

# addenda

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## UTM sets new six-year graduation rate record

UT Martin has announced its highest six-year graduate rate since records on that statistic have been kept (since 1992), with 54.8% of its first-year students enrolling in Fall 2017 graduating by June 2023.

That was announced by **Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier**, the UT Martin provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, at the UTM Advisory Board meeting held Friday in the Boling University Center. The meeting was the first for **Dr. Yancy Freeman** as chancellor of UT Martin.

Cavalier said the university's information was just released earlier Friday. The previous high came in 2020 at 53.3%. Last year's six-year graduation rate was 52.6%.

Cavalier credited that success to UTM Director of Undergraduate Admissions **Destin Tucker** – this was her first recruiting class at UT Martin – as well as the university's faculty and staff.

"I think it's important to note that there has been work done now for six years that has been at the faculty level, the staff level, Destin's work bringing those students in and helping to get them started," Cavalier said. "It's obviously a campus effort."

"All those kinds of things that everyone has done – people who aren't here right now have done – led to our highest-ever six-year graduation rate."

The enrollment for UT Martin for the Fall 2023 semester is 6,950 students. That is 1.12% more than last year's undergraduate and graduate enrollment of 6,873 and 3.5% more than the Fall 2021 enrollment of 6,715.

Other enrollment numbers showed cause for celebration.

"Our first-time first-year class has rebounded very well from two years ago," Cavalier said. "We are at 1,118. Our grad programs continue to be very strong; we're at 707 students enrolled in that. That's four



**UTM Advisory Board Chair Art Sparks (in orange tie) and UTM Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman (far right) enjoy a smile as information is provided at the UTM Advisory Board meeting held Friday in the Boling University Center. Also pictured are Advisory Board members Johnny Woolfolk (far left) and Hal Bynum.**

years in a row where we've had 700-plus students."

The first-year enrollment for Fall 2023 is the largest first-year class for UT Martin since Fall 2019 and the second-highest in the last five years. Cavalier said the university's Full-Time Equivalent – a number used to more equally compare colleges' undergraduate enrollments by dividing the total number of students by 15 credit hours – has increased over last year, the highest since Fall 2020.

"Of course, that's the driver for our revenue," he said. "We are up about 35 FTE, which is obviously a good sign."

"Our retention has gone up about 2.5 points to 73.4%. We were down to 70% two years ago."

Cavalier said that the university is recovering from the setback in enrollment brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Overall enrollment has increased each of the last two years since the sharp drop during COVID," he said. "This fall, our new

first-year student enrollment was the highest since the fall prior to COVID. Everything that's happened since then has reinforced the idea that we are continuing to do really, really well."

**Petra McPhearson**, the senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, spoke about the capital projects that had been completed, those that are still underway and those in the design stage.

In Fiscal Year 2023, which ended June 30, completed projects include the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building, a \$65 million project; Elam Center arena lighting upgrades at \$760,000; Boling University Center Americans with Disabilities Act restroom updates at \$172,000; and the University Center Sodexo Freshens update at \$140,500.

Capital projects still under construction at the start of Fiscal Year 2024 include the

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# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

The UT Martin College of Business and Global Affairs (CBGA) will present Dr. Jeffrey McClellan as its next CBGA Student Development Speaker.

The program will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 26 at 110 Gooch Hall.

The presentation topic will be “Momentary Leadership; How Leaders and Followers Co-Create Leadership from Moment to Moment.”

This presentation explores how the understanding of

leadership is changing as people are coming to view leadership less as what a leader does and more as a co-creative process between leaders and followers.

Implications of this shift in paradigms are explored and participants are invited to reflect on what it means for them in their own leadership moments.

McClellan earned his Ph.D. from Gonzaga University in leadership studies. He is a professor of management at Frostburg State University in

Frostburg, Maryland, and a former advising administrator. He is an experienced consultant, teacher, coach, trainer and speaker.

His expertise is in leadership and management. He has published journal articles, and presented nationally and internationally on topics related to international leadership development, leadership in Latin America, servant leadership and academic advising.



**McClellan**



**Long**

Understanding what balance sheets are and how they are used to evaluate the financial health of a company was the topic of training offered by **Dr. Jamye Long**, associate professor of management, and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, associate professor of management, in their work with Go Cloud Careers, an elite technology training company.

