

OUR TENNESSEE

UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE SYSTEM MAGAZINE

KNOXVILLE | CHATTANOOGA | SOUTHERN | MARTIN | HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER | INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE | INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

FALL
2022



Arts
Enrich
Lives





THE SCENE

UT Knoxville students create furniture in the Art and Architecture Building.

PHOTO BY STEVEN BRIDGES
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

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Becca Beachum, a member of Alpha Delta Pi, performs in UT Martin's Greekfest Step Show.

PHOTO BY STEVEN MANTILLA

ON THE COVER

Drew and Ellie Holcomb perform in Knoxville's Tennessee Theatre. COURTESY PHOTO

University of Tennessee System Office of Communications and Marketing

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Our Tennessee



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OUR TENNESSEE

Magazine for the alumni, friends and supporters of the University of Tennessee System, including campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Pulaski and Martin; the Health Science Center based in Memphis; and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and Institute for Public Service.

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Our Tennessee (formerly *Tennessee Alumnus*), established in 1917, is published four times a year in spring, summer, fall and winter for the University of Tennessee Alumni Association and its sponsors and distributed to all alumni donors.
E17-0405-002-003-154.
Fall 2022. Volume 102, Number 4. 61,560 copies printed by Lane Press, 87 Meadowland Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403.



A message from the president

Art Imitates Life

From language to writing, history to performing arts, ethics to architecture and every facet in between, these subject areas allow us to better understand ourselves, our communities and the world at large. They enrich our lives while providing the foundations on which we stand.

And the arts and humanities are essential to who we are. The impact of arts and humanities across our campuses and within our state is undeniable. We feel this impact when sitting in UT Martin's Vanguard Theater, immersed in a world crafted by talented performers or when browsing the halls of UT Knoxville's McClung Museum, surrounded by historical and cultural artifacts. Communities experience it when enrolled in the classes offered at the UT Southern Music Academy or when watching dancers perform within UT Chattanooga's Fine Arts Center. I'm proud to say that UT Knoxville continues to be a top recipient of grants from the National Endowment of Humanities and that UT Martin offers the only K-12 Dance Education licensure in the state of Tennessee.

The act of creating—in all its various forms—is a vessel for exploration, and through it we can find meaning in our histories, our presents and our futures. Perhaps most importantly, the products of such exploration allow us to build a bridge to one another when differences run the risk of leaving a void.

As you flip through the pages of *Our Tennessee*, I hope you'll experience an authentic connection as our campuses provide a conduit to the creative and an insight into the unique ways our campuses support and advocate for art in various forms.

Our campuses will continue to serve as an outlet to experience and fully immerse education in the arts and humanities. After all, I think we would all feel a little less human in their absence.



PHOTO BY SAM THOMAS

UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and UT President Randy Boyd are photographed in front of the "Everywhere You Look, UT" mural in Sharon. Since 2019, the University of Tennessee has been painting canvases across the state to remind passersby of UT's presence in all 95 counties. To find mural locations or to nominate a space, visit <https://everywhere.tennessee.edu/murals/>.

Randy Boyd, Knoxville '79

IN THIS ISSUE

Song and dance, painting and poetry can move through our blood and bones to stir us soul deep.

Through shivers of delight to weeping through wretchedness, the arts can create connections between people who may have very little else in common. Being moved by the story playing out on the stage, singing a favorite song with thousands of strangers or discussing—and enjoying—the same book unites people creating community.

Simply put, the arts enrich lives.

Yet, to be an artist means to be vulnerable as a storyteller, a truth teller. Artists share their views of the world with all of its light and shadows. They tell of their hopes and fears. It allows the viewer or listener's soul to sigh, "Me too," and to feel a little less alone. As singer/songwriter Ellie Holcomb says, "If you're brave enough to go first, the beauty that happens in the wake of that makes the scariness of the vulnerability well worth the risk."

In these pages, UT's faculty and alumni do more than just make music or create worlds. They generate moments of connection, whether through sorrow or delight. And some even do more, whether it's working with the autistic or teaching a new language.

Across our campuses and institutes, faculty, students and alumni create music, prints, paintings, pottery, dance, poetry, vistas and so much more. Let us take the time to drop into galleries, dance in our kitchens, devour art in all of its forms and so enrich our souls.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I enjoyed reading the most recent edition of *Our Tennessee*, especially the article on Pulaski restaurant Kitchen 218 ("Middle of Somewhere," Summer 2022). I thought you might find it interesting to know that the local pimento cheese company you mentioned in the article is Daddy Bob's Small Batch Pimento Cheese and is owned and run by Sims Henry, an alumna of UTK. I look forward to learning more about the ways alumni from the UT System are improving their communities in future editions.

Jessica Parsons
Knoxville '02

Dear Editor,
When I read the latest edition of *Our Tennessee*, I was thrilled to see the color photograph on page 7.

I grew up on the Tennessee Ag Research and Education Center in Greeneville. My father was the superintendent of what he always called "The Station." He accepted that position in 1946 when I was 5 months old, and we lived in the big farmhouse on the property that was built before the Civil War.

He retired from this position in 1973. By then three of his four children had graduated from UT, his alma mater.

Katherine Felts Dowling
Knoxville '67

SOCIAL MEDIA

Selected comments from social media regarding "The King of Country Ham" in the Summer 2022 issue about UT Knoxville alumnus Allan Benton.

Facebook

Julius Johnson

Great man and family! Great product known across the nation! Congratulations!

Van Turner

Julius, you are exactly correct! Great man and family, and his hams, bacon and sausage are the best I've ever had.

Terry Moore Pearson

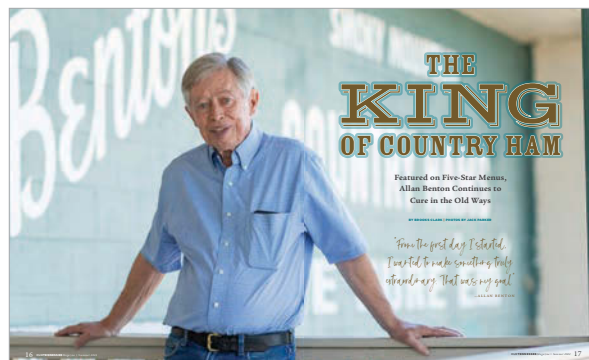
Nothing better than Benton's bacon. 😊

Rick Bolton

The absolute best bacon and ham that I have ever tasted!!!

Instagram

@susansrite



arts

in TENNESSEE

A 2017 TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION REPORT FOUND TENNESSEE:

Added **4.1%** of
\$15.3 BILLION

to the state economy from
arts and cultural productions



Employed more than
92,000

in arts and cultural industries,
with wages and benefits

totaling more than
\$6.4 billion



Since 2016, the National Endowment for the Arts
distributed more than

\$8.1 million IN TENNESSEE

including these grants to UT Knoxville:



\$10,000

for recording
project of composers
underrepresented
in Western music

\$75,000

for creation of
artworks responding
to the Great Smoky
Mountain wildfires
of 2016



\$15,000

for Clarence
Brown Theatre's
production of
"Alabama Story"



TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION REPORTS



**\$1.17
BILLION**

in annual economic
activity from
nonprofit arts &
culture industry



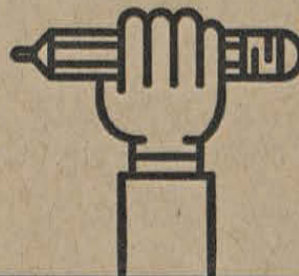
48%

of adults attended
live music, theater or
dance performances



15%

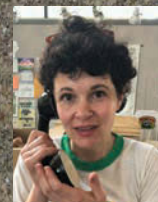
of adults attended
art exhibits



According to 2017 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, conducted in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau



Sarah
Shebaro,
Knoxville '08,
formerly with
Striped Light
in Knoxville,
now operates



her own letterpress printing
and design business.
She printed this page for
Our Tennessee. "Culture
and arts provide the apex of
problem solving," she says.
"Without creativity there
is no ingenuity."



Above: Posters designed and printed
by Sarah Shebaro

Infographic design by Laura Barroso, letterpress printing by Sarah Shebaro

DREW AND ELLIE HOLCOMB THE TROUBADOUR

Ellie Holcomb is sure God has a sense of humor.

"I swore I would never be a musician. I swore I'd never marry a musician. I actually swore that I'd never marry my best guy friend, who everybody said I should get together with," Ellie says with a laugh.

All that swearing proved for naught.

Because ... Drew.



WEAVE
STORIES INTO
AND THE SONGSTRESS



Ellie and Drew Holcomb

Drew Holcomb, who met Ellie Bannister at UT Knoxville. Drew Holcomb, who felt compelled to craft stories to music. Drew, who became front man for Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors, an Americana band known for songs “American Beauty” and “Family.” Drew, who encouraged his wife to travel and perform with him.

Now, Ellie’s married to a musician and her best guy friend from those college years. She’s also a Christian singer/songwriter known for songs such as “Red Sea Road” and “Canyon.”

I Like to Be With Me When I'm With You



Growing up surrounded by music in a city steeped in music, Drew found a refuge in song as a teenager after his younger brother’s death to spina bifida. He listened to U2, David Gray and others to help him process that loss as a 17-year-old.

“Van Morrison was helping me make more sense of it than the Psalms were,” Drew says.

Music became his lifeline, and it’s one he carried with him to UT Knoxville as a Manning Scholar and University Honors student.

When Drew enrolled at UTK, he carried with him advice from his father: “Go to school and learn how to learn.” As a self-professed history nerd in high school, Drew found his place in studying the past and thought it might be his future.

“At the end of the day, a historian is a storyteller. It taught me what good storytelling is and how to make sense of our lives—past, present and future,” Drew says.

He also learned persistence in staying with a project until the end. That would transfer from his academic life to his love life and to a life spent making a music career.

Ellie, the daughter of Christian music producer Brown Bannister, picked up a guitar in junior high and began playing and writing songs. The Nashville native wanted to attend college in a different part of the United States, to see the world. Then she visited the UTK campus and the Great Smoky Mountains. The deal sealer came when Ellie, the 19th alternate for the Tennessee Scholarship, received it after 20 other students selected other schools to attend.

“I ended up meeting people from all over the world and all kinds of different perspectives and life experiences,” she says.

She also was experiencing the highs and lows of life. In the lows, she sat in the stairwells of Humes and Massey halls singing of her pain after heartbreaks.

“I was like a bad version of Taylor Swift,” she says with a laugh.

Yet, when she opened her eyes on those stairs, she’d find 20 to 30 girls gathered around her listening and crying because of their own broken hearts. In those moments, she learned that melodies and lyrics bridge gaps between people.

“It connects people’s stories,” she says of music. “It connects people’s hearts and joys and heartaches.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in education with a thesis titled “Singing Shakespeare: Music Inspired by the Master of the Word,” Ellie headed into the classroom, where she taught literature and would sing or rap Shakespeare.

“I sang all the way through my teaching career, so I always knew I would be a singer,” Ellie says. “I just thought I’d be doing it in classrooms, not on stages.”

She couldn’t imagine leaving teaching.

“I loved my education program,” she says. “I felt completely equipped to really teach because of the education program at UT and to call good things out of students that they maybe didn’t know were there.”

But Drew.

And Drew didn’t give up. Their friendship carried through attending concerts at the Tennessee Theatre, Blue Cats, Market Square and playing music together.

Drew graduated a semester early with a Bachelor of Arts in the College Scholars Program in Arts and Sciences and returned to Memphis to begin in earnest working to make his music dream come true. He worked at a studio, wrote songs and played gigs—putting in 70 hours a week.

Some gigs left Drew wondering about his decision to make music as people ignored him or yelled requests for cover songs.

“The first four years, 25 percent were dark nights of the soul, 25 percent were awesome, and 50 percent were putting in the work,” he says of those days.

In 2005, Ellie was teaching in Nashville when Drew’s persistence in love paid off. Ellie agreed to go with him to see Patty Griffin at the Ryman Auditorium for their first date.

The couple married in 2006.

Drew asked Ellie to go on the road with him. She knew if she didn’t, she’d always wonder, “What if?” But she had a back-up plan. She informed her principal they would probably be broke and she’d need to return to teaching in a year. The principal



Ellie and Drew Holcomb perform at the Hamilton County Memorial Hall in Cincinnati.



