

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Nov. 13, 2023

## 86 faculty, staff honored at service awards ceremony

There were 86 UT Martin faculty and staff members who were honored for their years of service to the University of Tennessee System in a ceremony held Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Boling University Center.

**Tommy McGlown** of the Student Success Center was recognized for 45 years of service, while **Bud Grimes** of University Relations and **Brenda Wright** of Information Technology Services were recognized for 40 years of service.

**Karen Johnson** of Visual and Theatre Arts was recognized for 35 years of service, while **Bob Bradley** of Computer Science, **Danielle Fabianich** of Athletics Administration, **James Fieser** of History and Philosophy and **Tracy Stewart** of Transportation Services were recognized for 30 years of service.

Others recognized for their years of service were:

- 25 years: **John Abel**, Student Affairs; **Kelly Bruner**, HVAC; **Dale Burton**, HVAC; **Julie Floyd**, Nursing; **Yancy Freeman**, Chancellor's Office; **Hurshell Knox**, Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science; **Esther Sellars**, Nursing; and **Gina McClure**, Student Affairs.

- 20 years: **Teresa Bodkin**, Undergraduate Admissions Office; **Valerie Dean**, Residence Hall Administration; **Lana**



Receiving awards Wednesday for their service to the University of Tennessee System were (top photos, from left) Tommy McGlown, 45 years; Brenda Wright and Bud Grimes, 40 years; Karen Johnson, 35 years; (bottom photos, from left) Bob Bradley and Danielle Fabianich, 30 years; and Julie Floyd, Esther Sellars, Gina McClure and John Abel, 25 years. Not pictured in the 30-year photo are James Fieber and Tracie Stewart. Not pictured in the 25-year photo are Kelly Bruner, Dale Burton, Yancy Freeman and Hurshell Knox. More photos can be seen on Page 5.

**Ferrell**, Chemistry and Physics; **Angelina MacKewn**, Psychology; **Joey Mehlhorn**, Graduate Studies, Parker Chair; **Amy Mistic**, Financial Aid and Scholarships;

**Daniel Nappo**, English and Modern Foreign Languages; **Hyung Jin (Michael) Park**, Management, Marketing and Information

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## 25 UTM retirees honored in ceremony

UT Martin paid tribute to 25 faculty and staff retirees in a ceremony held Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Boling University Center.

Those honored - including their years of service - included **Lynn Alexander**, Humanities and Fine Arts, 34 years; **Janet Bonar**, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, 21 years; **Donald Bowlin**, Building Services, 18 years; **Sheryl Breeden**, Business and Global Affairs Administration, 27 years; **Brad Burkett**, Physical Plant Administration, 19 years;

**Chris Caldwell**, Math and Statistics, 38 years; **Alice-Catherine Carls**, History and Philosophy, 31 years; **Sandra Carrington**, Housing, 15 years; **Tommy Cates**, Hendrix Chair, 40 years; **Teresa Collard**, Mass Media and Strategic Communication, 30 years; **Cindy Cooper**, Housing, 14 years; **Carol Eckert**, Visual and Theatre Arts, 22 years; **Teresa Erwin**, Academic Records, 11 years; **Edie Gibson**, Chancellor's Office, 31 years; **Michael Gibson**, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, 39 years; **Phyllis**

**Hammer**, Public Safety, 28 years; **Lisa LeBleu**, Family and Consumer Sciences, 28 years; **Susie Lewis**, Computer Store, 37 years; **Henry Parker**, History and Philosophy, 33 years; **David Ray**, Math and Statistics, 34 years; **Victoria Seng**, Academic Affairs, 42 years; **Joyce Swan**, Educational Studies, 20 years; **Danny Walker**, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, 11 years; **Sheila Williams**, Bursar's Office, 18 years; and **Dale Willis**, HVAC, 32 years.

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Brittany Cole, Dr. Laura Hatch and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn published “Using Industry Certifications to Improve the Marketability and Skill Development of Accounting and Finance Students” in the International Journal of Business and Social Science Research in October 2023.

The article highlights various accounting- and finance-related certifications undergraduate and graduate students can pursue while still in school.

Examples include the Securities Industry Essentials exam, the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, the Certified Financial Planner designation, the tax specialist Enrolled Agent designation and the QuickBooks certification.



Cole

Each of these certifications or designations allows students to set themselves apart in the job market because students highlight a commitment to their professional futures by investing in the process required for each certification.

Additionally, many of these



Hatch

programs offer scholarships for students to offset the expenses associated with these designations, so there are advantages to starting each of these early.

The article outlines the different certifications and licenses, required exams, advantages, disadvantages



Mehlhorn

and expenses for each of the designations mentioned above.

As universities continue to look for ways to graduate students with a competitive advantage, offering help to achieve these certifications may be viable option to set students up for success with future employers.