Specifically, the training offered insight such as the application of balance sheets in operational strategy, the value of balance sheets to potential investors and how the information from balance sheets can be used by external auditors.

To ensure participants received a well-rounded view of the topic, Long and Johnson provided examples of common errors found in balance sheets, identified and explained the components found within them, and offered examples for a hands-on learning experience.



**Johnson**



**Nordberg**

**Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, is working with a regional organization to strengthen local heritage organizations.

A recent convening of the West Tennessee Heritage Initiative attracted 40 representatives from more than 30 museums, archives, historical and genealogical societies.

The event, held at the Jackson-Madison County Library, included a workshop

on the care and handling of historical materials in libraries and museums, opportunities to meet and network with colleagues over lunch and a tour of the library’s extensive regional history archive.

WTHI is planning future meetings around the region as a means to build capacity in local heritage organizations where small budgets and limited staffing often preclude participation in training and professional conferences.



**Barber**

**Dr. David Barber**, professor of history, had an article published in the American Association of University Professors journal *Academe*, “The Failure to Condemn White Supremacist ‘Education’ Legislation.” The article can be viewed [here](#).

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

# Maleia Bingham crowned Miss UT Martin



Maleia Bigham (center), a sophomore fine and performing arts major from Turtletown, Tennessee, won the Miss UT Martin title during the 65th Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Scholarship Pageant on Sept. 10 in Watkins Auditorium. Bigham will next compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant set for July 2024 at the Carl Perkins Center in Jackson. Pictured in the pageant court are (from left) Sloan Wiggs, first runner-up; Bigham, the new titleholder; and Sierra Smith, second runner-up. Wiggs is a junior social work major from Tullahoma, and Smith is junior agricultural business major from Newland, North Carolina. Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum was the pageant emcee, and attendees included Caleigh Jo Erwin, the outgoing Miss UT Martin; Karenna Rainey, last year's Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival; and Jada Brown, the reigning Miss Tennessee Volunteer. The annual pageant is organized by the Division of Student Affairs.

## IT Service employees earn certificates

IT Services business manager **Summer White**, IT Services accounting assistant **Michelle Runions** and IT Services project manager **Matthew Adams** received a certificate of completion for full attendance at the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) Administrative Specialist Grant Training Series for 2022-23.

The workshops covered a

range of topics from pre-award to post-award, including an overview of grants, award management policies and forms, invoicing, financial reporting and effort certification.

Attendees of the ORSP workshop sessions receive K@TE credit for training, and a certificate is awarded to those who complete every offered session in a series.



Shown with their certificates of completion after taking part in the ORSP Administrative Specialist Grant Training Series from UT Martin IT Services are (from left) Summer White, Michelle Runions and Matthew Adams.

## Access and Engagement Town Halls begin Tuesday

UT Martin Chancellor **Dr. Yancy Freeman** will be featured in two Access and Engagement Town Halls on campus. Both will be livestreamed and available online.

The first Access and Engagement Town Hall will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. The livestream of this town hall can be seen [here](#).

The second Access and Engagement Town Hall will be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, Oct.

2, also in the Watkins Auditorium. The livestream of this town hall can be seen [here](#).

These town halls are open to students, faculty and staff.

The University of Tennessee System is committed to access and engagement for its citizens. Recent changes to the federal and state landscapes related to diversity create an opportunity to reflect and reevaluate engagement with students, faculty and staff. That includes structures, strategies

and metrics related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

These town halls are an opportunity to share with students, faculty and staff the things the university has learned and to hear from its students, faculty and staff so that it may learn more.

During the town halls, Freeman will speak for a few minutes and will then open the floor for feedback and conversation.

Questions for Freeman can be emailed to him through [social@utm.edu](mailto:social@utm.edu).

# Opera star Esperian to perform here Tuesday

Kallen Esperian will bring her world-renowned vocal talents to the campus of UT Martin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building.

The performance is the fall semester's performance for the university's Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series. There is no admission charge.

**Steve Barnett**, the interim chair of the department of music, said having such a famous singer come to Martin is an outstanding opportunity.

"It means the world to us to bring a world-class-caliber performance," he said. "Kallen Esperian has toured all over the world and had recordings with some of the greatest opera singers of all time."

