

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | April 10, 2023

Paul Meek Library hosts library staff across Northwest Tennessee

The UT Martin Paul Meek Library, in collaboration with the Obion River Regional Library, recently hosted a one-day conference March 22 for library staff from school, public and academic libraries throughout Northwest Tennessee. The event attracted more than 100 participants who enjoyed educational sessions, a keynote presentation, lunch and networking with colleagues. The event was provided free of charge through the financial sponsorship of the United Way of West Tennessee.

“While there are many stereotypes about libraries and library workers,” said Dr. Erik Nordberg, Paul Meek Library dean, “the work we do is so critically important. In essence, we train people to locate, evaluate and incorporate information in their daily lives. Yes, we still check out books

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WESTSTAR TO HOST THE 24TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



LEADERSHIP – UT Martin’s WestStar Leadership Program will host the 24th annual African American Leadership Conference from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. The conference connects African Americans in leadership positions and diverse work environments throughout West Tennessee. Register for the conference at www.utm.edu/weststar.

The UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program will host the 24th annual African American Leadership Conference from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, at the West Tennessee

AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. The conference connects African Americans in leadership positions and diverse work environments throughout West

Tennessee.

The conference will feature speakers from private business, education and health care

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Violet V. Bumah, a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics, was awarded a fellowship by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, Institute of International Education (IIE), to travel to the University of Calabar Nigeria in the summer of 2023. The project is one of 63 newly funded projects that pair African Diaspora scholars with higher education institutions and collaborators in Africa to work on curriculum co-development, collaborative research, graduate training and mentoring activities in 2023. The host fellow, Dr. Ubana Eteng at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Calabar, will organize workshops with the Diaspora fellow, Dr. Bumah, on photobiomodulation, including the development

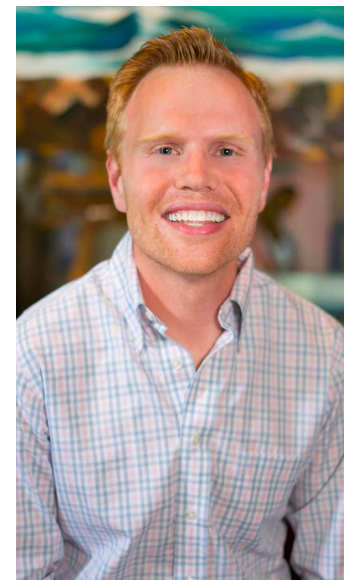


of germ bursting light-based technologies. The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in collaboration with the Association of African Universities (AAU).



Ronne Jones and **Marcie Boutwell** highlighted collaboration between the Paul Meek Library and area libraries in a presentation titled “Fitting together to Build a Better Community” at the 2023 Conference of the Kentucky Public Library Association in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Alex Beene, an adjunct instructor for the UT Martin Office of University Outreach, was recently awarded the 2023 Outstanding Teacher Edgar M. Easley Award by the Coalition on Adult Basic Education. This award “is provided to a practitioner with five or more years of adult education teaching experience that participates in school and community activities. This award is given to an individual who understands the characteristics of the adult learner and who is committed to the adult/continuing education profession.”



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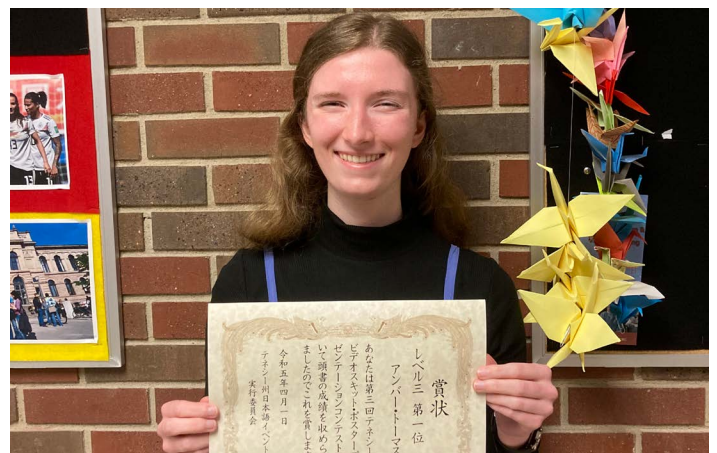
Go Cloud Career's Head in the Clouds | Tech Career Secrets | How to Get Promoted In Tech | The Secret to Tech Career Advancement session titled "Impress Management - Not Your Peers" included the expertise of **Dr. Cooper Johnson** and **Jamye Long** in which the audience learned about methods for shining in the eyes of their supervisors. At this point, there have been 1,100 views by an international audience with over 200 hours watched for this online roundtable discussion.

