

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Jan. 17, 2023

Alisha Melton  
named Research,  
Outreach and  
Economic  
Development  
Executive Director

Alisha Melton has been named executive director of the UT Martin Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development. The announcement was made Jan. 11 in a university message to faculty and staff by **Dr. Keith Carver**. The Dresden, Tennessee, native has led the office as interim executive director since October 2021. Her appointment is effective immediately.

The ROED office is



Alisha Melton

responsible for coordinating research and sponsored programs, university outreach and UT Martin's economic development initiatives. The

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## SPEAKERS REMEMBER MLK JR. DURING ANNUAL CELEBRATION



Lane College president **Dr. Logan Hampton** delivers the guest keynote address for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 16, in the Martin Event Center.

UT Martin student Justice Watkins and Lane College president Dr. Logan Hampton were keynote speakers for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 16, in the Martin Event Center. The 9 a.m. celebration and breakfast was sponsored by the city of Martin, UT Martin and the university's Black Student Association.

The event, first held in 2013, brings together the community and university to celebrate and honor the legacy of slain civil rights movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to raise awareness for sharing vision and purpose for the

future. **Dr. Mark McCloud**, UT Martin vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, served as emcee; **Petra McPhearson**, senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, welcomed guests on behalf of the university; and Nia Tate, UT Martin Black Student Association president, followed McPhearson with welcoming comments from the BSA. Jackie Thomas, pastor at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, offered the invocation.

Watkins, a mechanical engineering student from Memphis, talked about King's many personal accomplishments and sacrifices that led to his

critical role in the civil rights movement. "Today, we gather to celebrate the life of a man, a man who though he never met us, has left an indelible mark on our lives, a man who fought for justice, no matter the cost. ... Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man of great courage and conviction who accepted the responsibilities of an organizer and leader with unwavering dedication," he said.

Watkins spoke about the need to appreciate the slain civil rights leader and all who have sacrificed for freedom and justice. "To truly

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# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



**Dr. Rachna Tewari** was invited to Oxford University, UK, in December 2022 for a talk on ‘Enhancing climate literacy through CLASS: augmenting the teaching-learning process in rural secondary and postsecondary institutions’ at the 2022 Oxford Education Research Symposium. **Drs. Mark Simpson** and **Joey Mehlhorn** are co-authors on this project which was supported by a USDA-NIFA capacity-building grant from 2017-2021. The Oxford Education Research Symposium was held Dec. 12-14 at Wadham College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, and is a forum for the presentation of papers and discourse by scholars who have a particular interest in the theory and practice of universal education.



[tennessee.edu/values](https://tennessee.edu/values)



**Chancellor Keith Carver** has been appointed to the advisory search committee to recommend the next executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission/Tennessee Student Assistance Corp. The search process and timetable will be determined by the committee. The executive director is appointed by and reports directly to THEC and provides planning and policy leadership in collaboration with the chief executives of Tennessee’s eight systems of public postsecondary education. This position is responsible for staffing the work of THEC/TSAC, the coordinating board for public higher education and administrator of postsecondary financial aid in the state. Responsibilities include master planning, review and approval of new academic programs, development of the annual request for operating and capital appropriations, financial aid policy, and the administration of over \$500 million in financial aid. The combined agency maintains a 150 member staff, with an annual operating budget in excess of \$500 million.

## MELTON from PAGE 1

office promotes the university’s regional development initiatives and seeks to increase internal funding and income-generation opportunities through grants. The office also coordinates the university’s Blue Oval City Response Team and the UT Martin-City of Martin Town and Gown Association.

“Alisha has quickly established herself as a tremendous resource in terms of research, outreach and economic development,” Carver wrote in his university message. “I’m excited about her passion for helping others and promoting research and economic development for UT Martin and the region beyond.”

In addition to her role as ROED interim executive director, Melton has also worked at the university as a grant specialist, student services specialist and as Title III business manager. She also has experience in private business as a business owner/director of a childcare center and as an office manager for a law firm. She is active in her community and currently serves as co-chair of the Weakley County Long-Term Recovery Group. Melton holds two UT Martin degrees, including a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in accounting and a Master of Business Administration.

“I appreciate the trust and confidence of the search committee and Chancellor Carver for this opportunity to support our amazing faculty research, provide outstanding outreach programming, and strengthen UT Martin’s collaborations and projects across the state,” Melton said in a statement about

her appointment. “There’s no better place than West Tennessee, and I’m so excited to help UT Martin in its economic development and community growth partnerships to keep us growing and excelling for years to come.”

