



LATIMER-SMITH BUILDING DEDICATED – Bill Latimer addresses the crowd gathered to celebrate the dedication of UT Martin's new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. The event was held Thursday, Oct. 27, at UT Martin.

LATIMER-SMITH ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE BUILDING DEDICATED

Bill and Carol Latimer believe in the power of education to change lives. Their commitment to education inspired the Union City couple's \$6.5 million gift that made possible the new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building at UT Martin. The \$65 million, 120,000-square-foot, three-story building was dedicated during a 3:30 p.m. ceremony Thursday, Oct. 27.

The dedication coincided with the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees fall meeting held Oct. 27-28 in the Boling University Center. Earlier that afternoon, board members approved a request by Bill Latimer to add Dr. Bob Smith's name to the building in recognition of the former UT Martin chancellor's service during a critical period in the university's history.

The Latimer gift provided the 10% match required by the state for construction of the state-of-the-art facility. Ground

was officially broken Sept. 18, 2020, and the building will open for classes in spring 2023. The Latimer Building will house the departments of chemistry and physics, computer science, engineering, mathematics and statistics, and the pre-professional health sciences program. The building features classrooms, laboratories, offices, and a small observatory.

Chancellor Keith Carver welcomed the crowd that gathered on the building's west side, which he noted is the university's first new academic building in 40 years. "We're excited for our campus community, students, faculty, staff – especially those in our STEM disciplines who are going to utilize this building," Carver said. He introduced UT President Randy Boyd who told the audience that the university won't have to wait 40 years for its next building.

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Dr. Ashley Kilburn, professor of marketing, recently attended a webinar entitled "Marketing Efforts in Engaging Diverse Audiences" hosted by Dr. Shanita Akintonde. Kilburn, who teaches advertising and promotions management, found Akintonde's tips on reinforcing diversity and inclusion in the marketing classroom through brand examples to be helpful.



Dr. M. Sylvia Weintraub, lecturer of art, has an upcoming display of her work at the Jean Albano Gallery in Chicago. The display is an animation based on data collected on opinions on reproductive issues, and was created by Weintraub and Ellen Sandor. The show opens on Nov. 4.



Amanda Gienow, a clinical mental health counseling student in the UT Martin's counseling program, and **Dr. Derrick Shepard**, assistant professor of counseling, will be presenting at the Tennessee Counseling Association's Annual Conference, Nov. 10-12 in Franklin. Their presentation, "Multiracial Identity Development: The Infinite Space," was accepted for the state-wide conference that caters to the counseling profession in the state.

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Dr. Jamye Long (above, left) and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both associate professors of management, lead an interactive, live online training session titled "Goal Setting and Achieving" for Go Cloud Careers. Participation for the event was an international audience of approximately 170 individuals.



Ronne Jones (above, left) and **Caren Nichter** presented as part of the Nashville Area Library Alliance (NALA) virtual conference on Oct. 20. Their presentation, titled "Public Libraries + Academic Libraries = Partners in Access to Information," showcased the expanded partnerships that the Paul Meek Library and individual faculty and staff have made with public libraries in our region.

FACULTY / STAFF TOWN HALL MEETING
Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 3:30 p.m.
Watkins Auditorium

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"We have over 1,200 buildings in the University of Tennessee System," he said. "This is one of the best anywhere across the system, so you have a lot to be proud of."

Boyd thanked both Carver and Smith for the vision and leadership they provided that made the building possible. Prior to Carver being named chancellor in 2016, Smith led the university for 19 months beginning in June 2015 during which time the Latimers' gift moved the project forward. Boyd first met the couple during his campaign for Tennessee governor, and since then he has seen the impact of the Latimers' generosity in the state. "I think we're going to be thankful to them for their donations, but I know myself and many others that know them will be thankful for their inspiration," he said.

Smith followed Boyd on the program and recalled the challenges faced by the university and the region at the time he was named interim chancellor. Those included high unemployment, problems in school systems and UT Martin's accreditation probation. Despite the obstacles, he and others never lost the vision for a long-planned STEM building. "Among all the other projects that we were working on, we had to keep this building very much, and its opportunity for this campus, in front of us," he said.

Smith recalled that the building came closer to reality during the 2016 legislative session, thanks to a change in the university's required match to fund the project. The match reduction from 25 percent to 10 percent was led by State Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon) and was the first of its kind in Tennessee government. The university was given a one-year opportunity to match 10% or



LATIMER-SMITH BUILDING DEDICATED – Students explore the inside of the newly dedicated Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

approximately \$6.5 million of the cost to construct the building.

