

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 20, 2023

Cavalier discusses his appointment as UT Martin interim chancellor

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier is accustomed to serving as a university administrator, but his newest position came as a bit of a surprise. He received an early morning call from University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd on Jan. 26 asking if Cavalier would serve as UT Martin interim chancellor. Later that same morning, Dr. Keith Carver, who had begun his seventh year as UT Martin chancellor, was announced as the new leader for the UT Institute of Agriculture. Cavalier would be taking over the reins of the university from a highly popular chancellor.

Fast forward to March 1, his official first day as interim chancellor, and life has changed significantly for UT Martin's former chief academic officer. Cavalier has appointed his interim successor in Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, completed a scheduled accreditation visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and quickly settled into the role of leading a primary regional university in the UT System. He responded to questions about his new post and his plans for leading the university until a permanent successor for Carver



Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier is pictured inside UT Martin's new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

is named.

- What went through your mind when President Boyd contacted you Jan. 26? "I was certainly surprised, and it was sad. Working with Keith Carver has been just such a joy and a delight for the last five years, and he's meant so much to this campus. I didn't know that this was going to happen, but I appreciate President Boyd having the faith in me to be able

to manage this transition."

- You've served as UT Martin's chief academic officer since 2018. How has that role prepared you to serve as interim chancellor? "I think that during that time, I've gotten to know the people on this campus and at the regional centers. I've worked very closely with the faculty, and I think that's a very important piece of it. The second thing I think is over that

time, I've been involved in all of the planning work that we've done to set the course for the next five years. So, I feel like being in the middle of that has helped me to say, 'Okay, at the core, how can I help UTM to achieve the goals of the plans?'"

- What are a couple of your proudest accomplishments in your previous UT Martin

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Drs. Cooper Johnson and Jamye Long continue their work with Go Cloud Careers. Most recently, they recorded training videos on the topics of Buying versus Leasing, What is a Supply Chain?, reading an Annual Report, and understanding a Cash Flow Statement. These recordings will be used by Go Cloud Careers in their new training program "How to Earn More Money in Tech" that launches in April. Participation in this program is geared toward elite technology professionals training for career advancement.



RODEO COACH VISITS KIWANIS--UT Martin Rodeo head coach Chase Thrasher (left) visited the Martin Kiwanis Club on March 15 to share information about the men's and women's Skyhawk rodeo teams and to invite everyone to attend the 55th Annual Spring Rodeo to be held April 13-15 at the Ned McWherter Agriculture Complex on the UT Martin campus. Tickets are now on sale, and all seats for this event will be sold online (www.utmsports.com/rodeotickets). Thrasher was introduced by Danielle Fabianich (center), senior associate athletic director and Kiwanis program coordinator for March. Logan Neal (right), graduate assistant for rodeo, accompanied Thrasher to the event.

Have a great idea? Participate in the Innovation Challenge

Have you ever had an idea that you thought could make your work or the work of others more efficient and effective? Maybe you have imagined ways the university could potentially save money while still providing excellent service. If so, now is a great time to see your ideas put into action and potentially be rewarded for

your effort! We are seeking your great ideas in UT's Innovation Challenge.

The Innovation Challenge seeks to improve the university's operations and efficiency. Through the Innovation Challenge, UT employees systemwide can come together and submit ideas either for a



specific campus or institute or the entire UT System.

Your contributions to the Innovation Challenge will help shape the university in making this the greatest decade in the history of the University of Tennessee.

To learn more about the Innovation Challenge, the evaluation process, financial incentives, and to access the submission form, please [click here](#).

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position? “I think the first one is we’ve got a sense of what we’re going to do with new programs and enrollment to make sure we grow, and that has been important obviously after COVID. I would say that we’ve increased and improved our ability to use data when we’re making decisions. We’ve got an outstanding director of institutional research. We’ve got a director of retention who is fantastic and has been able to come to work every day and ask, ‘How do we help students succeed and persist?’ I think those things are critical to the health of this institution.”

- What are some of your main goals as interim chancellor? “I think, first, to continue doing the work that we’ve started doing this semester and before that. We just had our updated Strategic Plan

approved by the UT Board of Trustees, and it has some very clear recommendations that we’re going to pursue. I think it’s important that whoever the permanent chancellor is can see that UTM is moving forward and in good health. I want to make sure that I’m contributing to that every day. I think also there are folks in our community who are still grieving about the fact that Chancellor Carver is no longer in Martin, and I’m one of them. It’s just going to take some time, and I want to be part of helping folks who are in that spot to feel better about what’s happening even though Chancellor Carver’s gone.”

- How can people best support you at interim chancellor? “I think first and foremost, continuing to do the work that we’ve done. So, if you’ve been a part of a committee that’s been formed

to work on a particular piece of the Strategic Plan, continue to be all in on that. Recognize that we’ve got some opportunities here that we really need to pursue as a result of Blue Oval City and Ford. Let’s keep trying to improve the institution even though the tendency might be, ‘Well, we need to stick it in neutral and just sit where we are.’”

