

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Nov. 6, 2023

Alumnus Strauss to speak at Veterans Day program

Col. David A. Strauss (ret.), an Army soldier with 39 years of service and an alumnus of UT Martin, will be the guest speaker at the university's Veterans Day ceremony to be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, at Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.



Strauss

Strauss enlisted in the Army in 1983 as a military intelligence voice interceptor. After serving seven years, he received a Green to Gold scholarship and attended UT Martin, receiving the commission as a lieutenant of infantry in 1993.

Strauss was most recently assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Upon promotion to major in 2004, he was selected to become a civil affairs officer, which he remained until his retirement in 2022.

Strauss took part in Operation: Just Cause in Panama in 1989, Operation: Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard in Bosnia in 1996, Operation: Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in 2002, Operation: Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and again in 2006, and Operation: Unified Response in Haiti in 2010.

Strauss graduated from UT Martin with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and Spanish. He also earned a master of military arts and

science degree in theater operations from the Command and General Staff College and a master of arts in national security from the National Defense University of Pakistan.

The program will include welcoming remarks from UTM Chancellor **Dr. Yancy Freeman**. The master of ceremonies for the program will be assistant professor of military science **Capt. Justin Taylor**.

The Veterans Day ceremony will be one feature of UTM Martin's Veterans Week activities for the week of Nov. 6-11. Here is a look at the day-by-day activities scheduled for that week. All events are open to the public.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

The third annual W.D. "Bill" Manning Tennessee Veterans Home visit will take place at 1:30 p.m. at 2865 E. Main St. in Humboldt. UTM Veterans Services and the Skyhawk Battalion ROTC cadets will be in attendance and bring cake.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

The third annual Veterans Walk will begin at the Boling University Center at noon. The walk will go to the Capt. Brent Morel Memorial Bridge on University Street and will end at Gooch Hall, where refreshments will be available.

Also on Wednesday, the third annual Veterans Bowl flag football game will take place at 6 p.m. at the football field near the Elam Center. The game features the veterans against the cadets.



Members of the Skyhawk Battalion take part in the annual Veterans Walk on Nov. 10, 2022. This year's Veterans Walk will be held at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

Thursday, Nov. 9

The UT Martin Office of Veteran Services will present the Tennessee National Guard 129th Army Band in a free, patriotic concert at 1 p.m. Thursday in Room 136 of the UT Martin Fine Arts Building.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Fraternalities, sororities and other campus organizations are invited to take part in the Veterans Day parade. Participants in the parade will gather at 9 a.m. in the Business Administration Building parking lot on Lovelace Avenue. The parade will begin there at 10 a.m., go down University Street and end at the Martin Public Library.

A 30-minute Veterans Day program will take place at the end of the parade at the stage

adjacent to the library. The program will feature World War II veteran Robert Chappell and a missing man table to honor veterans who did not return from service.

Immediately following that program, American Legion Post 55 will host a chili and coffee luncheon at its post at 221 Central Ave. in Martin. There is no cost for the meal.

The UT Martin Skyhawks will take part in the Military Appreciation football game at 2 p.m. Saturday against conference rival Southeast Missouri.

On Nov. 14 and 15, UT Martin will partner with Lifeline Blood Services for a veterans blood drive event on the second floor of the Boling University Center.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Clinton Smith, professor of special education and chair of educational studies – along with fellow Kappa Delta Pi members Shannon Rice of New York state and Leana Malinowsky of New Jersey – presented a session Nov. 4 at the KDP International Honor Society Convocation in St. Louis.

The presentation offered participants the opportunity to hear how to incorporate the competencies of social and emotional learning (SEL) and connect them to teacher leadership and actively discussed scenarios in the classroom where the SEL competencies might be incorporated.

The presenters shared their leadership experiences to help pre-service teachers discover ways they can take on a



Smith

leadership role and learn what competencies are important to them as a teacher leader. This session was built from Smith’s book chapter, “Special Educator Teacher Leaders,” from the KDP book “The Power of Teacher Leaders.”

Biology professor **Dr. Dawn Wilkins** attended the Fall Tennessee Ornithological Society Fall meeting held Oct. 13-15 in Chattanooga.

As part of the fall symposium, **Skylar Lowery**, a senior natural resources management major from Atoka, made an oral presentation co-authored by Wilkins titled “Does human activity impact provisioning and nesting success of osprey at Reelfoot Lake?”

This project was a result of a summer research project funded by a Smith, Henson and Sliger Undergraduate Research



Wilkins

on Reelfoot Lake grant awarded to Lowery under direction of Wilkins.

Dr. ZeVida A. Jones, an assistant professor of counseling, co-presented at the 64th annual European Branch of the American Counseling Association Conference on Oct. 19-20 in Leiden, The Netherlands.

