DiPietro discusses chancellor’s position at open forum, April 16

University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro told an audience April 16 that an interim UT Martin chancellor could be named before commencement, May 2. Members of the president’s staff joined DiPietro as he discussed the current and future status of the chancellor’s position during an open forum in Watkins Auditorium.

Dr. Tom Rakes, university chancellor since 2007, announced April 13 that he is stepping down from the position and will return to teaching, effective May 31.

DiPietro thanked Rakes and his wife, Dr. Glenda Rakes, professor, Department of Educational Studies, for their service and acknowledged the uncertainty that comes with leadership change. “This wasn’t something that came to light in an immediate sense from the standpoint of process, but instead it was a decision Tom made,” he said. The president said talks are underway with several individuals about the interim appointment. He reported “significant interest” in the position, but has conditions under which candidates will be considered.

“One, I feel it’s very important, whoever takes the interim role, that they do not want to pursue the job permanently,” he said, adding, “I need somebody in this role who’s not a caretaker but instead who’s going to actively be engaged in managing this university. There are things that need to be done.” Declining enrollment is among DiPietro’s concerns, and he expects the interim chancellor to find ways to reverse this trend.

“We’re looking for somebody continued on page 4

SMACS hosts ionic liquids guest lecturer

Dr. Kevin Miller, assistant professor of chemistry at Murray State University, will present a lecture on “Ionic Liquids: Green Chemistry and Electrochemical Applications” at 6:30 p.m., April 22, in room 317 of the Johnson EPS Building.

Ionic liquids have become a focus of recent research in the field of reaction solvents due to their low vapor pressure and ability for recycling. Many new and traditional reactions can be carried out in ionic liquid solvents without causing the atmospheric pollution associated with other volatile solvents.

Miller earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Dayton and a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame. He served as senior research scientist at Rohm and Haas Chemicals for six years before joining the Murray State University faculty in 2010.

His recent recognitions include the 2013 Emerging Scholar Award from the Murray State University Alumni Association, the 2014 Neil V. Weber Award for Excellence from the Murray State University College of Science, Engineering and Technology, and the Karl F. Hussung Professorship of Chemistry for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The lecture is sponsored by the Student Members of the American Chemical Society in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations.

For more information, contact Dr. S. K. Airee, professor of chemistry and SMACS faculty advisor, at 731-881-7454 or by email at skairee@utm.edu.

ALUM, FORMER MICROSOFT EMPLOYEE SPEAKS AT PHI KAPPA PHI INITIATION BANQUET – Harold Duane Campbell, former Microsoft employee and UT Martin graduate, was the keynote speaker at the UT Martin chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society’s initiation banquet, April 7. Campbell is originally from Saulsbury. He graduated from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Arts in music in 1981 and later received a Master of Arts in mathematics, with a concentration in computer science, from Memphis State University in 1983. Campbell worked for Microsoft from 1985-2013, where he was instrumental in the development of Microsoft Excel. Campbell (center) is pictured with his wife, Anita Campbell (right), and his former piano teacher, Allison Nelson Loebbaka. Anita is also a UT Martin graduate.
YoUTM faculty and staff excellence

Drs. Aaron Rowland, assistant professor of sociology; and Sarah Hendricks and Justin Martin, lecturers of sociology. Tara Tansil-Gentry, lecturer, Department of Health and Human Performance

Drs. Aaron Rowland, assistant professor of sociology; and Sarah Hendricks and Justin Martin, lecturers of sociology, recently presented original research at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La. Rowland and senior sociology student Braylon Gillespie presented a paper titled “Neoliberalism as a Social Movement: Power-Devaluation, Ideological Entrepreneurs, and the Positive (re)Framing of the Free Market.” Rowland also participated in a discussion panel on “Writing Cover Letters for Teaching-Oriented Job Searches,” sponsored by the Committee on Sociology in Small and Community Colleges. Hendricks presented a paper titled “Exploring Changes in Income of Legal Permanent Residents, 2003-2008,” and Martin presented a paper titled “After Pygmalion: The Mediating Effect of Self-Assessment on Teachers’ Expectations of Student Achievement.” Additionally, Rowland has had a co-authored article titled “Austerity and Anti-Systemic Protest: Bringing Hardships Back In” accepted for publication in the summer/fall issue of the Journal of World-Systems Research. His co-authors are Dr. Jon Shefner, professor of sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Dr. George Pasdirtz, retired, University of Wisconsin. Martin has also had a book chapter titled “(Not) Smoking” accepted for publication in “Popular Culture as Everyday Life.”

