaching experiences, and a video and lesson plan of her teaching her class an Indian Bollywood dance. Receiving the award granted Mullins the ability to participate as a CMA Teacher of Excellence Mentor, which allows her to work with upcoming and new teachers to help them network and build their professional and leadership skills. Mullins teaches at Snowden School and uses the Orff method in her classes, which allows students to learn about musical instruments and concepts through play. Mullins holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music.

spotlight on alums



When **Harold Brockwell (UTK '65)** was growing up in the small McConnell community outside Martin, he could never have imagined he would later travel around the world.

After graduating from Martin High School in 1960, he enrolled at UT Martin Branch (now UT Martin) to study engineering.

"I rented a room in the Oxford House. We had to carry our drawing boards all the way to campus," Harold laughed.

Despite that, he described his time at UT Martin as having "fantastic memories." One of those memories was meeting his future wife, **Doradean "Dee" Weldon ('64)**, from Martin. During those years, UT Martin did not have a four-year engineering degree, so Harold transferred to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he participated in the UT Co-Op Engineering Scholarship Program and completed his bachelor's degree. Some of the highlights of his Co-Op work assignments were working for NASA at Huntsville, Alabama, on the Saturn V Rocket and Moon Shot and shaking hands with Dr. Werner Von Braun, head of the U.S. Space Program.

Harold went on to have a distinguished career as an engineer spanning almost 50 years. He spent 11 years at BFGoodrich in Calvert City, Kentucky, and 24 years in

La Porte and Houston, Texas, in chemical plant supervision and chemical plant and oil refinery detailed engineering and design. In 2001, he began his career at Fluor Corp. where he served as process technical director, which he said was the "most fun of (his) career." While at Fluor, Harold served for 12 years on project management teams for multi-billion-dollar projects in Saudi Arabia. On the Fluor portions of the huge complexes, he was fully responsible for overseeing all detailed engineering, safe design, major equipment purchasing and plant construction. He retired from Fluor in 2013.

"It was almost like a dream," he said, describing his professional and personal life to date.

Brockwell credits his fourth and fifth grade teachers for inspiring and challenging him. His fourth-grade teacher at Martin Elementary School, the late **Carolyn White (UTJC '48)**, inspired him to "dream big," and told him there was a big, exciting world out there and that his options were endless. His fifth grade teacher was the late Martha Meek, wife of then UTM Chancellor Dr. Paul Meek. Meek also took him under her wing and inspired him to set his goals and prepare for college.

And that, he did.



Chelsey Perry ('21), former UT Martin women's basketball star, had her No. 20 high school jersey retired during an event at Middleton High School in Middleton on Jan. 22.

Perry made both UT Martin program and Ohio Valley Conference history by being selected 26th overall by the Indiana Fever in the third round of the 2021 WNBA Draft. Perry is the first player in UT Martin history to be taken in the WNBA Draft while ranking as the highest selection in OVC history.

Perry is not the only UT Martin alum currently working for the Indiana Fever. In February, the Fever introduced **Lin Dunn ('69)** as their interim general manager. Dunn, a UT Martin graduate and former Fever head coach, guided the team to two WNBA Finals appearances from 2008-14, including winning the 2012 WNBA title.

Most recently, Perry represented the Indiana Fever at the 2022 Easter Egg Roll at the White House where she met President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.



In March, the UT Martin Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) announced **Chuck Hammer ('16)** as its “Hoops for Heroes” ambassador for the Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Championships.

A Martin native and lifelong Skyhawk fan, Hammer served honorably in the United States Navy aboard the USS John C. Stennis CVN-74 from 2007-12. He was deployed twice – once for

six months in the western Pacific in 2009 before a seven-month assignment to the US 5th and 7th Fleet Areas of Responsibility (Combat Zone – Operation New Dawn).

Hammer used his GI Bill to attend UT Martin, where he racked up several awards as program director of the nationally award-winning campus radio station WUTM 90.3 FM “The Hawk.” He was named “Best Program Director in the Nation” by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System, receiving that honor in March 2016 at the organization’s annual conference in New York City. He graduated from UT Martin two months later with a degree in communications.