The presentation, “Being Me and Culturally Responsive: Roger’s Core Conditions for 21st Century Practice,” provided guidance on reevaluating and implementing the fundamental principles in counseling within a 21st century, cross-cultural context.



Jones

Dr. Brittany Cole’s paper, “Trade Price Clustering in the Corporate Bond Market,” was given the 2023 Literati Award from the journal “China Finance Review.”

The Literati Award is the journal’s award for the outstanding paper published in the journal for that year.

Cole’s co-authors on the paper are Dr. Michael Goldstein (Babson College), Dr. Shane Moser (University of Nebraska) and Dr. Robert Van Ness (University of Mississippi).

The paper examines the evidence of trade price clustering in the corporate bond market as well as the influence trade price clustering has on bond market quality factors like bond liquidity and bond trading costs.

Using a sample of 8,422,593 corporate bond trades, the paper finds that over 18% (1,522,284 trades) of all bond trades end in a clustered price,



Cole

defined as a price ending in 00, 25, 50 or 75.

Overall, the paper shows that both bond rating category and risk – as measured by standard deviation of prices – play a role in price clustering.

The results of the paper have relevance for bond market trading participants at all levels and provide valuable insight into overall market conditions and dealer power in the corporate bond market.

Skyhawk basketball season tickets are now on sale!

Chair seats
General public - \$145
Faculty/staff - \$85



More information
731-881-7207 or
athletic.events@utm.edu

View photos online at utm.edu/photo

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Dexter Davis, professor of sport management in the College of Business and Global Affairs and program director for sport business, was featured in WalletHub’s recent online story titled “Best Baseball Cities.”

You can find the story and his related comments in the Q&A section of the story [here](#).

WalletHub, based in Washington, D.C., is a financial website that offers information such as credit-improvement advice and personalized savings alerts. The site’s business-related



Davis

features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.



Johnson

Dr. Cooper Johnson and **Dr. Jamye Long**, both UT Martin associate professors of management, and Mike Gibbs, founder and CEO of Go Cloud Careers, attended the Traits of Elite Executives panel at the 2023 Go Cloud Careers Summit held Oct. 13-15 in Orlando, Florida.



Long

The questions included topics such as how to progress up the corporate ladder with confidence, advice on networking in ways that generate meaningful and productive relationships and characteristics that unsuccessful organizational leaders exhibit that should be avoided.

The November meeting of the AAUW-Martin Branch will take place Thursday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m. in 322 Gooch Hall. The featured presenter will be **Dr. Amy Richards**, associate professor and director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at UT Martin.

Richards will speak on lowering cholesterol and blood pressure and improving diabetes outcomes utilizing plant-based diets.

Menu planning tips and strategies for incorporating more fruits, vegetables and plant-based proteins into the typical American diet will be shared as well as where to find recipes and reliable sources of information. The science behind why plant-based diets



Richards

are able to lower cholesterol and blood pressure will be covered as well.

There will also be a Zoom option for this meeting. Contact Heidi Busch at hbusch@utm.edu or Georgia Baskett at gbasket1@utm.edu to request the Zoom link.

Dr. Emalee Buttrey rejoins UT Martin faculty and staff as the Office of Online Programs instructional designer.

Buttrey comes back to UT Martin from her position as education director at Discovery Park of America in Union City. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and skills from her experiences there along with her previous service at UTM as a professor of animal science.

Buttrey’s office is in 145



Buttrey

Gooch Hall, and she can be reached at ebuttre@utm.edu.

HAVE YOU SCENE?

CAMPUS SCENE

Freeman Takes Flight

Bumah spends summer teaching in Africa

Dr. Violet Bumah, an assistant professor of chemistry at UT Martin, took part in the Carnegie African Diaspora fellowship at the University of Calabar in Nigeria last summer, helping to teach biochemistry, chemistry and microbiology students abroad.



Bumah

The project is one of 63 newly funded projects that pair African diaspora scholars with higher education institutions and collaborators in Africa to work on curriculum co-development, collaborative research, graduate training and mentoring activities in 2023.

“It’s kind of like an exchange program, but more so to Africa,” said Bumah (pronounced “BOO-mah”). “It funds applications from African-born scholars who want to return to Africa to give back to institutions in Africa.

“You can apply to visit higher education institutions in six countries, including South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.”

The application process is competitive and requires approval of a proposal before the Carnegie African Diaspora will fund the fellowship.

A diaspora (pronounced “die-ASP-oh-rah”) is a group of people who spread from one original country to other countries. One example is of Jewish people who left Israel and spread around the world.

Continued on PAGE 5



Dr. Violet Bumah (center) teaches a course in photobiomodulation at the University of Calabar in Nigeria. The students were excited to have an African-born professor from the United States teaching them.