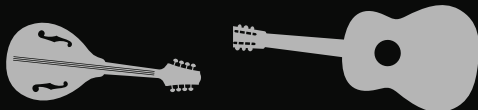
*Ellie and Drew Holcomb's children—Emmylou, Rivers and Huck—join them to perform during the *You and Me* concert in Birmingham, Alabama.*

UT KNOXVILLE ALUMNI AWARDS

- 2015— Alumni Promise Awards
- 2022— 40 Under 40
- 2022—Homecoming parade grand marshals

DREW HOLCOMB AND DREW HOLCOMB AND THE NEIGHBORS DISCOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 2005— <i>Washed in Blue</i> | 2011— <i>Chasing Someday</i> | 2016— <i>Live at the Ryman</i> |
| 2007— <i>Live from Memphis</i> | 2012— <i>Through the Night: Live in the Studio</i> | 2017— <i>Souvenir</i> |
| 2007— <i>A Neighborly Christmas</i> | 2012— <i>Another Neighborly Christmas</i> | 2019— <i>Dragons</i> |
| 2008— <i>Passenger Seat</i> | 2013— <i>Good Light</i> | 2023—Two yet unnamed albums |
| 2009— <i>A Million Miles Away</i> | 2015— <i>Medicine</i> | |



ELLIE HOLCOMB DISCOGRAPHY

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2014— <i>As Sure as the Sun</i> | 2020— <i>Sing: Remembering Songs</i> |
| 2017— <i>Red Sea Road</i> | 2021— <i>Canyon</i> |
| 2018— <i>Sing: Creation Songs</i> | 2022— <i>Sing: Christmas Songs</i> |

ELLIE HOLCOMB BOOKS

- Don't Forget to Remember*
- Who Sang the First Song*
- Fighting Words Devotional*
- Sounding Joy*

MOON RIVER FESTIVAL

The Holcombs founded the Moon River Festival, which started in Memphis in 2015 and moved to Chattanooga in 2018. The two-day festival is held the weekend after Labor Day each September. Knoxville-based AC Entertainment produces the festival.

called after the first year and then the following four years to see if she was ready to return to the classroom.

"I didn't think we would be doing music for long," Ellie says.

Drew also made plans for a different future. He studied for his master's degree in divinity with St. Andrews University in Scotland. The distance program required two weeks on campus, then classes online. Every six weeks he'd have to turn in a paper, which he wrote from the back of the van while touring. He wrote his dissertation on "Springsteen and American Redemptive Imagination."

"It was sort of a strange time," Drew says. "It was study for the sake of studying."

The back-up plan of becoming a professor and writer faded into what might have been as theaters and other music venues filled with fans of Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors and the band's Americana music.

Drew's songs have been featured on more than 150 television shows and 20 commercials, but as he says, "We've never had a radio hit."

"I love to ask fans how they first heard our music," he says, because it's often not found on radio stations. Instead, they saw the band perform at Bonnaroo or open for Willie Nelson or through a Spotify playlist.

When the couple had their first of three children, Emmylou, in 2012, she went on the road with the band at 2 weeks old. By the time she was 6 months, she had traveled to 32 states and Canada. When Emmylou started to walk, Ellie made the decision to stay at home. Their sons followed, Huck in 2015 and Rivers in 2018.

But she couldn't quit music.

In Ellie's songwriting, she wrestles with her doubt, pain, fear and sorrow—and so she continued to write songs that she imagined were for herself.

"We all have a choice with how you can respond," she says. "For me, singing is a way of holding on to hope. It's been so beautiful because a lot of being human is being broken."

Then Drew and her father encouraged her to release her music.

"It sort of felt like an invitation. What if you went and were just real and honest and authentic? What if you went first and sang these songs of working out your faith for people? And I was like, 'Oh no. I do not want to do that.'"

But, again, she began to wonder, "What if?"

A Kickstarter campaign raised the necessary \$40,000 in two days to record Ellie's first solo album.

In 2014, Ellie received the GMA Dove Award for New Artist of the Year.

What Would I Do Without You

In 2016, Drew spent nine days in the hospital battling meningitis. Left exhausted by the illness and touring for a record that didn't seem to resonate with fans, Drew again thought about walking away from music. He contemplated what it would mean.

"It sucked all the creativity out of me," he says of the illness.

Songwriting became his salvation. He had only written songs with Ellie and his bandmates, but now he reached wider to other songwriting friends. In the writing, he found healing. It also resulted in the albums *Goodbye Road* with JohnnySwim and *Dragons* with the Neighbors.

"It had all ground me down," he says. "But then I was reminded what I love about this business: songwriting."

For Drew and Ellie, to be songwriters is to share their lives and to travel internally to vulnerable places where hurt and pain mingle in a soul bruise.

"I think that's the job," Drew says, referencing "Never Leave My Heart," the song about the death of his younger brother 20 years before.

But his songs also reflect reality to which listeners can identify, such as in "Family" with the taking a vacation on the credit card or "You don't choose 'em, you can't lose 'em."

Or he writes of his heart toward Ellie in "What Would I Do Without You":

"You got your sunshine, I got rain clouds

"You got hope, I got my doubts

"So, what would I do without you?"

To be vulnerable means to go first, which builds connection when others whisper, "Me too."

"I think that's a lot of times what artists do, they say, 'I'll go first. This is hard or this hurts or this confuses me or I have this longing that's not met. I'll go first,'" Ellie says. "If you're brave enough to go first, the beauty that happens in the wake of that makes the scariness of the vulnerability well worth the risk."



And then, again in a concert, the audience cheers and sings along.

“You get this beautiful reminder that it hurts to be human, but it’s really beautiful to be human with breath in your lungs, as well, and let’s breathe it out together and sing together and let our voices mingle,” she says.

In her song “Sweet Ever After,” Ellie explores the fear she felt when a tornado rocked her Nashville neighborhood and yet the hope that remains “in the wake of that disaster.”

“There’ll be a lot of blessing by a life well-lived/As you lose what don’t matter,” she sings.

In “Constellations” she tackles loneliness: “How many miles does my soul have to drive/Before love can collide with the mess in my life?” As she looks to the night sky, she finds her answer and her peace in her Christian faith:

“Pinpricks of glory strung out across the sky

“Memories of darkness undone by the light

“Reminding me You are right here by my side.”

Feels Like Home

Gathering and singing together at concerts took a pause during the first year of COVID. In response, Drew and Ellie invited fans into their kitchen via social media livestreams for Kitchen Covers.

“Drew said, ‘Songs have always been a balm to the sorrow and the chaos and confusion of being a human on this crazy, beautiful, broken world. So we’re going to sing. We’re going to sing our way through the sorrow,’” Ellie says.

At first nightly and then more sporadically, for more than 60 nights, Drew or Drew and Ellie sang songs by their friends or those they toured with such as NeedtoBreathe, Patty Griffin and Willie Nelson, and then it branched out to include other songwriters including Bob Dylan and Beyonce.

Drew mourned with a John Prine cover when the master songwriter died from COVID. Then there was the joyous, dancing-with-the-family performance of Justin Timberlake’s song “Can’t Stop the Feeling.”

“No one knew how to make sense of their lives, and it helped to escape,” Drew says. “We covered a lot of emotional ground.”

As musicians take people through the highs and lows of life, it becomes the soundtrack to listeners’ lives lived.

“We need music,” Ellie says. “Neither of us studied music, but I think we were inspired at UT by what we studied—by English major, history major, religious studies major. I think music has a way of weaving people’s stories together, and we got a really great dose of learning about stories, not only from the education we got at UT but from all the people and the stories we encountered while we were there.” **T**

Additional content available online.



Ellie and Drew Holcomb perform at the Pantages Theatre in Minneapolis.

FROM PEYTON MANNING, ANDY RODDICK, MARIANNE EAVES & CREW



— THE OFFICIAL —

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Carried in His Heart

BEAUFORD DELANEY SAFEGUARDED ART AND HOME

BY KENZIE COUCH

All images of Beauford Delaney and his art are © the Estate of Beauford Delaney by permission of Derek L. Spratley, Esquire, Court Appointed Administrator.

All art photographs by Bruce Cole

Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris)
Abstraction #12, 1963
Oil on canvas, 51 ½ x 38 ½ inches
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2018 purchase

It is often said that, no matter where you go, home is where the heart is. For Harlem Renaissance painter Beauford Delaney, now home is also where the art is.

One of the most important abstract painters of the 20th century, Delaney spent the last decades of his life in Paris, but his foundation and family began and remained in Knoxville. The University of Tennessee Libraries has purchased his personal archives to preserve his legacy by bringing this prized collection to his hometown.

“This archive could have gone to any number of places in New York, Paris or elsewhere. By keeping it here, we secure Delaney’s legacy in his hometown, where it will reside beside neighbors and friends,” UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman said. “Though the Beauford Delaney archive will reside at the UT Libraries, it does not belong to UT. It belongs to Knoxville and to the world.”

The Knoxville Museum of Art owns the largest public collection of Delaney’s art, accompanied by works from his brother, Joseph Delaney, a major painter in his own right. The Beck Cultural Exchange Center, the primary repository of African American history and culture in East Tennessee, owns the last remaining home of the Delaneys, which is being restored as a museum to the brothers and their family.

The personal archives at the UT Libraries include poems, letters—including from noted writer and activist James Baldwin, painter Georgia O’Keeffe and writer Henry Miller—brushes and even scribbled-down thoughts. So why is a box of miscellaneous items so important for the library to acquire?

“It’s a mix of things that allows you to begin to see into his mind, and that is really humanizing,” UT Libraries Senior Associate Dean Holly Mercer says.

Delaney’s legacy goes beyond the pieces of art he left behind. The museum, the cultural center and, now, the UT Libraries are dedicated to working together to commemorate this universally renowned artist. Additionally, the UT Knoxville Ewing Gallery of Art and Architecture holds a major collection of Joseph Delaney’s paintings and sketches.

“Important Delaney material is held by many institutions in Knoxville. The location of Beauford Delaney’s collection at the UT Libraries only adds to the potential for research about and artistic appreciation for Beauford and Joseph. We want to complement

**“He bears witness
in his own flesh to
what a man could
do and become
and he will one
day be recognized
as one of our
national glories.”**

—JAMES BALDWIN

Exchange Center, says, “Beauford Delaney faced many challenges and struggled finding a place where he felt he could be his true self—20th-century Knoxville was not the most welcoming place for a Black artist struggling with sexuality and mental illness.

“It was as though Beauford was searching for a place to unleash the Harlem Renaissance that was living in his heart.”

In 1953 he moved to Paris, where he felt the most accepted and spent the remainder of his life, only coming back to Knoxville a few times to visit family.

Nonetheless, Knoxville remained Delaney’s family and artistic foundation.

“Home is where the heart is,” Kesler adds. “Beauford’s heart remained here in Knoxville with his family. With this special treasure of the archives at the UT Libraries, we have now brought Beauford back home to the beginnings of his artistic foundation.”

Through the archives, which still are being processed by UT Libraries, one can sense the consistent endearment others showed Delaney in letters written to him or about him. His circle of significant friends commended him for his outlook on life amidst his hardships.

“I have never heard you bemoan your lot. I have only heard you praise and give thanks not only to the Lord above but to all your fellow-men, whether they deserved it or not,” wrote Miller regarding his friend.

“There was just something about him that was so loving and so empathetic,” Mary Campbell, UT School of Art associate professor of art history, says. “You have an artist who is both contained within so many categories that the outside world imposes on him and yet is making work that speaks to some of these categories, but also fundamentally transcends that while being on the edge of abstraction and modernism.”

Baldwin, in a letter about Delaney, talks about the artist’s struggles and goes on to say how extraordinary it is that he still managed to become a great man and an even better artist.

and support the other local institutions with rich Delaney collections. Working together, we can shift the locus of Delaney studies from Paris or New York to Knoxville,” UT Libraries Dean Steve Smith says.

Born in 1901, Delaney lived in Knoxville until he moved to Boston at 23. From there, Delaney moved to New York, where he immersed himself in the burgeoning Harlem Renaissance.

