

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | July 31, 2023

UTM to host 25th Agriculture Finance Conference

The 25th Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held Aug. 9 in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

The conference is mutually hosted by the UT Martin Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence and the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

Featured speakers for this year's conference will be:

- Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus from Virginia Tech, sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America
- Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, sponsored by Nutrien
- Richard Brock, Brock & Associates

Kohl will kick off the 25th anniversary event by discussing some of the commonalities and un-commonalities of business success. Before unveiling these traits, he will take attendees on a journey globally with stops in China, India, Europe and the United States to provide a real-time insight on the economic fortunes of the future.

The Mid-South Agriculture Finance Conference was begun in 1998 by Sara Dunagan, the family founder of the Dunagan Chair of Excellence with a small group of lenders, producers and agricultural rural stakeholders. Today, it is the go-to summer event for the latest information for agricultural finance.

"It started with just 20 ag lenders," said **John Clark**, the interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. "As it grew, **Dr. Joey Melhorn** (professor and dean of graduate studies) got involved 20 years ago and has been involved ever since."

Clark added that over the years, 50% of the participants are people who are lending officers who deal with extending agriculture credit to agriculture businesses and producers.

"We have a lot of producers now who participate - 106 took part in last year's



Dr. David Kohl has taken part in all 25 Mid-South Agriculture Finance Conferences and will be a featured speaker at this year's conference, taking place Aug. 9 in Watkins Auditorium at the Boling University Center.

conference," he said. "Also, there are attorneys and real estate professionals. We've grown the audience and want to continue to grow the audience with individuals who have investments in agriculture."

Clark said that seven high schools brought their FFA officers and chapter members to take part in last year's conference.

For the last quarter-century, the Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference has provided the most up-to-date and relevant information needed to grow agricultural bottom lines.

The mission of the conference is to deliver high-quality, timely, practical financial tools

and economic information to anyone with significant investments in agriculture.

This conference has the most renowned and respected agricultural finance, economic, and weather experts in the U.S.

The annual conference attracts farmers, ag business owners, managers and family members who serve important roles in these operations, and is open to the public to attend.

Registration for this year's conference will run through July 31. Registration information for the Mid-South Agriculture Finance Conference can be found at its page at www.utm.edu/agconference.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Dexter Davis, professor of sport management, joined Don McCorry, executive director for the Jackson-Madison County African-American Chamber of Commerce, for a June appearance on “Six In The City,” a public affairs show that airs on EPlusTV 6 in Jackson.



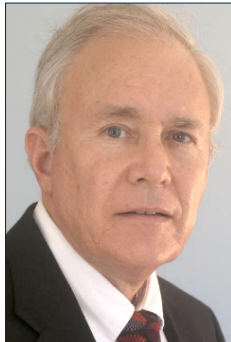
Davis and McCorry previewed the 12th “Follow Me Celebrity Golf Classic,” sponsored by the chamber and scheduled for Sept. 12 at the Bent Tree Golf Club in Jackson.

Davis is on the planning committee and brings 10 to 15 students from his Event

and Facility Planning class to support the tournament each year.

In Memory

Dr. Dwight Gatwood, a Martin resident, died on July 17 at the age of 80.



The retired UT Martin professor emeritus of music taught at the university from 1972 until his retirement in 2008.

During his career as a college professor, he taught at LaGrange (Ga.) College and began the music department at Columbia State Community College, developing its music curriculum. He then taught at Defiance College and finished his teaching career at UT Martin.

He was a baritone soloist at UT Martin, performing many works in solo recitals and concerts and as a member of the West Tennessee Vocal Quartet with his wife, Dianne.

In addition to singing, Gatwood performed as a member of the UTM faculty

trombone quartet and was treasurer of the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the U.S (SEAMUS).

Gatwood was a gifted composer, writing many works for electronic music and for vocal solos and ensembles, as well as many compositions for his church choirs.

His musical compositions span several decades, and include the UT Martin alma mater and bicentennial celebration composition, “Forever UTM,” both of which are featured daily on the campus carillon.

Gatwood was honored for his many accomplishments and contributions to UTM when the Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room was dedicated to him in the Fine Arts Building in 2015.

Dr. Elaine Harriss, professor of music, presented two sessions and performed three pieces at the “Art of the Piano for Teachers” workshop held June 30 at Delta State University in Jackson, Mississippi.



She directed the UTM piano camp for pre-college students June 12-16 on campus, and during the first weekend of June, she coordinated the Tennessee Music Teachers Association state performance competitions in Chattanooga with 192 students competing.

The latest customized training provided by **Dr. Jamye Long** and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, associate professors of management, for Go Cloud Career (GCC) is titled “Supply and Demand Curve.” This session is part of GCC’s new Elite Architect Program.