Since June 2016, Hammer has worked as part of the Fox Sports Shoals team while serving as program director for WSBM Radio 1340 AM. He has earned Alabama Broadcasters Association Medium Market Sports Broadcaster of the Year accolades in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

Hammer currently resides in Sheffield, Alabama, with his wife, **Jade ('13)**, (also a UT Martin alum) and twins Colby and Calleigh.

The OVC’s “Hoops for Heroes” initiative is currently in its 11th year as the OVC SAAC representatives created the program as a way to honor military men and women in OVC communities.



Dr. Ronald Kirkland, MD, MBA ('70), **Lt. Gen. John “Glad” Castellaw (USMC Ret.) ('72)** and **Jerry Reese ('87, '88)** were among four Discover Award recipients honored for their achievements March 5 during the 2022 Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Discovery Awards Gala and Fundraiser at Discovery Park of America in Union City. Kirkland is a longtime Jackson physician; Castellaw is retired from the U.S. Marine Corps and is co-founder and chief executive officer of Farmspace Systems LLC; and Reese is a former National Football League executive. **Jennifer Horbelt ('07, '19)**, co-anchor of WPSD Local 6 at 5, 6 and 10 was award ceremony host.

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in memory



Newell Graham (pictured left), of Union City, passed away Feb. 21, 2022 — Newell was a longtime donor and supporter of UT Martin academic and athletic programs. Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co. has long sponsored Skyhawk football and basketball radio broadcasts. Hardy M. Graham Stadium is named for his late father (right). Newell's support for UT Martin included serving as chair of the university's development committee. Also pictured is UT Martin chancellor emeritus Nick Dunagan.



Bill Nunnally ('71), of Nashville, passed away Feb. 11, 2022 — Bill was a UT Martin alum and donor who along with his wife, Rosann, established the Nunnally Scholar awards to benefit future students from Hickman, Dickson, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury and Humphreys counties. The gift was the largest in UT Martin history when it was announced in 2019. The Hickman County, Tennessee, native never forgot his roots and wanted to help students from rural Tennessee counties attend college. He saw the gift to UT Martin "as a wonderful way to give something back. ... That's just what my wife and I want to do."

Names, graduation years, hometowns and dates of death are noted. Other names listed are UT Martin faculty, staff and university supporters. Names were submitted or identified by the Office of Alumni Relations or the Office of University Relations. Graduation dates are noted in parentheses for UT Martin graduates.

- **Dr. Margrethe Ahlschwede**, of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away Jan. 22, 2022 (retired English faculty member).
- **Charles F. (Charlie) Brakebill**, of Knoxville, passed away Feb. 3, 2022 (longtime UT vice president for development and alumni relations).
- **Jerry Brown**, formerly of Martin, passed away Dec. 23, 2021 (retired math and statistics faculty member).
- **Belva "Bea" Burress**, of Union City, passed away March 4, 2022 (retired Printing and Duplicating Services supervisor).
- **Jimmy D. Carey ('94)**, of Jackson, passed away Nov. 26, 2021.
- **Dr. Walter Stephen Damron ('75)**, formerly of Martin, passed away April 8, 2022.
- **Mary Jo Dougherty**, of Camden, passed away Dec. 21, 2021 (longtime UT and UT Martin donor and supporter).

- **Emily Fisher ('21)**, of Ripley, passed away March 16, 2022.
- **Sue Lain Graves**, of Martin, passed away Oct. 25, 2021 (former UT Martin Writing Center tutor and accompanist/music director for Vanguard Theatre productions).
- **Ted Hornbeak**, of Dresden, passed away Feb. 16, 2022 (retired UT Martin electrician).
- **Dr. David Jones ('73)**, of Martin, passed away Jan. 6, 2022.
- **John Harold Harding ('67)**, of Union City, passed away Feb. 24, 2022.
- **Donna Luckey ('72)**, of Humboldt, passed away March 16, 2022.
- **Tracy M. Luna ('97)** passed away Dec. 21, 2021.
- **Dr. Martha Anne Meek ('59)**, of Winter Springs, Florida, passed away March 26, 2022. (She was the daughter of Dr. Paul and Martha Meek. Dr. Meek was chief executive officer of the Martin campus from 1934-67.)
- **Susan Parr ('69)**, of South Fulton, passed away Feb. 15, 2022 (former UTM math and statistics instructor)
- **Fred Pickard**, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, passed away Jan. 1, 2022 (former UT Martin football coach).

