

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Oct. 2, 2023

## Three to be recognized with alumni awards



Those earning 2023 UT Martin Alumni Awards are (from left) Brandon Anderson of Frisco, Texas; Dr. Julie Basler of Aurora, Colorado; and James Wingett of Memphis.

Three UT Martin alumni will be recognized with awards during Homecoming festivities on Oct. 21.

Those earning alumni awards are:

- **Brandon Anderson**, Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Anderson is a 2019 UTM graduate with a bachelor's degree in health and human performance. He is a financial planner with Prudential Advisors and is a resident of Frisco, Texas. Among the awards in his field, Anderson has earned the Million Dollar Round Table Award, Emerging Planner of the Year, recognizing him as one of the top 1% of financial services professionals who are committed to providing exemplary client service while displaying the highest standard of ethics and professional knowledge. Other awards he received include Sophomore of the Year, Junior of the Year and 2022-23 Master's Council. Anderson was a panel member for the 2023 Conference of African American Financial Professionals.

- **Dr. Julie Basler**, Outstanding Alumni

Award. Basler is a 1995 UTM graduate with a bachelor's degree in English, earning her master's degree in English from Murray State University and doctorate in English from Middle Tennessee State University. A resident of Aurora, Colorado, she is the president of Platt College in Greenwood Village, Colorado, and the author of three Pearson writing workbooks and several national articles. She has gained a national reputation for her expertise in accreditation and compliance practices. For serving as a commissioner and commission chair of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, Basler received the President of the United States' Volunteer Service Award under Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump. In December 2022, she was named among the Top 20 People Changing Career Education in the United States and Canada. Basler currently serves as a University of Tennessee Promise Scholar Mentor, helping undergraduate students pursue a career in higher education

throughout the University of Tennessee System.

- **James Wingett**, University Service Award. Wingett is a 1983 graduate of UT Martin with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He also attended the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Delaware. A resident of Memphis, Wingett has 40 years of experience in financial services, encompassing commercial banking, insurance, investment banking and investment management. He co-founded Wolf River Capital Management in 2008 after leading FTN Financial's structured and corporate finance groups. He pioneered FTN's pooled trust preferred capital program and led the collateral origination and underwriting efforts that raised \$22 billion in capital for more than 1,000 bank holding companies and more than 200 insurance companies. Wingett received the Distinguished Fellow of the

Continued on PAGE 4

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

“Techniques in Resolving, Causing, and Using Conflict to Move Forward Professionally” was the title of the most recent Go Cloud Careers seminar led by **Dr. Jamye Long** and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both associate professors of management. This topic was voted on by the Go Cloud Careers clients and received an overwhelming majority in the poll conducted by Go Cloud Careers. In their session, Dr. Long and Dr. Johnson included important points such as what conflict is, types of conflict, sources of conflict, methods and reasons for stimulating conflict, conflict management, the positive and negative outcomes of conflict, and productive methods for resolving and eliminating conflict. Questions asked by participants and answered by Dr. Long and Dr. Johnson hit on some relevant concerns employees both in and out of the tech field share, such as how to handle aggressive, emotional parties when having discussions, the differences in office tension and conflict, the value of using incentives to overcome conflict, and suggestions for sources to learn more about addressing conflict to increase productivity and to create a healthy, positive work environment. Dr. Long and Dr. Johnson provided



Long



Johnson

information through examples and current events to bridge the gap between listening, understanding, and applying the concepts discussed. The seminar was attended by 134 participants in real time with 2,047 having access to the recorded session.

## In Memory

A memorial service honoring long-time UT Martin music faculty member **Dr. Dwight Gatwood** who died July 17 will be held Tuesday, Oct. 3, in Blankenship Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Building.

The service will begin at 7 p.m. and will be preceded by a visitation starting at 6. The service is open to the university community and public.

Gatwood was a retired UT Martin professor emeritus of music who taught at the university from 1972 until his retirement in 2008. His writing credits include the

university’s alma mater and the bicentennial celebration composition, “Forever UTM.”

The Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room in the Fine Arts Building was dedicated in his honor in 2015. He is survived by his wife, Dianne; daughter, Lisa; and son, David.

A service is also planned at 10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 5, at First United Methodist Church at 201 Asbury Circle in Huntingdon, where Dr. Gatwood served for many years as choir director.

Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until service time.



**Dr. Dwight Gatwood (right) is congratulated on the naming of the Dwight Gatwood World Percussion Room in 2015 by UTM Chancellor Dr. Robert M. Smith.**

## UTM Outstanding Employee nominees due Oct. 9

Nomination forms for the Fall 2023 Outstanding Employee Awards are due in the Chancellor’s Office by Monday, Oct. 9. The nomination form for the current semester can be obtained by emailing chancellor@utm.edu.