Dr. Clinton Smith, chair of the Department of Educational Studies and associate professor of special education, recently presented "Accessibility is More than Curb Cuts: Our Role in Creating Accessible Environments" with colleagues from the National Education Association's IDEA Special Education Resource Training Cadre at the NEA's 2023 National Leadership Summit in San Francisco on March 11. This year's summit focused on disability justice. Smith has been a member of the cadre since 2019. The cadre is a diverse group of special education professionals from every region of the nation who work collaboratively to identify, develop and deliver resources to enhance skills and knowledge of

educators through professional development. Being a member of the cadre is a high-profile position and members have been called upon to work with strategic partners in the U.S. Department of Education, The White House and external education organizations.



The American Association of University Women Martin Branch presented computer bags to Dr. Annie Jones, advisor for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) and a career counselor in the Office of Career Planning and Development, to be given to students. Pictured (l,r) are AAUW-Martin Branch members Dr. Marti Herndon, Dr. Jones, Dr. Amy Richards and Heidi Busch. AAUW's mission is: advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



The 3rd annual Tennessee video skit and poster presentation contest award ceremony was held virtually on Saturday, April 1. Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese and four other Japanese instructors from other Tennessee universities organized the event. This year, Amber Thomas, an English major and Japanese and biology minor from UT Martin, won first in the college three-year level. The contest was sponsored by Mitsui USA, Middle Tennessee Japan Society, TBDN Tennessee Company and other supporters including the Consulate General of Japan in Nashville.

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along with elected officials. Following 8 a.m. registration and a continental breakfast, the program includes the following:

- 8:20 Welcome
 - Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin interim chancellor
 - Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor, UT Martin Division of University Advancement
- 8:30 Keynote - Leadership
 - Tommye "TJ" Kirk, vice president, Freed-Hardeman University Office of Student Services
- 9:15 Blue Oval City / SK Innovation
 - Mayor Bill Rawls, Brownsville
 - Sheronda Greene,

community engagement lead, Blue Oval City

9:45 What Does Readiness Look Like? Are we ready for Blue Oval City?

Panel Moderator: Evelyn Robertson, WestStar Class of 1997

- Mayor Julian McTzic, Bolivar
- Mayor Gene Bowden, Whiteville
- Dr. Versie Hamlett, Superintendent of Fayette County Schools, WestStar '23
- Don McCorry, Executive Director, African American Chamber of Commerce, Jackson
- Shalondria Shaw, West Tennessee Regional Apprenticeship, Tennessee

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

10:45 Break

11:15 TCAT

•James Farmer, career pathways coordinator, Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Jackson

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Real Estate and Planning

•Brenda DePriest, associate, RE/MAX Realty

•Shelton Merrell, regional planner/RPO coordinator, Southwest Tennessee Development District

1:15 Mental Health

•Shelia Dieringer, West Tennessee Healthcare

Register for the conference at www.utm.edu/weststar.

Registration is \$40 per person and should be completed by April 12. For more information, contact Virginia Grimes, assistant director of the WestStar Leadership Program, at 731-881-7787 or vgrimes@utm.edu.

The conference is made possible by WestStar in partnership with the City of Brownsville, Conner Real Estate, Mark Heaston in memory of Ruby Heaston, Mary Jones in memory of Ina Yarbrough, Jonah Housing Authority, TRANE of West Tennessee and the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service.

LIBRARY from PAGE 1

and help people with leisure reading, but we also provide critical access to information sources, both print and digital, that inform and educate people." Through these resources and training, libraries help individuals to be successful in their educational pursuits, improve their employment opportunities and economic security, and encourage their participation in civic and community activities.