Three UTM history professors presented papers at the Ohio Valley History Conference Oct. 26 and 27 at Western Kentucky University.

Dr. Margaret Lewis presented “Teaching the History of Pandemics During a Pandemic.”

Lewis explained how a course on the history of epidemic diseases helped students make sense of the COVID pandemic of 2020-21.

Dr. Renee LaFleur presented “Lessons from Jane Addams.” She discussed how the ideas of American progressive reformer Jane Addams informs her work



Lewis

as director of the Verna B. Coleman Center for Women and Gender Equality.

Dr. Richard Garlitz presented



LaFleur

“Teaching the Poetry of Hafiz: Wine Drinking, Forgiveness and a Little Johnny Cash?”

Garlitz showed how the



Garlitz

music of Johnny Cash can help students understand ambiguity in the work of the famous 14th century Persian poet.

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



# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

## UTM represented at Administrative Professionals Summit



UTM was represented at the 2023 Administrative Professionals Summit held Nov. 8-9. This conference is sponsored by the UT System Administration Human Resources Employee and Organizational Development as a system-wide event designed for rigorous learning for administrative professionals from across the state. Attendees are provided with professional growth and leadership development relative to the roles and responsibilities of administrative professionals. Those attending included (front row, from left) Elizabeth Vickers, Benita Evans, Kelley Trevathan (second row, from left) Heather Coleman, Courtney Roberts, Holly Dethloff, Bonnie Dye, (third row, from left) Brooke Wagster, Ashley Vance, Tracey Mires, Tonya Evans, Kim Barnett-Stone (back row, from left) Teresa Hibbard, Selena Pearce and Shelly Long.

Ronne Jones Cox, the electronic resources and discovery librarian, represented the Paul Meek Library at the Library 2.023 Worldwide Virtual Conference sponsored by San Jose State University on Nov. 9.

She shared her passion for collaboration with more than 5,000 registered librarians across the world with her presentation, "Collaborative Programming: How we can reach our communities by working together."



Cox



Long



Johnson



Dr. Cooper Johnson and Dr. Jamye Long, both associate professors of management, participated in the Teambuilding and Leadership Exercise Debrief Panel at the 2023 Go Cloud Careers Summit, held Oct. 13-15 in

Orlando.

This panel involved the exercise leaders sharing their observations.

In addition to hearing from the exercise leaders, the team members shared their thoughts, takeaways and lessons learned.



# Alumnus speaks at Veterans Day program

“Thank you for your service” was the theme presented by guest speaker Col. David A. Strauss (ret.) at the Veterans Day program held Friday, Nov. 10, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center at UT Martin.

Strauss, a 39-year Army veteran, spoke to the audience about the phrase “Thank you for your service.”

“What is the service that

veterans provide?” he said. “Is it getting up early in the morning and going and doing (physical training)? Maybe it’s deploying. No, I don’t think so.

“I think the service that we provide is that we willingly go into harm’s way to project the will of the United States on our adversaries. Don’t get me wrong; we do a lot of other things. We have operations and humanitarian operations, but when it gets right down to it, we stand in the way of someone – a nation or non-nation state – and we force them to do or to not do something.”

Strauss then asked if that is true, then what is the equal-value compensation that those providing military service receive? Is it the money? Is it the benefits?

“In my opinion, there is no equal compensation for what it is that we do as veterans,” he said. “If there is no equal compensation, perhaps what we should say is not ‘Thank you for your service,’ but ‘Thank you for your selfless service.’”

Strauss then asked that if there is no equal-value compensation, why do those who provide military service do what they do?

“It’s a word, and it’s a word that we don’t use very often these days: Honor,” he said. “It’s that selfless act of putting



UT Martin alumnus Col. David Strauss (ret.) speaks at the Veterans Day program given Friday, Nov. 10, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. Strauss has 39 years of experience in the Army.

ourselves in harm’s way to protect our citizens and protect our American way of life so that others don’t have to, and there is no adequate compensation for that.

“It’s the sacrifice or willingness to sacrifice so that others won’t have to. We few stand ready on the wall so others won’t have to, so that they can pursue what the Founding Fathers decreed: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Strauss is a UT Martin alumnus, receiving a commission as lieutenant of

infantry in 1993. He enlisted in the Army in 1983 after graduating high school, and in 1999, he completed the Special Forces Operational Detachment Officer Qualification Course and was assigned to the 7th Special Force Group (Airborne).

In 2004, he was selected to be a civil affairs officer, which he served until his retirement in 2022.

A native of Bradford, Strauss and his wife, Cheryl, now live in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. They have three children and four grandchildren.

## This Week’s UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

**Monday, Nov. 13**

Men’s basketball vs.

Brescia, 6 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

**Saturday, Nov. 18**

Women’s basketball vs.