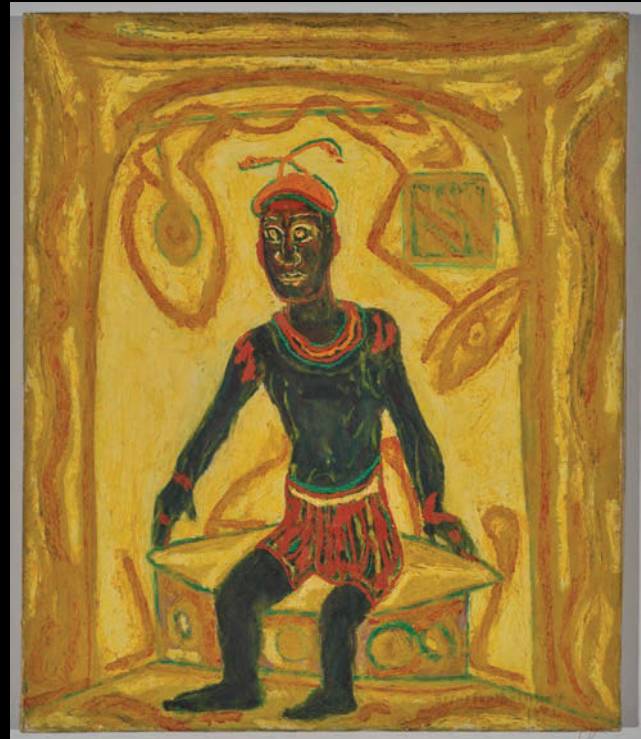
The Rev. René Kesler, president of the Beck Cultural



*James Baldwin, left, and Beauford Delaney, Paris, circa 1960
Gelatin silver print, 4 ½ x 3 ⅜ inches
Beauford Delaney Archive, University of Tennessee Library
Special Collections*



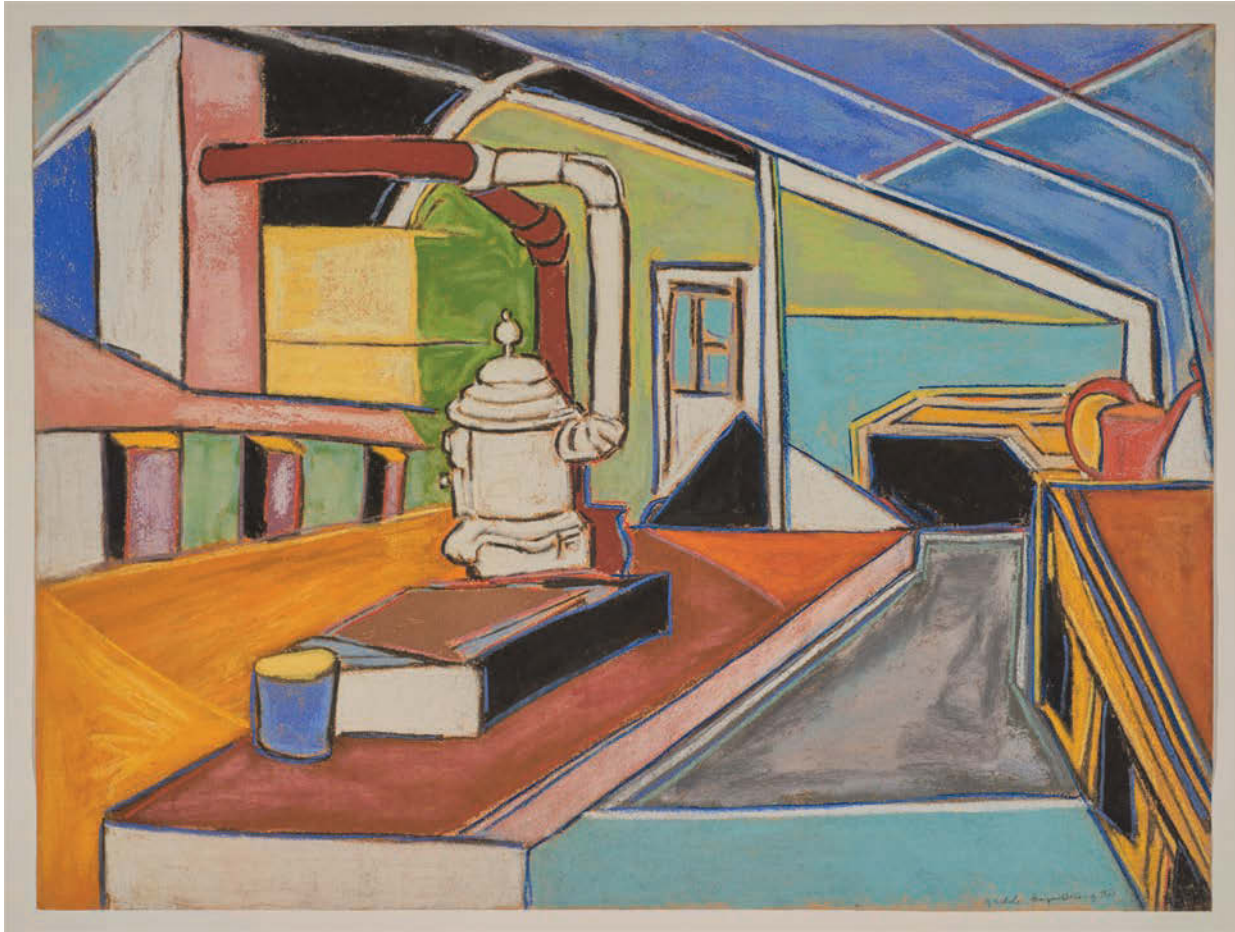
Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris)
Portrait of James Baldwin, 1944
Pastel on paper, 24 x 18 ¾ inches
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2017 purchase with funds provided by the
Rachael Patterson Young Art Acquisition Reserve



Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris)
Self-Portrait in a Paris Bath House, 1971
Oil on canvas, 21 ¾ x 18 inches, 23 ½ x 20 inches framed
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2018 Delaney Acquisition



Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris)
Untitled (New York City), circa 1945
Watercolor on paper
15 ½ x 22 ½ inches



Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris)

Yaddo, 1950

Pastel on paper, 18 x 24 inches

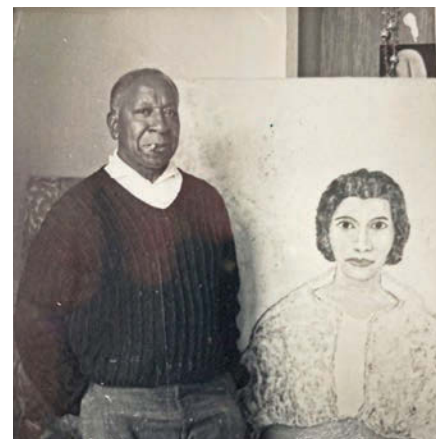
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2017 purchase with funds provided by the Rachael Patterson Young Art Acquisition Reserve

“He bears witness in his own flesh to what a man could do and become and he will one day be recognized as one of our national glories,” wrote Baldwin.

David Butler, director of the Knoxville Museum of Art, says that the archives add more of a personal connection to the museum’s collection and will open the door for further research and study.

“We’re so glad that the papers will stay in Knoxville because we have our collection, we have the Delaney Museum at Beck and the papers at UT, which is like the third leg of the stool, and we’re all in close communication with one another,” says Butler.

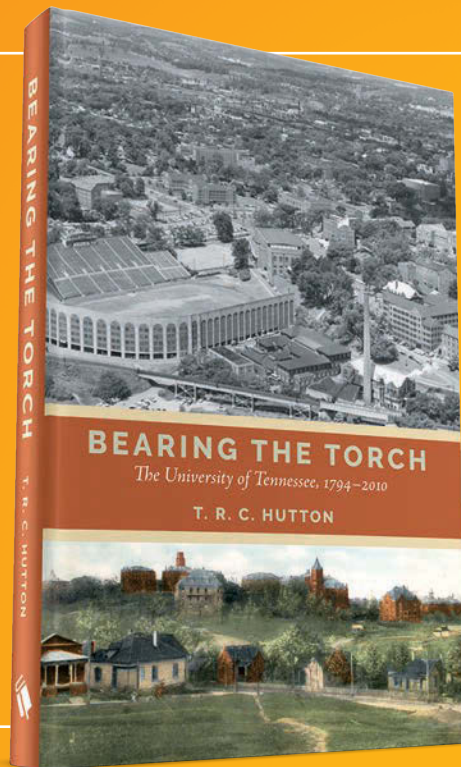
Once the archivists finish cleaning and preserving the collection, it should become available to researchers in 2023. They will use Delaney’s letters and those he received from family and friends to paint their own piece of art, filling in the image of the painter who carried his art and his home within his heart. ①



Beauford Delaney

UT LIBRARIES COLLECTION

HOME SWEET HOME

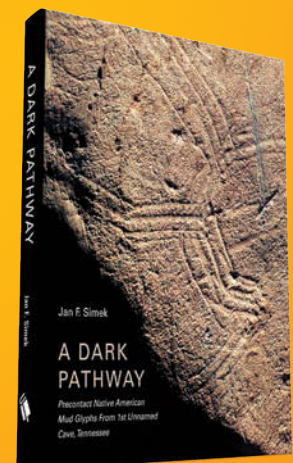
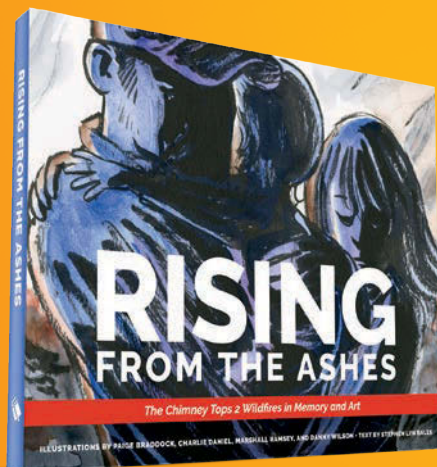


BEARING THE TORCH

The University of Tennessee, 1794-2010

Bearing the Torch stands as a comprehensive history of the University of Tennessee, replete with anecdotes and vignettes of interest to any UT fan, from the administrators and chancellors to students and alums, and even to the Vols fans whose familiarity with the school comes mainly from the sports page. It is also a biography of a school whose history reflects that of its state and its nation.

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A Musical Revolution

Alumna Uses Music to Change Health Care

BY SHAWN RYAN | PHOTOS BY ANGELA FOSTER



Martha Summa-Chadwick

Martha Summa-Chadwick calls it her “hair-on-the-back-of-the-neck moment.”

A pianist by profession and music therapist by passion, she was working with an autistic 4-year-old girl who had never spoken. The work was agonizingly slow at first.

After discovering that the girl was fascinated with computers, Summa-Chadwick—who has spent most of her paycheck-earning career as a computer specialist—turned to a software program with lessons on how to read music.

“It took a while but, when it took, it took off all of a sudden. She *got it*,” recalls Summa-Chadwick, who was teaching piano at UT Chattanooga at the time. “We plugged in the keyboard, and she started playing right away.

“And then she started *singing*.”

Such enormous breakthroughs are not the everyday results of music therapy. Mostly they’re incremental steps that lead to small successes that build upon each other. Since starting in the early 2000s, Summa-Chadwick has used music therapy to help those suffering not only from the mental and emotional effects of autism but also the physical effects of Parkinson’s disease, cerebral palsy and strokes.

It has not been an easy path to walk, she says. Not everyone—including some doctors—believes music therapy is beneficial or even works at all.

“Over 20 years of advocacy, there have been many times when I’ve said, ‘I’m done. I’m not doing this. I’m tired of getting doors slammed in my face. I’m tired of people walking away and saying, ‘No, this isn’t worth it.’ Then the next day I stand up and say, ‘It’s too important.’

“I truly, truly believe that music can revolutionize health care and education if we would only go there, and I have to carry that message.”

Neurological studies have shown that music therapy works, but the word isn’t getting out enough, she says.

“There’s gobs of neurosciences up there. It’s staying up there in neuroscience land. It’s not filtering down. That’s where the groundswell coming up from public opinion needs to happen.”

Jumpstarting public opinion is one of the biggest hurdles, though. They may hear the phrase, but most people often don’t know what music therapy actually is, says Summa-Chadwick, who earned a master’s degree in music in 1996 from UTC.