Members of the search committee were **Dr. Nancy Buschhaus**, interim dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; **Landy Fuqua**, director, UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center, Tennessee Small Business Development Center; **Rob Goad**, Paris-Henry County Industrial Committee; **Petra McPhearson**, senior vice chancellor, Division of Finance and Administration and committee chair; **Dr. Rachna Tewari**, associate professor, agricultural economics and agribusiness; **Cindy West**, dean, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences; and **Dr. Todd Winters**, dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

More information about the Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development is available at [www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu) or by calling 731-881-7015.

**Let the  
UT Martin  
community  
know about  
your most recent  
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**Email us at  
[addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).**

## MLK from PAGE 1

appreciate something, you must understand both the victory and the cost it took to obtain victory,” he told the audience. “Dr. Martin Luther King was arrested more than 29 times, and despite all the accomplishments, he still had many within his own community question his character and his true motives.” Watkins noted that King and his family suffered and sacrificed repeatedly for freedoms that King nor his predecessors would ever enjoy.

“So, to Dr. Martin Luther King we say, ‘Thank you, we appreciate you. Thank you for your work, thank you for your efforts, and thank you for your sacrifices. You stood strong despite all you faced, so we cherish you with the very freedom we fought for, and we stand strong still in hopes of being cherished the same,’” Watkins said.

Hampton, the 11th president of Lane College, followed Watkins by also remembering all who sacrificed to build this state and nation. “When we look around this room this morning, we look around this city, we look around UT Martin, we see in you the fulfillment of the dreams and the hopes of our slave fore-parents,” he said, recognizing the accomplished persons of color seated at his own table who have achieved major success and responsibility through hard work.

Hampton then directed his comments to students in the audience and reminded them that they, too, can achieve success but only through the kind of effort that made others around them successful. “Scholars, I encourage you put in the work. I see your dreams pulling up. You are made for



**UT Martin student Justice Watkins delivers the student keynote address for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 16, in the Martin Event Center.**

this. You are made for greatness ... and God has made a way for you,” he said. Hampton then addressed the entire audience saying, “Today, this Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance challenges you to dream with a vision and live with a purpose.” He said that people from the past would be pleased to see an event bringing together people of different races and backgrounds to celebrate and remember those who sacrificed for freedom.

While celebrating and remembering those who sacrificed, Hampton reminded the audience that much work remains to be done. “On this King holiday, as we celebrate civil rights heroes, we need remember the high cost of bigotry, divorce ourselves of our biases, challenge our prejudices, and eliminate the possibility of racism in our lives,” he said. “Racism is expensive. Prejudice is expensive. Bigotry

is expensive. ... We need to remember anew that God made each of us, and God has a purpose for each of us.”

Hampton added that in this country “divergent opinions, different perspectives and diverse voices are necessary and useful.” What isn’t constructive is assigning labels to persons who think differently, so he challenged everyone to engage in conversation. “Instead on this King Day forward, let’s have the difficult conversations in person. ... Walk across the street, walk across the room, walk over to the next cubicle and do something absolutely radical in our day – talk to someone who you disagree with, who has a different opinion.”

He later closed by again urging the those in the audience to find a way to talk with one another and find common ground. “Friends, we have much work to do, and God has called us for such a time as this,” he said.

“Dr. Martin Luther King said in his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech, he spoke to the fierce urgency of now. ... Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all God’s children.”

Three traditional awards were presented following the speakers. Joyce Washington, of Martin, received the Alpha Award for her community involvement, which is presented in memory of King who was an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. member. The Torch Award was presented by the Black Student Association to **Demetrius Robinson**, director of the UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development, for his work with diversity and inclusion among students, and the City of Martin Harold Conner Award was presented by Martin Mayor Randy Brundige to Martin native Johnny Shanklin for his service to the community.

## MLK BREAKFAST AWARD PHOTOS



Joyce Washington, Alpha Award recipient, presented (l, r) by Alpha Phi Alpha members Darius Holland, Braxton Hobson, Jamarion Huggins, Keshawn Glover, Creg Claybrook and Shuan Harris.



Demetrius Robinson, Torch Award, presented by UT Martin student Nia Tate.



Johnny Shanklin (right), Harold Conner Award presented by Mayor Randy Brundige.