The award will be given to two staff members who have been employed by UT Martin in regular status for at least six months of continuous service. The

recipients should demonstrate outstanding job performance and human relations skills and a commitment to UT Martin.

One representative from the administrative or professional (exempt) staff and one from the clerical or support (non-exempt) staff will be chosen. Recipients cannot be awarded twice within a 10-year span.

The awards will be presented at the Spring

Clerical and Support Staff Coffee on Oct. 18.

Winners will be recognized with an honorary plaque, monetary award and media coverage in Addenda and the Weakley County Press.

Many deserving employees have been recognized for their service (as listed on the attachment), and there are many more who also deserve this honor.



# UTM partners with library for democracy exhibit

UT Martin is a supporting partner for the visit of the “Voices and Votes: Democracy in America” exhibit visiting the Martin Public Library Oct. 7-Nov. 18.

A public ribbon-cutting event will open the exhibit at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Martin Public Library in downtown Martin.

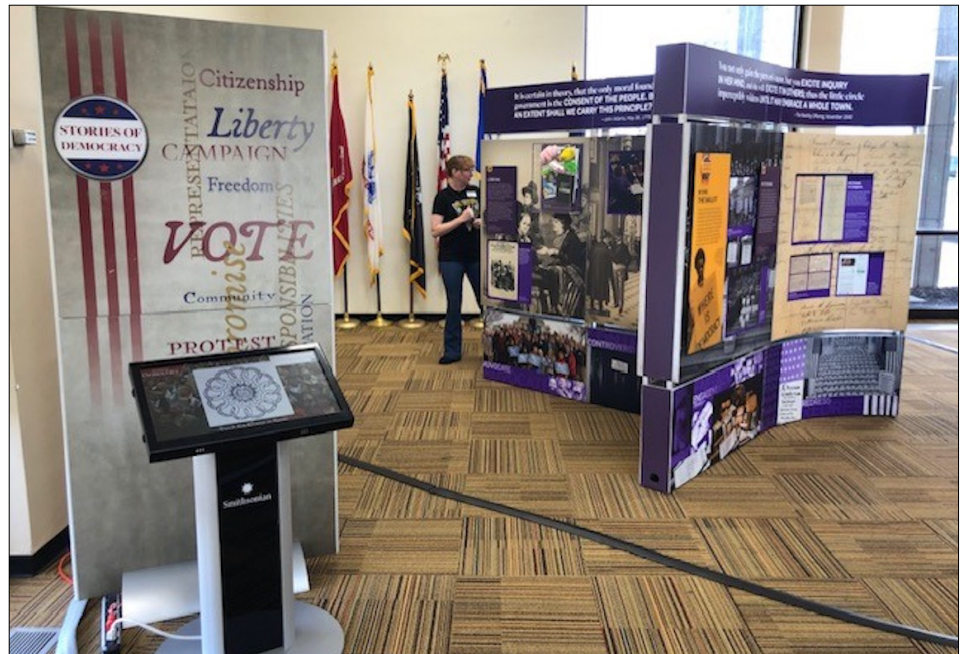
The exhibition examines the nearly 250-year-old American experiment of a government “of, by and for the people” and how each generation since then continues to question how to form “a more perfect union.”

From the revolution and suffrage to civil rights and casting ballots, everyone in every community is part of this ever-evolving story of democracy in America.

“We expect a lot from our democracy, but it also requires us to take a proactive role in its operation,” said **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin and member of the exhibit planning committee. “This includes not just voting in elections but participating in civic life and engaging in thoughtful community conversation.”

A series of public events will support and expand the exhibit, which will be on the second floor of the Martin Public Library. These will include two events in the ongoing UT Martin Research Series.

On Thursday, Oct. 12, **Dr. Chris Baxter**, a professor of political science, will explore recent events requiring application of



the U.S. Constitution 235 years after its ratification.

On Thursday, Nov. 16, professor of history **Dr. Dan McDonough** will discuss the design and passage of the original Bill of Rights, emphasizing the personal rights which underpin American democracy.

Several hands-on events are assisted by **Maggie Gately** and **Natalie Pyron**, undergraduate student interns from UT Martin’s department of history and philosophy. A full calendar of events for the exhibit is available online [here](#).

“Voices and Votes” is based on an exhibition currently on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History called “American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith.”

