

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Aug. 14, 2023

Welcome Weekend opens Fall 2023 semester

Classes for the Fall 2023 semester begin Aug. 21, but before that happens, students returning to the UT Martin campus will have a celebration centered on move-in days and getting acclimated - or re-acclimated - to campus life.

The Welcome Weekend event begins with “Move-In Mania” on Thursday, Aug. 17, when students move into their campus residences. The inaugural Welcome Home Picnic later that day will help students relax after a busy day and enjoy food and fellowship with friends, family and faculty.

The First-Year Initiative program will host Welcome Weekend, and the UTM Office of Student Life and the Office of Housing will team up with other campus organizations and the City of Martin to provide entertainment and fun events for returning students and first-year students to enjoy.

Director of Student Life **Rachel Stephens** said her office will coordinate Move-In Mania and several other Welcome Weekend events.

“Move-In Mania is always lots of fun because we bring in our upperclassman students and a lot of our student organizations, fraternities and sororities come out and volunteer,” she said. “We help get all the first-year students moved in.”

For the first time, UT Martin will have a Welcome Back Picnic, to be set up between Ellington Hall and University Village II. The picnic will begin



Students will be back on the UT Martin campus this Thursday to open Welcome Weekend with Move-In Mania, as they bring their belongings to their campus residences. For the first time, there will be a Welcome Home Picnic at 6 p.m. Thursday where students, faculty and staff can mingle, enjoy a cookout dinner and relax after the day's work.

at 6 p.m. Aug. 17.

“This is a brand-new event; we have never done this before,” Stephens said. “One of the biggest bits of feedback we got was that Move-In Day is tiring - and it is. You’re here, you’ve just moved in, and the last thing you want to do is go do something else and have some other type of mandatory program.”

“It was actually the brain-child of John Abel, the assistant vice chancellor for student affairs. Campus rec is going to bring games out to the Ellington

front lawn, we’re going to have a bunch of booths set up with door prizes, and the (Student Government Association) is going to be giving out Popsicles.”

Faculty and staff will grill hot dogs and hamburgers with chips and cookies. Music will be provided to provide students with two hours of relaxation and fun.

The Office of Student Life also advises Flight Crew members with coordinating the events for Saturday, Aug. 19, that include pep group

meetings at 9 a.m., a free play time from 2 to 5 p.m., taking in comedian Brent Pella at 7 p.m. and viewing “Guardians of the Galaxy 3” at 9 p.m.

All of these events are free to UTM students.

The City of Martin will welcome students to campus with the annual City of Martin Fair, to be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 21, in Festival Park in downtown Martin.

“Downtown Martin is so pretty, and we want students to

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Professor Emeriti **Dr. Marti Herndon** (left) and **Dr. Sue Byrd** (right) were recognized for outstanding service at the recent Annual Conference of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS).

Herndon received the AAFCS Leader Award, which honors family and consumer sciences professionals who have made significant contributions to the field through their involvement with AAFCS.

Byrd received the AAFCS Distinguished Service Award which recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions to family and consumer sciences and leadership in AAFCS.

Both continue to serve the profession after their retirement from UTM. Byrd writes online curriculum for UT Extension/4-H, and Herndon is working with nonprofit agencies to support children and families.

Dr. Joaquin Goyret, professor in the department of biological sciences, and colleagues Ajinkya Dahake and Robert A Raguso of Cornell University have published an article entitled “Context and the functional use of information in insect sensory ecology” in the August 2023 (Volume 58) issue of the journal *Current Opinion in Insect Science*.



Goyret

In their latest training with Go Cloud Careers, an elite technology training company focused on cloud careers, **Dr. Jamye Long** and **Dr. Cooper Johnson** educated 125 participants live, with 1,998 having access to the training recording, on the topic of “Springboarding Your Communication Skills from Good to Great.”