“The person on the street thinks that the musician playing over in the hospital is doing music therapy,” she says.

She’s doing her part to spread the word through such avenues as Ted Talks presentations, educational videos and published articles. She was chosen as a 2022 Honored Artist of the American Prize, a national nonprofit that describes itself as the nation’s most comprehensive series of contests in the classical arts. The Honored Arts award goes to individuals and ensembles that have shown outstanding creative or intellectual achievements. In Summa-Chadwick’s case, the award is for her advocacy of music as medicine.

Since 2013, she also has hosted the Power of Music concerts, annual performances that—along with a range of music that stretches across classical, jazz, blues, opera and pop, among others—feature panel discussions on the therapeutic outcomes of music therapy. The concerts are presented by Music Therapy Gateway in Communications, a nonprofit founded in 2013 by Summa-Chadwick, who remains its executive director.

Music therapy can work on multiple levels and improve multiple issues, she says, by increasing the brain’s plasticity, the condition of creating new neural pathways when others are damaged.

Walking, for instance, can be a serious issue for those with brain disfunction. Music can help alleviate some of those problems, Summa-Chadwick says.

The number of steps a person takes usually corresponds to the number of heartbeats per minute, she explains, so improvement means increasing or decreasing the music's tempo to match the steps.

Brain damage caused by a stroke may mean a walking tempo of 60 beats per minute, almost slow motion. People with Parkinson's take a lot of short steps to offset balance issues. Children on the autism spectrum walk in a "kinetic stutter," she says.

"After a person has a stroke, you want to gradually bring them up so they're walking faster. A person with Parkinson's, who's walking a lot, you want to slow that down, let them take longer steps.

"With the children with autism, a lot of times the goal is just to get the gait stronger, specifically, walking on the beat."

It may seem obvious, but a key factor in music therapy is finding the right type of music, whether it's rock, jazz, classical,

whatever, she says. For the best results, the music must have a personal relevance to the person. As an example, an older person with dementia may like the Beatles or Frank Sinatra, she says.

"Research shows that the music they're going to prefer is what was happening in their formative years of high school or college," she says.

On the other side of the age range, one of her young patients loved "Happy Birthday to You," so she started therapy with it.

Things get tough if the patient is nonverbal.

"If they can't communicate it, then it's a best guess," she says.

Sometimes those guesses don't hit the right note.

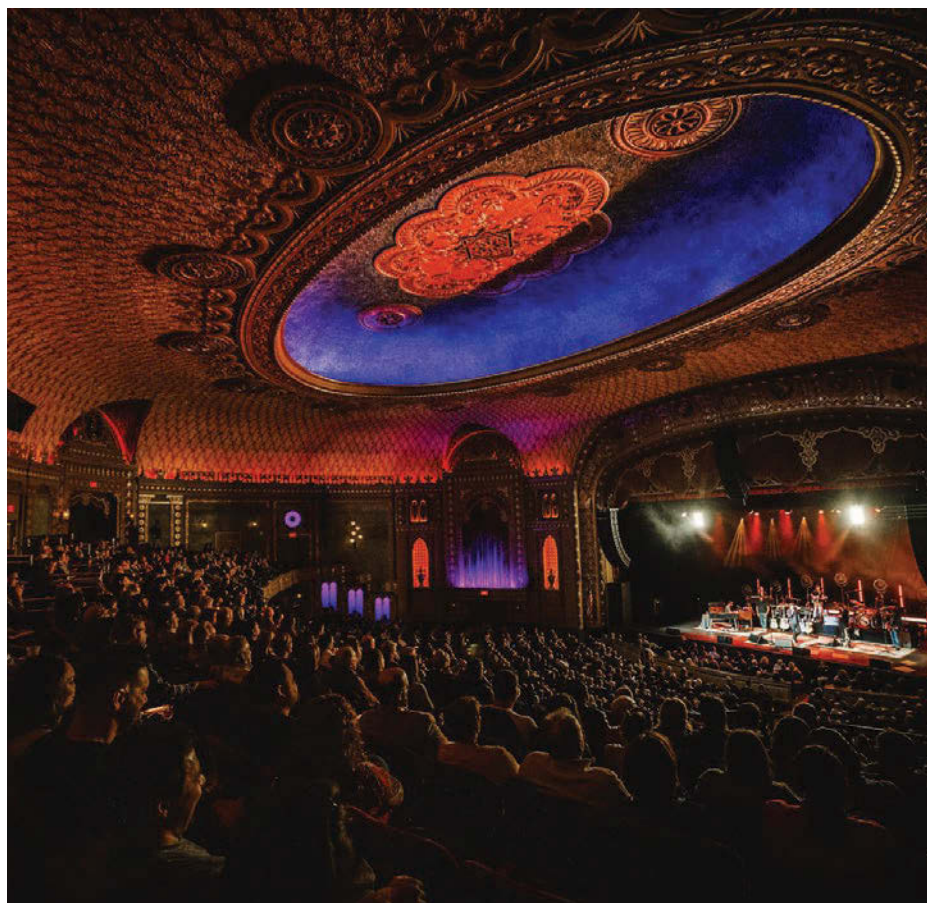
"I remember there was a 5-year-old I was working with, and I

thought every kid wanted 'Wheels on the Bus,' so I played 'Wheels on the Bus.'

"He did really well for a while and then gradually he wasn't doing as well. His mother said, 'Would you play some Beethoven? He hates 'Wheels on the Bus.'"



Martha Summa-Chadwick performs on the piano.



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*"If ye have whispered truth,
I speak as the tempest does,*

Whispering Truth



HILL PRODUCES MUSICAL ON FREDERICK DOUGLASS

BY RACHEL WEDDING MCCLELLAND | PHOTOS BY MARGOT SCHULMAN AND CAMERON WHITMAN

A two-time graduate of the University of Tennessee, Reggie Hill (Martin '77, College of Law '80) has taken on an unexpected role since his retirement from his work as a health-care attorney.

Hill served as a senior vice president and chief compliance and policy officer with Lifepoint Health prior to his retirement two years ago. His responsibilities included oversight of the ethics and compliance program, and he worked on health-care policy issues for more than 80 hospitals in 30 states. Hill also was a partner with a Nashville law firm for more than 30 years, where he headed the health-care industry group. He also served on the board and in other management roles for 20 years.

So finding him in the wings of the stage of a theatrical production in Washington, D.C., this summer might have seemed like an unexpected turn. But, in reality, his role as producer of *American Prophet: Frederick Douglass In His Own Words* has been many years in the making.

Hill first met Marcus Hummon more than 20 years ago through Hummon's wife. Hummon was a Nashville-based songwriter and producer who aspired to see his music performed on theatrical stages. After attending a performance of Hummon's first show, the two men met and began talking about their shared interests. Soon after, they became theater partners.

"I've always enjoyed music and theater," says Hill, who has served on the boards of

Left, Cornelius Smith Jr. (Frederick Douglass) in American Prophet, which ran July 15-Aug. 28 at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater in Washington, D.C. PHOTO BY MARGOT SCHULMAN

*whisper no longer.
sterner and stronger."* —FREDERICK DOUGLASS

several arts organizations throughout the years because of his love for artistic creativity and the messages that can be told through artistic expression. “When I met somebody I liked who needed a partner, I was really just interested in the opportunity to work with someone who is talented to see if we could develop shows.”

Through the years, Hummon wrote shows that had limited runs and were well-received at the New York Music and Theater Festival but “didn’t get the legs they needed to go to regional theaters or off-Broadway,” Hill says.

That changed in 2015 after Hummon began researching and writing about the life of Frederick Douglass who, after escaping

from slavery in Maryland, became a national leader of the abolitionist movement. Douglass, famous for his eloquent autobiographical antislavery writing, became a counterexample to arguments that slaves lacked the capacity to function as independent American citizens.

“At first the show was a choral piece performed at a church,” Hill says. “We started talking about making it into more of a musical theater piece, and it turned out to be the right thing to do.”

With many of the songs and a version of the book already written, Hummon began a collaboration with New York-based theater director and playwright Charles Randolph-Wright, and together they further developed the show *American Prophet: Frederick Douglass In His Own Words*. It chronicles the life of Douglass as a human-rights leader, author, orator and statesman. After setbacks related to the COVID pandemic, the play had its first preview run at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., July 15 through Aug. 28.

With favorable reviews from the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Guardian*, the *Washington Informer* and *Broadway World* and phrases like a “mesmerizing” and “majestic ... tour de force,” Hill is thrilled to see where the play might go next.

In discussions with the cast prior to the Arena Stage opening, Randolph-Wright, who also served as the play’s director, told the group that the play attempts to encapsulate the “bad-ass period” of Douglass’s life when he became an active campaigner and sought-after speaker advocating for abolition and the rights of freed slaves.

“What Frederick Douglass went through and who he became is the inspiration for all of us, no matter what age we are, no matter what color we are,” he says.

Hummon and Randolph-Wright wrote the lines of the play by examining the words of



Reggie Hill PHOTO BY CAMERON WHITMAN



Cornelius Smith Jr. (Frederick Douglass) and the cast of *American Prophet* at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. PHOTO BY MARGOT SCHULMAN

“mesmerizing”

“magestic...tour de force”







Kenneth B. Morris, Jr. (American Prophet Douglass family consultant and great-great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass and Anna Murray Douglass), Nettie Washington Douglass (great-great granddaughter of Frederick Douglass and Anna Murray Douglass), Charles Randolph-Wright (American Prophet co-writer and director), Marcus Hummon (American Prophet co-writer, composer and lyricist), and Reggie Hill (American Prophet producer) at the opening night of American Prophet at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO BY CAMERON WHITMAN

Douglass through books, speeches and letters to discover the love he had for his wife, Anna, and the journey their lives took together.

"This really deals with him when he was trying to figure out how to be a prophet," Wright says. "How do you do that? How does someone who has been given this moniker, how do you take that on?"

Cornelius Smith Jr., best known for portraying Marcus Walker on the TV series *Scandal* and Frankie Hubbard in the soap opera *All My Children*, performed the title role following Douglass through his 30s and 40s.

"Ninety percent of the words that I speak as Frederick Douglass in this production are his actual words," Smith says in a video message produced by Arena Stage. "That's crazy to think about because, when you hear some of

these speeches and some of these things that he said, you automatically realize how relevant they are today."

"The point of the show is to say, 'Hey, let's wake up,'" Smith says. "Let's get active."

The relevance of Douglass's words helped inspire Hummon, Hill and Randolph-Wright to take their journey with the show.

One of the lines is, "If ye have whispered truth, whisper no longer. Speak as the tempest does, sterner and stronger," Wright says, and that should inspire all to remember, "We have to do all that we do out loud."

Hill agrees.

"This show is one for which we really do have an opportunity to present a very powerful story," Hill says. "The message Frederick Douglass advocated is still relevant and resonates today." **T**

Cornelius Smith Jr. (Frederick Douglass), left, Chris Roberts (John Brown), and the cast of American Prophet at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. PHOTO BY MARGOT SCHULMAN



From Tunes to Letters

How the Tennessee Language Center Uses Art to Teach

BY SUSAN ROBERTSON | COURTESY PHOTOS

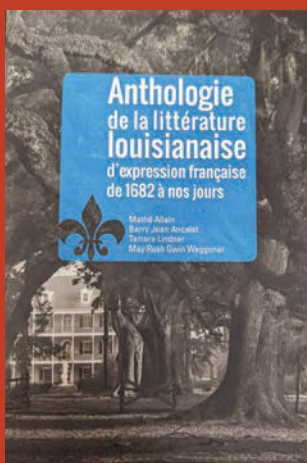
It's not unusual to hear the strains of guitar music coming from a classroom at the Tennessee Language Center (TLC) during a Spanish class. That's because Spanish Instructor Maya Campbell incorporates music into her classes, especially at the beginning level.

"I go with popular songs that students are likely to have heard and the lyrics echo in their minds; now they just put meaning to it. It is a natural process," Campbell says. "The lyrics can reinforce vocabulary and grammar. For example, when they are learning 'I am' and 'I am not,' 'La Bamba' is the perfect song. 'Yo no soy marinero. Soy capitán.'" The English translation—I'm not a sailor, I'm a captain.