In April 2016, Latimer asked to meet with Smith, and during that meeting, he told Smith to take care of the university, and Carol and he would cover the needed match so that the building could be constructed. Smith said that some key lessons in philanthropy led to the historic gift.

"The first one is it is really always about relationships," he said. "... That sets the foundation for where philanthropy can bear fruit." Smith said that the second lesson is that Latimer makes transformational gifts. "He does not want to make – and most of the successful philanthropists – do not want to make gifts that are just gifts," he said. "They want them to be truly ones that make a difference."

"And the third one was Bill and Carol are about making investments, not writing checks and gifts, and that investment must produce a return," he said. Smith noted larger gifts to the university in recent years, likely inspired by the Latimers'

generosity. "So that investment has multiplied well beyond the initial gift, but it would never have if Bill hadn't, and Carol hadn't have stepped forward."

Latimer used his time in the program to credit others for the building, which a few minutes later, would be announced by Carver as the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building out of Latimer's respect for Bob Smith and his service as chancellor. He began by speaking of his personal faith.

"Carol and I believe that if God has blessed you, then you need to use his blessings to bless others," he said. "God has blessed us much more than we could ever deserve and much, much more than we expected, and God's blessings is the reason that Carol and I are here today."

"We believe in education, and we believe that is the best way to help get people out of poverty."

Latimer added his praise for State Sen. Stevens and former State Rep. Andy Holt for their legislative work in 2016 that changed the way buildings were

financed for higher education. He acknowledged UT President Emeritus Joe DiPietro for convincing Smith to return and lead UT Martin during a pivotal time. But perhaps he saved his greatest compliment for his friend with whom he shared the stage on this perfect October afternoon.

"In my opinion, for the amount of time Bob was chancellor ... he did more for UTM than any other chancellor that I've had the privilege of knowing," Latimer said.

Early in his remarks, Latimer asked his cousin, the Rev. Jimmy Latimer, senior pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Church in Germantown, to bless the new building and all who use the facility in the future. Before praying, he recalled the family's history and why the new building fits the Latimer legacy.

"Our family has been involved as farmers, educators, and churchmen all these years, and today is a beautiful fruition of what God has done through Bill. It really says what our family has tried to be all these years."

UTM Online RN-BSN Program Earns Top-10 State Ranking

UT Martin has received a top-10 ranking in Tennessee by EduMed for its Online RN-to-BSN Program in nursing. UT Martin was ranked sixth in the state and recognized for its small class sizes, affordable tuition and career placement success. The complete rankings are available at www.edumed.org.

EduMed serves as a starting point for students across the country with questions about their next step in education. The site works with hundreds of health care and higher education experts to provide well-researched and user-friendly content. The leadership team at EduMed has worked in higher education data, information and content since 2006 and actively recruits college and health-care experts across the country.

UT Martin's Online RN-BSN Program is offered for practicing registered nurses who wish to further their education by earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Full-time and part-time study paths are available, and the program is completely self-paced, making it an attractive option for students who work while enrolled in the program.

The online program consists of 40 credit hours of nursing courses and takes 12-24 months to complete. Students may be eligible for program credit for prior clinical experience through the credit-by-portfolio process. The program also grants credit

for coursework via proficiency exam and an additional two credit hours earned with submission of an unencumbered RN license.