Tara Tansil-Gentry, lecturer, Department of Health and Human Performance, has been asked to join a statewide Tennessee Board of Regents “Mobilization and Emerging Technologies” team to explore the impact, possibilities and challenges of emerging technologies for increasing enrollment, retention, engagement and graduation rates.

Dr. Joaquin Goyret, assistant professor of biology, has had a co-authored research article published in Integrative and Comparative Biology by Oxford Journals. Goyret wrote the paper “Influence of Ambient Illumination on the use of Olfactory and Visual Signals by a Nocturnal Hawkmoth During Close-range Foraging” with Michael Yuan, who was then an undergraduate at Cornell University. Yuan has since been accepted as a graduate student at UC Berkeley. The work’s initial stages were supported by a National Science Foundation Grant and the later stages by the UT Martin Department of Biological Sciences.

Drs. Todd Sherman and Laura Brown, associate professors of health and human performance, recently presented research titled “The Relationship Between Self-efficacy and Exercise Frequency Among University Students” at the Southeast American College of Sport Medicine in Jacksonville, Fla. Brown and Laura Taylor, lecturer of health and human performance, also represented Tennessee in “Let’s Move Active School” at the SHAPE America Convention in Seattle, Wash.

Dr. Laura Brown, associate professor of health and human performance, and Laura Taylor, lecturer of health and human performance.
Dr. Clinton Smith, assistant professor of educational studies, presented five successful strategies for the inclusive classroom at the 2015 Council for Exceptional Children Conference. He also served as a Tennessee representative during the CEC Representative Assembly and is currently serving as president of Tennessee CEC for 2015.

Dr. Louis Glover, assistant professor of educational studies, has developed a new Skyhawk STEM camp for rising ninth grade students. The camp will provide students with an opportunity to explore STEM-based concepts presented in high school physical science courses. Glover will also conduct STEMulation Camp 2015 – A Summer of STEMulation Science for middle school students. Participants will be able to complete activities in chemistry, physics, computer programming, environmental science, engineering principles and robotics. Select pre-service students will gain practical teaching experience working with these students to complete activities under Glover’s direction. Participating students are Kieshie Brigance, a senior from Memphis; Leonard Davis, a junior from Union City; Clifford Jones, a sophomore from Memphis; and Arianne Stearns, a freshman from Atoka. Both camps will run in June.

Scholarfest events continue this week

Scholarfest 2015 began April 17 and will continue through this week. Scholarfest is a campus-wide celebration of student talent and scholastic efforts, sponsored by Honors Programs.

Students in the Art History 350 course – “Women in the Arts” – have an exhibition titled “A Dinner Party” on display outside the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts office until April 22. The display honors artists and activists throughout history. Student work is also showcased in the Fine Arts Building Gallery until April 24. The gallery is open from 4-8 p.m. on weekdays.

April 20 is Nurse Excellence Day, and related activities will take place from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. inside Watkins Auditorium. The jazz band will perform at 7:30 p.m., April 21, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre.

The Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference will showcase student research and creative writing works from 1-4 p.m., April 22, in the Boling University Center, room 206. Presenting students have been nominated by faculty members in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages and will present papers on a variety of topics and styles.

The Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society will partner with Honors Programs to present both poster and oral research presentations on April 23. Research posters will be on display from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Duncan Ballroom. Oral presentations will be given from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Boling University Center, room 206.

The week’s events will conclude with the low brass chamber recital, given by the euphonium and tuba ensemble, at 7:30 p.m., April 23, in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs, at 731-881-7436 or by email at lcrews@utm.edu.