The traveling exhibit is part of the Museum on Main Street program, funded by the U.S. Congress in partnership with Humanities Tennessee, the Martin Public Library, West TN PBS, Discovery Park of America, the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Weakley County Historical and Genealogical Society.

## Mulch Madness hits campus Oct. 13

UT Martin’s annual homecoming is approaching the week of Oct. 16, and anyone can help the main campus look its best by participating in Mulch Madness, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 13.

The university’s grounds crew will participate and organize the work that will happen, rain or shine. Those wanting to help should email **Dave Chambliss** at [dchambli@utm.edu](mailto:dchambli@utm.edu) to register by Oct. 11.

“Our grounds crew remains shorthanded, and homecoming is a big event for the campus and surrounding community,” said **Dana Hagan**, UT Martin Physical Plant director. “We ask volunteers to consider dedicating at least an hour to ‘Mulch Madness’ to help us

make the campus look its best.”

Anticipated work needed includes spreading mulch, weeding plant beds and minor trash pickup.

Equipment and drinking water will be provided, and volunteers should dress comfortably and bring work gloves. No operation of power equipment will be required.

University employees can participate with their supervisor’s approval and count the service as work time. Both on- and off-campus volunteers can gather at Centennial Circle on the quad for assignment to work areas.

Additional information is available by calling 731-881-7640.



UT MARTIN

# MULCH MADNESS

OCTOBER 13, 2023  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join us for a workday to prepare campus for Homecoming! Please dedicate an hour or more to making our campus beautiful.

Register by October 11.  
Email your availability to [dchambli@utm.edu](mailto:dchambli@utm.edu).

# Take Flight with Freeman Tour continues in Fayette Co.

UT Martin Chancellor **Dr. Yancy Freeman** will continue his “Take Flight with Freeman Tour” when he visits Somerville on Friday, Oct. 6.

Freeman is visiting several locations in West Tennessee this fall to open his first year as UT Martin’s 12th chancellor. His administration began on Aug. 9.

Freeman will begin his visit to Somerville with a 9 a.m. breakfast with Fayette County Schools administrators, principals and school board members at the school district’s Central Administration Building.

Freeman will make a stop at Fayette-Ware High School at 10:30 a.m., followed by a visit to the UT Martin Somerville Center at 11:15 a.m. with an alumni and friends luncheon at the center at noon.

Freeman will then travel to Stanton in Haywood County to visit Blue Oval City, a Ford electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility that is expected to be operational in 2025. That visit will begin at



**UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman poses with students at Obion County Central High School during a stop on the Take Flight with Freeman Tour on Sept. 22. The next stop will come on Friday, Oct. 6, when Freeman visits Fayette County and Blue Oval City.**

1:30 p.m.

The next stop on the Take Flight with Freeman Tour will be Monday, Oct. 30,

when Freeman goes to Jackson to visit several schools and the UT Martin Jackson Center.

## AWARDS from PAGE 1

Life Management Institute award and is the chair of the UTM Chancellor’s Roundtable.

These awards will be presented during the annual invitation-

only Chancellor’s Brunch and Alumni Awards Program at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, prior to the opening of Quad City at 10:30 a.m. These award winners will be recognized after

the first quarter of the of the Homecoming football game against Charleston Southern.

The game begins at 2 p.m. in Hardy Graham Stadium, and tickets are available in advance

through the Skyhawk Ticket Office and at the gate.

More information about UT Martin’s 2023 Homecoming Week can be found at [alumni.utm.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.utm.edu/homecoming).

## You Tell Me

• **Question** – New email signature designs were released this summer by the Office of University Relations. Remind me again where these are found, and who can use these signatures?

• **Answer** – The email signatures are intended for all university faculty and staff to use if they choose to do so. Students are also welcome to use them to show their UTM spirit. The designs are intended to complement the university’s visual brand, and thanks to all who have chosen to add the signatures to their email messages. The best way to find them for downloading is through the MyUTMartin portal. Once in the portal, a link to Onespace is located on the top-left menu bar. Click on Onespace, go the Office of University Relations link, and the new signatures are found there. Call university relations at 7615 if you need assistance.

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

**Submit a YoUTM or question to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)!**



# Former UT System president Joe Johnson passes

University of Tennessee System President Emeritus **Dr. Joe Johnson** passed away on Sept 29 at age 90.

Johnson was the fourth UT System president since the system was established in 1968, succeeding Lamar Alexander. Johnson's tenure as UT System president is the second-longest to date (nine years).