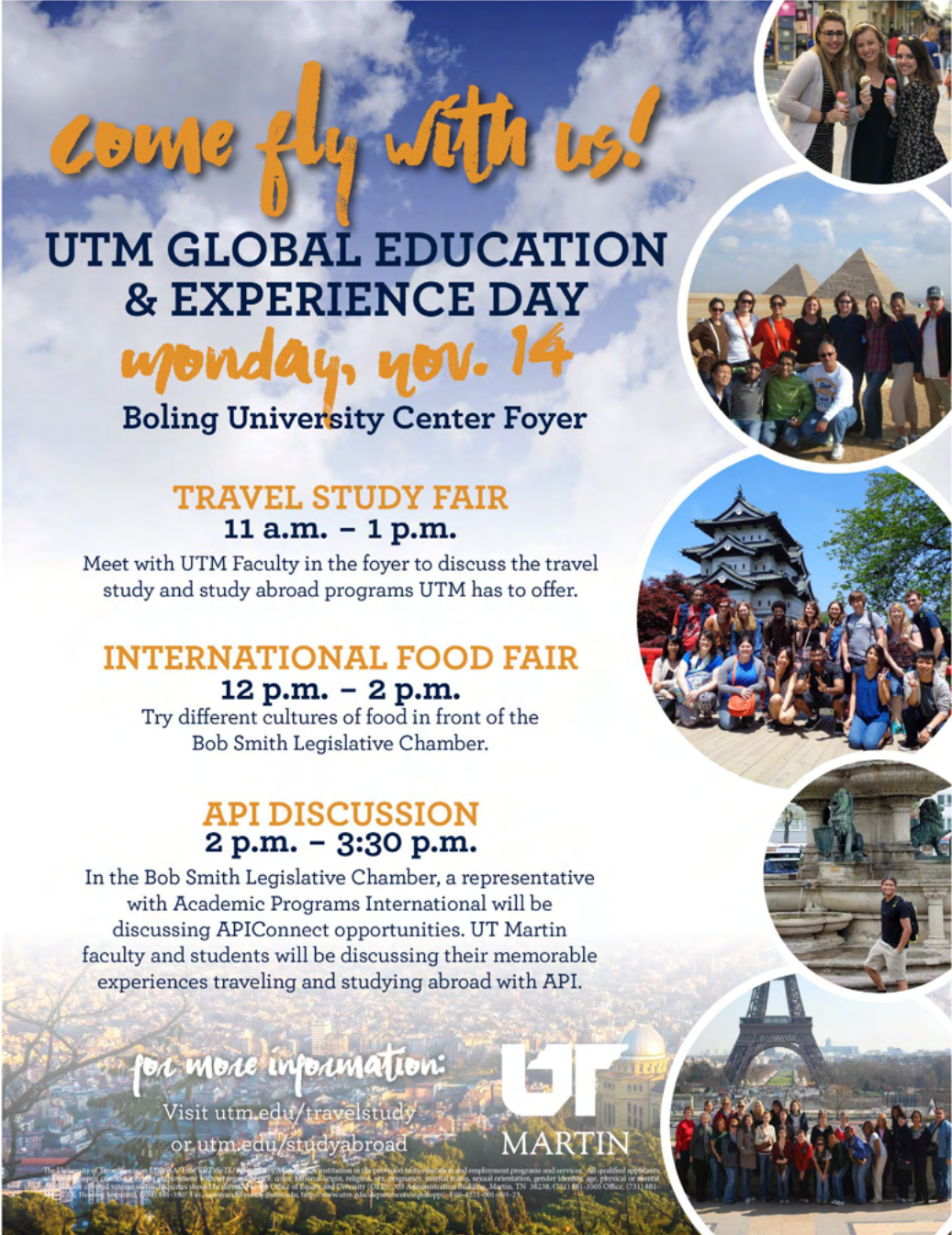
The UTM nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, which is the leading authority for nursing education

accreditation. ACEN has high standards for accreditation that schools must meet to be a candidate.

The UT Martin Department of Nursing is observing 50 years of educating nurses for West Tennessee and the region. In addition to the Online RN-to-BSN Program, the department

offers a BSN at the main campus and the UT Martin Parsons Center.

For more information, contact Dr. Mary Radford, department of nursing chair and professor, at marye@utm.edu or Dr. Carmen Bryant, Online RN-to-BSN Program coordinator, at ccorder3@utm.edu.



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UTM GLOBAL EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE DAY

monday, nov. 14
Boling University Center Foyer

TRAVEL STUDY FAIR
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet with UTM Faculty in the foyer to discuss the travel study and study abroad programs UTM has to offer.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Try different cultures of food in front of the Bob Smith Legislative Chamber.

API DISCUSSION
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

In the Bob Smith Legislative Chamber, a representative with Academic Programs International will be discussing APIConnect opportunities. UT Martin faculty and students will be discussing their memorable experiences traveling and studying abroad with API.

for more information:
Visit utm.edu/travelstudy
or utm.edu/studyabroad

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FAMILY WEEKEND **NOV. 4-6**
CLICK TO REGISTER

You Tell Me

• **Question** – The group PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, sent a small group of protesters to the UT Board of Trustees meeting Oct. 28 in the Boling University Center. What are the policies for campus protests?

• **Answer** – Students have the right to gather in groups to express their views and opinions, so long as such a gathering is held in an orderly manner; does not interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic, classes, meetings, events, ceremonies, or other educational processes of the university; and is not held in university buildings other than an area approved by the Division of Student Affairs or in residential areas of the campus. No amplification devices are permitted during class hours except by special permission from the Division of Student Affairs. The UT Board of Trustees' Policy Affirming Principles of Free Speech for Students and Faculty can be found [here](#). See the Student Handbook (page 5) for the policy on Freedom of Assembly. The Use of University Property by Non-Affiliated Persons for Free Expression Activities policy outlines regulations for use of the campus and university property by individuals and groups (such as PETA) who are not currently affiliated with the university.

Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu/suggestionbox.