South Dakota State, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com).



## You Tell Me

• **Question** – How many UT Martin-branded license plates are currently on the road and in use?

• **Answer** – The redesigned UT Martin license plates were first available for sale Feb. 3, 2021, in Weakley County. As of November 2023, 153 plates featuring the old design were in use compared to 217 of the new design. Add 14 personalized plates for a total of 384 plates in use as of November. Compared to October 2022, 186 of the old design and 172 of the new design were in use then. Add seven personalized plates for a total of 365 plates on the road at the time a little more than a year ago.

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



UT Martin faculty and staff recognized for 20 years of service to the UT System included (front row, from left) Jana Ferrell, Jennifer Schlicht, Teresa Bodkin, Amy Mistric, (back row, from left) Daniel Nappo and Joey Mehlhorn.



UT Martin faculty and staff recognized for 15 years of service to the UT System included (front row, from left) Annie Jones, Debbie Abel, Lindee McCurley, (back row, from left) Steven Richardson, Kevin Fitz, Robert Mancusi, Tracie Moss, Brenda Mason and Jennifer Hays.



UT Martin faculty and staff recognized for 10 years of service to the UT System included (front row, from left) Laurie Green, Stefanie Gray, Hui Chuan (Christie) Chen, Rachna Tewari, Heidi Busch, Dexter Davis, Lajuan Davis, Pam Luker, Lori Beth Jones, (back row, from left) Margaret Lewis, Angie Gertsch, Dan Comer, Joaquin Goyret, Todd Winters, Robert Thompson, Nathan Morgan, Michael Hill and John Cole.

### AWARDS from PAGE 1

Systems; **Jennifer Schlicht**, UT Foundation; **Philip Smartt**, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; and **Elizabeth Vickers**, Residence Hall Administration.

- 15 years: **Deborah Abel**, Northwest Child Care Resource Center; **April Elam-Dierka**, English and Modern Foreign Languages; **Richard Garlitz**, History and Philosophy; **Brenda Harris**, Custodial Services; **Jenny Harrison**, Student Health and Counseling; **Jennifer Hays**, Financial Aid and Scholarships; **Sandy Holland**, Academic Records; **Annie Jones**, Career Planning and Development; **Robert Mancusi**, Music; **Brenda Mason**, Biological Sciences; **Sarah McCormick**, Visual and Theatre Arts; **Lindee**

**McCurley**, Student Life; **Robbie Montgomery**, Chemistry and Physics; **Tracie Moss**, Athletics Administration; **Scott Parrott**, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; **Kevin Pitz**, Biological Sciences; **Steven Robertson**, Information Technology Services; **Derrick Shepard**, Educational Studies; **Allen Shull**, English and Modern Foreign Languages; **Timothy Smith**, History and Philosophy; and **Jason Stout**, Visual and Theatre Arts.

- 10 Years: **Liz Aleksander**, Music; **Jason Alexander**, Chemistry and Physics; **Kevin Bannon**, Athletics; **Monica Black**, Student Affairs; **Christy Bount**, Nursing; **Alex Boggis**, Athletics Administration; **Heidi Busch**, Library; **Carrie Bush**, Infant Stimulation Program;

**Hui Chuan (Christie) Chen**, Management, Marketing and Information Systems; **John Cole**, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; **Dan Comer**, Engineering; **Matthew Cupples**, Health and Human Performance; **Dexter Davis**, Management, Marketing and Information Systems; **Lajuan Davis**, Management, Marketing and Information Systems; **Lacey Ellis**, Ned Ray McWherter Institute; **Allen Farmer**, Residence Hall Administration; **Angie Gertsch**, Academic Affairs; **Joaquin Goyret**, Biological Sciences; **Stefanie Gray**, Student Health and Counseling; **Laurie Green**, Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences; **Sarah Haig**, Visual and Theatre Arts; **Michael Hill**, Library; **Lori Beth**

**Jones**, Educator Preparation Program; **Michelle Legens**, Perry Children's Center; **Margaret Lewis**, History and Philosophy; **Rebekah Lewis**, Information Technology Services; **Debbie Lowe**, Custodial Services; **Pam Luker**, Sociology; **Nathan Morgan**, University Relations; **Robert Neidzialomski**, Math and Statistics; **Aaron Rowland**, Behavioral Sciences; **Leanna Stephenson**, Bursar's Office; **Rachna Tewari**, Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources; **Robert Thompson**, Building Services; **Chris Virgin**, Grounds; **Beth Walker**, English, SLC program; **Melanie Warmath**, History and Philosophy; and **Todd Winters**, Agriculture and Applied Sciences.



# Hutchison named FFA American Star of Agribusiness

Lainey Hutchison is a sophomore from Gadsden in Crockett County majoring in farm and ranch management at UT Martin. She was an FFA member for all four years of high school, and she is currently a member of the UT Martin rodeo team, where she takes part in breakaway roping, team roping and goat-tying.

