

SERVICE TO SKYHAWK

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN OFFICE OF VETERAN SERVICES

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

UT MARTIN

STUDENT NEWS

The year of 2020 has introduced very new challenges with the issues related to COVID-19 and Civil Rights struggles within our own communities. During all of this, The Skyhawk Nation finished spring semester from their home offices and pushed through summer term in the same platforms. We in the academic communities juggle the ability to overcome these challenges while considering all ideas as relevant discussions toward advancement of adult learning. The military affiliated students made a difference in their previous military capacity and continue that trend working to obtain that goal of walking across the Skyhawk stage knowing they made the successful transition. We said goodbye to graduates and faculty whom fought to make conditions better for students. We welcomed new students and faculty to take up the challenges of speaking for all with no exclusion. We paid homage to those whom paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country and were reminded that on many platforms a fight continues...



In other campus Veterans observance news, the campus hosted its first ever Virtual Memorial Day Event on 22 May 2020. Despite the virtual platform utilized the event was “First Class” with faculty, staff, and students coming together to plan and despite the Covid-19 challenges, perform the ceremony in commemoration of those whom sacrificed for our way of life. A heartfelt Thanks goes out to all of the folks behind the scenes and those active participants such as Chancellor Carver, LTC McClain, Kerri Arnold, Dale Willis, Dana Hagan, Chloe Lawler, Rodney Freed, Richard Robinson, Hannah Alexander, Dorothy Gillon, David Rinks, Tim Nipp and crew, David Deaton, Sarah Knapp, Lindee McCurley, Trudy Henderson, Edie Gibson, UTM Public Safety team, and of course our guest speaker MSG Conrad Begaye. Many others assisted in this ceremony and it certainly was a UT Skyhawk effort to display a sense of respect and unity for the fallen.

Master Sergeant Conrad J. Begaye is currently assigned to the position of Senior Military Science Instructor at the University of Tennessee at Martin in January 2020. He was born in Shiprock, New Mexico and raised in Tucson, Arizona. Master Sergeant Begaye enlisted in the United States Army May 21, 1999 as an Infantryman. Upon completion of basic training, he attended Airborne School and the Ranger Indoctrination Program in Fort Benning, Georgia. Master Sergeant Begaye’s military schooling includes: Senior Leader Course, the Advanced Leader Course, the Basic Leader Course, Airborne School, U.S. Army Ranger School, Combat Lifesaver Course, Mountain Warfare Summer/Winter School, Mountain Assault Climber School, and Basic Instructor Training.

His previous assignments include: First Sergeant for Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Warrior Transition Battalion Fort Campbell KY. First Sergeant for Fox Company and Platoon Sergeant for Dog Company 2/506th “Currahee”, 3rd Brigade Combat Team “Rakkasans” 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Fort Campbell KY. Ranger Instructor at the 5th Ranger Training Battalion “Mountain Phase” in Dhlonega GA. Squad Leader and Team Leader at Chosen Company 2/503rd “The Rock” 173rd Airborne



Brigade in Vicenza Italy. Machine Gunner for Alpha Company 2/75th Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. His previous deployments include: Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (2016-2017) Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom VIII (2006-2007) and Operation Enduring Freedom V (2005-2006) Afghanistan. Operation Iraqi Freedom I (2003-2004) Iraq. Master Sergeant Begaye’s awards and decorations include: The Silver Star, the Bronze Star (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Purple Heart (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, the Army Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantrymen’s Badge, and the Expert Infantrymen’s Badge. **Master Sergeant Begaye made the Command Sergeant Major List 2020. This is the highest enlisted rank in the Army. Please take time to congratulate him on his achievements.**



In the 1st edition of the newsletter last fall we provided a poem as a symbol of a younger generation taking time to articulate their understanding of those which serve/served this great country. A special thanks to Mrs Danielle Van Cleave and her students of Sharon Elementary for sharing these words and poem 2 as we continue to share another students' artistic abilities while paying homage to the military.

Sweat, Tears, and Bloodshed

Veterans all over the world
Offer their lives in exchange for our safety
With the United States flag unfurled
All posterity will have a memory of who pays for our
protection daily

When they are encountering sweat, tears, and bloodshed
We are at home with family and friends
They might end up dead
But they still fight till the very end

While we have comforts and holidays at home
We get big dinners and firework shows
They spend them all alone
Because of their experience, it can be a big blow

Although they defend our family and friends
Many don't have any of their own to come home to
Some can never make amends
So we all gather here today to say
Thank you

By Lala Chapman



FACULTY FAREWELL

During my time serving in the Armed Forces, I can always remember that many within that community would often be reluctant to take praise for serving others. This group of “Silent Professionals” served to make things around them better, it was the ultimate achievement to give back without accolade. I am so blessed as a staff member on this campus to be able to ensure “Skyhawk Nation” considers the people that work behind the scenes to improve their circumstances. Dr. Malcolm Koch, Ph.D. was a member of our Veterans Success Committee at UT Martin and one of the very first to welcome me as I arrived at this campus. I asked Dr Koch if I could share any of his words with our students and he provided the following statement:

“My biggest message to Veterans is to not underestimate the value of their international experience, especially if they have been deployed around the world. This experience makes them unique and is something which they can build upon.”