Campbell said her students love when they finally understand the meaning of popular tunes.

The language center, which became a part of the UT Institute for Public Service in 2018, offers world language programs, language training, English classes, and interpretation and translation. Language training and English classes use music, film and other forms of art to help students learn.

"Language learning is much more than developing linguistic competence (e.g., vocabulary and grammar) through art, be it textual or visual. You are having the opportunity to access another perspective



*Top: Maya Campbell, Spanish instructor
Middle: Japanese language students practice writing characters in calligraphy.
Bottom: Collection of Louisiana French literature*

through another language, and this leads to intercultural competence and communication,” says C. Brian Barnett, director of world languages at TLC.

Several months ago, Barnett taught an advanced French class on Francophone Louisiana. He used the play *Mille Misères* to show students an example of how Louisiana French vocabulary looked and sounded. Students read the play and watched a taped performance of it. In addition to exposing students to the language, the play examines the cultural conflict in Louisiana with keeping a French identity, language and traditions.

“I chose this play because its themes are relevant in understanding the French culture past and present in Louisiana,” Barnett says.

Another form of art that shows up in TLC’s Japanese classes is calligraphy. Calligraphy means the art of producing decorative handwriting or lettering, and in Japan it is known as shosha, which means character learning. The main obstacle in learning Japanese is the characters. Japanese is a language that uses a wide

variety of character types, including hiragana, katakana and kanji, so learners of Japanese face this difficulty in the early stages. Calligraphy is an effective way to learn Japanese characters, which is the basis of Japanese language study.

“The requirement for my class is to have completed Japanese Survivor 1 (beginner level). This is the A1 level where students learn about the history and usage of the characters used in the Japanese language, read and write hiragana, read and write katakana, and have learned a limited number of kanji,” Tomi Kawamura, instructor, says. “While this minimum requirement is an ideal level to start learning calligraphy, learning calligraphy at any stage from intermediate to advanced can make a significant contribution to one’s Japanese proficiency.”

Kawamura said many students comment that they didn’t realize how difficult it is to write just one stroke of a character, but they also express satisfaction with how it has helped them learn the language as well as the art of calligraphy. ①

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Eli Norrod plays with the alphabet wheels at Plateau Discovery Gardens in Crossville.



A bloom with Art

UT Gardens Feature Artistic Creations that Inspire, Teach

BY AMY BLAKELY | PHOTOS COURTESY UTIA

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER
HENRY DAVID THOREAU WROTE

"It is the marriage of the soul with nature that makes the intellect fruitful, and gives birth to the imagination."

It's that sentiment that makes the UT Gardens such fertile ground for artwork that inspires learning, contemplation and happiness.

The four UT Gardens—the UT Gardens on the Knoxville campus, the UT Gatop Arboretum and Education Center in East Knoxville, the Plateau Discovery Gardens at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center in Crossville, and the UT Gardens at the West Tennessee AgResearch Center in Jackson—are collectively designated as the State Botanical Garden of Tennessee. Here's a look at a notable piece of artwork that graces each garden:

Plateau Discovery Gardens, Crossville: KinderGarden

The Cumberland County Master Gardeners are the nature artists who built and help maintain the UT's Plateau Discovery Gardens. One of the group's creative masterpieces is the KinderGarden, an area designed for visitors ages 3 to 7.



KinderGarden in Crossville

In the KinderGarden, children can spin brightly painted alphabet wheels; they can work a mural puzzle, matching critters with their tracks; and they can open doors on another mural to see animals that live in and under a tree. There is a water play station with a hydraulic pump and a learning cottage stocked with wooden building blocks, magnifying glasses, musical instruments, games, books and more.

The KinderGarden opened in 2015. It received a Search for Excellence Award in the Youth Category from the Tennessee Master Gardener Association in 2016 and was recognized as a certified Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom in 2018.

“To have a space like that to make the gardens fun and educational for the kids is huge,” says Shalena Durkot, coordinator for the gardens at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, off Highway 70.

The Plateau Discovery Gardens were started by Master Gardeners in 2005. The gardens now feature 31 exhibits, including a rain garden, an herb garden and human sundial, and a butterfly garden.

UT Gardens, Knoxville: *Two Arcs*

Nestled in the shadows of four giant oak trees in the UT Gardens, Knoxville, *Two Arcs* looks right at home.

The gardens’ newest permanent artwork, *Two Arcs*, is a 10-foot-by-10-foot-by-8-foot wooden sculpture created by Arizona physician-turned-artist Matt Baral. It came to UT Gardens in 2021 as part of the Dogwood Arts’ Art in Public Places program. In June, UT Gardens Interim Director James Newburn appealed to supporters to help purchase the much-loved piece for \$3,800 so it could stay.

“This organic, redwood sculpture is interpreted by viewers in so many ways,” Newburn says. “Some people see in the sculpture the peaks of our beloved Smoky Mountains or the wings of the butterflies in the nearby Monarch Waystation. Some think in more abstract terms and feel the joints of the piece represent the myriad directions life’s journey can take.”

The story of *Two Arcs* is as special as the piece itself.

After 21 years as a naturopathic pediatrician, Baral retired his medical license and enrolled in the MFA program at Arizona State University. He continues to teach medical students, and his love of art and nature meld with his love of medicine.

Baral says his wood sculptures feature repetitive forms “much like we see things built in the natural world.”

Two Arcs was commissioned by Arizona State University’s School of Law for a special event. After its six-month display, it was chosen for the Dogwood Arts exhibit.

Baral transported the pieces of sculpture to Knoxville on a trailer. He and Newburn assembled it.

“It’s the most harmonious location for my work to date,” Baral says. “You build something that speaks to you with hopes that other people can understand, too.”

UT GATOP Arboretum and Education Center: *Graft Knoxville*

Graft Knoxville is the first sculpture at UT GATOP Arboretum and Education Center, a stretch of wooded hills in East Knoxville and the newest addition to the State Botanical Garden.

Graft Knoxville was designed by noted Puerto Rican artist Edra Soto, who lives in Chicago. The project was curated and managed by Tri-Star Arts, a nonprofit program that promotes public art in Tennessee.

The sculpture “is about migration,” Soto says. “The project allowed me to speak about my condition (as an immigrant).”

Graft Knoxville sits in an area strewn with enormous chunks of marble left from the old Morrow’s Quarry. Benches carved



Edra Soto



Artist Matt Baral with his dog and sculpture Two Arcs.



Graft Knoxville



Bottle Wall

from one of the 19th-century abandoned blocks of marble are set into three 10-foot-tall interlocking steel frames with geometric designs reminiscent of window bars common in Puerto Rico.

It is “a perfect reflection of Edra’s Puerto Rican heritage, and it fits the site perfectly,” says Andy Pulte, distinguished lecturer and executive director of UT GATOP.

Using Soto’s blueprints, UT Knoxville students, staff and faculty helped build the sculpture. The project partners included Dr. Alan Solomon, Johnson & Galyon Construction, Mallia Engineering Co., Sanders Pace Architecture, Tennessee Marble Co., UT Fab Lab and UT’s Department of Plant Sciences, School of Art and the sculpture program

Soto, who attended the public unveiling in May, says she believes *Graft Knoxville* creates “a nice conversation with the nature surrounding the structure.”

UT GATOP is currently only open to the public for special events.

UT Gardens, Jackson: *Bottle Wall*



Jason Reeves

The colorful bottle wall may be the perfect symbol of the ingenuity and collaborative efforts that make UT Gardens, Jackson, so special.

“It’s the most noted and noticeable” piece of garden art, says Jason Reeves, a research horticulturist who has spent nearly 20 years as curator

of the gardens on the grounds of the UT West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center (WTREC).

Reeves built the wall in 2014 after helping some friends construct a small bottle wall in their yard. Their inspiration came from a Facebook photo.

The result was so awesome that Reeves knew he wanted to build a larger version for the gardens.

Always a collector, Reeves has made nearly all of the gardens’ art by repurposing items, including bed springs, barbed wire, used mailboxes, old cookstoves and neckties. His mission is to keep expenses down while creating pieces that generate a buzz and bring visitors to the gardens. He shares his passion for recycling in a presentation called “Trash to Treasure,” which he’s given more than 40 times—at national associations, professional conferences, garden clubs and Extension meetings from Maryland to Mobile, Alabama.

The *Bottle Wall* is 44-feet long, 12-feet tall and contains 1,000 wine bottles. WTREC staff built the frame from parking-lot lamp posts felled by a tornado. The Madison County Master Gardeners spent countless hours washing donated wine bottles, and student workers helped string and hang the bottles.

Reeves said the wall cost only about \$500. The only purchased materials were stainless steel cable, drill bits for making holes in the bottles, crimping supplies to tighten and secure the cables, and about 100 tough-to-find blue bottles that cost \$1.50 each.

Unfortunately, the wall was damaged in the March tornado; repairs will be made this winter when things are slower in the gardens. **T**

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Dental Faculty Take the Stage as The Dentones

ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN A SPACIOUS GARAGE FILLED WITH INSTRUMENTS AND SOUND EQUIPMENT, THE BAND LAUNCHES INTO “JUMPIN’ JACK FLASH.” THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TOGETHER IN A FEW MONTHS, BUT THEY ARE IN SYNC AND, AS THE SONG SAYS, “IT’S ALL RIGHT NOW.”

This band is the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s answer to The Rolling Stones, with a twist. It is made up of faculty members from the College of Dentistry, plus a few colleagues.

The Dentones came together in the summer of 2016 in response to an invitation to play at a dental fraternity charity fundraiser. They’ve stayed together because they’re having a blast.

“It’s great,” says James Ragain, dean of the College of Dentistry, who plays electric bass guitar and sings. He’s the guy in the black Beatles wig. “We have this Dentone persona, which is totally different than our day jobs. You get to go up there and act a little bit, dress up and just kind of let yourself go.”

In addition to Ragain, the roster includes: Tim Lanier, UTHSC director of regional development, lead

singer and electric guitar; Mark Anderson, chair of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and Oral Medicine, lead guitar; Vernon Pennington, assistant professor and group leader in the Department of General Dentistry, keyboards; Kyle Fagala, part-time faculty and an orthodontist in private practice, drummer; Ron Staples, assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, trumpet; and Darryl Jones, an assistant professor in the Department of General Dentistry, saxophone.

Ragain, Lanier, Anderson and Pennington are original members of the band. At times students have sat in on the drums—until graduation, that is. Adam Gaines, design manager for the UTHSC Office of Communications and Marketing, also subs in on drums when needed.

THE *Dentones*

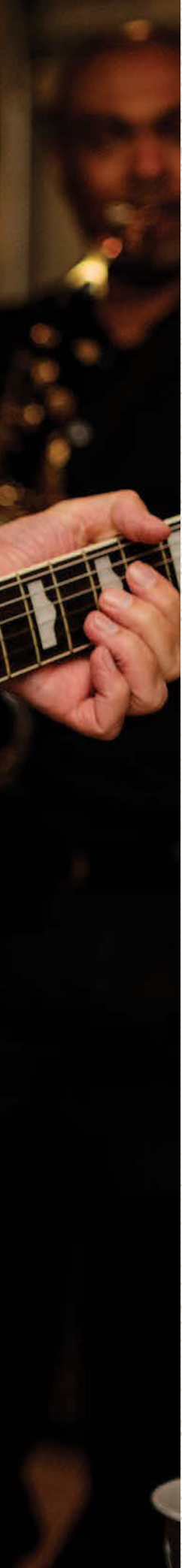


*Left to right: Darryl Jones, James Ragain, Ron Staples (seated),
Mark Anderson, Vernon Pennington, Kyle Fagala, Tim Lanier (seated right front)*



*Top to bottom: James Ragain,
Darryl Jones, Mark Anderson,
Tim Lanier*





Three decades separate the members. The oldest are in their late 60s. The youngest is in his late 30s. But, when they're jamming, the differences disappear.

"It's an interesting generational thing," Ragain says. "We all feel really pumped and enjoy it. And it puts us in like a different place. You know, we can step out of our comfort zones from our day jobs and do something that we all have a strong passion for."

Rock and rollers, The Dentones cover songs from the Beatles, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Led Zeppelin, The Yardbirds—'60s and '70s hits—some of which the students they play for might not even recognize. But, no worries, it takes only a few minutes to break the ice before the audience is on their feet.

