

addenda



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Harriss inducted into Steinway & Sons Hall of Fame

Dr. Elaine Harriss, a professor in the UT Martin Department of Music, has been inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teachers Hall of Fame as a member of the hall's fifth induction class. She was inducted on Friday, Oct. 6, at a ceremony hosted by the Steinway and Sons firm in Astoria, New York.

She was nominated to the honor by Amro Music of Memphis.

The Steinway & Sons Teachers Hall of Fame is a prestigious designation recognizing the work of North America's most committed and passionate piano educators. Every two years, teachers are selected from the United States and Canada for induction into the hall of fame.

Harriss has been teaching piano for more than 50 years, having earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the Peabody College for Teachers, currently the Vanderbilt Peabody College of Education and Human Development. Harriss earned her doctorate from the University of Michigan.

Harriss began teaching piano as an undergraduate student in Nashville and continued in Monroe, Louisiana, when her late husband, Dr. Ernest Harris II, taught at



UTM music professor Dr. Elaine Harriss shows the list of colleges and universities represented at the Steinway and Sons Teachers Hall of Fame. Her induction on Oct. 6 added UT Martin to the list.

the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

"That was in the early days of integration," she said. "When I said, 'The color of my

students' skin is not important and I'd be glad to teach in a Black school,' they made

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2023 Homecoming schedule available online



People enjoy roasting marshmallows at Pacer Pond prior to the fireworks show Sunday evening.

Events for this year's Homecoming at UT Martin have already begun, but there are many, many others to come.

Homecoming Week will last through Sunday, Oct. 22, and includes the annual Rope Pull, the dedication of the Blalock Inspiration Oracle, naming ceremony for two residence halls being named for two UTM pioneers and, of course, the festivities leading up to Saturday's Homecoming

football game against Charleston Southern.

The theme for this year's Homecoming is "UTM is All That!" and alumni, students, faculty and families will see how true that is.

The schedule of events and activities for Homecoming can be found online at alumni.utm.edu/Homecoming. Pre-ordered T-shirts are available at the Dunagan Alumni Center, and there are extra shirts for sale.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

“The Constitution, Property, Slavery, and Democracy” will be presented at noon on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Martin Public Library.

Dr. David Barber, professor of history at UT Martin, will detail events leading up to the 1787 Constitutional Convention, conflicts over the central issue of slavery and the compromises made which kept 700,000 in bondage.

These decisions not only influenced political power at the time but continue to have far-reaching impacts on democracy in the United States.

This event supports the visit



Barber

of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, “Voices and Votes,” at the Martin Public Library through Nov. 18.

Dr. Clinton Smith, the chair for educational studies and professor of special education, presented at the Tennessee Education Association’s 27th annual Teaching and Learning Symposium in Knoxville on Oct. 7.

His topic was “Why Kids Do What They Do...And What We Can Do About It.”

This session introduced the four functions of behavior, showed how to understand antecedents and provided



Smith

practical, easy-to-use behavioral strategies and interventions for classroom teachers.

Dr. Jamye Long and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both UT Martin associate professors of management, presented “Strategizing Your Trajectory Toward Success” at the sold-out 2023 Go Cloud Careers Summit in Orlando, Florida.

Their presentation covered the responsibilities of executive-level organizational leaders as it relates to developing, communicating, implementing, evaluating and adjusting strategic plans.

Summit attendees said that

what resonated with them was the point that, “The success of a firm’s strategy lies at the buy-in, dedication and willingness of the workforce to do its part. Employees are the most critical and necessary component of the entire process.”

Attendees said that, too often, they observe company executives overlooking the employee factor when planning important aspects of their organizations’ futures, and in doing so, the management team struggles to see their ideas realized.

Following Long and Johnson’s



Dr. Amy Richards, an associate professor of food and nutrition and dietetics in the UT Martin Department of Family Consumer Sciences, was named the university’s Fall 2023 Featured Faculty Scholar.