**Please if you get the opportunity to send him an email, tell him congratulations on his retirement and thank him for assisting our cause to improve quality of Service for all students on this campus.

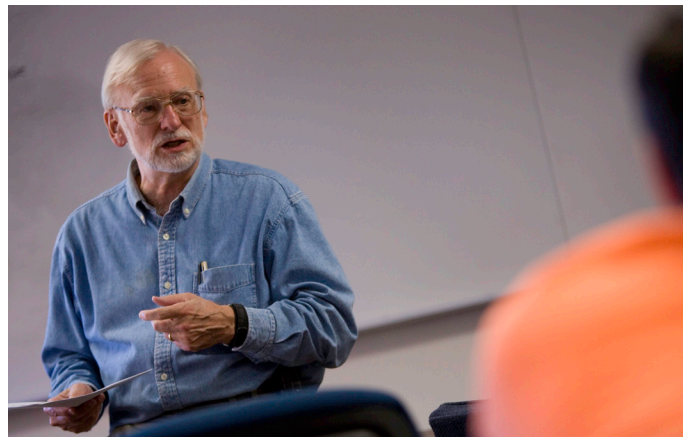
STAFF WELCOME

Just as we say goodbye to the “Silent Professionals” we must also welcome new team members and ensure they are provided ample opportunity to jump in and begin making a quick impact. Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic our campus welcomed Marcus VanCleave as the Veterans Benefit Specialist (VBS) for the University of Tennessee at Martin. Prior to being the VBS, he was the West Tennessee Veteran Outreach Coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services, which includes serving more than 30 campuses as a collaborative partner within his region and more than 90 campuses statewide. Marcus reached the rank of Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, and is a combat veteran who served in both the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. He is a UT Martin Alumni and understands first-hand the challenges students face in the area.

utm.edu/veterans

 **MARTIN** VETERAN SERVICES

veterans@utm.edu



Malcolm Koch, Ph.D.

Undergraduate: International School of America; Vanderbilt Univ. (B.A.)

Graduate: Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A.); Brandeis Univ. (M.A., Ph.D.)
(Includes research in Germany and Austria)

Banking: Citibank, Chase Manhattan, Chemical, Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank, National Commercial of Saudi Arabia, First Tennessee Bank (Geneva, New York, London, Frankfurt, Bahrain, Chicago, Riyadh, Jeddah, Memphis)

Education: University of Tennessee at Martin (Instructor of Political Science, 2007-current; Exec Dir, Center for Intl Ed, 2009-2019)

Marcus grew up in Dresden, Tennessee. After leaving the Marines, Marcus transitioned to the civilian workforce by earning a Bachelor's of Science in Political Science from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and during his time at the institution he held leadership positions in both the Student Veteran Association (SVA) and Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL).



Since he arrived, he has interacted with students at the other campus offices and established our new social media platforms.

POC info is Marcus VanCleave
Phone Number: (731) 324-3242;
Office Location: UTM Ripley Center Rm 163;
Email: mvanceleave@utm.edu

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/UTMVeteranServices/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/utmveteranservices/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/UtmVeteran>



Tennessee Honor Vote Program:

Dedicate your vote to a U.S. veteran or active duty military member at [GoVoteTN.com/honor](https://www.GoVoteTN.com/honor)

SPRING 2020 GRADUATES

Key, Paul M
Riddle, Anna M
Byars, Stephen L
Rodriguez, Adrian M
Johnson, Andrea R
Vertrees, John A
Qualls, Jacob A
Thralls, William D
Middleton, Mary E

Cherry, Ivana A
Montchal, Madison M
Hall, Raven L
Thomas, Alexius S
Revelle, Collin T
Malcolm, Catherine S
Brennan, Cody S
Dreier, Richard W
Henson, James



VETERANS SUCCESS COMMITTEE

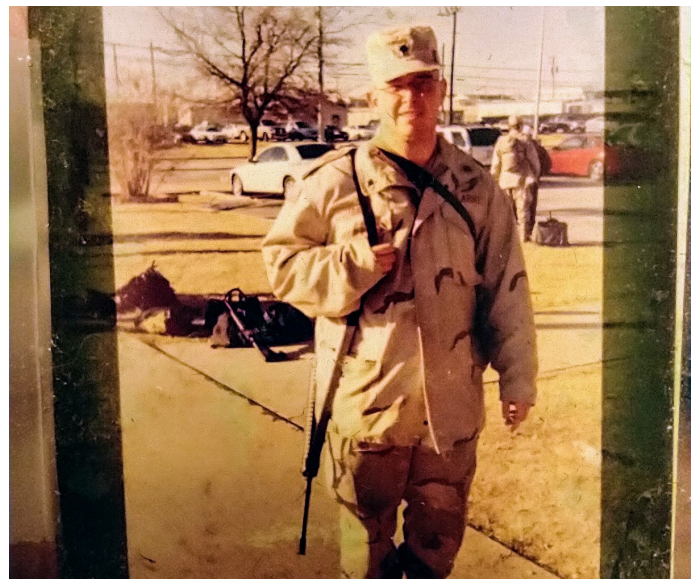
The VSC was indeed active despite the COVID-19 challenges. The Committee completed its first Gold Star Scholarship board based off applicants on campus. This board was completed as a paper board and took information provided by the student when they applied online for the scholarship. Through the completion of this board, the Committee established an Order of Merit List for future consideration of financial assistance to the students that applied but there was one winner of this Scholarship this year. The winner is: **Steven Davis**



