

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Dec. 4, 2023

UTM online programs gain state, national rankings

UT Martin's online programs ranked fifth among Tennessee's colleges and universities by Online Masters Colleges, a resource that ranks online higher education degree programs.

The ranking was based on OMC's comprehensive evaluation process, which assesses universities on multiple factors such as graduation and retention rates, affordability and program accreditation.

UTM's online programs received high scores earlier in the school year when Intelligent.com ranked them eighth out of Tennessee's 31 colleges and universities.

Intelligent.com takes rankings from publications to determine an overall ranking for colleges and universities. Factors that go into the ranking include academic quality, cost and return on investment, graduation rate and student resources.

UTM's rankings in the polls used by Intelligent.com for Tennessee colleges and universities were:

- EDsmart: Fourth
- ZDNET: Seventh
- Best Colleges: 10th
- OnlineU: 13th



Kiya Simmons (left) and Selina Hayslett, both students at the UT Martin Jackson Center, go over classwork using a notebook and a laptop. The UT Martin Online programs achieved high ranking statewide.

- The Best Schools: 13th

UT Martin also ranked 35th in the nation in Intelligent.com's ranking of most affordable online master's degrees in counseling programs.

Dr. Adam Wilson, the director of UT Martin Online, said the high rankings for the online programs demonstrates the quality in the variety of studies available at the university.

"We are proud that UT Martin's online

undergraduate and graduate programs consistently receive positive reviews and national recognition," he said. "Our high scores illustrate our university's commitment to providing a high-quality education at a cost that makes our programs accessible to wide range of students.

"The recognition also highlights the efforts of faculty and staff to engage students and provide resources to help ensure their academic success. Our affordable, high-quality education and the support of faculty and staff ensure our students' academic achievements are recognized and valued."

Joining UTM's pantheon of online programs in the Spring 2024 semester is a newly-accredited master of music

program.

UT Martin offered 152 online undergraduate courses and 121 online graduate courses in the Fall 2023 semester. For Spring 2024, there are 167 online undergraduate courses and 111 online graduate courses.

For more information about UT Martin Online, call 731-881-7021 or visit www.utm.edu and search for "online programs."

Melton selected as fellow to Delta Leadership program



Melton

Alisha Melton, the executive director for the Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development, has been selected as a 2024 Fellow for the Delta Regional Authority's Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy.

Established in 2000, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) supports economic development projects in 252 counties and parishes in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. It seeks to

broaden access to economic opportunities for people and businesses in the region through innovative ideas and strategies designed to strengthen regional collaboration and achieve long-term economic development.

In doing so, that would strengthen regional collaboration and achieve long-term economic development.

Melton was one of 29 people selected as fellows

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Anita H. Rogers, RN, a nursing lecturer at the UT Martin Parsons Center, had her most recent article published in the Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing's October 2023 edition.

She co-authored "Staff and Proxy Views of Multiple Family Member Involvement in Decision Making for Nursing Home Residents With Advanced Dementia."

Her research focuses on caregivers of persons living with dementia.



Rogers

caregivers of persons living with dementia.

Senior historian and current Faculty Senate President **Dr. Daniel McDonough** has been named the Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History.

McDonough is the second member of the history faculty to hold this prestigious appointment. He succeeds **Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls**, who retired in June 2023.

This distinguished professorship is supported by the Col. Tom Elam Endowment in the Department of History



McDonough

and Philosophy and recognizes outstanding teaching, scholarship and service.

39th annual Santa's Village comes to town

The 39th annual Santa's Village celebration will be held Dec. 7-10 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex north of Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Parking is available in the stadium parking lot.

Santa's Village will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, and Friday, Dec. 8; from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9; and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Santa's Village is a holiday collaboration between the City of Martin and UT Martin.

"I would say it's the magic of Christmas," said Alisse Kirk of the City of Martin Parks and Recreation Department. "When you walk in, it's a kind of winter wonderland with lots of magical lights."

The Christmas celebration includes an enchanted forest, vendors, rides, a petting zoo, a model train and Santa Claus himself.

Admission is free, and there is a suggested donation of \$5 worth of canned goods or toys. The food and toys will go to We Care Ministries of Martin.



At left, a youngster discusses holiday wishes with Santa Claus at last year's Santa's Village celebration. In the photo below, people of all ages will find something to enjoy at the 39th annual Santa's Village, a holiday collaboration for the City of Martin and UT Martin.





Demolition began Dec. 4 on the Grove Apartments, a residential complex that has stood for 58 years at UT Martin.

Grove Apartments demolition begins this week



Demolition on the A Building of the Grove Apartments began Dec. 4, with work on the C Building and the B Building to follow. The demolition work is expected to be completed in the next few months.