This presentation included important points such as the difference between hearing and listening, how to be an effective communicator, how to avoid ineffective communication pitfalls, types of communication and when each are appropriate in the workplace, managing cross-cultural communication, good listening skills, tips in oral communication, communicating with diverse groups, and great workplace communication ideas.



Long



Johnson

Dr. Paula Moore, professor and chair of the department of accounting, economics, finance and political science, and **Dr. Ben Le**, associate professor in the department of accounting, economics, finance and political science, have recently published two articles in two journals:

- “Strategic working capital management in response to a performance shock: evidence from the NOx Budget Trading Program” was published in the June 9 issue of the *International Journal of Managerial Finance*.
- “Earnings management, market liquidity and capital access of seasoned equity firms in a transition economy” in the July 18 issue of *Pacific Accounting Review*.



Moore



Le

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Women & Gender Studies seminar held Aug. 7



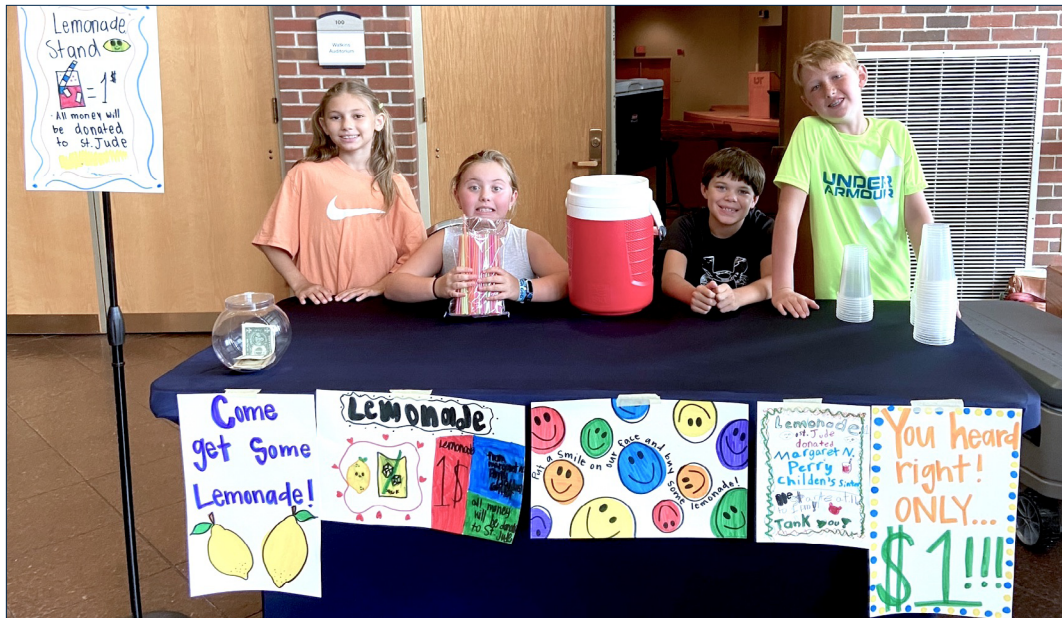
Twenty-four faculty and staff from across campus participated in the Women and Gender Studies Summer Seminar on Aug. 7. Participants discussed queer poetry, the biology and culture of being intersex, and the complexity of doing gender. This interdisciplinary session involved presentations from faculty in history, English, biology and sociology.

Patel represents UTM at Leadership Development Institute



Clinical mental health counseling student Punam Patel (far left), a UTM graduate student representative, participated in the Tennessee Counseling Association's 2023-24 Leadership Development Institute on July 27-28. The Leadership Development Institute is designed to grow and nurture future leaders in the counseling profession. Patel also serves as UTM's graduate student representative for the Tennessee Counseling Association.

LEMON AID



School-age children from the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center hosted a lemonade stand on June 2 and July 18 to raise funds for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. The children raised a total of \$750 for the hospital. The lemonade stand was set up in the Watkins Auditorium lobby in the Boling University Center. As a gift for the children's efforts, St. Jude sent the Children's Center a certificate of appreciation.