This Week’s UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

Monday, Nov. 6

Men’s basketball vs.

Champion Christian (exhib.), 6 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Thursday, Nov. 9

Women’s basketball vs.

Vanderbilt, 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Volleyball vs. Little Rock,

6 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse

Friday, Nov. 10

Volleyball vs. Little Rock,

6 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse

Saturday, Nov. 11

Football vs. Southeast

Missouri, 2 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium

Full schedules can be found at utmsports.com.



You Tell Me

• **Question** – Who moderates information-l messages?

• **Answer** – Messages sent to information-l are reviewed by moderators who can approve or decline distribution of messages. Moderators are members of the chancellor’s cabinet, the chancellor’s direct reports, the director of public safety, and the Helpdesk. Moderators only approve messages from their respective areas and will contact another moderator to approve a message if needed. Updated email list guidelines will soon be released.

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

Submit a YoUTM or question to addenda@utm.edu!

Thomsen bestowed honorary doctorate



Dr. Rodney Thomsen (seated) received an honorary doctorate in agricultural business during a hooding ceremony Nov. 6 in Brehm Hall. The hooding was held in the Tosh Family Auditorium. He was honored as the founder of the agricultural economics program that later became agricultural business. Thomsen was also director of the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion for 20 years. He was a UTM faculty member from 1975 until his retirement in 2003 and holds the title of professor emeritus in agricultural economics. Pictured with Thomsen following the ceremony were (from left) Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for university advancement; Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Yancy Freeman, chancellor and conferrer of the degree; Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural economics and graduate studies dean; and Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

BUMAH from PAGE 4

“You must have a host to receive you on the other end,” Bumah said. “The institution takes some responsibility as well for your being there.”

Bumah chose to go to Nigeria because she has colleagues there and she trained there, so she felt more comfortable going there. Bumah is from Cameroon in west central Africa, which lies along the eastern border of Nigeria.

The fellowship began May 22 and lasted through Aug. 18.

Bumah’s proposal was for curriculum development at the University of Calabar in southern Nigeria, about 18 miles (30 km) from the border with Cameroon.

“I went to the Department of Biochemistry,” she said. “The proposal was designed to address three important areas of learning in higher education. The first was for curriculum development, to go through their curriculum and see if we could work on it and enrich it.

The second was to teach the students two short courses: photobiomodulation – that’s what my research is on – and a course on advanced gene technology. The third was to do research.”

The host fellow, Dr. Ubana Eteng; the head of the department, Dr. Bob Mbgeje; and the graduate school dean, Dr. Eyong Ubana – as well as the entire Department of Biochemistry at the University of Calabar – organized workshops with Bumah.

“One of the highlights of my visit was an international workshop that had speakers from Switzerland, France and the United States,” Bumah said. “It was a workshop that was attended by the entire College of Medical Sciences.

“A take-home message for my visit is that I am very appreciative of my journey and where I am now. This fellowship reminded me of how privileged we are here, especially for the things we take for granted. We are

blessed with a lot of equipment and advanced technology in our institutions of higher learning in the diaspora, whereas there are minimal resources at my host institution and perhaps other institutions in the region, but the students and faculty maximize the use of these equipment.”

Bumah said she discussed working with counterparts to apply for equipment grants and explore the opportunity of establishing a student-exchange program between UT Martin and the University of Calabar.

“The problem is funding,” she said. “One student asked, ‘Will you take me in your lab?’ and I said, ‘It doesn’t work that way.’ More than 10 students said they wanted to visit the United States, but I told them, ‘You need to get funding for it. If we get the funding, then we can talk to the university about it.’”

Bumah said her presence was well-received, and she is still getting emails from

professors and students from the University of Calabar. She said the students were excited to have an American professor who was from Africa.

“My office over there was flooded every day,” she said. “When one student left, another would come in.

“The thing is: A lot of them saw themselves in me. That’s where I came from: humble beginnings. I told them that I came from the same institutions as them with limited resources, and they said, ‘Look where you are now.’ I told them that if they can dream it, they can achieve it.”

Bumah said she enjoyed the experience and would like to take part in it again, perhaps at another university.

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and managed by the Institute of International Education in collaboration with the Association of African Universities.

Rafielle Freeman returns to her alma mater

Coming back to UT Martin is like coming home for **Rafielle Boone Freeman**. Every day is like a Homecoming for the 1993 graduate.

Freeman's husband is **Dr. Yancy Freeman**, UT Martin's 12th chancellor whose administration began Aug. 9. The couple grew up in Memphis, both attending Central High School.

"It was so interesting because he was two grades above me, but I always knew who he was," said Rafielle (pronounced "rah-fee-ELLE"). "We always knew of each other, but got to know each other when he was in the pre-law program at Memphis State University, now called the University of Memphis, with my best friend, sorority sister and UTM alum, Kimaria Seymour."