His significant contributions and lifelong commitment to our university will forever leave an indelible mark on the UT System.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of our distinguished former University of Tennessee leader, Dr. Joe Johnson," said UT Martin Chancellor **Dr.**



**Yancy Freeman Sr.** "He loved the UT Martin campus, and his impact will be profoundly felt for many years to come."

Johnson served as president of the University of Tennessee System from 1990 to 1999, then returned to serve as interim president from 2003 to 2004.

Throughout his tenure and beyond, he exhibited unwavering dedication to advancing the cause of higher education, pushing the boundaries of innovation and fostering an environment of excellence.

"His visionary leadership

has shaped the path we tread today, and his legacy continues to resonate throughout our campuses, institutes and the entire UT community across our great state and around the world," said UT System President **Randy Boyd** in a release. "Dr. Johnson's passion for education was contagious, and his impact on our university system is immeasurable."

The family will have a receiving of friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, and 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, at Laurel Church of Christ at 3457 Kingston Pike in Knoxville.

The memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Laurel Church of Christ.

## Freemans meet with SGA Executive Council



UTM Chancellor **Dr. Yancy Freeman** (far left) and his wife, **Rafielle Boone Freeman** (second from left on front row) took part in the Student Government Association Executive Council Appreciation Dinner on Sept. 6 at the Dunagan Alumni Center. Those present included (front row, from left) Chancellor **Yancy Freeman**, **Rafielle Boone Freeman**, **Savannah Kuhns**, **Brezzy Rollins**, **Favour Osisioma**, **Faith Pilkington**, **Madeleine Griffey**, **Iman Ahmed**, **Colby Maclin**, (back row, from left) **Carter Coleman**, **Madi Owen**, **Dr. Andy Lewter**, **Casey Bohr**, **Alec Mothersele**, **Dr. George Daniel** and **John Abel**.



# Students bolster résumés with jobs at sports venues

For each of the last 10 years, UT Martin has been represented in the Super Bowl, and it can be said with near-certainty that UT Martin will be represented again in this season's Super Bowl on Feb. 11, 2024 – but you won't find those students' names in the games' box scores.

**Dr. Dexter Davis**, a professor of sport business in the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems in the UTM College of Business and Global Affairs, said the UTM sport management program is based on experiential education. His seniors ran the Jackson-Madison County African-American Chamber of Commerce Follow Me Into Golf Tournament on Sept. 12.



**Davis**

“We get out of the classroom and actually do something,” Davis said. “It involves a little bit of everything. There’s some marketing involved, mostly event operation – that kind of stuff.”

“Of course, we do the Super Bowl every year. We take kids and actually get involved in helping with Super Bowl game-day operations and pregame stuff. Last year, we actually ended up working a couple of postgame parties.”

Davis said his program has gotten the attention of other universities. Last summer, he talked with other colleges and universities about how he does the program.

For the first time, Davis brought four students to the Little League Baseball Classic in Williamsport, Pennsylvania – a Major League Baseball game played Aug. 20 at the site of the Little League World Series.

“It’s a game that’s really designed for the Little Leaguers,” Davis said. “The only people that are in the stands are Little League teams, their coaching staffs and the parents of Little Leaguers, with a few Major League families thrown in.”

“They bring in college kids to help staff the events, and basically, the college kids are ushers or they are liaisons for different teams, which is what our students did. There was actually a team from Nolensville, Tennessee, at the World Series, so one of our students was their liaison.”



**UT Martin students who worked at the Little League Baseball Classic on Aug. 20 at Williamsport, Pa., were (from left) Skylar Johnson of Simpson, Illinois; Ally Bruner of Atoka; Brooks Johnston of Medina; and Justin Carroll of Fairview.**

Part of those duties included handing out food vouchers to the Little League players and coordinating the team for the Little League parade at the start of the game, getting them to their spot before the parade begins and taking them from the field to the stands after the parade.

Davis said the work experience is invaluable to put on graduating students' resumes as they seek their first full-time job.

“I’ve got all kinds of anecdotal evidence that it’s great for their resume, it’s great for their personal opportunities,” he said. “I have a student from Niagara (University, where Davis once worked) who got hired by the Tampa Bay Lightning, and she is convinced that the only reason they interviewed her was because she had Super Bowl experience on her resume.”

Davis said the students chosen for Super Bowl work detail apply early in the fall semester.

“Students have to submit a resume and a cover letter, just as if they were applying for a job,” he said. “I will go through those resumes, and I have a rubric that I use, and that would rank-order them.”

“The new kids who come in for this, I

sit them down and have a conversation about what their expectations are and what they hope to accomplish, how they see this impacting their career going forward.”

The application process for the upcoming Super Bowl has already been completed.