Hutchison also has an eye toward advancing agribusiness and doing that through education. She has given horse-riding lessons, run a small goat business and coached summer farm camps over the last couple of years.

Her star in agribusiness is on the rise – at least, the national FFA organization thinks so.

Hutchison was named the American Star in Agribusiness at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis on Nov. 8.

The road to winning the national honor began her senior year in high school.

“I won the state Star in Agribusiness my senior year of high school,” she said. “That made me eligible to run for the national competition.

“I was notified that I was a finalist last

summer, and I had to do an interview in August over Zoom with about 15 judges.”

Hutchison said her agribusiness ventures coupled with her enjoyment of teaching younger generations about farm life bolstered her chances of winning the national honor.

“I think being involved with the kids and teaching agriculture and having a goal for the future involving the next generation was an eye-catcher (in the National Star competition),” she said. “I know that (other competitors) – two of them had a landscaping business and one guy had a concrete company. Theirs are definitely good services.

“I think with mine, everybody loves involving children and the next generation. I felt like that was what my project was aimed toward, and that helped me a lot (in winning the national honor).”

Hutchison’s supervised agricultural experience – known as an SAE, a required activity in FFA – was in equine science. An SAE allows students to learn by doing, by either owning or operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at



**Lainey Hutchison, a sophomore farm and ranch management major from Gadsden, was named the American Star in Agribusiness by the national FFA organization.**

an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

“I started teaching horse-riding lessons in high school,” she said. “I started with just two students, and it eventually turned into eight to 10 students per week. I love getting to teach with the horses, and I love

**Continued on PAGE 7**

## UTM students invited to attend AFA conference



UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences students have been selected by Agriculture Future of America (AFA) to attend the annual AFA Leadership Conference this month in Kansas City, Missouri. Pictured are (left photo, from left) Sarah Tyler, Jordan Stringfield, Zaria Crawford, Alaina Hudson and Kayla Payne. Also attending from UT Martin is Cassie Lewis (right photo). Dr. Ross Pruitt, professor of agricultural economics, is the adviser of the group.

# Skyhawks claim third straight share of league title



The UT Martin football team is flashing threes, letting people know the team claimed its third straight conference title Saturday, either a shared title or an outright championship, beating Big South-OVC Football Association rival Southeast Missouri 41-14 in Hardy M. Graham Stadium. This is the first year for the football association. The Skyhawks shared the 2022 OVC championship with SEMO and won the 2021 title outright. The final Big South-OVC standings will be known after this Saturday's games.

## STAR from PAGE 6

getting to share my love with the students.”

Hutchison grew up on a cattle farm, and her father owned a sale barn when she was younger.

“We now farm beef cattle,” she said. “I’ve always been around all kinds of animals. I started in rodeo when I was 7.

“When I started high school, I needed extra money for traveling with rodeo, so that’s why I started giving lessons.”

The farm camps came about when people in the community, including family and friends, wanted to see the Hutchison farm and visit the animals.

“We did just a couple of farm camps the first summer we had it,” she said. “I ended up having waiting lists for all my camps. I had a lot more people wanting to come than what I was expecting.

This summer, I had about 10 camps, and in each camp, I had 16 to 20 students.”

The farm camp business helped her horse-riding lesson business to grow, as children wanted to learn more about horses when they saw them on the farm.

Each year at the National FFA Convention and Expo, four FFA members are honored with American Star Awards for outstanding accomplishments in FFA and agricultural education.

The American Star Awards – including American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience – are presented to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through

completion of an SAE.

Hutchison said she was honored to earn the American Star in Agribusiness award.

“I’m still learning how big a deal it is,” she said. “I originally did not realize how big of an opportunity this is.

“FFA has something for everybody, even if you’re not from an agriculture background. I just think it’s something that everybody should get involved in because it’s a great organization, and there are opportunities placed right at your feet through FFA – at least, it has been for me and a lot of the students from my Crockett County chapter.”

Sixteen American Star Award finalists from throughout the U.S. were nominated by a panel of judges who then interviewed the finalists. Four were chosen for the national awards.

Hutchison said she wasn’t quite sure about a career path at this point, but said she wants to get a job in pharmaceutical sales or an agribusiness sales job.

“I also want to continue my ag tourism back at my family’s farm,” she said. “I’ve got a lot of ideas. I’m going to continue my farm camps, but we’re looking into doing adult tours and things like that on our farm.

“I like building relationships with people and communicating. I feel like I’m pretty strong in that area, so I’d like to get a job working in livestock sales or something like that.”

Winning a national FFA American Star award is a unique honor, but certainly deserving of the star who shines on West Tennessee.

## addenda

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