“My name is Steven Davis and I am 38 years old. I served in the U.S. Army from April 2001 until April 2006 and my job was 31F a switching systems operator. We ran the switchboards to allow communication between the forward and back of the field-deployed units. During this time I spent 12 months overseas deployed to Iraq providing support to the 3rd Medical Brigade stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. Thankfully, I returned home all intact and when my time was up I chose to leave the military. After leaving the military, I began working in the oil field driving a tanker truck and then moved into the office to work as a dispatcher for the same oil field company. Eventually, I moved back to Tennessee to marry my wife, and we have 3 children ages 18, 13, and 7. The oldest one just starting his freshman semester at Mississippi State University. I started going to Jackson State Community College in 2017 as a full-time student and graduated with my Associate Degree in Accounting in 2019.



After finishing up with JSCC, I began to look out to the workforce and saw most companies were requiring a minimum of a 4-year degree meaning I needed to push on to complete a Bachelor's Degree. I decided to attend UT Martin as a full-time student to finish up my finance degree due to distance to home and low-cost because I knew my GI Bill would run out before I finished up and had to watch costs. I am planning on graduating after the fall 2021 semester and transitioning back into the workforce.”



The Veterans Success Committee remained relevant even during COVID-19 as it held its first board to identify the winner of the 2020-2021 Gold Star Scholarship. We welcomed **Jenifer Hart** to the committee. She serves as the Clinical Coordinator of Counseling Services, Office of Student Health and Counseling Services for our campus. She is very passionate about assisting in all aspects for students and maintains extensive experience in Being an effective communicator Conflict prevention and management, Diversity training, Grief issues, Suicide prevention and awareness, Emotional health and wellness; mental health topics just to name a few.



Veterans Success Committee:

<http://www.utm.edu/departments/veteranaffairs/committee.php>

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- The 2020 Gold Star Scholarship Recipient was a student Veteran **Steven Davis**. He is a finance major and was informed of his award through a scheduled surprise zoom by the Chancellor.
- The students selected to participate in the 2020 Veteran Reconnect Grant will be working with the Veteran Services Coordinator to provide data on their experiences as they strive for achievements on campus while also enjoying additional advisement and assistance.

For more information on veteran scholarships and grants, visit:
utm.edu/departments/veteranaffairs/scholarships.php

NOTABLE EVENTS

The university was awarded the 2019-2020 **Veteran Reconnect Grant** provided by THEC in advancement of academic accomplishments for military affiliated students. The objective of our strategy will be to help a cohort of students financially while ensuring close mentorship of these students through their first two years at the university with Faculty Staff Mentors. This strategy will provide specific data for future research towards new initiatives for these students.

The Veteran Services team are calling on volunteers to begin participation and advancement of the Skyhawk Veterans Association. This organization has lacked membership for a year and maintains a great platform to advance Veteran causes. In addition, we are looking for volunteers that are Agriculture majors and a representative from each branch of Service to complete a photograph session with university relations. If you would like more info, please email at jearley3@utm.edu.

Stay tuned for the upcoming Virtual Veterans Day Ceremony in November. For more information, contact jearley3@utm.edu or mvanleave@utm.edu.

The University of Tennessee at Martin was awarded with the Military Support Recognition for 2020-2021.



HELP SUPPORT THE SKYHAWK VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Click here to make a gift today!
Search “Gold Star Family Scholarship.”

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 303 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238, (731) 881-3505 Office, (731) 881-4889 TTY, Hearing Impaired, (731) 881-3507 Fax, equityanddiversity@utm.edu, <http://www.utm.edu/departments/equalopp/>. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (The Clery Act), UTM's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on or around the campus and UTM's emergency response and evacuation procedures. You can view the report at <http://www.utm.edu/departments/inadmin/publicsafety/annualreport.php> or you may obtain a paper copy of the report by contacting the Office of Public Safety, 215 Hurt Street, Martin, TN 38238 or calling (731) 881-7777. Data on intercollegiate athletics program participation rates and financial support may be found at http://www.utm.edu/webshare/consumer_docs/09-10%20DOE-EADA%20Report.pdf and printed copies may be obtained through the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, 1022 Elm Center, Martin, TN 38238 or by calling (731) 881-7660. R05-4705-502-001-21