Esperian catapulted to the world stage in 1985 at the age of 24 as a winner of the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition, becoming one of the world's leading sopranos.

Onstage, she has partnered many times in leading roles with Pavarotti - her teacher, mentor and friend - as well as with the other members of the famed Three Tenors, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras, and has performed with renowned conductors such as James Conlon, Sir Colin Davis, James Levine, Zubin Mehta and Riccardo Muti.

She made her debut in 1987 at La Scala in Milan, Italy, and is said to hold the record for the greatest number of curtain calls, 17, after her performance of the title role in Verdi's "Luisa Miller."



That same year, she sang Mimi to Placido Domingo's Rodolfo in Puccini's "La Boheme" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Esperian has performed at the Vienna Staatsoper, the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper, Berlin's Deutsche Oper, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the San Francisco Opera, Opera National de Paris, Barcelona's Gran Teatro de Liceu, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Arena di Verona, Orange Festival France, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, the Los Angeles Opera and the Washington National Opera.

Esperian is a recipient of the prestigious Amphion Award, the Dorothy B. Chandler

Performing Arts Award, the Mafalda Favero Award and the Tennessee Governor's Arts Award for Distinguished Artists.

The guest artist series is named for UT Martin graduate Ed Sargent, who is originally from Bolivar. Sargent is a Grammy-nominated producer who also manages musical acts that tour extensively in the U.S., Canada and 38 other countries around the globe.

Sargent currently serves as tour coordinator for Rock and Roll Hall of Fame icon Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. Prior to the Blackhearts, Sargent spent 25 years as tour manager and director of operations for the late jazz trumpet player Maynard Ferguson and his orchestra.

## You Tell Me

• **Question** - Why is engineering listed for the Johnson EPS Building and Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. Are there engineering departments or classes in both buildings?

• **Answer** - The Johnson EPS Building and the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building both feature engineering classes and labs. Some of the engineering classes did not move to the new building and are slated to move when the TEST Hub is constructed. Also, note that geology remains in the Johnson EPS Building. The building will be renamed later. (The Joseph E. Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building, or Johnson EPS Building, was named in June 1999 in honor of Dr. Joe Johnson, the 19th president of the University of Tennessee. Dr. Johnson was instrumental bringing a four-year engineering program to UT Martin.)

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



## Japan Day helps share culture

Ririka Nakamura, an exchange student at UT Martin from Kurume, Japan, helps Matilda Kane, a first-grader at Martin Primary School, copy the Japanese symbol for “flower” during Japan Day at the Martin Public Library on Sept. 5. Nakamura comes to UT Martin from Fukuoka Jogakuin University Junior College in Fukuoka, Japan, and is a second-year student in economics. She is one of five short-term exchange students from Takasaki City University of Economics and Fukuoka Jogakuin University Junior College along with members of the UTM Japanese Language and Culture Club who hosted Japan Day. People from the university and the community enjoyed participating in various cultural activities (calligraphy, chopstick challenge, etc.). Participants also enjoyed a tea ceremony demonstration and music performance by UTM students.

### ADVISORY BOARD from PAGE 1

Elam Center glass replacement, a \$4.13 million project; the Blaylock outdoor classroom and fountain and kiosk project at \$2.443 million; the indoor batting facility at \$620,000; and the ROTC Building repairs at \$500,000.

Projects that have not yet begun include the TEST Hub at \$19.16 million; the Johnson EPS Building system upgrades at \$9.87 million; the Hall-Moody Administration Building system upgrades at \$7.5 million; the Clement Hall system upgrades (Phase 2) at \$4.16 million; the Elam Center exterior wall repairs at \$4 million; the athletics facilities improvements at \$3.52 million; other Americans with Disabilities Act campus upgrades at \$2.505 million; the South Chiller Plant chiller replacement at \$1.76 million;



**Dr. Charley Deal, the vice chancellor for university advancement, makes a presentation to the Advisory Board regarding the proposed new College of Business and Public Affairs building.**

and Elam Center improvements at \$965,000. Advisory Board Chair Art Sparks Jr. introduced Freeman to the board, as this

was Freeman’s first advisory board meeting as chancellor. Freeman’s tenure began Aug. 9. The next meeting of the

UT Martin Advisory Board is scheduled for Jan. 26. The Sept. 8 meeting can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

## addenda

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