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see everything that Martin has to offer," Stephens said. "So, we partner with the city and actually set up inside the (Martin Public Library) and outside.

"We'll have food trucks, and businesses will set up and hand out information to the students. They'll have giveaways and give away free food, and it gives students the opportunity to focus on the businesses, nonprofits and churches – things like that in the community."

The Campus Involvement Fair will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 22, in the campus quad.

"Sodexo (Dining Services) has agreed to serve dinner on the back patio, so dinner is going to be outside that night on the north patio between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library," Stephens said. "I think they actually will close the dining hall that night, so all of dinner will be served outside.

"Then, we're having a wellness fair hosted by Student Health and Counseling and

some partners. That will feed into the Campus Involvement Fair, where we'll have 100 different student organizations, departments and areas set up. It's like a big block party, and it's open to all students."

The schedule of events for Welcome Weekend 2023 includes:

Thursday, Aug. 17

- 8 a.m.: Move-In Mania (housing move-in, First-Year Initiative check-in, Solution Central)

- 6 p.m.: Welcome Home Picnic, Ellington Hall, University Village II

Friday, Aug. 18

- 8 a.m.: Commuter check-in

- 9 a.m.: Pep group meetings

- 10 a.m. Convocation, Elam Center

- 11:30 a.m.: Pep groups, lunch (Blue Group), pep meeting (Orange Group)

- 12:45 p.m. Pep groups, pep meeting (Blue Group), lunch (Orange Group)

- 2 p.m.: Pep groups, "Getting Involved" (Blue Group), Watkins Auditorium,

Boling University Center; Success Counselors (Orange Group), Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center, Gallien Auditorium in Gooch Hall, Campbell Auditorium in the Holt Humanities Building

- 3:30 p.m.: Pep groups, Success Counselors (Blue Group), "Getting Involved" (Orange Group)

- 7 p.m.: Floor meetings

- 8 p.m.: Housing block party

Saturday, Aug. 19

- 8 a.m.: Pep group meetings

- 9 a.m.: Pep groups, "Living the Skyhawk Creed" (Blue Group), Elam Center; Safe Flights (Orange Group), Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center

- 10:15 a.m.: Pep groups, Safe Flights (Blue Group), Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center; "Living the Skyhawk Creed" (Orange Group), Elam Center

- 11:30 a.m.: Pep groups, pep meeting (Blue Group), lunch (Orange Group)

- 12:45 p.m. Pep groups, lunch (Blue Group), pep

meeting (Orange Group)

- 2 p.m.: Free play
- 7 p.m.: Comedian Brent Pella, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center

- 9 p.m. "Guardians of the Galaxy 3," University Village I lawn

Sunday, Aug. 20

- 1 p.m.: Pep group meetings, "Taking Care of Me" (Blue Group), Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center; scavenger hunt (Orange Group), various locations

- 2:15 p.m.: Pep group meetings, scavenger hunt (Blue Group), various locations; "Taking Care of Me" (Orange Group), Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center

- 3:30 p.m.: Kickoff to Classes, Hardy M. Graham Stadium (Elam Center is the rain site)

Monday, Aug. 21

- 6 p.m.: City of Martin Fair, Festival Park, adjacent to Martin Public Library

Tuesday, Aug. 22

- 4:30 p.m.: Campus Involvement Fair, the quad

Opening meeting welcomes faculty, staff to campus

The University-Wide Opening Meeting was held Monday in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center, and for the first time, the event that welcomed new and returning faculty also recognized new and returning staff members.

Among the newcomers to the event was **Dr. Yancy Freeman**, the university chancellor who began his tenure on Aug. 9.

Faculty and staff awards were announced by Freeman, including the UT President's Awards announced by UT System President Randy Boyd at the June 30 meeting of the UT Board of Trustees.

UT Martin had four President's Award winners, the most of any University of Tennessee System entity. Those winners were:

- Embrace Diversity Award, faculty: **Henrietta Giles**, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communications.