On this Sunday, they cycled through the Rolling Stones to Van Morrison's "Gloria" and on to the Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night", with a bit of Johnny Rivers' "Secret Agent Man" in between. The beat was strong, the sound loud and the enjoyment palpable.

This band is not without a music pedigree. Anderson is an accomplished blues guitarist. Staples and Jones are members of the Memphis Wind Symphony, where the sound is a different kind of classic music.

Jones is proud that music, his first passion, provided him with scholarships that financed his education.

"It's a different genre of music and allows me to have fun with it," he says.

"They invited us to play with the band (The Dentones), and it's been a barrel of monkeys ever since," Staples says.

Ragain played in rock-and-roll bands in high school and during his military service. All have been involved in music one way or another throughout their lives, though for most, real life and dentistry pushed it to the back burner.

"There are quite a few dentists who do play instruments or have played instruments in the past," Ragain says. "What happens is, they spend so much time in school, and they get busy doing their practice, and they kind of leave it behind. But I know several faculty members here who play in orchestras. We could probably put a mega-

band together if we wanted to."

The original members of this band had talked individually from time to time about playing together, but it wasn't until that student fundraiser that the group coalesced.

They met for the first time in the music room at Ragain's house. Each proposed some songs, and they got to work.

That first student fundraiser held at Young Avenue Deli in Memphis was a big success.

"They said, 'You can come back anytime,'" Ragain says. And they have played the student event several times since.

They did a few gigs a year, including the annual Slagle Dental meeting, until the pandemic put a halt to practices and performing.

"We did not get together for 15 months," Ragain says. "When we first felt safe to come back, we played our first song and were ready to go; all the old songs came right back."

Still, finding time to practice isn't easy with busy work schedules.

"We pick our song list, and then we independently, on our own time, work out our parts so that when we come together it's basically stopping, starting, timing, figuring out harmonies and things like that. So we try to maximize what time we do have to practice. And then, as we get closer to a gig, then we try to get more practices in."

This year, they have four or five appearances on the books, including the NightinGala for the College of Nursing last spring and the UTHSC Employee Appreciation Day and Golden Graduate Homecoming at The Peabody hotel in the fall.

Even as their bookings increase, The Dentones are not focused on making it big. They march to a different drummer.

"Plain and simple, it is just a lot of fun to be a part of The Dentones," Lanier says. "Whether we are rehearsing or performing, we have a great time." **T**

*"Whether we
are rehearsing
or performing,
we have a
great time."*

—TIM LANIER

Like Magic

Author Crafts Historical Fiction for Young Adults

BY KYLA YOUNG | PHOTO BY DUSTIN KRAMER

“I loved books as a child because, in them, anything could happen, and the idea of being a person who could create anything out of nothing at all felt very much like magic,” says writer Jessica Miller, when discussing her lifelong passion for her craft.

A young child with a creative mind, Miller knew before she could even read that she wanted to be a writer—she wanted to tell stories to others just as her parents told stories to her.

An alumna of UT Southern (UTS) and UT Chattanooga (UTC) and an adjunct instructor of English at both institutions, Miller was a Barton Honors Scholar on campus during her undergraduate career, as well as president and vice president of multiple clubs, including drama club, Sigma Tau Delta and Gamma Beta Phi. She did all this while working for the Student Resource Center and summer youth programs. At graduation, she received the prestigious President’s Award, given to the graduate with the highest grade-point average.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts in English in 2009, Miller moved to Japan with her now-husband Dustin, having fallen in love with the country after spending a holiday in a friend’s hometown.

“For five years, we lived as expatriates in a big, old Japanese house with straw mats on the floor, sliding paper

doors and a quaint little garden. The only reason we could afford it is because locals thought it was haunted,” Miller says.

After teaching English as a second language for several years in Japan, Miller became a kindergarten teacher there

at an international elementary school, where the idea for her first novel came to light. Having become friends with her new coworkers from Romania, Miller decided to write a fantasy novel set in Eastern Europe and inspired by Romanian folklore and fairy tales; however, when talking with one friend for research, Miller heard the friend’s story as a young girl living in Communist Romania.

“I realized very quickly that I had a different novel to write,” she says.

Miller’s first published young adult novel, *The Story That Cannot Be Told*, penned under the name J. Kasper Kramer, is historical fiction set in Communist Romania right before the Revolution of 1989, but it also is heavily influenced by

Romanian fairy tales and folklore.

Originally written for her master’s thesis at UT Chattanooga, Miller’s debut novel, published by Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, was released in the fall of 2019



Jessica Miller

and has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Book Page*, *Writer's Digest*, *The Rumpus* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*.


In the fall of 2021, working again with Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, Miller published her second historical fiction young-adult novel, *The List of Unspeakable Fears*, set in 1910 New York City on North Brother Island—a quarantine island for the “incurable sick” of the city at that time. While her second novel includes many real historical figures and events, such as Typhoid Mary and the sinking of the General Slocum, it is also a ghost story, as Miller enjoys subtly blurring the lines between fact and fiction.

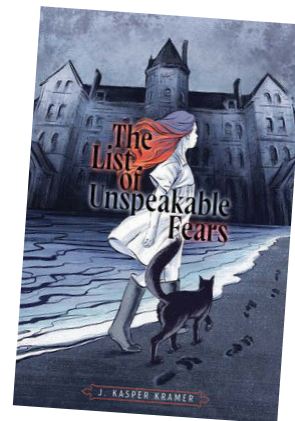
Since its release, her second novel has been recognized as a 2022 Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts and a 2022 Notable Social Studies Trade Book. It is a finalist for Surrey Schools' Book of the Year and will be voted on by thousands of students in British Columbia over the next school year.

With her husband, she talks through plot holes and bounces around new ideas. She is currently working on two books while balancing writing, teaching and fostering

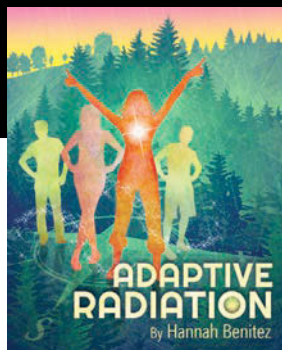
neonatal orphaned kittens for local animal shelters.

“Before my first novel was published—and even afterward—I frequently said that none of it felt real,” Miller says. “Every time an article or blog or podcast mentioned my book, I pinched myself to remember that I wrote this novel—that I was the author they were talking about.”

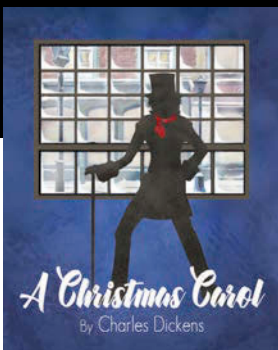
“When I peek into a bookstore in an unfamiliar city and spot one of my covers, my heart skips a beat,” she adds. “Fan mail, especially from young readers, makes my whole world come to a standstill: In those moments, I remember staring longingly at the spot on the bookstore shelf where my last name would fit or I remember writing to my own favorite authors. I've dreamed of doing exactly this my whole life—writing and teaching people about writing—and I sincerely could not be happier.” 



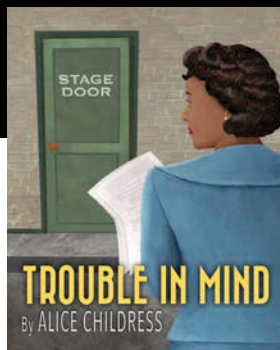
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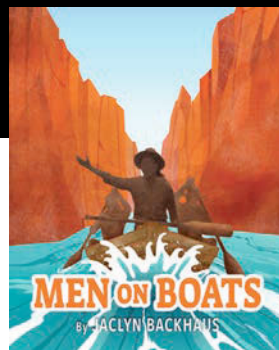
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Expressions of art on UT campuses



MAKING *Beautiful* MUSIC

*Alumni Cherish Band
Memories, Give Back Now*

BY AMY BLAKELY | COURTESY PHOTOS

Back in 2015, when she was a majorette with the Pride of the Southland at UT Knoxville, Kari Summers noticed Drum Major Andrew Vogel directing the band from atop a ladder at an open rehearsal.

She was smitten.

The two started dating that fall, “and the rest is history,” she says.

Kari (Knoxville '17) and Andrew (Knoxville '16, '19) married in 2021.

If music is art, then band is a mural painted by a family of artists. From Knoxville to Chattanooga to Martin, band alumni share a collage of memories: camaraderie that developed during long, hot days at marching band camp; the thrill of performing concerts and football half-time shows; lifelong friendships and



Andrew and Kari Vogel then and now

relationships; and a rigorous schedule that instilled a score of life lessons.

“A lot of the things I learned through band carry on,” says Andrew, who works at an advanced materials company in Knoxville. “I try to be focused and disciplined in everything I do.”

Kari helps run her family’s business, the Whimsy Cookie Company, in Knoxville and still operates on “majorette time,” which means, “If you’re not 15 minutes early, you’re late.”

The Vogels—both of whom received scholarships for participating in the Pride of the Southland and serving as head majorette and drum major—now donate Gatorade for band members at every home game. Andrew also serves on the Alumni Band Council.

“We’re just always willing to give back because so many people gave to us,” Kari said.

UT Chattanooga band alumnus Terry Major (Chattanooga ’78, UTHSC ’82), a retired dentist, continues to play trumpet in two Chattanooga-area bands—the Midsouth Symphonic Band and the Monday Night Big Band.

Being in the band took him to a National Championship basketball game. Having a band



Molly and Chris Epperson



Molly Epperson

scholarship and, later, a work-study job as the band librarian, helped him pay for school.

“And I’ve got lifetime friends from music,” he says. “Playing with a group is energizing, it feeds the soul ... it just helps you as a human being.”

Molly Epperson (Chattanooga ’05), who played flute in the UTC concert band and the Marching Mocs and also served as drum major her senior year, has been the band director at East Hamilton High School in Ooltewah since it opened in 2009.

“It’s a lot of hard work, but it’s very fulfilling,” she says. “It is so much fun to be around really great kids that love what they do and love each other.”

Epperson saw some band members’ interest wane during the pandemic, even though she tried to fill



Terry Major

the void with Zoom rehearsals. As soon as in-person classes resumed, she designed a football half-time show that allowed her students to perform while still adhering to social-distancing standards.

Being together, after all, is what creates the magic: “Band has been everything to me my whole life,” she says.

“That’s where my best friends are. I met my husband (Chris Epperson, trombone) in band. I’ve had some amazing experiences.”

Katherine Sam (Martin ’15) Josh Gatlin (Martin ’12) and Ed Sargent (Martin ’82) also have made careers in music after performing with UT Martin’s band.

After working as a music educator for several years, Sam, who plays most instruments but focuses on percussion, is now the operations assistant for the Memphis Youth Symphony program. She also coaches young percussionists.

A vocal music major, Gatlin played the saxophone in the concert band and tuba in the Aviators Marching Band. He spent seven years teaching music and directing school bands. He’s now director of music and media at First United Methodist Church in Lexington, Tennessee.

“Being in the band taught me perseverance, determination, a sense of community. And just general life skills—punctuality, working with a team, failure and being able to recover from failure,” he says.

It also helped him meet his wife, Lauren. When they were both teaching at the same school, Lauren was



Josh Gatlin



Ed Sargent, then and now

enamored by Josh's vocal rendition of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" played over the school intercom.

Sargent has been in the music business for nearly 40 years. Now the tour coordinator for famed rock band Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, he also has worked with late jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson, Tim Ries (Rolling Stones' saxophonist), Carl Fischer (Billy Joel's trumpeter), Reggie Watkins (jazz trombonist) and others.

"UT Martin opened the door to my life and my career," he says.

Sargent was recruited to UTM after the university's band director saw him playing the timpani in his high school band. As a UTM student, he helped bring the Maynard Ferguson band to campus to perform. Then, just days after graduating, he was offered a job touring with Ferguson's band.

Over the years, Sargent has been a generous supporter of UTM, led master's classes and helped bring top talent to perform on campus. The university's Guest Artist Series is named after him. He's also on the advisory board for Northwest Tennessee Arts Center, a multipurpose performing arts complex planned for the UTM campus.