Long

The two have collaborated with the company Go Cloud Careers for about a year. Their work offers various training to their clientele.

Go Cloud Careers provides all-inclusive training for tech positions such as Cloud architects and Cloud engineers.

Long and Johnson’s work focuses on business management, where they help clients understand what is needed to be a successful manager.



Johnson

The training titled “Supply and Demand Curve” focuses on explaining the significance of a supply-and-demand curve from business and economics standpoints. This includes explanations of how the supply-and-demand curve works and how to utilize it to make decisions relevant to operations of an organization, including

price elasticity, challenges and maximizing the company’s bottom line.

THE DINOSAUR LIFE OF THE PARTY



UT Martin professor of art Lane Last (left) and a group of friends who make up the band Dinosaur Life took the stage at the Martin Public Library's Weakley County Open Mic event on July 20. Bandmates include (bottom photo from left) Steve Bahcall of Carmel, California; Mark Righter of New York, New York; and Dave Kim of Orange County, California.



Cannedy named director of UTM Jackson Center

Anita Cannedy has been named director of the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Prior to attaining this position, she served as the director of Jackson Christian School secondary campus since 2017. Cannedy has been in Jackson since 2013, having moved to West Tennessee from central Texas.

Cannedy also served as a higher education teacher and trainer for Goodwill Career Solutions in Jackson from 2014 to 2015.

Cannedy said she was attracted to the position at the UTM Jackson Center because of her previous experience in college administration.

"I had worked at a college previously, about seven years at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas," she said. "I really just loved interacting with students. I love serving people; that's where I have my fulfillment."

Erica Bell, the executive director for the UTM Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs, said Cannedy is a welcome addition to the Jackson Center.



Cannedy

"Anita's experience and passion for community engagement and student success are unquestionable," she said. "We are eager for her leadership, and I am confident our students, JSCC colleagues and the Madison

County and surrounding communities will benefit significantly from her contributions and addition to the UTM community."

Cannedy said that while universities have different departments, her job at the Jackson Center would have her wear many different hats, including marketing and academic advisory responsibilities.

"I'll be able to go out and meet the Jackson community even more and be able to participate in it and see how I can serve that community," she said. "What can we do to partner together? A lot of it is really finding ways that we can do that." The UTM Jackson Center is one of five regional centers for UT Martin. It was opened in 1992 and is located in the Ned R. McWherter Center on the campus of Jackson State Community College. The center offers 14 areas of study, including business management, criminal justice, psychology, social work, and hybrid MBA.

MENTORING PROGRAM SET UP FOR ADMINISTRATIVE NEWCOMERS

In an effort to better acclimate administrative specialists and program resource specialists who are new to the UT Martin campus, **Kim Barnett-Stone** has put together a program called the Mentoring Administrative Professional Program, or MAPP.

Barnett-Stone is the administrative specialist in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She is assisted in the MAPP program by **Angie Gertsch**, the administrative aide in the Division of Academic Affairs.

Barnett-Stone credited UTM human resources director **Michael Washington** for his support and encouragement in developing the program.

Barnett-Stone began developing the program in 2018 and submitted the proposal at the end of last April.

Barnett-Stone said the program helps new staffers get acclimated to the university's mission as well.

Gertsch said they plan to add a social aspect

to the program, especially since some new administrative staff members come from somewhere outside of Martin.

The program was launched on July 10 with two people.

Each participant in the program gets a packet of information, including a checklist for things like SANS training, office keys and other first-time information as well as information about FERPA training, parking permits and other necessities for being a university employee.

The program lasts for six months for each participant and relies on UTM faculty and staff to volunteer to be mentors.

Gertsch said the MAPP program is unique to UT Martin, adding that she and Barnett-Stone are working on a similar program for faculty.

Those who want to take part in the MAPP program as a mentor or new administrative staff member should contact Barnett-Stone or Gertsch at mapp@utm.edu.

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recent
accolades
by
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a YoUTM to
[addenda@
utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

Read more UT Martin news online at utm.edu/news.

Hagan named director of physical plant

Dana Hagan has been named the next director of the physical plant at the UT Martin.

Hagan came to UT Martin in 2006 as a temporary employee under former Physical Plant Director **Dr. Tim Nipp**. She was selected to be a full-time project coordinator in July 2009, the first to fill that position, and assumed additional duties as the associate director in 2020.

“I am honored to have been selected to lead the greatest people at UTM,” Hagan said. “I know their prayers and the prayers of others are what made the difference. I pray that I will be able to lead our team to make an impact as those leaders of the past have done and their investment in me will be fruitful.”

Petra Rencher McPhearson, the senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, praised Hagan for her work in the physical plant.