UT Martin's Grove Apartments were the home for decades to married students who attended the university.

Later, they also served as a meeting space for university sororities and housed international students.

The apartments, located on the city block surrounded by University, Moody and Oxford streets and Lovelace Avenue, will become part of UTM's past starting Monday, Dec. 4, when demolition of the units begins.

Allen Searcy Builder-Contractor Inc. received the Notice to Proceed with demolition on Nov. 2, and the area was fenced Nov. 6.

Utilities were terminated and asbestos abatement began, which cleared the way for demolition to start.

Work began with the A Building and will move east to C Building and then clockwise around the complex, ending with B Building near the basketball courts.

Everything except the large trees and northeast corner parking lot

will be removed when the project is complete. The demolition is expected to be completed in the next few months.

According to the Paul Meek Library's "History of the University of Tennessee at Martin" website, the Grove Apartments were built in 1964-65 on part of the property given to the Hall-Moody Institute, the predecessor to UT Martin, by prominent local businessman W.H. Lovelace.

Ten buildings containing 88 apartments were built in Lovelace Grove to house a growing number of married students.

The complex also supplemented housing for single male students until new men's dormitories were completed in 1966-67. The apartments were last occupied in May 2019.

Plans to use the space are not final, but the cleared site will initially offer more green space and a gathering point for different activities. For information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

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for the DRA Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) Executive Academy, an extensive nine-month leadership development program that brings together

public, private and nonprofit sector leaders from the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions.

“Participating in the academy provides an opportunity to develop as a leader while learning how other communities have successfully adapted and grown,” Melton said. “My goal is to become a part of this amazing network of community leaders and experts in order to better serve West Tennessee with ideas, resources, and collaborations.”

The 2024 DLI Executive Academy fellows were selected through a competitive application process led by DRA’s eight state governors and federal co-chairman.

“The Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy is an essential instrument for nurturing community placemaking and capacity building in the Delta region,” said Federal Co-Chairman Dr. Corey Wiggins. “This program will give this dedicated and diverse group of leaders the tools they need to drive change within and outside their communities and accelerate prosperity across the region.”

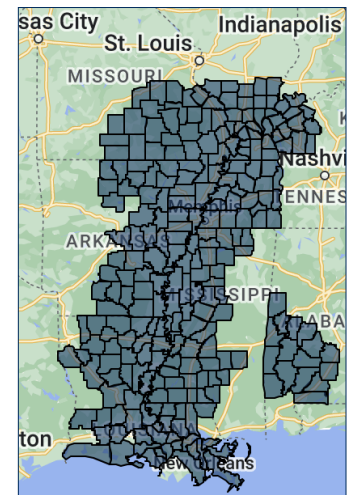
The fellows will participate in six in-person sessions led by local, regional and national experts

and cover policy areas and skills related to public infrastructure, regional transportation systems, workforce development, coalition-building and other fields necessary to facilitate economic development in the Delta.

As a result, DLI Executive Academy fellows graduate with enhanced decision-making skills, policy development know-how, strengthened leadership capacity and a mutual understanding of regional, state and local culture and issues.

Since 2005, the DLI Executive Academy has provided leadership development to more than 700 community leaders from diverse backgrounds, sectors, and industries to improve economic competitiveness and social viability throughout the Delta region. DRA created the program to empower a corps of leaders with the tools, experiences, and networks to address local and regional economic development challenges.

Melton, a native of Dresden, is the executive director of the Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development, which is responsible for oversight and compliance



The Delta Regional Authority includes several counties in and around the Mississippi River Delta region from Illinois to Texas.

of research and sponsored programs, coordination of university outreach including non-degree programs, and UT Martin’s economic development initiatives.

The office promotes the university’s regional development initiatives and seeks to increase internal funding and income-generation opportunities through grants. The office also coordinates the university’s BlueOval City Response Team and the UT Martin-City of Martin Town and Gown Association.


UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events through Dec. 20

Sunday, Dec. 10
Men’s basketball vs. Ecclesia, 2 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Wednesday, Dec. 13
Women’s basketball vs. Freed-Hardeman, 11 a.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Saturday, Dec. 16
Women’s basketball vs. South Dakota, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.



You Tell Me

- **Question** – Who pays for the Tennessee Highway Patrol officer who escorts college football coaches on and off the field? This is part of home football games at Hardy Graham Stadium. Is there a standard practice in the OVC? Does the THP provide this service as a goodwill gesture to the schools?
- **Answer** – UTM does not pay for any Tennessee Highway Patrol services when officers escort coaches and teams on and off the football field during games. All coaches have this after the events in the Ohio Valley Conference and most football games. Arrangements for this service are not known at other institutions.

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