Rafielle was a member of the first graduating class of an accredited bachelor's degree program in nursing at UT Martin.

"That was a big thing, for the program to become accredited," she said. "It meant that I graduated from a high-quality program."

"I was, however, part of the first class that got to wear pants! In nursing, you had the hats and you had to wear dresses. Our class did not have to wear hats and dresses; we got to wear pants."

Rafielle said that her studies in nursing helped to prepare her for her career.

"When everyone thinks of nursing, they think about being in a hospital, one-on-one with the patients. I worked at Methodist Hospital while I was in school," she said. "I actually was a patient-care assistant. I subsequently graduated and worked at the same facility until I married the love of my life and moved to Chattanooga, where I continued to work until I was hired by Tennessee Health Plan."

"I worked in the chemistry lab here my freshman year, doing work-study, but I would also go back home and work in the hospital."

Rafielle said her studies in nursing gave her an opportunity to learn about several different areas of medical and behavioral health care.

"UTM gave me a tremendous opportunity to care for people, learn, grow, and develop," she said. "I worked in areas such as urology, neurology, medical:surgical, respiratory and cardiac respiratory. I loved caring for people and their families."



Rafielle and Dr. Yancy Freeman are shown with Captain Skyhawk at the Sept. 16 football game at home against Houston Christian. As an alumna, Rafielle enjoys taking in school events when she can.

"I am now a health care quality improvement professional. The work I do supports to improve health outcomes and lives across the state of Tennessee."

Rafielle is the director of clinical quality improvement for BlueCare Tennessee, which is BlueCross Blue Shield of Tennessee's Medicaid business.

"I love working with people who have need," she said. "Within the Medicaid population, there are underserved low-income populations. Many have significant social needs like food, clothing and housing. This definitely impacts their ability to get the health care they need."

"I work with extremely talented individuals, people across the state. I'm working with our leaders to try to promote equitable quality care."

Rafielle has been with BlueCare Tennessee for 28 years. It is a career she enjoys and finds fulfilling.

"I never dreamed that I'd be working at a company that long," she said. "I never dreamed that my nursing career would be there, but it's never a dull moment, and I feel like there's always something new and innovative going on."

Rafielle said she was excited when Yancy told her that he was applying for the chancellor position at UT Martin, and they both felt that the timing was right.

"I believe the Lord is in all things," she said. "Our daughter (Camille) was getting ready to graduate from high school, and we

always wanted to be sure that she felt secure in her environment. Camille will transfer to UTM in the spring semester.

"Yancy said, 'I'm going to apply for this job in Martin,' and I said, 'Oh, I love Martin.' It was the best time of my life here. I've loved the people and the relationships I've built here and the friendships that I still have today."

While on campus, Rafielle was initiated in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Zeta Lambda Chapter. She remains an active member of AKA.

"On the campus at UT Chattanooga, I was an AKA undergraduate adviser and very involved with guiding and mentoring the young ladies," she said. "The sorority is very dedicated not only to community services but to community service and helping the community, which I love."

Rafielle said that at UTM she would like to mentor young women from all walks of life. In addition, she wants to serve to address issues surrounding health-care disparities and equity within rural communities.

"There is a need to make sure that everybody has access to the right medical care and mental health care," she said. "We need to take away the stigma of getting emotional support and mental health and that it is OK to say, 'I need to talk to someone' and 'I need to listen' and offering this open ear' regardless of race or ethnicity."

Continued on PAGE 7

Squirrel, interrupted



This squirrel was captured on the quad, crossing the sidewalk with some food to store away for the winter. With the cool weather coming and the leaves...um... leaving, the furry critters will soon be harder to find on campus, preferring the snug warmth of their own nests stocked to the brim with acorns and other variations of squirrel chow.

RAFIELLE from PAGE 6

I think that mental health is the key to being healthy emotionally and physically.”

Rafielle and Yancy have two children. In addition to their

daughter, Camille, their son, Yancy Jr., is pursuing a master’s degree in public health at UT Chattanooga. Rafielle is the daughter of Clarence and Betty Boone of Mississippi.

Rafielle is happy to come full-circle back to UT Martin, and even though it is 30 years after she graduated, the familiarity remains.

“I am especially loving the

students, faculty, staff and alumni of UTM,” she said. “They bring me life. The people in this community have embraced our family. I am humbled. I now have experienced that God’s dreams are bigger than mine.”



Rafielle Freeman speaks at the First-Year Initiative Convocation on Aug. 18, greeting new students to the campus, just days after her husband, UTM Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman, began his administration. The Freemans’ daughter, Camille, will transfer from Middle Tennessee State University to UT Martin, while their son, Yancy Jr., is pursuing a master’s degree in public health at UT Chattanooga.

addenda