“Dana has worked as an integral part of the physical plant team since 2006, serving as project coordinator and performing

associate director duties in recent years,” McPhearson said. “She has contributed to several campus capital projects, including Clement Hall improvements, safety and security improvements, the campus master plan, the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building, Elam Center lighting upgrades and bringing the Boling University Center restrooms into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.”

Hagan was recognized with the UTM Outstanding Exempt Employee Award for Spring 2023.

Hagan, a resident of Union City, earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering technology from UT Martin in 1994 and a master of science degree in engineering management from UT Knoxville in 2015.

The UTM physical plant houses the university’s facilities crews for operations including building services, custodial services, grounds and greenhouse, recycling, transportation services, warehouse and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.



Hagan

Nipp served as the director of the physical plant from 2004 to 2020, when he became the chair of the UTM Department of Engineering. **Brad Burkett**, the physical plant’s interim director since 2020, recently retired from the university.

Fall 2023 campus meeting schedule released

Set the date! The first sign of fall semester classes has arrived with the release of the Fall 2023 campus meeting schedule.

The annual campus meetings allow faculty and staff to get to know newcomers to the fold and to catch up with colleagues after the summer hiatus.

This year’s events take place the week of Aug. 14-18. A university-wide opening meeting hosted by incoming Chancellor-Elect **Dr. Yancy Freeman** and Interim Chancellor **Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier** will kick off a week full of events.

The opening meeting will be held Aug. 14 at Watkins Auditorium at the Boling University Center. It will open at 8:30 a.m. with a coffee and refreshment get-together followed by the opening of the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

At 10 a.m., faculty and staff awards will be presented, including the UT President’s Awards, Outstanding Employee Awards, UTAA Alumni Distinguished Service Professors and Outstanding Teachers



Several Summer Orientation And Registration (SOAR) events welcomed hundreds of new students to campus.

awards, the Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award, the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar awards and the Outstanding Advisor Award.

The new faculty and staff will be introduced at 10:30 a.m., and the Faculty Senate president remarks will be given at 11:15 a.m. after a short break.

The event will wrap up at 11:45 a.m.

Here is a look at the rest of this year’s campus meeting schedule:

Tuesday, Aug. 15

- Benefits orientation, 8 a.m.-noon, UC Room 229
- Faculty Senate retreat, 9-11:30 a.m., UC Ballroom (UC Room 225ABC)
- Faculty Senate Executive Committee luncheon (hosted by the chancellor), noon, UC Room 231
- New faculty orientation, 1-4 p.m., Legislative chamber
- Fall faculty workshop, 2-4 p.m., UC Room 230

Thursday, Aug. 17

- Legacy luncheon, noon, Paul Meek Library
- Welcome home picnic, 6 p.m., Ellington Hall lawn

Friday, Aug. 18

- Takeoff ceremony, 10 a.m., Elam Center
- Classes for the Fall 2023 semester begin Aug. 21.

Simmons Bank Scholarship presented



The Simmons Bank Martin Branch gifted \$9,000 to UT Martin as a Simmons Bank Student Development Scholarship for low-income students. Shown are (from left) UTM Dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, Simmons Bank Community President Andrea Hughes, UT Foundation Assistant Director of Corporate Relations Samantha Hutcherson, UTM Professor of Business Communications Dr. Lajuan Davis, UT Foundation Director of Development Ben Jones, Simmons Bank Senior Vice President for Capital Planning, Investments and Asset Liability Manager Victor Castro, Simmons Bank Regional Community President Justin Stokes, Interim Director of the UTM Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking John Clark, Simmons Bank Manager of Marketing Lauren Brown, Simmons Bank Community Division President Chuck Newell, UTM Assistant Professor of Finance Dr. Mark Farley, Simmons Bank Senior Vice President and Director of Community Development Maurice Butler, Program Resource Specialist for the UTM Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and UTM Director of MBA and Undergraduate Student Services Jenny Killebrew.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Is fishing permitted in Pacer Pond?

• **Answer** – The fishing policy for Pacer Pond has changed a little, somewhat informally, since 2016. During COVID-19, fishing at Pacer Pond was made available to students by the director of public safety, for purposes of mental and emotional health. Since that time, the Care Team has hosted annual fishing events at the pond, and the Wildlife Society has continued to host an annual spring kids' fishing rodeo. It has remained open to students, as well as faculty and staff, but not to the general public (except for the kids' fishing rodeo). A sign is currently being designed to replace the old "no fishing" sign, specifying that it is open to UTM students. Fishing is from the bank only, and the pier is closed from fishing access for safety reasons. Plans are currently underway for a Family Weekend fishing event this fall. The fish population is currently stunted. There are small populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, warmouth, and crappie, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has been stocking catfish annually. Pacer Pond is used as an outdoor experiential laboratory for several Biological Sciences courses.

addenda

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