- Who are the important people in your life who are supporting you away from the university? “My wife, Carol, is the most important person, and she has been extremely supportive in all of this. She, too, was surprised, and of course, my whole family loves Keith Carver. My boys have enjoyed spending time with him. We’re an empty nest family now: one son is in California, one is in Washington, D.C., and the third is a sophomore in

college outside of Philadelphia. It’s hard to be so far away from them, but we stay in touch with Snapchat and Facetime.”

- You were a college athlete during your undergraduate years. How did that experience shape you into the person and professional you are today? “I was a goalie in lacrosse and soccer in college, and that position is one where there’s tremendous pressure at certain moments to perform. I think that’s similar to university administration. You have to make sure that you’re performing well all the time but especially in key moments. The experiences I had playing sports and specifically that position gave me confidence that I can do that. I cherish the experiences that I had playing sports in college, and I think student athletes have a wonderful extra part of their college experience that they will remember always.”

Spring General Faculty Meeting

Thursday, March 30
3:15 p.m.
Watkins Auditorium



BRAIN AWARENESS DAY AT THE MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY – It took a village of volunteers to engage 96 members of the local community in hearing and brain science activities during a Brain Awareness Day event on Saturday, March 11, at the Martin Public Library. Department of Biological Sciences members Andrew Morency and Dr. Ann Gathers were joined by UT Martin biology majors and University Scholars as well as members of the Westview High School STEM Club, the Martin Kiwanis Club and the Martin Public Library staff. Volunteers operated six learning stations that included hands-on activities, games and information for library visitors of all ages. Brain Awareness opportunities will continue through mid-April. Book displays offering reading suggestions on various brain-related topics from memory to autism can be found at the UT Martin Paul Meek Library and the Martin Public Library throughout the month of March. On Saturday, April 15, UT Martin faculty and students will offer a Brain Awareness Day at The Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tennessee.

CLUE: A LIBRARY WHODUNNIT

Teams of three will have the opportunity to solve a library murder mystery. Click this ad for more information.

MARCH 28

4 P.M. & 6 P.M.
PAUL MEEK LIBRARY



ELAM CENTER POOL CLOSES

UT Martin is permanently closing the swimming pool inside the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The closure is effective immediately. The cost of repairs, the need for major renovations, and declining student and community usage prompted the decision. The Elam Center was constructed in 1976 and the pool was last renovated in 2004.

The new UT Martin Campus Master Plan calls for the current pool space to be converted to an indoor recreational space. This new space would create more opportunities for athletic practices and intramural events. The Master Plan also calls for construction of a new pool, but design work and funding are not yet available, and no timetable has been set.

AWARD-WINNING POET TO SPEAK AT UT MARTIN APRIL 3

Rochelle Hurt, an award-winning poet and nonfiction author, will be the featured speaker in the Paul Meek Literary Speakers Series at the University of Tennessee at Martin at 4 p.m. on April 3 at the Paul Meek Library. A livestream of the presentation will be available on UT Martin Webcasting via YouTube.



Hurt, an assistant professor of English at the University of Central Florida, has authored three books of poetry: *The J Girls: A Reality Show*; *In Which I Play the Runaway*; and *The Rusted City: A Novel in Poems*. Her work has been published in *Poetry Magazine* and *Poetry International*.

The Paul Meek Literary Speaker Series is made possible through endowed funds donated

by the Meek family in honor of Paul Meek, UT Martin's second chancellor.

This event is open to the public, and parking permits can be found at www.utm.edu/publicsafety. For more information, contact **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – The late UT Martin alum and UTM Athletics Hall of Fame member Pat Head Summitt is a person who will forever be a part of basketball history. What are some key pieces of memorabilia from her playing and coaching days that are kept in University Archives?

• **Answer** – UT Martin's most famous alumna, Pat Head Summitt ('74), or Trish as she was known during her time as a Pacer, arrived on the UT Martin campus in the fall of 1970. Summitt played basketball at UT Martin for head coach Nadine Gearin from 1970-74. She led the then-Pacers to a combined 64-30 record and left UT Martin as the program's all-time leading scorer with 1,405 points. Some of the key pieces of ephemera that exist in the Alliene and Jimmie S. Corbitt Special Collections include a banner from Summitt's original jersey retirement in 1974; Summitt's original orange and navy No. 55 jersey; and Summitt's warm-up suit with "Lady Pacers" stitched on the back. There are also dozens of photos of Summitt from her playing days at UT Martin, as well as photos of her from her visits to campus over the years. Photos of Summitt can be viewed at this [link](#).

Submit your questions to Addenda at addenda@utm.edu.

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