Richards presented “Adventures and Misadventures in Research” on Sept. 26 in the Paul Meek Library as part of a program and reception honoring her accomplishments.

The presentation reviewed her experiences of working and conducting research in nutrition, including fun facts

and interesting side notes that do not appear in publications.

Richards is also the director of the university’s didactic program in dietetics.

The Featured Faculty Scholar award recognizes faculty members whose research and creative works are judged to be among the most prestigious of those produced by individuals in the UT Martin academic community.

Examples of her research can be seen in an exhibit located near the library’s main entrance.



Long

presentation, the UT Martin faculty members visited with summit participants, where they fielded questions, offered



Johnson

expert advice and promoted the educational, professional and networking opportunities available through UT Martin.

University earns \$1.54 million Title III grant

UT Martin has been awarded a five-year Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant totaling \$1,543,212 to implement the UT Martin Elevating for Take-Off project.

“We are honored to have been awarded this Title III grant,” said Executive Director of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement **Dr. Jamie Mantooth**, who will serve as the project director. “There is so much good work and so many good ideas happening at UTM to support our students and faculty. This grant aligns with our strategic plan and our Quality Enhancement Plan and will now help us put some of these ideas into action.”

The two institutional goals under the project are:

- To create a center for teaching and learning to provide training and resources to improve progression, retention and student success, and
- To create a learning commons to centralize learning support services and expand high-impact practices.

The funding period begins this month and continues

through September 2028. Expected outcomes include:

- An increased retention rate of full-time undergraduate students and first-time full-time freshmen,
- Increased progression rates for all full-time undergraduate students,
- Increased student usage and availability of learning support services, and
- Increased professional development certification for faculty.

Dr. Brad Baumgardner, director of retention, and **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, will serve as key supports in executing project activities.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program “helps eligible institutes of higher education to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.”



Mantooth

Alisha Melton is the executive director of the UT Martin Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development and coordinated the Title III proposal team.

“This Title III funding provides an opportunity to develop an extraordinary framework of support for our students and faculty,” she said. “Our initiatives will create two specialized units with a common goal of increasing student success through improved resources for faculty, increased academic assistance for students, and centralizing resources and reporting.”



Melton

UT Martin previously received Title III funding in 2014 which improved facilities for the Veterinary Health Technology Program, created a culture of assessment for campus accreditation and improvement, established new student leadership initiatives, implemented new campus advising software and launched a new faculty program yielding more than 20 faculty research projects.

More information about the grant can be found at the U.S. Department of Education website [here](#).

Paul Meek Library staff attend consortium



The Fall 2023 meeting of the West Tennessee Academic Library Consortium featured a session with (from left) assistant professors Dr. John LaDue, Ronne Cox, dean Dr. Erik Nordberg and Conrad Pegues. Their presentation, “Together, We Are an Ocean,” highlighted recent programming developed in collaboration with university departments and off-campus organizations.



The fireworks show seen at Pacer Pond on Sunday, Oct. 15, started UT Martin's Homecoming Week with a bang – lots of bangs, in fact. Several events and activities fill the Homecoming schedule for alumni, students, faculty/staff and their families to enjoy. For more information about the Homecoming Week events, visit alumni.utm.edu/homecoming.

This Week's UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

Thursday, Oct. 19

Soccer vs. SIUE, 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 20

Volleyball vs. SIUE, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21

Volleyball vs. SIUE, 11 a.m.

Football vs. Charleston

Southern, 2 p.m.

Full schedules can be found
at utmsports.com.



'2 sides/6 points' exhibition open through Saturday

The UTM Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will host a closing reception and artist talk for its visiting artist exhibition, "2 sides/6 points."

This group exhibition includes six Memphis-based artists: Sharon Havelka, Mary Jo Karimnia, Paula Kovarik, Carrol McTyre, Jennifer Sargent and Mary K. VanGieson.

These artists have been gathering as a critique group for eight years and have been sharing ideas, offering support and inspiring each other through their studio practices.

