

## HOST OF THE 115TH MEETING: THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

BUD GRIMES, OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

*The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, Tennessee*

The University of Tennessee at Martin (UT Martin) is a primary campus in the University of Tennessee System and is known for providing high-quality undergraduate educational programs to West Tennessee and beyond. From the founding in 1900 of Hall-Moody Institute, through the establishment in 1927 of UT Junior College, to today's status as a comprehensive public university, UT Martin remains committed to preparing students for success in the global economy.

UT Martin serves almost 6,500 students by offering baccalaureate degrees in more than 100 specialized fields of study. Academic majors are offered within natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, fine and performing arts, computer science, nursing, agriculture, teacher education, business administration and engineering. The Online Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) Degree offered through UT New College ([newcollege.tennessee.edu](http://newcollege.tennessee.edu)) is now available for working adults.

At the graduate level, master's degrees are offered in accounting and business administration; counseling and teacher education; family and consumer sciences; and agricultural operations management. Master's degrees in education (with a major in educational administration and supervision) and agricultural operations management are available online. The university maintains accreditation for all eligible academic programs from the appropriate governing bodies.

Extended-campus teaching sites in Jackson, Paris, McNairy County and other locations bring UT Martin academic programs to people across West Tennessee. International Programs, with one of the region's best intensive English programs, attracts students from approximately 30 countries.



UT Martin is setting the standard for leadership development and education. The university's WestStar Leadership Program, with more than 400 alumni, offers seminars to business, education and government leaders from the 22-county West Tennessee area. The LEAD Academy (Leadership Education, Application and Discovery) fosters leadership development for UT Martin undergraduates through special seminars, service opportunities and travel-study programs.

Recognized for being located in one of the nation's safest college communities, the 250-acre main campus provides a "total collegiate experience" in a traditional university setting. Campus facilities include 46 academic and support buildings. University Village, a new 400-bed apartment complex located on campus, opened fall semester 2005. Six hundred eighty acres of agricultural land next to the campus serve as a research and demonstration operation.

Other campus improvements are designed to benefit students well into the 21st Century. The Paul Meek Library was renovated and expanded in 1995 as an attractive 120,000-square-foot structure featuring an all-night study area, a student computer lab and group study rooms. The library collection contains more than 470,000 volumes, 22,000 electronic books, 4,500 videotapes, 1,100 print periodical subscriptions and access to almost 100 electronic databases indexing more than 8,000 full-text journals. The library also features a selected government documents collection and an online reserve system.

Also at the heart of the campus, the Ed and Carolyn Boling University Center reopened fall semester 1999 following a \$9.4 million expansion. Major additions include the 500-seat Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium and a 6,000 square-foot fitness center. A \$1.9 million renovation of the historic Alumni Gym created the new Student Life Center that provides offices for campus organizations and space for major campus activities.

UT Martin's investment in its faculty and instructional technology is helping to ensure the university's graduates are prepared to meet the challenges in an international economy. The state-of-the-art Instructional Technology Center in the Paul Meek Library is bringing computer teaching technology to all university classrooms. A growing campus wireless network is available in most academic buildings, the library, the university center, and the administration building.

Outside the classroom, UT Martin students have many opportunities for involvement in the university community. More than 100 organizations are available for students to join including academic clubs, honor societies, service groups, student government, fraternities and sororities, and special student associations. The Office of Campus Recreation offers many on- and off-campus recreational opportunities, while the

university's Department of Visual and Theatre Arts brings cultural events to Northwest Tennessee.

The university competes in NCAA Division I in both men's and women's athletics and is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference. The UT Martin rodeo team, the only collegiate rodeo team in Tennessee, is a member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

Men's intercollegiate sports include football, basketball, baseball, golf, tennis, cross country, cheerleading, rifle, and rodeo. Women's intercollegiate sports include volleyball, basketball, soccer, tennis, rifle, softball, cross country, equestrian, cheerleading, and rodeo.

UT Martin improved its top-tier ranking for master's level public universities in the South in the 2006 edition of *America's Best Colleges* compiled by *U.S. News & World Report*. UT Martin tied for 20th place among public universities in the South that grant bachelor's and master's degrees, up from 23rd place in 2005. Also, *PrincetonReview.com* lists UT Martin as one of 140 schools to receive a "Best in the Southeast" designation.

Dr. Nick Dunagan, a UT Martin alumnus and a member of the university's administration since 1973, is the university's chancellor. More information about UT Martin is available on the Web at [www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu) or by calling 1-800-829-UTM1.