## IRB and IACUC Schedules for Spring 2023

The UT Martin Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research will hold its regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in room 104 of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. Applications for full IRB review must be received by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at least 10 full working days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to be reviewed. The IRB Committee will not meet if no applications are received to be reviewed. Applications for IRB review and accompanying instructions are available on the IRB website. Meeting dates include: February 6; March 6;

April 3; and May 1.

The UT Martin Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will hold its regularly scheduled meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. in Room 104 of the Hall Moody Administration Building. Proposed protocols must be received by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at least 10 full working days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to be reviewed. The IACUC will not meet if no applications are received to be reviewed. Applications and instructions for IACUC review are available on the IACUC website. Meeting dates include: February 2; March 2; April 6; and May 4.

## Grant received to address pandemics

UT Martin has received a \$500,000 award from the Tennessee Department of Health to provide funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging pandemics. Funds will be used to purchase a rapid-response trailer stocked with sanitizing and cleaning supplies, HEPA backpack vacuums, sanitizing stations, upgrades for Student

Health and Counseling Services, and testing supplies. Touchless auto flush valves, sink faucets, paper towel dispensers, and high-quality air filters will be installed in buildings across campus. The Paul Meek Library will receive sterilizer cabinets for books and supplies, and the computer labs will purchase laptops for student checkout.

**Lunch at the Library**  
Bite-sized Workshop Series

Bring your food & bring your questions for librarian-led workshops & info sessions

Every Tuesday beginning Jan. 17  
12:15 - 12:45 pm  
Room 152

visit Runway for individual session details

## PUBLIC NOTICE: UT MARTIN ADVISORY BOARD TO MEET JAN. 20



**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SET FOR JAN. 20** – The UT Martin Advisory Board will meet at 1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 20, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center. Information about the meeting is available by calling the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615. Pictured are (back row, l to r) UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver and current advisory board members Art Sparks, board chair, Union City; Dr. Anderson Starling, faculty representative to the board; Hal Bynum, Sharon; (foreground) Iman Ahmed, student representative to the board, Memphis; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County. Board members not pictured are Monice Hagler, of Memphis, and Julia Wells, of Jackson.

The UT Martin Advisory Board will meet at 1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 20, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center. The meeting is open to the public and will also be available for public viewing via livestream at [www.utm.edu/abmeeting](http://www.utm.edu/abmeeting) and archived for later viewing.

Agenda items include:

- UT Martin Athletics Update
- Report on Transfers and Transfer Pathways
- Retention Update

The full agenda and associated meeting materials are available at [www.utm.edu/advisoryboard](http://www.utm.edu/advisoryboard) or by contacting **Bud Grimes**, Office of University Relations,

at [rgrimes@utm.edu](mailto:rgrimes@utm.edu) or call 731-881-7615.

Anyone with a disability or otherwise needing assistance in connection with this meeting can contact Grimes to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance. Contact can be made in person, by writing, by email, by telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 5 p.m. CT, Wednesday, Jan. 18.

UT Martin also distributes this notice to all faculty and staff as part of its compliance with providing adequate public notice. For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

## Featured Faculty Scholar confirms ‘when and what you put in your mouth really does matter’

**Dr. Angie MacKewn**, professor in the UT Martin Department of Psychology, will be recognized as the spring semester Featured Faculty Scholar at a 4 p.m. event, Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Paul Meek Library. Her presentation, “Metabolic & Psychological Improvements After Clean Keto & Intermittent Fasting,” will review a study conducted with faculty colleagues **Dr. Julie Floyd** (nursing); **Drs. Todd Sherman** and **Alison Ellis** (health and human performance); and students Jennifer Marr (nursing) and Anna Mallory (psychology). Her presentation is free and open to the public.

MacKewn will also preview an upcoming study linking metabolic health and Omega-3 Fatty Acid with her team and student Alyvia Taylor, as well as discuss ongoing research with psychology student Cate Spencer on the metabolic factors related to autism spectrum disorder. MacKewn has done extensive research on cognitive psychology, particularly among college students and athletes. She was recently honored with the university’s Ray and Wilma Smith Faculty Development Research Award based on her excellence in teaching and exemplary research activity.