ROTC to host “I Am Strong” 5K April 25

The ROTC program will host the “I Am Strong” 5K race beginning at noon, April 25, in front of CrossFit Martin, near the new E.W. James.

Participants can register until the day of the race for $20 per person. Groups of five or more registrants will be offered a special discount. T-shirts will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interested parties can register online by visiting www.active.com and searching “I Am Strong” in the Martin area. Participants can also obtain a registration form by contacting Merce Eubank at merleuba@ut.utm.edu.

The race is being held to celebrate 99 years of the Army ROTC program nationwide and to raise public awareness of the consequences of sexual harassment.
DiPietro, continued from pg. 1

in the interim role, as well as the permanent role, who really believes in shared governance," he said. “Martin has an incredible track record of (shared governance).” He gave the example of the faculty senate’s having “a seat at the chancellor’s cabinet,” which is rare at other universities, and the interim chancellor needs to respect this Martin tradition. “We need an individual who has plenty of experience ... and has managed hopefully through some of the issues you all face,” he said. The person selected for the interim position could expect to serve up to a year as the search for a permanent chancellor proceeds.

DiPietro said a national search will be conducted, but he is not opposed to internal candidates applying for the permanent position. He plans an inclusive search committee involving faculty, staff, students, a UT board of trustees member and a community representative.

“It will be an open process when we get to the campus phase of the search, and it’ll occur in two steps,” he explained. Hotel, or “fly-in,” interviews will be the first step to determine which candidates will be brought to campus for public interviews, which could begin in the fall. However, DiPietro would not commit to a search timetable, wanting first to have the interim chancellor in place and the campus functioning smoothly before campus interviews begin.

A decision on whether to use a search firm has not been made. DiPietro invited nominations for both the interim and permanent positions and asked that nominations for the interim position be made within the next week.

DiPietro then answered questions from the audience, one regarding student involvement in the search process. He said student representation on the search committee could come either from the Student Government Association or a student member of the UT board of trustees, but either way, students will have a voice in the search.

He was also asked about the selection process and the UT board’s role in the final decision. DiPietro explained that both the interim and permanent chancellor appointments must be elected by the board, “So I make a recommendation to them, and they will hopefully approve it.”

He closed by saying that he has personally experienced considerable change at other institutions, and UT Martin will be fine because the university is not dependent on one person to succeed. “The place will go on, and it’s because of the people,” he said. “It’s because of the people who serve the institution and move it forward, and it’s really all of you. So we will be in really good shape.”

The open forum is archived and can be viewed at the following link: http://webcast.utm.edu/UTMms01/Viewer/?poid=017c558878994096aaafa344fb45e8971d.

Michelle Horton, professor and director, social work program, Department of Behavioral Sciences (pictured left), was diagnosed with a brain tumor earlier this semester. She has had surgery and is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. Her department would like to thank those who have expressed caring thoughts and other acts of kindness. If you would like to further help the Horton family, please visit www.gofundme.com/r9hcfm4.

I ♥ UTM Week
April 20 - 24

A MUSICAL SEMESTER – The student percussion studio hosted a variety of guests during the spring 2015 semester. Guest artists included Richard Henson (frame drums), Dr. Chad Floyd (drum set), Dr. Andy Smith (Brazilian drum set) and Chris Nelson (orchestral snare drum). Henson is a 2010 UT Martin alum, a part-time director of percussion studies at Southern Adventist University and a part-time instructor of percussion at Lee University. Floyd is associate professor of percussion at Campbellsville University, and Smith is assistant director of Indiana University’s bateria. The guest artists taught master classes for music students and, in many cases, gave personal performances for students and the community. The percussion studio also hosted the 15th annual UT Martin Honor Percussion Ensemble Festival as part of the Honor Chamber Music Festival in March. Twenty-two high school percussionists participated in the three-day event. The percussion studio is directed by Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of music and studio director, and Dr. Daniel Heagney, lecturer of music.
“Sax O’Clock” ensemble performance to include local band directors, students and faculty

The Sax O’Clock ensemble will present its first recital performance at 7:30 p.m., April 26, in the Blankenship Recital Hall.