Library collections and services are provided to different audiences at different types of libraries across the region. The Obion River Regional Library, a local extension of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, supports 20 public libraries in the nine-county region of Northwest Tennessee - some operating at the county level and others at the city or community level. These agencies provide services to their residents and taxpayers. Many local schools have a library function located in their building, with dedicated staff supporting the learning needs of students in the K-12 curriculum. The region also hosts three institutions of

higher education with libraries supporting their students toward associate, bachelor's and graduate degrees.

Any given individual may interact with one or more of the libraries in the region during their lives, some as young children, checking out juvenile titles free of charge at the public library. Others utilize their school library over the course of their grade school education and as college students at UT Martin, Bethel University and Dyersburg State Community College. Many adults rely on their public library for internet access, assistance with public services, and access to health and employment information. The Paul Meek Library is open to the public and extends borrowing privileges to all Tennessee residents.

"Unfortunately, staff at these many libraries don't have equal opportunities for continuing education, or opportunities to meet, know and collaborate with each other," Nordberg said. Academic librarians often have institutional support for professional travel to specialized conferences in their academic sector. But it can be more difficult



Jenny Gillihan, director of the Obion River Regional Library, addresses the crowd during a one-day conference held March 22 at UT Martin's Paul Meek Library. The event was for library staff from school, public and academic libraries throughout northwest Tennessee.

for public and school library staff to budget for professional development. And although there has been increased access to low-cost virtual training, it is no substitute for in-person gatherings.

The one-day conference at UT Martin was designed to support public, school and academic library workers in the region. The event is built upon previous collaborations between the Paul Meek Library and area libraries, including a disaster-planning workshop for libraries led by a training consultant

from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

"This was a fun and educational opportunity to strengthen our local network of libraries," Nordberg said. "We were able to foster community and collegiality across the staff at public, school and academic libraries, some of whom didn't know their counterparts at another library right down the road." The event was such a success that organizers have already begun discussion about another convening in spring 2024.



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT – Students faculty and staff participate in the Take Back the Night march Monday, April 3, as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is nationally recognized during the month of April. Participants gathered at the Boling University Center patio to hear the history of the movement, resources and support for survivors of sexual assault. Martin Mayor Randy Brundige signed a proclamation declaring that April be recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and students, faculty and staff received flashlights before taking a lighted march through the quad.



I AM WHO I AM – The art exhibit called "I Am Who I Am. We Are Who We Are" opened in the Paul Meek Library, Wednesday, March 29. Artist Amy Bartell discussed her project, "I Am Who I Am. We Are Who We Are." As part of the Pride Year celebration through the Center for Women and Gender Equality, Bartell interviewed students, faculty and staff. From these interviews, she created compositions that capture the individual stories but also demonstrate that we are all connected. During the artist talk, Bartell shared inspiration for her artwork and appreciation of the UTM community in their participation for this exhibit. The exhibit will remain in the library through the end of the semester.

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UT Martin
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UTM CARE TEAM

April

EVENTS CALENDAR



- 5** **Consent Bingo - Sexual Assault Awareness**
Wed | 6pm | Care Corner (2nd floor UC Lobby)
- 10** **T-Shirt Rodeo**
Mon | 11am - 1pm | UC Patio 
- 12** **Fishing Derby with TWRA**
All abilities welcome | supplies provided | Prizes!!!
Wed | 3pm - 6pm | Pacer Pond
- 17** **Care Team Cookout**
Grab a burger and chill with the Care Team
Mon | 11am - 1pm | UC Patio
- 19** **Care Team - Parsons Center Arts & Crafts**
Get crafty with the Care Team
Wed | 11am - 1pm | Parsons Lobby
- 19** **Yoga in the Quad** 
With Campus Recreation
Wed | 4 - 4:45pm | UTM Quad
- 21** **Cultivating Care: Plant giveaway**
Care Team's Sowing, Growing, GIVING Garden Series
Fri | 11am - 1pm | UC Patio
- 25** **Goat Snuggles** 
Get your cuddle on for a snuggle study break
Tues | 11am - 2pm | Next to Crisp Hall 