class notes

1952

William Taylor ('52) attended UT Martin while it was the University of Tennessee Junior College. He is a retired professional photographer who worked at the NASA Langley Research Center.

1979

Donna Barfield ('79) retired in December 2021 following 42 years of service to what is now West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Hospital in Martin. She held numerous positions over the years through several hospital management/ownership changes, including chief nursing officer since 1996. Donna earned

class notes

numerous recognitions during her nursing career, and in addition to her UT Martin associate degree in nursing, she earned her BSN from the University of Memphis and a master's degree from Murray State University.

Dr. Paul B. Francis ('79) retired from the University of Arkansas at Monticello after 34 years as an agriculture educator and soil scientist. During his career, he has conducted research for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

1991

Janice Epperson ('91) returned to her hometown of Humboldt and accepted a new position as the director of schools for Humboldt City Schools.

1993

Tim McCollum ('93) was appointed by Stanley Black & Decker as the general manager of the company's manufacturing facility in Martin. The facility produces outdoor power equipment and is one of Weakley County's largest employers. Tim earned a bachelor's degree in engineering technology. (Courtesy of the Weakley County Press)

1995

Tony Parker ('95) retired after 38 years of service to the Tennessee Department of Correction. Once recognized as the youngest warden in TDOC, he rose to lead the agency's more than 6,000 employees and the supervision of more than 20,000 incarcerated individuals and 70,000 people on community supervision. In 2016, he was appointed commissioner by former Gov. Bill Haslam and reappointed by Gov. Bill Lee in 2019.

1996

Danielle Johnson ('96) was selected as a finalist for the 2021-2022 Tennessee Teacher of the Year. In addition to being a second grade teacher at Sharon Elementary

School in Weakley County, Johnson serves on the Tennessee Department of Education Teacher Advisory Council and Teacher Advisory Subcommittee for the BEP Funding Formula.

1997

Donna Turner ('97) was hired in March by the city of Covington as the city's police chief. In addition to her significant law-enforcement experience, she also earned a master's degree from the University of Memphis and is a graduate of the FBI Academy. (Courtesy of The Leader, Covington)

1998

Michelle Gallien ('98, '07) is an American Heart Association 2022 West Tennessee Woman of Impact nominee. Nominees are women in West Tennessee who have made a significant impact in bettering their respective communities. The recognition provides her the opportunity to widen her network, while helping to raise funds and awareness for women's heart health. Nominees were honored at the 2022 Go Red for Women dinner March 24 at the Carl Perkins Center in Jackson. Michelle is married to Tommy Gallien, and they have four children: Alex and his wife, Samantha; Ethan; Anna Claire; and Selah. Michelle works as an account executive for Baptist Hospice.

2002

Robin Wooten ('02) has been employed with the Tennessee Department of Human Services since 2012 and has been serving as the director of program reliability and compliance in the Child Care Services Division since early 2021.

2003

Andrea Ferguson Harrington ('03) was appointed the new general manager of the Weakley County Municipal Electric System by the system's board of directors. She earned an electrical engineering

degree from UT Martin as did her husband, **Travis ('03)**, who is employed as an engineer by MacLean Power Systems in Trenton. (Courtesy of the Weakley County Press)

2004

Dr. John Parr ('04) is the new wildlife department director at Discovery Park of America. The department focuses on the natural history of Northwest Tennessee and Reelfoot Lake. He previously worked at Baptist Health Science University as a health science instructor and before that as a coach, science teacher and STEM education leader for Union City Schools. He also holds a master's degree from William Carey University and a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi. (Courtesy of Discovery Park of America)

2005

Russell Gambrell Jr. ('05) is a staff sergeant at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

2009

Brittany Cole ('09) accepted a position as an assistant professor of finance in the College of Business and Global Affairs at UT Martin.