Like the others, Sargent knows the people he met and the experiences he enjoyed in the marching, concert and jazz bands helped etch his life's design.

"Band people are different. We just are," he says. T

"Being in the band taught me perseverance, determination, a sense of community. And just general life skills—punctuality, working with a team, failure and being able to recover from failure."

—JOSH GATLIN (MARTIN '12)



Katherine Sam





UT Board of Trustees Chairman John Compton and UT President Randy Boyd during the annual meeting. PHOTO BY SAM THOMAS

UT System Earns 2022 Great Place to Work Certification

For the first time, the UT System has earned its certification as a great place to work.

The Great Place to Work Certification is determined by what current employees say about their experience working for the UT System, its campuses and institutes. This year, 72 percent of employees rated the UT



System as a great place to work—15 points higher than the average U.S. company. Great Place to Work is the global authority on workplace culture, employee

experience and the leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation.

“We are excited about achieving this certification and even more thankful to our employees across the UT System for their feedback that made it possible,” UT System Chief Human Resources

Officer Brian Dickens says. “While we enjoy this designation, we are intentional about being a great place to work by remaining responsive to the diverse needs of our employees.”

UT Board of Trustees Approves Zero Percent Tuition Increase

The UT Board of Trustees has once again approved an across-the-board, zero percent tuition increase for its campuses across the state. This marks the second time in the past three years that UT students and families will experience no increase in tuition.

“Rising inflation is hitting our students and families particularly hard,” UT Board of Trustees Chair John Compton says. “Due in large part because of Gov. Bill Lee and our Tennessee General Assembly’s historic higher-education budget of \$137 million, we are in the fortunate position to keep tuition and mandatory fees flat for fiscal year 2022-23.”

Board members also heard about significant enrollment growth across

the UT System, with nearly all campuses ranking in the top quartile compared to peer institutions. Led by a strong increase in enrollment at UT Knoxville in 2021, the UT System exceeded its goal of a 2 percent increase, achieving 2.7 percent. Four-year graduation rates increased 0.8 percent systemwide in 2021, and six-year graduation rates increased 2 percent.

Hirschberg Joins UT System

Longtime economic development veteran Victoria Hirschberg has been named assistant vice president for research, outreach and economic development for the UT System.



Victoria Hirschberg

Based in Nashville, Hirschberg serves as a liaison with local, regional, state and national economic development organizations and government

agencies; partners with campus offices of research and economic development to develop relationships; and leads initiatives and programs to increase interaction between UT and industry and community members.

“Over the last 10 years, Victoria was involved in nearly every one of the auto sector-related relocations to Tennessee. She has worked with auto executives around the world,” UT System President Randy Boyd says. “Now, Tennessee wants to be the leader in electric vehicle, energy storage and mobility research. Victoria is the perfect person to be coordinating those efforts.”



From left: State Rep. Gloria Johnson (D-Knoxville), Tickle College of Engineering Dean Matthew Mench, State Rep. John Ragan (R-Oak Ridge), State Rep. Michele Carringer (R-Knoxville), Lt. Gov. Randy McNally and UT Professor Tony Schmitz pose for a photo at the ACE "train the trainers" event at UT.

PHOTO BY: IACMI/SHAWN MILLSAPS

Research

- Tennessee Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally and several members of the Tennessee General Assembly observed a "train the trainers" workshop at UT Knoxville this summer. The workshop, part of America's Cutting Edge, imparted new skills to educators with a machining background. The workshop was held in conjunction with the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) and the UT-Oak Ridge Innovation Institute.
- Y-12 National Security Complex, a major manufacturer in national security, is set to augment its technology development and innovate its business processes through the expertise of UT Knoxville faculty, students and research facilities. The \$9.5 million agreement between UT and Consolidated Nuclear Security—which operates both Y-12, located in Oak Ridge, and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, for the National Nuclear Security Administration—will run through September 2026.
- UT Knoxville is among the 14 member universities of the Southeastern Conference forming a new artificial intelligence consortium to share educational resources and best practices such as curricular materials, certificate

and degree program structures, and online presentations of seminars and courses.

Supply Chain Top Ranked Program in North America

The graduate supply chain programs in the Haslam College of Business rank first among programs in North America, according to a report from Gartner, a leading industry research organization. As a hub for supply chain management thought leadership and talent development, UT Knoxville is known for its industry-relevant curriculum, groundbreaking research and top-ranked faculty.



Michel Ballings

Faculty Updates

- Michel Ballings was appointed an Amazon Visiting Academic, the

university's first faculty member to participate in the program. An assistant professor of business analytics and statistics, Ballings will coach junior scientists and review technical and scientific work materials.

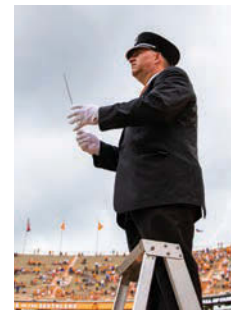
- Tickle College of Engineering's John Schwartz is working with municipal separate storm sewer systems across Tennessee to establish an Urban Waters



John Schwartz

Report Card to help improve stormwater management programs.

- Michael Stewart was named the next director of the Pride of the Southland Marching and Athletic Bands, associate director of wind studies and WJ Julian Endowed Professor. He was the associate director of bands at UTK.



Michael Stewart

Record Donor Support Reported

Volunteers from across the world stepped forward together in support of students during the 2021–22 fiscal year. A record number of 60,142 donors committed more than \$264 million to enhance educational opportunities and provide the resources students need to succeed.



A robot delivers food on the UTK campus.

UTK Launches Robot Food Delivery

UT Knoxville launched a robot food delivery service on campus, with nearly 50 autonomous on-demand robots delivering from 16 campus eateries to anywhere on campus.

DOT Grant Creates Electric Vehicle Testbed

Chattanooga will be home to the nation's largest electric vehicle "living testbed," thanks to \$9.2 million in funding for a project proposed by the city and scientists at UT Chattanooga with municipal, private industry and research partners.

Funding will come from a \$4.5 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant award—the single largest of its kind in UTC history—and another \$4.7 million from industry partners UTC, Chattanooga city government and EPB—Chattanooga's power company.

The winning proposal is for a networked system that will enable electric-vehicle drivers to more readily locate charging stations. Charging opportunities will be customized for drivers as a result of the system recognizing the charge level of individual electric vehicles, volume and pace of traffic, and electric grid power demand to recommend charging stations and types by locations.



UTC student
Navin Phillips
at the MOC Academy

Affordable Course Materials Program Saves Students \$1 million

In just five years, more than \$1 million has been kept in the pockets of students at UT Chattanooga by its Affordable Course Materials Initiative.

The initiative was barely more than a good idea when Rachel Fleming joined UTC as scholarly communications librarian in 2017 and was charged with taking it forward.

"One of the things librarians like to do is talk to all of the faculty and help them design what they need for their courses, and I love hearing from them about how we can do that."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the annual cost of college textbooks and supplies averaged \$1,226 per student in 2021. The Affordable Course Materials program, which generally provides alternatives to printed or digital textbooks, has proven to help lower costs for students.

Program Prepares Men of Color for Life at UTC

Twins Alvin and Albert Bolden left their home in Dyersburg this fall to be freshmen at UT Chattanooga.

To build confidence for their new adventure, the twins enrolled in MOC Academy, a newly created, year-long program for male students of color at UTC. National numbers show men of color don't do as well enrolling and staying in college.



Chris Bridgers
with UTC
Student and
Family Engagement

MOC Academy was developed to address the issue, explained Jason Harville, assistant director of Student Success Programs.

"When these males see this program and hear about this program, it shows that the university is placing importance on them being here," Harville said.

Hunter Hall Unveils a New Modern Look

The \$13.9 million upgrading of the 65-year-old Hunter Hall, which began in December 2020, is almost complete at UT Chattanooga.

"We have made some specific changes to make it more desirable for the faculty and for the students who are here," says Valerie Rutledge, dean of the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies. "It will be clean, not crowded with lots of items that were a carryover from before. The look now is much cleaner, brighter, up to date and streamlined."



Hunter Hall



Interim UTS Chancellor Linda Martin and her husband, Ken Huff, and their dog, Jake

Linda Martin Named Interim Chancellor

UT Southern has welcomed Linda C. Martin as interim chancellor. Martin joins UTS as a leader and innovator in higher education with a career that stretches beyond 35 years.

Martin serves as the UT System's vice president of academic affairs and student success. She served as interim senior vice chancellor/senior vice president for the UT Institute of Agriculture from September 2021 to July 2022.

She began her role as the interim chancellor on the one-year anniversary of the historic acquisition that resulted in the UT System's newest undergraduate institution. UT will launch a search in January to permanently fill the position.

Martin previously served as the associate dean and director of academic affairs in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental

Sciences at Ohio State University and assistant dean for academic programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University following 15 years of successful teaching and advising at Kansas State University.

Turner Center Re-Launches Program

This fall, the UTS Turner Center for Rural Vitality will relaunch its regional leadership program. Since 2010, the program, formerly known as Gattis Regional Leadership, has worked to build leadership capacity and connect leaders across South Central Tennessee.

Throughout the last year, the Turner Center staff has worked to redevelop the program to meet the changing needs of the region. They interviewed regional stakeholders, alumni and personnel at rural regional leadership programs across the United States while researching other programs in the Southeast.

As a result of its research, the Turner Center decided to focus on its rural assets.

"Sometimes, those uniquely rural attributes and rural strengths are overlooked in order to look more like our metropolitan areas. We want participants to see their rural communities as an asset, not as a detriment," Rebecka Cronin, a Turner Center program officer, says.

During the nine-month program, the group will learn about asset-based community leadership at three day-long workshops on UT Southern's campus. Participants also will travel through each of the 13 counties, exploring infrastructure, workforce development and social entrepreneurship.

UTS Develops Special Education Program

With each new year, the nationwide shortage of licensed special-education teachers increases, with nearly every state now reporting on the difficulties of hiring qualified instructors.

To help combat this issue, the UTS Grace G. Grissom School of Education developed a new special education interventionist kindergarten through eighth-grade licensure program. Fourteen students enrolled in the program during its first year.

This program helps candidates grow in using technology, interacting with students, assessing student learning, managing a diverse culture, appreciating multicultural and exceptional children, and focusing on strategies that engage students in cooperative and collaborative activities.



UTS developed a special education interventionist program.

*Latimer Engineering and Science Building*

Anonymous Gift Benefits Construction Management Degree

An anonymous gift will support UT Martin's new Bachelor of Science in Construction Management, an engineering major developed to meet Tennessee workforce needs. The new degree received UT Board of Trustees approval during the board's annual meeting in June and received final approval July 28 during the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's summer meeting in Nashville. The program began fall semester 2022.

First Noyce Scholar Graduates

Elizabeth Campbell entered UT Martin in fall 2015 with her sights set on a health-care career. Seven years later, Campbell is the first to complete the university's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, which prepared her for a new goal of becoming a

*Elizabeth Campbell and Steve Elliott, professor of mathematics and statistics*

classroom teacher in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. Campbell received her education master's degree in May and began her K-12 education career this fall as a biology and anatomy teacher at Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro.

UT Martin received a National Science Foundation award in 2021 totaling \$1.2 million over five years to recruit 25 individuals who have science, math or engineering degrees to complete master's degrees and teach STEM subjects.

UTM Program Named Outstanding

*From left, William Bird, associate professor of agricultural education; Samantha Essex, a senior agricultural education major and Emma Corson, a senior agricultural education major.*

UT Martin's Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources received the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Educators' award for the Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program at the organization's annual conference. This is the third time UT Martin has received the award. The award recognizes a post-secondary institution or program in which staff and faculty members devote at least 50 percent of their teaching time to providing exemplary agricultural education training. UT Martin is now eligible for the national award, which will be given at the National Association of Agricultural Educators conference in December in Las Vegas.

Smith Coaches Special Olympics

Clinton Smith, UT Martin associate professor of special education and area director for Upper West Tennessee – Area 7 Special Olympics, accompanied eight Tennessee athletes to the Special Olympics Games in Orlando, Florida, in June.