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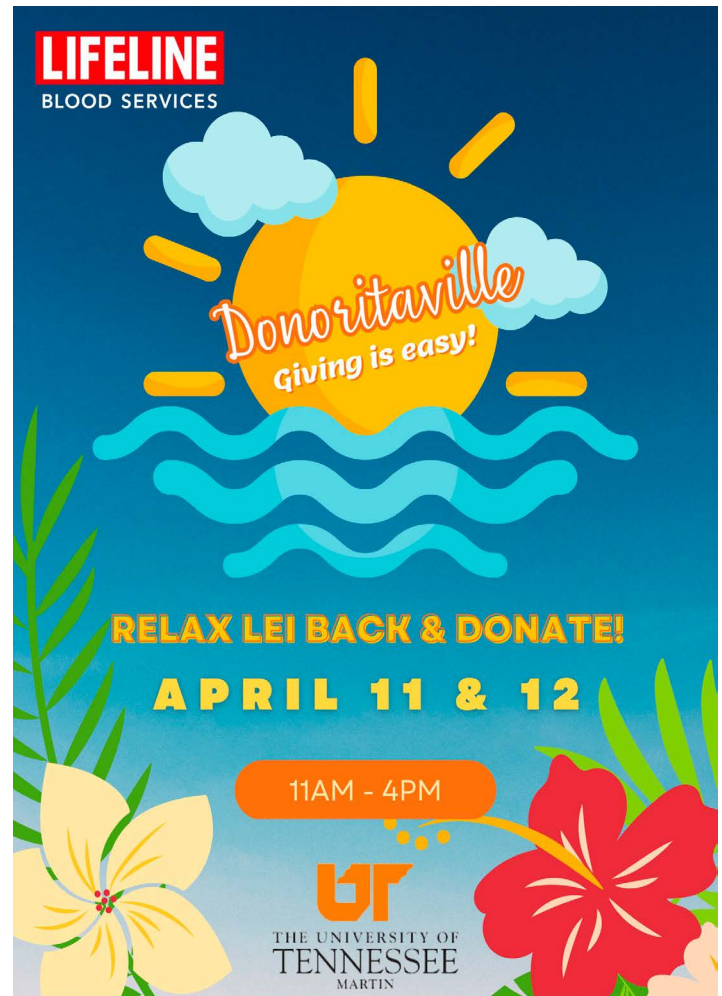
care.utm.edu



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ADVOCATING FOR ELDER CARE—Lindee McCurley (center), a 2023 member of Leadership Weakley County, was guest speaker at the March 29 meeting of the Martin Kiwanis Club where she discussed the topic “Elder Care: Education, Safety, and Abuse Prevention.” With her (l to r) are fellow LWC members Alex Britt and Jennifer Black Smiley, Kiwanis president Dr. Ann Gathers (who presented a certificate of appreciation showing that donation is being made in her honor to Martin Public Library), and LWC member Anna Clark. Since LWC began in 1990, each class has worked on a community project, and the current class chose this focus on elder care. Lindee explained that some actions everyone can do to prevent elder abuse include the following: listen to older people and caregivers to understand their challenges and provide support, educate one another about the signs of abuse and how to get help, report suspected abuse or neglect as soon as possible, build a community that fosters social connections, and reach out to professional services for support. She also encouraged everyone to attend the June 14 event at Martin Public Library sponsored by the Elder Justice Coalition.



You Tell Me

- **Question** – What determines if a university area is called a college, office, department, division, etc.?
- **Answer** – Traditionally, “divisions” encompass large university areas of responsibility and services, such as the Division of Academic Affairs, Division of Finance and Administration, Division of Student Affairs, etc. “Academic departments” are part of the larger “academic colleges” that include the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, etc. Non-academic areas are referred to as “offices” such as the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics. Areas or units called “centers” can vary from the “regional centers” to internal or academic entities such as the Center for Sustainability. The exception to a non-academic area officially being named a “department” is the Department of Public Safety, a naming decision made many years ago.

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

addenda

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