The work included in the exhibition encompasses a wide array of mediums including fibers, sculpture, drawing and collage.

The exhibition will be open for the rest of the week during regular gallery hours from 1 to 5 p.m. and will be on view until Saturday, Oct. 21.

The closing reception and panel discussion with the artists are scheduled this Saturday, Oct. 21, from 3 to 5 p.m. The panel discussion will begin at 4 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

You Tell Me

- **Question** – Are fans allowed to bring pets into Skyhawk athletic venues during games?
- **Answer** – Registered service animals are permitted access to attend athletic facilities and games with their owners. Emotional support animals are not permitted to any athletic event on campus. Learn more about the Emotional Support Animal Information and Policy at [this link](#).

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

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a place for me. That was my first year of teaching.

"It was an interesting experience. This was in the late '60s, and even my room was fire-bombed by segregationists. The students were precious and deserved all the help they could get. That was a good experience in my life."

Harriss came to UT Martin in 1970 from Monroe when her husband got a job at the university.

"After a year or two, I began playing flute in the Jackson Symphony and teaching piano lessons and accompanying," she said. "I did that for quite a few years, and in the '80s, I took a workshop in Kindermusik, which was teaching children from birth to age 7 using music as the primary tool."

Harriss taught through Kindermusik for 18 years in Martin and worked for Kindermusik International, giving workshops around the world.

"I'm proud to say that I've taught workshops on five continents as well as all over the U.S.," she said. "It was a wonderful experience."

In 2001, a faculty position in piano opened up in the department of music. Harriss applied and was hired.

"At the age of 55, my career took a completely different track, and the change was unbelievably energizing," she said. "Instead of teaching 7 and under, it was 17 and above, and I concentrated on piano and flute performance."

Harriss also played flute for the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, so for more than 25 years, she was the principal

flute for an orchestra, either in Paducah or Jackson.

Soon, Harriss retired from Kindermusik and from orchestra performances and focused on her work at UT Martin.

Harriss said she enjoys teaching music because of her love of music and her love for education.

"To be a good teacher, you must know how to work with people of different ages and levels, and you need to know how they learn; then, you can tailor your approach for each student," she said. "Every person has different ways of learning, and the good teacher works to find the best way to help them achieve their goals.."

"Teaching is hard work because you must be aware of all those things. That is why I enjoy teaching so much."

Harriss was nominated for the Steinway Piano Teachers Hall of Fame not only for her 50 years of teaching experience but also through her success in teaching. She has had many students win competitions, especially in the Tennessee Music Teachers Association (TMTA), earn high school diplomas in music through the National Guild of Piano Teachers and be selected for Tennessee's and Kentucky's Governor's Schools for the Arts.

Harriss has also worked with organizations that help piano students. She has served as the state director for TMTA's spring and fall competitions for students from kindergarten through college.

"I've done that for many, many years," she said. "Here at UTM, I run a week-long piano camp for middle and high school students each summer. In addition, I direct the UTM



UTM music professor Dr. Elaine Harriss has been teaching piano for more than 50 years. She and Dr. Keith Herris of Bethel University will perform together on Oct. 24, featuring music from Gustav Holst's "The Planets."

piano competition each March for pre-college students."

Harriss enjoys performing, playing for her church each Sunday and performing in special programs.

Later this month, she and Dr. Keith Herris, a professor of music at Bethel University in McKenzie, will perform as duo pianists in "Music from Outer Space," featuring music from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst. It was one of the earliest pieces of music attempting to represent outer space.

"The music is very powerful

and has been imitated by many composers in writing music for space films," Harriss said. "For example, John Williams in 'Star Wars' has taken many of the musical characteristics of 'The Planets' and adapted them for his work. You will hear snatches of Holst's music in Williams' music for 'Star Wars.'"

That performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Blankenship Recital Hall in the UTM Fine Arts Building. There is no admission, and the public is invited to attend.

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