The Featured Faculty Scholar award was created in the 1996-97 academic year and recognizes faculty members whose research and creative works are judged

among the most prestigious at the university. The Jan. 16 event is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library. A reception with light refreshments will



**Dr. Angie MacKewn**

follow and attendees can view an exhibit highlighting MacKewn’s work. The public event will be held in the library’s north reading room with a livestream of the presentation at <https://youtu.be/eigeL-aAw88>. A recording will be available at this site for later viewing.

Parking will be in the library lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at [www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety](http://www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety) by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link. For more information, contact **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, Paul Meek Library dean, at 731-881-7070.

## UTM COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA BEGINS REHEARSALS JAN. 23

The UT Martin Community Orchestra will begin rehearsals at 7 p.m., Jan. 23, in the Blankenship Recital Hall located in the Fine Arts Building on the main campus. Membership in

the orchestra is free and open to students and Northwest Tennessee community residents with no audition required to join.

Anyone who plays a stringed instrument (violin, viola,

violin, string bass, etc.) and loves music is invited to participate. The orchestra performs concerts at the end of each fall and spring semesters. **Dr. Doug Owens**, UT Martin

professor of music, is orchestra director.

For more information about the orchestra, contact Owens at [dowens14@utm.edu](mailto:dowens14@utm.edu) or call 731-881-7414.

# LATIMER-SMITH ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE BUILDING OPENS

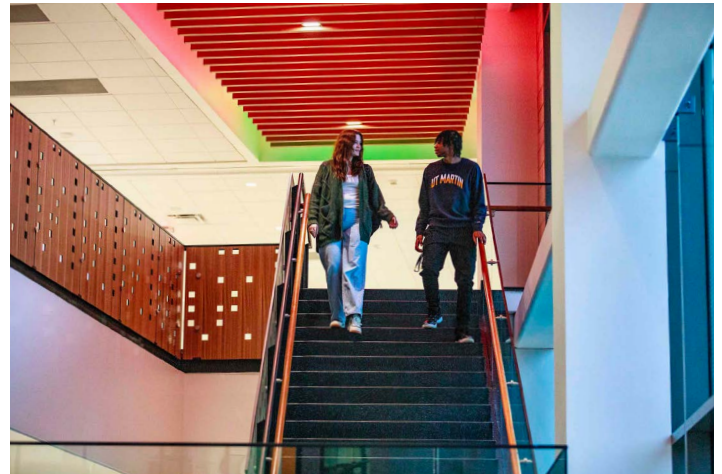
The first day of spring classes at UT Martin also signaled opening day for the university's new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. A \$6.5 million gift by Bill and Carol Latimer, of Union City, made the \$65 million, 120,000-square-foot, three-story building possible. The building was dedicated Oct. 27 last fall, and preparations for this first day in the facility have been underway since.

The October dedication coincided with the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees fall meeting held in the Boling University Center. Earlier that afternoon, board members approved a request by Bill Latimer to add **Dr. Bob Smith's** name to the building in recognition of the former UT Martin chancellor's service

during a critical period in the university's history.

The Latimer gift provided the 10% match required by the state for construction of the state-of-the-art facility, and ground was officially broken Sept. 18, 2020. The Latimer-Smith Building houses the departments of chemistry and physics, computer science, engineering, mathematics and statistics, and the pre-professional health sciences program. The building features classrooms, laboratories, offices, a small observatory, and amenities for students and visitors.

**Dr. Nancy Buschhaus**, interim dean for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, reminded the university community in an email message that the building



**LATIMER-SMITH BUILDING OPENS** – UT Martin students Breann Rudolph from Fulton, Kentucky, and Bracston Graham, of Memphis, are pictured in the Latimer-Smith Building walking down the stairs toward the first-floor lobby.

is “now fully operational and holding classes in our new spaces.”

“Come by and sit awhile in some of the study spaces located on all three floors or

stop by the Sodexo Café at the entrance of the building,” she wrote. “... Our college is honored to be a part of this new student-friendly building space.”

Read more UT Martin news online at [utm.edu/news](http://utm.edu/news).

## You Tell Me

- **Question** – Would you review the requirements for being listed in the Chancellor's Honor Roll?
- **Answer** – To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79), or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). The recognition is by semester only, not by overall GPA, which sometimes generates questions from students and families. The second-highest reason students aren't shown on the listing is that files have been marked “confidential” by the student. Any record that is marked this way will not show up on the Information Technology Services list when ITS produces the honor roll.

Submit your questions to Addenda at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

## addenda

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