Kyle ('09) and **Mary ('09,'14) Jackson** welcomed a baby boy, Cameron, on December 21, 2021.

2011

Dr. Michael Yandell ('11), senior minister at First Christian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, has announced the publication of his new book "War and Negative Revelation: A Theological Reflection on Moral Injury" published by Rowman & Littlefield. In addition to his Bachelor of Music from UT Martin, he earned a Master of Divinity from Brite Divinity School and a doctorate from Emory University.

class notes

2013

Amy Mitchell ('13) finished graduate school and is now working as an adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner.

2015

Lacey Lane ('15) is the new statewide range development coordinator in the Outreach and Communications Division for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. In her role, Lacey will be responsible for improving existing TWRA ranges and adding new ranges across the state. She came to the TWRA after serving as the coordinator for the Tennessee Outdoors Youth Summit (TOYS) and coordinator for the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation the past six years.

Angela Polk ('15) received her Juris Doctor from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 2019 and is now an associate attorney with the Jehl Law Group, PLLC in Memphis.

2016

Mechele Washington-Porter ('16) acquired a job as a child protective services investigator after graduation. She welcomed a daughter, Emma Quinn, in 2018, and opened a restaurant with her husband in 2020.

2017

Miranda Rutan ('17), a first-year doctoral student in the Higher Education Administration Program at the UT Knoxville College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, was nationally recognized for her research paper on the experiences of women working in higher education

during COVID-19. In March, she received the Gerald Saddlemire Master's Research Award from ACPA-College Student Educators International for her paper titled "Understanding the Finite Resource of Care: A COVID-19 Narrative."

2018

Ashley Shores ('18) is the new marketing manager at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

2019

Isabelle O'Neal ('19) welcomed a baby boy in July 2021.

2020

Jordan Mosele ('20) is in her second year of graduate school at the University of Central Oklahoma. After graduation, she hopes to return to Martin and teach at UT Martin.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ► Jonathan Utley, Jackson, Tennessee



Jonathan Utley outside of the Hall-Moody Administration Building.

Jonathan Utley, a junior health and human performance major from Jackson, was influenced growing up by a number of his coaches. Today, Utley hopes to build upon his leadership skills and pay that influence forward.

Utley has participated in sports for most of his life, having played basketball throughout middle and high school. Once he started thinking about his life after graduation from Madison Academic Magnet High School, studying health and human performance only seemed natural to him.

"I just always knew it felt right just doing something involved with health and fitness," Utley said.

Utley learned about the Call Me MISTER program from his high school chemistry teacher, and although he already planned on attending UT Martin, the program

was an extra push towards combining his passion for health and fitness with education. Since becoming a part of the program, Utley has greatly appreciated the mentorship and community he has gained.

"I already planned to come here, but I didn't really know about the program. One of my teachers told me about it, and so that kind of steered me towards K-12. ..." Utley said. "We have a group of mentors that check in on us. Sometimes we go out to lunch and stuff and they just see how we're doing and hold us accountable."

Since coming to UT Martin, Utley has become involved with a number of organizations both on and off campus. He is a member of Gamma Beta Phi and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Societies, the Black Student Association, and the Student Tennessee Education Association and SHAPE Club on campus, as well as the

Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Because of Utley's involvement in both the SHAPE Club and TAHPERD, he was able to receive the James E. Ward Future Professional Honor Award. The award is given out annually to an outstanding Tennessee student studying health, physical education, recreation, dance, or any other related field of study.

"I was really happy. I didn't think that I was going to win, but I won it out of the whole state," Utley said. "I was just honored to be nominated from this school."

By staying active on campus and taking advantage of the opportunities available to him, Utley prepares for his future in coaching and teaching tomorrow's youth.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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