This year's event was one of the largest

*From left, Clinton Smith, UT Martin associate professor of special education; Garrett Dinning and his mother, Jill Dinning*

in history. More than 5,500 Special Olympics athletes and coaches participated, and more than 125,000 spectators attended. The athletes Smith directly coached in track-and-field events earned a total of 20 medals, including four gold medals, three silver medals and two bronze medals.

Nursing Program Reaches 50-Year Mark

More clinical experience is one reason UT Martin nursing graduates excel in the health-care world. The university's nursing program is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022, and the program's tradition of experiential learning continues. The program began in 1972 by providing an associate degree in nursing, and in 1992, it fully transitioned into a four-year baccalaureate degree program. UT Martin's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and includes three years of clinical rotations.

Grant Helps with Rural Health Care

The UTHSC College of Nursing received a \$3.9 million, four-year grant that will enable the college to provide health care to two rural counties using a mobile health unit. The grant also will allow the college to integrate rural health education into its undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant is called Student Training and Education through Partnerships with Underserved Populations for Health Equity and Lifestyle Promotion (STEP UP and HELP). It focuses on outreach to Lake and Lauderdale counties in West Tennessee, which are designated by HRSA as underserved.

A primary goal of the grant is to establish the mobile health unit to provide care to vulnerable populations that do not have health-care access. Another major goal is to expand the nursing workforce and to increase the cultural competency of nurses serving patients in rural areas.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing program students will have the

opportunity to learn about selected concepts that prepare nurse graduates to improve health equity, access and outcomes for vulnerable populations. A Rural Scholars Program will be implemented in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program for the family nurse practitioner, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and nurse-midwifery concentrations.

The Gift of Sight

Physicians at the UTHSC Hamilton Eye Institute donated their services to restore sight to two dozen people during the fifth annual Ivan Marais Cataract-A-Thon.

The all-day outreach offered free cataract surgeries and follow-up care to individuals who otherwise could not afford the procedure. Since the first Cataract-A-Thon in 2017, more than 130 people have had their sight restored.

The Cataract-a-Thon honors ophthalmologist and cataract surgery innovator Ivan Marais, who died in 2017. Marais was a longtime ophthalmology instructor at the institute.



A chef demonstrates the correct way to hold a knife during a culinary medicine class.

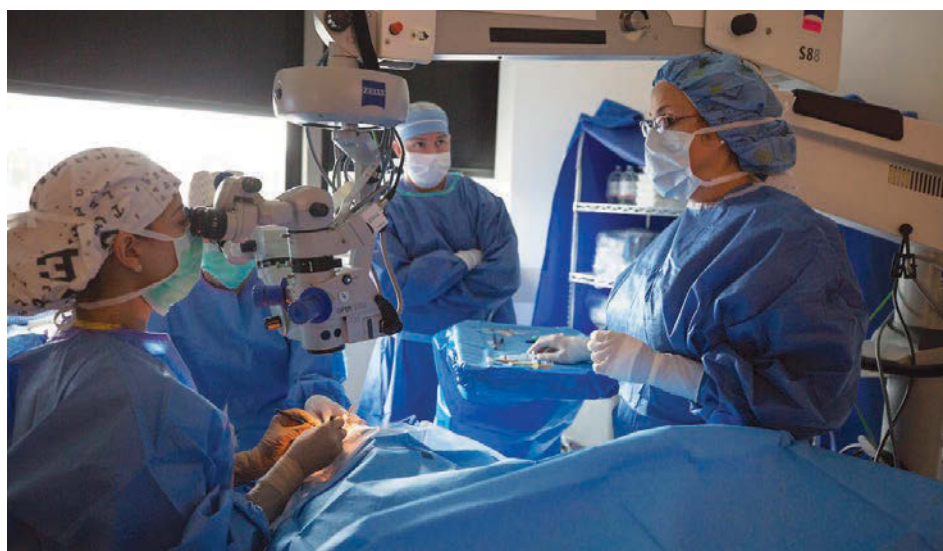
You are What You Eat

In an effort to spread the message that healthful eating is a key to overall good health, the UT Health Science Center College of Medicine, in collaboration with UT Knoxville, hosted a culinary medicine continuing education class for health-care professionals in Knoxville.

The Introduction to Culinary Medicine class, the first of its kind in Knoxville, was held at UT's Culinary Institute.

The class uses the same Health Meets Food curriculum that is used in the UTHSC College of Medicine to train students and residents. The program was developed to change the narrative between health-care professionals and their patients about food.

The curriculum includes instruction in basic nutrition principles and culinary skills, as well as in how fresh food prepared healthfully can be used to prevent, improve or reverse chronic diseases such as hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and obesity. It merges medical science, evidence-based nutrition and culinary skills to encourage healthy lifestyles for both health-care professionals and their patients and clients.



Physicians perform surgery during the fifth annual Ivan Marais Cataract-A-Thon.

Keeping Food Waste Out of Landfills

Many landfills are projected to be full in less than 10 years, so communities are interested in removing food waste from the waste stream. Nearly one-third of landfill waste consists of food waste that could be redirected to alternative reduction methods; however, addressing the problem presents communities with significant challenges related to policy, technology and cost-effectiveness. The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research awarded a Seeding Solutions grant to UTIA to develop and execute a food waste Decision Support System (DSS), enabling city planners to evaluate innovative waste reduction solutions and technologies. Matching funds were provided by Metro Nashville, Resource Capture, UT and Urban Green Lab for a total \$616,378 investment. Principal investigator Chad Hellwinckel, research associate professor of agricultural economics, says multi-scale, multi-technology solutions like DSS are better able to meet and evolve with urban food systems' unique challenges.



Alternative waste reduction methods, such as composting, keep food waste out of landfills, which are quickly running out of space. Photo by C. Hellwinckel, courtesy UTIA. PHOTO BY C. HELLWINCKEL, COURTESY UTIA



A third-generation dairy farmer, John Harrison of Sweetwater Valley Farm in Philadelphia, Tennessee, has been named the Tennessee Farmer of the year by UT Extension. Harrison is shown here with some of his family who help on the farm. Left to right: daughter Mary Lyndal; Harrison; his wife, Celia; and son Charles. PHOTO COURTESY SWEETWATER VALLEY FARM

The Tradition Returns

On Sept. 24, UTIA held a traditional in-person Ag Day—an annual celebration of all things “ag” and UTIA. The 2021 event was virtual.

Attendees in 2022 enjoyed department exhibits and entertainment; and, yes, once again, cricket spitting was a thing.

Alumnus John Harrison (Knoxville '81), owner of Sweetwater Valley Farm in Philadelphia, Tennessee, was honored as the Tennessee Farmer of the Year, and Dr. Andrea Cole (Knoxville '14, '15), a veterinarian and epidemiologist, was named winner of the Horizon Award. Mark Wilson (Knoxville '76), a retired vice president with Farm Credit Mid-America, was honored with the Meritorious Service Award.

“GARD’ing” Amphibians, Reptiles and Other Species

More than 250 scientists from 25 countries gathered in Knoxville Aug. 4-10, either in person or virtually, for the inaugural Global Amphibian and

Reptile Disease (GARD) Conference. Pioneering research through the UTIA Center for Wildlife Health resulted in Knoxville’s selection as host city.

The conference included 149 scientific presentations. Craig Pickett Jr., director of the UTIA Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, presented about the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in science. UTIA’s Matt Gray and other organizers raised more than \$85,000 from sponsors, including the National Science Foundation, to increase diversity, equity and inclusion at the conference by supporting participation of 44 students or early career professionals from 13 U.S. states and nine countries. Scientific discussions sought to identify similarities and differences among host-pathogen systems and identify disease management strategies that could ensure the conservation of herpetofaunal species for generations to come.

Additional animal-health gatherings recently hosted on campus include a conference for alpaca and llama owners and their veterinarians, sponsored by the Tennessee Alpaca Association and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Last spring, a gathering of K9 handlers and first responders teamed with CVM emergency care experts to explore methods of emergency management for the working dog.

More information available online.



UTIA held a conference on llama and alpaca care.



SMART Executive Director Jennifer Tourville welcomes attendees to the Mayors' Criminal Justice and Opioid Summit.

SMART Hosts Summit

Since moving to IPS, the Substance Misuse and Addiction Resource for Tennessee (SMART) Initiative has broadened in scope to engage with Tennessee in a manner consistent with the IPS agencies. The Mayors' Criminal Justice and Opioid Summit that the SMART Initiative hosted illustrates this engagement.

Participants included the mayors of the 16-county region of East Tennessee; sheriffs and law-enforcement officials; and representatives from regional recovery and treatment programs. Dozens of community leaders also attended.

The summit contained several guest speakers, including treatment advocate Dr. Stephen Loyd, chief medical officer of Cedar Recovery, who spoke about a medication program within the criminal justice system in Jefferson County. Karen Pershing spoke on behalf of the Prevention Alliance of Tennessee about the cost-effectiveness of primary prevention, and Kristen Zak, deputy director of the Opioid Response Coordination, discussed the importance of providing continuity of treatment to incarcerated individuals.

IPS Celebrates 100 Percent Employee Participation in Family Campaign

IPS employees displayed their service nature earlier in the year by giving to institute funds during the UT Family Campaign. For the first time, 100 percent of the employees donated. Vice President Herb Byrd III, Director of Organizational Improvement Macel Ely and Development Director Kristen Davis hosted employee appreciation events at IPS offices in Jackson and Nashville, as well as



IPS employees from the Jackson and Martin offices celebrate an appreciation event at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center.

the home office in Knoxville. At each location, employees were treated to icy treats from the Kona Ice truck, and Byrd held a question-and-answer session.

CIS Helps Manufacturers, Communities Focus on Economic Resiliency

With support from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services (CIS) is providing a comprehensive approach to building resiliency within Tennessee's manufacturing sector. CIS' Tennessee Manufacturing Resiliency Initiative focuses collaborative regional, state and federal resources to help manufacturers address impacts due to economic disruptions and build long-term resiliency capacity in Tennessee.

Through this initiative, CIS connects manufacturers and communities to resources including the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the University of Tennessee Economic Development Administration University Center, Tennessee Development

Districts, state and regional economic development organizations and others to strengthen business, retain jobs and build long-term economic resiliency.

the last word



More Than an Arts Career

Arts Help Children Grow Strong Academically

Fred Rogers once said, “The music we hear early on tends to stay with us all our lives.”

As young children, many of us might recall moments when we danced to our favorite songs, played make-believe or created a work of art that was proudly displayed at home. These are more than memories and were likely multisensory experiences that helped us become who we are today. The arts invite us to make meaning of ourselves and the world around us. Through dance, music, media arts, theater and visual art, engaging in a creative process ignites our senses and offers an outlet for discovery.

When the Arts-Based Collaborative at UT Chattanooga launched an affiliate program of the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, we knew how essential the arts are in a child’s development. When students have access to arts-based learning throughout their formative years, various studies have shown how these multisensory engagements foster lifelong learning because of the growth mindset developed by participating in creative endeavors.

For young learners entering preschool, integrating the arts into their curriculum supports school readiness that may foreshadow their future success. One indicator of students’ academic potential might stem from their ability to read at or above grade level by the third grade. If literacy remains an underpinning to a student’s overall academic success, then



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literacy development may benefit from multisensory experiences. A classroom of learners presents an opportunity to engage content from multiple perspectives as each student develops knowledge and skills in unique ways.

Young readers approach text in various ways, and it’s important to be

mindful of this as we focus on literacy development, especially during a student’s formative years. When young learners have meaningful experiences in the visual and performing arts, they develop creative and critical thinking skills that will help them express their ideas and cultivate a sense of wonder.

This is the foundation for developing essential skills needed in today’s world, such as effective communication skills, collaborative potential, and the ability to think critically and creatively. When the arts become an ongoing component throughout students’ academic career, the time they spend actively engaging in a creative process becomes critical.

Opportunities to experience the arts are more than preparing for a career in the arts. The cognitive and social skills we develop engaging our visual, aural and kinesthetic senses through creating in an art form or experiencing it makes us all better. The strong foundation a child might develop in and through the arts can only continue to grow if we encourage ongoing creative experiences.

As students work toward graduating from high school, they may have limited access to engaging in the arts as they progress towards higher grade levels and pursue post-secondary opportunities. Considering how we can keep the arts we experienced during the early years present throughout our lives might become an opportunity to revisit how we encourage creativity in all we do. **T**



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