Davis said he has had students who seemed more excited about seeing the sports celebrities than they were about doing the job at hand.

“They are there because they think they’re going to see or meet somebody famous,” he said. “That’s going to happen, but they are just another person who is doing their job, and you have to do your job. You can’t get overwhelmed.”

“I tell the students, ‘You’re putting the biggest brand in the world on your resume,’ because they are actually working for the NFL for a couple of weeks.”

Last year, a Master of Business Administration concentration was started at UT Martin in sport business.

For more information about the careers available through the UTM sport business management program, contact Davis at 731-881-7369 or search “sport business management” at [www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu).



# UTM student named to national Top 100 Interns List

Abigail Kubin accepted an engineering internship over the summer with the civil engineering firm of Freese and Nichols Inc. in Dallas, Texas, and came back to the UT Martin campus with more than the work experience.

Kubin was named to the WayUp Top 100 Interns List for 2023, a national ranking taken from the top 100 programs hiring interns.

“Out of thousands of applicants, 30% of the vote was public vote and 70% was based on an essay questionnaire that asked mostly about my internship experience,” she said. “I got an email on vacation one day saying I was chosen to the list.

“This is everything. It’s very prestigious. I was so humbled to be picked because there are thousands and thousands of interns of really qualified applicants. I was so excited to represent Freese and Nichols and UT Martin.”

Kubin, a junior mechanical engineering major from Highland Village, Texas, worked in the Water and Wastewater Division in transmission and utilities from early June through mid-August.

“I worked on pump stations, pipelines, elevated storage tanks and ground storage tanks,” she said. “We worked on moving the water from the treatment facilities to the people, to the cities.

“I helped with the preliminary design data for a lot of the projects. I helped get the ball rolling and do a lot of calculations there.

“One of the things I enjoyed doing was getting to see all these really big projects, really big clients. The No. 1 client is the people who live in that city, and just knowing what you’re doing for those people – bringing them water, bringing more water pressure and cleaner water – it just makes you feel good.”

Kubin’s supervisor, Amanda Powers, said the intern exemplified two of the company’s values: Learning continuously and serve always.

“Abigail has taken every challenge head-



**Abigail Kubin, a mechanical engineering major, stands outside the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building on the UTM campus. Kubin was named to the WayUp Top 100 Interns list last summer for her work with the engineering firm of Freese and Nichols Inc. of Dallas.**

on and has gone the extra mile to make sure she understands the task at hand,” said Powers. “She has been very thoughtful in how she can improve or better any task or process we’ve given her.”

Kubin said that Freese and Nichols was hiring sophomores, juniors and seniors as interns as part of its undergraduate and master’s intern program.

“It was such a great experience,” she said. “They were so welcoming and so helpful for a first-time, full-time employee. It was definitely a lot to learn this summer, but I enjoyed it so much.”

No surprise, then, that Freese and Nichols made the WayUp and Yello’s Top 100 Internship Programs List for the first time. That is what enabled Kubin to be eligible for the Top 100 Interns List.

The experience will bolster Kubin’s career plans after she graduates from UT Martin, scheduled for May 2025.

“The experiences were great,” she said. “I got to go on so many site visits – I think I went on five or six different visits and got to go to a chapter meeting of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. They brought me along to all these different meetings. I had a great time.

“I’m studying mechanical engineering, but I’m looking more into the water side of the industry. I’m not 100% sure what to do after college.”

Kubin comes by her interest in engineering honestly, coming from a family of people who worked around engineering.

“My dad’s family all worked in the engineering industry – not necessarily as engineers – and I was exposed to that growing up,” she said. “I really liked it. I did the conventional (engineering-related) route, playing with Legos and enjoying problem solving.

“In middle school and high school, math was always my favorite. I took Calculus I and II in high school. I knew I had a talent for (math), I knew I loved it and I wanted to make a career out of it, and engineering was just perfect for that. Everything is problem solving; we’re learning how to solve all the world’s problems that are super-complicated. It’s a giant puzzle, and I love that.”

Kubin graduated from Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas, located in the northwestern part of the Dallas metropolitan area. She is the daughter of Bobby and Kelly Kubin of Highland Village, Texas.

Kubin came to UT Martin from Texas as a softball player, pitching with the Skyhawks in the 2022 season, her freshman year.

“They brought me up here, and I just fell in love with the university, especially the engineering department,” she said. “I was with the softball team for two years, but I got hurt and had to retire, but I decided to stay here because I love the university, I love the department and all the friends I’ve made.”

## addenda

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Randy Boyd – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr. – UTM Chancellor • David Snow – Addenda Editor

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