

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 27, 2023

## UTM ONLINE PROGRAMS RECEIVE NATIONAL & STATE RANKINGS



UT Martin has been ranked nationally and in Tennessee for online program quality by two ranking services. The university's Online MBA Program was tied for 51st out of 344 ranked schools, and online education programs tied for 169th place among 329 ranked universities in the U.S. News and World Report's 2023 Best Online Programs. Also, Intelligent.com, a resource for program rankings and higher education planning, has included UT Martin among the top-10 Best Online Colleges in Tennessee in 2023.

U.S. News and World Report ranked colleges based on a variety of objective factors such as student engagement, faculty

credentials, and services and technologies, and UT Martin was the top-ranked Tennessee university on the list of MBA programs. These rankings are designed for individuals looking to complete or further their education and evaluate more than 1,800 online bachelor's and master's programs.

"In our college, all planning and activities are aimed at ensuring the overall well-being and professional success of our students at both the undergraduate and graduate level," said **Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi**, College of Business and Global Affairs dean. "Regional and national recognition serve as external

validation of the quality of our programs."

The university's MBA program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which is considered a gold-standard accreditation in business education. More than 16,000 colleges and schools of business are located around the world, but only 6% of those schools are accredited by AACSB.

Intelligent.com implemented a unique methodology that ranks each institution on a scale from 0 to 100 across six categories. The scoring system compares each school according

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## Spring Preview Day set for April 1

Spring Preview Day is set for 9-11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 1, in the Boling University Center. The event is open to anyone interested in attending the university, and all prospective students and their families are welcome.

Members of the undergraduate admissions staff and others will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. UT Martin students and faculty members will also be on hand to answer questions, and the morning will end with a campus tour.

The event is free, and advance registration is encouraged at [www.utm.edu/previewday](http://www.utm.edu/previewday). More information is available by calling 731-881-7020 or email [admitme@utm.edu](mailto:admitme@utm.edu).



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

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



**Dr. Sean Walker**, professor of behavioral management and interim chair, Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems, was featured in the March 22, 2023, edition of WalletHub with comments on the story “2023’s Most and Least Innovative States.” You can find the story [here](#). WalletHub, based in Washington, D.C., is a financial website that offers information such as credit-improvement advice and personalized savings alerts. The site’s business-related features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.



**Dr. David Barber**, professor of history, recently had his opinion article, “How do we teach Black history in Tennessee without telling students hard truths?,” published in the Tennessean.

To read Barber’s entire piece, [click here](#).

View more  
UT Martin  
photos  
online at  
[utm.edu/  
photo](http://utm.edu/photo).



## COLLEGIATE ADVERTISING AWARDS

The Office of University Relations earned several awards from the 2022 Collegiate Advertising Awards in the 2022 national competition. All awards were announced in March and were based on entries from schools with enrollments between 5,001 and 10,000 students. The 2021 Chancellor’s Annual Report received a Gold Award for annual reports; a Parsons Center T-shirt design earned a Silver Award in the advertising specialty category; and a photo titled “Dresden Tornado Clean-Up” earned a Silver Award in the photo/illustration category.



The Paul Meek Library was represented at the 2023 annual conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries in Pittsburgh. **Heidi Busch** helped moderate a roundtable discussion, “Reference Services: Connecting Interactions to the ACRL Framework,” as part of her work with the Reference & User Services Association. **Dr. Erik Nordberg** served as both moderator and speaker on the panel session, “New Face in a New Town: Building Trust and Networks When You Relocate into a New Leadership Role.”

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**ONLINE from PAGE 1**

to tuition costs, admission, retention and graduation rates, faculty, reputation and resources provided for online students.

UT Martin was ranked ninth in Tennessee, with an intelligent score of 90.99. The university offers 10 undergraduate degrees and six graduate degrees that students can complete through solely online coursework and without the need to visit campus. Within these degree programs, students can focus their studies on a wide choice of concentrations through courses designed for convenience and flexibility around busy schedules.

The university also received the "Best for Transfers" award for its Transfer Equivalency Table, a unique online tool that provides students with a table that includes effective terms, other institution courses, UTM courses and UTM credits. Through this table, students can quickly and easily determine if courses previously taken at other institutions will transfer to UT Martin.

"Our outstanding faculty and staff go the extra mile to evaluate transfer credit, explain how transferred courses meet degree requirements, and walk students through their options

with online programs of study," said **Dr. Adam Wilson**, director of UT Martin Online programs.

Additionally, the university's Online Bachelor of Philosophy Program was ranked 11th nationally. The program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and received an intelligent score of 87.74.

UT Martin offers online courses with the same quality education as on-campus classes with added flexibility and convenience. Most online courses follow the same academic calendar as other university

courses and include the same course goals and objectives. The university also prides itself on having full-time faculty offer most online courses, which means that students benefit from being taught by the same faculty who teach on-campus classes.