Sax O’Clock is a saxophone quartet composed of Dr. Douglas Owens, UT Martin assistant professor of music; Jared Nobles, UT Martin alum and band director at Dyersburg High School; Jeffrey McLemore, band director at Rose Hill Middle School in Jackson; and Wesley Brockman, band director with Gibson County schools.

The quartet will perform “Rhapsody” by Eric Ewazen and “Tango Virtuoso” by Thierry Escaich alone, and will be joined by Charles Lewis, UT Martin alum and lecturer of music, on the piccolo for Jeff Scott’s composition “The Gift of Life.”

The second half of the concert will include “As the Sun Sets” by Daniel Baldwin, during which the quartet will be joined by five current saxophone majors. The group will close the recital with “Heart Breakers,” a multimedia composition by Jacob ter Veldhuis, which incorporates video and pre-recorded music.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Owens at 731-881-7414 or by email at dowens14@utm.edu.

Calendar

- April 20-24 – I Heart UTM week
- April 20-24 – VTA student art exhibition; Fine Arts Building Gallery; 4-8 p.m.
- April 20 – College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences awards banquet; Duncan Ballroom; 4-4 p.m.
- April 20 – Academic Speaker Series: Steve Wiley; Watkins Auditorium; 7:30 p.m.
- April 20 – String orchestra concert; Harriet Fulton Theatre; 7:30 p.m.
- April 21 – Faculty senate meeting; Boling University Center, room 111; 3-15 p.m.
- April 21 – Skyhawk Softball at Southern Illinois; 4 p.m.
- April 21 – Jazz band concert; Harriet Fulton Theatre; 7:30 p.m.
- April 22 – Administrative Professionals Day – Thank your support staff today.
- April 22 – Skyhawk Baseball at Southern Illinois; 5 p.m.
- April 22 – Skyhawk Softball vs. Bethel; Betsey Giles Field; 6 p.m.
- April 22 – Black Student Association Night of Dance Program; Watkins Auditorium; 7 p.m.
- April 23-26 – Skyhawk Golf at OVC Tournament
- April 23-25 – Skyhawk Rodeo at Northwest Mississippi Community College
- April 23 – Low brass chamber recital; Blankenship Recital Hall; 7:30 p.m.
- April 24 – Last day of classes
- April 24 – Skyhawk Baseball at SIU Edwardsville; 6 p.m.
- April 25-May 1 – Final exams
- April 25 – SOAR session; Boling University Center; 8 a.m.
- April 25 – Surplus auction; UT Martin Warehouse; 10 a.m.
- April 25 – Skyhawk Baseball at SIU Edwardsville; 1 p.m.
- April 25 – Skyhawk Baseball at SIU Edwardsville; 1 and 3 p.m.
- April 26 – Skyhawk Softball at SIU Edwardsville; 1 p.m.
- April 26 – Percussion ensemble spring concert; Harriet Fulton Theatre; 3 p.m.
- April 26 – Sax O’Clock quartet recital; Blankenship Recital Hall; 7:30 p.m.
- April 26-28 – VTA student art exhibition; Fine Arts Building Gallery; 4-8 p.m.

YoU Tell Me

“Questions and Answers” about UT Martin

- Question – Will tickets be required for entry into commencement on May 2?
- Answer – Yes, because of a large graduating class, commencement tickets are required for entry into the 2015 May Commencement. Each graduate can receive up to six tickets after the Grand Finale Walk and commencement practice in the Elam Center. Any tickets not claimed by 5 p.m., Friday, May 1, before commencement will be distributed starting at 9 a.m. outside the Elam Center on commencement day.
UT MARTIN SICK LEAVE BANK QUARTERLY REPORT

The following information concerning the sick leave bank established at this campus is provided for the period ending 31-Mar-15.

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ACTIVITY

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J. Phillip Bright  
(Human Resources Officer)  
April 16, 2015