- Excel in All We Do Award, faculty: **Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch**, the interim provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs as well as the director of accreditation and liaison to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

- Optimistic and Visionary Employees Award, staff: **Destin Tucker**, the director of undergraduate admissions.

- United and Connected Award, faculty: **Dr. Clinton Smith**, a professor and chair of the department of educational studies.

The Spring 2023 Semester Outstanding Employee Awards were also announced at Monday's meeting. Those winners were:

- Exempt Employee Award: **Dana Hagen**,



UTM Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman speaks at the University-Wide Opening Meeting at Watkins Auditorium on Monday, welcoming new and returning faculty and staff.

director of the physical plant.

- Non-Exempt Employee Award: **Bryan Dean**, academic support specialist, department of chemistry and physics.

Other faculty awards were presented Monday by **Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier**, the UTM provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Those awards included:

- UTAA Alumni Distinguished Service Professors: **Dr. Daniel Pigg**, professor, department of English and modern foreign languages, and **Ray Witmer**, professor, department of engineering.

- UTAA Alumni Outstanding Teachers:

Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor, department of history and philosophy, and **Dr. David Dietrich** professor, department of educational studies.

- Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award: **John Oelrich**, professor, department of music.

- Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award: **Dr. Matthew Braddock**, professor, department of history and philosophy.

- Outstanding Advisor Award: **Tomi McCutchen**, instructor, department of mass media and strategic communications.

CPR-AED training sessions max out

Training sessions for UT Martin faculty and staff to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automatic external defibrillator (AED) were given on campus on Aug. 1 and 2 in Room 2059 of Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Dr. Laura Brown and **Tara Tansil-Gentry** of the UTM Department of Health and Human Performance and **Kimberly Olive-Milligan** of the Office of Campus Recreation provided the training for 40

people, with the maximum 20 people attending each session.

Other training sessions are planned for January. No date has been set yet for those sessions.

The training sessions were coordinated by Tansil-Gentry, safety office Ted Council of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety and Michael Washington, the director of human resources and payroll.

View photos online
at utm.edu/photo

University celebrates success of RISE campaign

Raising \$178.2 million is a good reason to celebrate, and UT Martin's friends and supporters did just that with a dinner and celebration event Friday, Aug. 11, at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

The RISE Campaign, the largest fundraising effort in the university's history, officially concluded as more than 150 guests gathered at Dinosaur Hall to thank campaign leadership and donors for exceeding the \$175 million goal before the June 30 campaign close.

A total of 14,751 donors contributed to the campaign that will support student scholarships, athletics, capital projects and more.

The RISE Campaign, the fourth capital campaign in UT Martin history, was announced Sept. 11, 2021, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium during UT Martin's home football game with Samford University. Since then, the campaign has welcomed support that includes the future transfer of Wildwood Farm in Memphis to the university by Melanie Taylor and the Taylor family, the largest commitment in University of Tennessee System and UT Martin history. The property value and new construction



Celebrating the RISE campaign's success in raising more than \$175 million brought home UTM alumnus Jerry Reese, a former general manager for the NFL's New York Giants (2007-17). Shown at the Aug. 11 celebration at Discovery Park of America are (from left) Reese; his wife, Gwen; UTM Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman; and UT System President Randy Boyd.

at the farm is valued at \$79.5 million.

Dr. Charley Deal, UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement, emceed the event and made multiple introductions, including honorary campaign co-chairs Rosann Nunnelly of Nashville and Melanie Taylor

and campaign co-chairs Bill Blankenship of Memphis and Charlie and Bettye Moore of Union City. Kerry Witcher, president and CEO of the University of Tennessee Foundation Inc., was the first of several speakers to talk about the campaign and its impact. He thanked all who supported

the campaign and noted that the RISE Campaign's success contributed to record giving to the University of Tennessee.