For more information about UT Martin's MBA program and the College of Business and Global Affairs, contact Tootoonchi at 731-881-7227 or tootoonchi@utm.edu. For more information about UT Martin's online programs, contact Wilson at 731-881-7021 or awilson9@utm.edu.

The graphic features a vibrant orange background with several circular inset images. On the left, a student holds a trophy under the word "Dreams". In the center, a group of students in green shirts with "ATP" on them are cheering under the word "Opportunity". On the right, a student in a red shirt is smiling under the word "Education". Other images show students playing saxophones, a student with a horse, and a student in a red shirt. At the bottom, the text "Captain's Challenge" is written in a large, dark blue script font, followed by "Your gift... Their future" in a white script font, and "WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5" in a white sans-serif font.

*Dreams*

*Opportunity*

*Education*

**Captain's Challenge**  
 Your gift... Their future  
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

# UT MARTIN EARNS 2023-2024 MILITARY FRIENDLY® SCHOOL DESIGNATION

UT Martin has earned the 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School gold ranking in the small-public category for the support provided to military veterans who attend the university. The Military Friendly® Schools survey is the longest-running, most comprehensive review of college and university investments in serving military and veteran students.

Methodology, criteria and weightings were determined by

Victory with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

"This is a testament to the dedication that UT Martin staff and faculty have to the advancement of support for student veterans and their family members," said Jason Earley, UT Martin Veteran Services coordinator.

For more information about UT Martin Veteran Services, visit [www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu) and search "Veteran Services" or contact Earley by calling 731-881-1689 or by email at [jeasley3@utm.edu](mailto:jeasley3@utm.edu).

## Spring General Faculty Meeting

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

## CLUE: A LIBRARY WHODUNNIT

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

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



## 55th Annual UT Martin Spring College

# RODEO

April 13-15 • 7:30 p.m.

Ned McWherter Agricultural Pavilion • Martin, Tenn.

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE!**



**ALL SEATS RESERVED!**

*Paul Meek Literary Legacy Speakers Series*

POETRY READING BY  
*Rochelle Hurt*

INCLUDING SELECTIONS FROM  
"IN WHICH I PLAY THE RUNAWAY"  
& "THE J GIRLS: A REALITY SHOW"



4 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 3 at Paul Meek Library **LIVESTREAM** 



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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDS-ON LEARNING AT UT MARTIN**—When Dr. Wes Totten, professor and chair of the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, gave a presentation for Kiwanis, he explained that his department offers B. S. degrees in five majors: agricultural business, agriculture, geosciences, natural resources management, and veterinary science and technology. He said that those in his department are dedicated to introducing students to the full array of disciplines within each program and that courses are offered that provide experiential training and numerous hands-on, practical learning opportunities. Dr. Totten noted that more than one thousand students are currently enrolled in this department. Kiwanis President Ann Gathers presented Dr. Totten with a certificate of appreciation showing that a donation is being made in his honor to Martin Public Library.

**UTM RESEARCH SERIES**



*Bonnie Daniel  
with Faculty Panel*

PRESENT

*The Scholarship of  
Teaching & Learning  
at UTM*

**4:00 PM  
TUESDAY, APRIL 4  
AT PAUL MEEK LIBRARY**

**OR SCAN CODE FOR  
LIVESTREAM**

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

## UT Martin hosts four candidates for dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts

Monday, March 27  
**Dr. Ruma Chopra**  
3:45-4:45 p.m.  
Watkins Auditorium

Tuesday, March 28  
**Dr. Jason Schmitt**  
3:45-4:45 p.m.  
Smith Legislative  
Chamber

Wednesday, March 29  
**Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee**  
3:45-4:45 p.m.  
Smith Legislative  
Chamber

Friday, March 31  
**Dr. Jordan Cofer**  
3:45-4:45 p.m.  
Watkins Auditorium



## SURPRISE NAMING

Retired Skyhawk golf coach **Jerry Carpenter** reacts to a crowd gathered for a surprise ceremony March 25 at the Rhodes Golf Center that announced the naming of the outdoor portion of the facility in his honor. Carpenter spent 18 seasons as golf team head coach. Attendees in the large crowd included community members, former players and Bill Rhodes, UT Board of Trustees member and president and CEO of Autozone, Inc. Rhodes is in the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame as an accomplished member of the golf team. A gift from the Rhodes family made the golf center possible.

## You Tell Me

- **Question** – What is the purpose of the gravel lot on the north side of Skyhawk Fieldhouse?
- **Answer** – The graveled area north of Skyhawk Fieldhouse is the laydown area for the Elam Center mall roof replacement project. The contractor received notice March 15 to proceed, and the project is scheduled to be completed in spring 2024. The work involves replacing the glass roof with a metal roof and also includes a vertical glass section along the top of the wall for natural light. New interior lighting will also be included in the project. J.C. Henson Drive should not be greatly affected; however, the alley between the Elam Center and the fieldhouse will be closed at times for safety reasons. Those notices will be sent out to the campus as they occur.

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

## addenda

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