"We just closed what I would argue was our best year in advancement in the history of the University of Tennessee," Witcher said. "System-wide we

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You Tell Me

- **Question** – Why is it important to report IT abuse such as a questionable external email? Is there only one way to report instances of abuse?
- **Answer** – Reporting suspicious activity is very important to UTM's security. For emails, ITS can take action on messages that have gotten through existing protections and take steps to help block future ones and also determine the legitimacy of questionable emails. Users can report suspicious emails by forwarding them to abuse@utm.edu or using the "Report Message" button in Outlook (web and apps). Other suspicious activity such as phone calls asking for non-public information or remote access to computers, or even individuals looking through offices can be an indicator of a potential cybersecurity attack and should be reported immediately to the Help Desk by calling 731-881-7900.

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

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had 86,000 donors make a gift to a UT campus somewhere. We generated \$342 million in private support and had more alumni engaged than ever before in the history of the university.”

UT President Randy Boyd followed Witcher and gave an example of UT Martin’s impact by telling Alec Richardson’s story, a Perry County native who was recently appointed as a senior adviser to Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and a member of the governor’s cabinet. Boyd credited the university’s Parsons Center for providing Richardson the opportunity to earn a college degree. “If not for UT Martin, if not for Parsons ... that story wouldn’t have been told, and there’s thousands of stories that are like that throughout West Tennessee because of UT Martin,” Boyd said.

Among his comments about the campaign, Boyd expressed his excitement at exceeding the campaign goal and credited many university supporters for the outcome. “What an incredible achievement. I just want to say thank you to everybody that donated, to everybody that contributed, which is everybody in this room,” he said. “It’s just an incredible accomplishment.”

Boyd welcomed **Dr. Yancy Freeman** to the podium who joined the university Aug. 9 for his first official day at the university since being confirmed July 14 as UT Martin’s 12th chancellor. The RISE celebration provided the backdrop for his first major UT Martin event.

“I do want to recognize again the tremendous work –



UT System President Randy Boyd (far right at podium) addresses the audience at the RISE Campaign celebration on Aug 11 at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

\$178 million is a fantastic and phenomenal goal,” he said. “To reach that goal, to surpass the \$175 million goal is absolutely wonderful.” Although Freeman accepted no credit for the campaign’s success, which began during former chancellor Dr. Keith Carver’s administration, he thanked Charley Deal and the university advancement team for their successful campaign work. Carver left UT Martin earlier this year to become senior vice chancellor and senior vice president for the UT Institute of Agriculture.

He also noted that \$55 million of the campaign total is designated for student scholarships. “In order for us to continue to provide access, we have to do it in scholarship dollars,” he said. “Fifty-five million of the dollars that were raised will go toward scholarships to make it an affordable education. We thank you for your giving.”

A 2021 video was shown that opened the RISE Campaign, and then Jerry Reese completed the evening’s speaker lineup by recalling how UT Martin had impacted his life. The Tiptonville native, high school and college football standout, UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame member and 2009 inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame spoke of the friends he made and how his time as a player and a coach shaped his ability to work 23 years in professional football with the New York Giants. He was the Giants’ general manager from 2007 to 2017, a time when the team won Super Bowls in 2008 and 2012.

“None of these things happen if I hadn’t gone to UT Martin,” Reese said, adding that the university is also where he met Gwen, his wife of 35 years, which he said was “the best thing that happened to me

while I was at UT Martin.”

Reese joined other speakers by thanking everyone present for supporting the university financially. He recalled his own experience as a 17-year-old student from Tiptonville, having the opportunity to attend college and said how giving is a difference maker in lives. “We talk about giving. I think about giving back,” he said. “That’s what’s important. ... And if we give back, if we pay it forward, that’s the best thing we can do.”

Before a final toast and singing of the alma mater, Deal closed by previewing UT Martin’s 125th birthday in 2025 and again thanked supporters for making the university’s mission of educating students possible.

“It is because of each person in this room tonight we can celebrate the success of our campaign and the impact it will have on future generations,” Deal said.

addenda

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