

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Nov. 21, 2022



In this file photo, Chancellor Keith Carver is pictured during spring commencement at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Carver will deliver the commencement address during both fall commencement ceremonies Dec. 10.

COMMENCEMENT SET FOR DEC. 10

The university will hold fall commencement during two in-person ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 10, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Commencement times are 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and tickets are not required to

attend either ceremony. Doors will open 45 minutes before each event begins.

Chancellor Keith Carver will deliver the commencement address for both ceremonies, and University of Tennessee

System President Randy Boyd will attend to confer degrees for those graduating both summer and fall terms. A sign-language interpreter will provide services for the hearing impaired during both events.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will include both undergraduate and graduate-degree candidates from the colleges of agriculture and applied sciences, and business and global affairs. The 2 p.m. ceremony will also include both undergraduate and graduate-degree candidates and include the colleges of education, health and behavioral sciences, engineering and natural sciences, and humanities and fine arts. Each ceremony will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/utmartin and www.youtube.com/utmartin. The ceremonies will be archived for later viewing on YouTube.

Other commencement features and services include:

- Professional commencement photography provided by Grad Images, which will offer graduation photos for sale to each participant. A link to order photos will be sent to participants following commencement.

- A special commemorative commencement T-shirt that includes the names of all summer and fall graduates will be available for \$30 per shirt and on sale Dec. 10 at the Elam

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



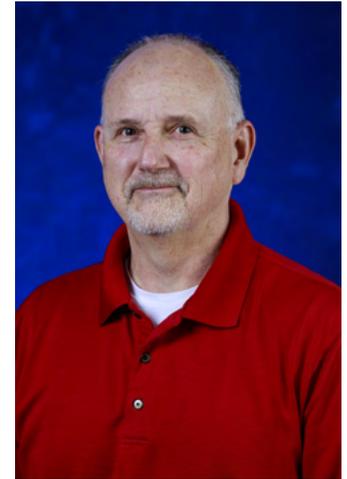
Dr. Patrick Baker, associate professor of law, was recently quoted in a Knoxville News Sentinel article titled “Fighting fossil fuel with fossil fuel: How natural gas is winning TVA’s plan to end coal.” The article, which talks about the Tennessee Valley Authority’s plan to phase out its remaining five coal-fired power plants and replace them with natural gas by 2035, quoted Baker as saying the following: “Our best worst option at this point is natural gas. But it’s a bridge. It’s not the end game. And here’s why I know it’s not the endgame, because eventually it’s going to run out.”



Bridgette Whitt, assistant professor and acquisitions librarian for the Paul Meek Library, was an invited speaker at the Council of Science Editors 2022 Fall Virtual Symposium during their Nov. 14 general session. CSE is an international membership organization for editorial professionals publishing in the sciences. Whitt’s presentation, “Open Access and DEI: Correlations and Future Impact,” discussed how open access is impacting the publishing industry and is addressing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.



Dr. Harriette L. Spiegel, lecturer in the Department of Educational Studies, led a discussion of Madeleine Albright’s thought-provoking book *FASCISM: A WARNING* at the Oct. 27 meeting of the Friends of the Library book discussion group. This discussion was the second in the Martin Public Library 2022-23 Let’s Talk About It programming, discussions that are open to all interested persons. *FASCISM: A WARNING* is a personal and urgent examination of Fascism in the 20th century and how its legacy shapes today’s world. The featured book for the November discussion is *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, a national bestseller that is a provocative and illuminating collection of writing from women at the forefront of the climate movement.



Dr. David Dietrich, a professor in the Department of Educational Studies, recently presented at the Tennessee Counseling Association’s 65th annual conference, *Emerge 2022*. In addition to being a licensed psychologist, Dietrich is a certified Mental Game Coaching Professional. His presentation, titled “Counseling Athletes: Mental Skills to Improve Performance,” was focused on common challenges athletes face in addressing their mental game and techniques counselors can use to address them.

COMMENCEMENT from PAGE 1
Center.

•Floral bouquets will be on sale Dec. 10 outside the Elam Center’s main entrance for graduates, their families and friends.

•Receptions for graduates, their families and friends will be held in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse following both ceremonies.

Additional information is available by calling the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

HOLIDAY ART BAZAAR

DECEMBER
1ST - 3RD

Thursday 1st 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.
Friday 2nd 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Saturday 3rd 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

UT MARTIN FINE ARTS BUILDING GALLERY
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

In Memory



Dr. Derek Ezell, assistant professor of marketing, was recently featured in an [Ole Miss news article](#) about his doctoral dissertation research on sustainable living. Ezell co-authored an article titled “Challenging the Good Life: An Institutional Theoretic Investigation of Consumers’ Transformational Process Toward Sustainable Living” with University of Mississippi professor of marketing, Victoria Bush. The article, based on results from Ezell’s dissertation, was published in the [Journal of Business Ethics](#) earlier this year.



Dr. Anita Rogers, a lecturer in the Department of Nursing, was recently awarded the Edna Stilwell Writing Award for her co-authorship of a journal article titled “Guilt as an Influencer in End-of-Life Care Decisions for Nursing Home Residents with Advanced Dementia,” which was published in the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. The Edna Stilwell Writing Award was established in 1998 by SLACK Incorporated, publisher of the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, in recognition of the contribution of Edna Stilwell, Ph.D., R.N., as editor of the journal from 1974-1997. The purpose of the award is to continue Stilwell’s tradition of mentoring and recognizing authors in the field



Dr. David Carithers, associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, led the Nov. 17 discussion of *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis* for the Let’s Talk About It book group hosted by the Friends of Martin Public Library. This collection of essays, art, and poetry, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson, was selected as the common reader for the fall 2022 semester at UT Martin and is being used in several classes. A national bestseller, the book is a provocative and illuminating collection of writing from women at the forefront of the



Dr. Ali Sabahi, assistant professor of biology, died on Nov. 10. Dr. Sabahi came to UT Martin in August 2016. A link to his obituary where you can leave condolences can be found [here](#). Note that the family plans a memorial service at a later date.

Billy Joe Winstead, a retired electrical foreman for the Physical Plant, died Nov. 17. Visitation and services were held Saturday, Nov. 19, at Murphy Funeral Home. The complete obituary can be found at [this link](#).

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving
Holiday Observed

Nov. 25 – Administrative
Closing

Dec. 26 – Christmas
Holiday Observed

Dec. 27-30 –
Administrative Closing

Jan. 2, 2023 – New Year’s
Day observed

Martin Kiwanis Club & the City of Martin
present
the 2022 Martin Christmas Parade

Joy of Christmas!
Monday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.

Click this ad to access the entry form.

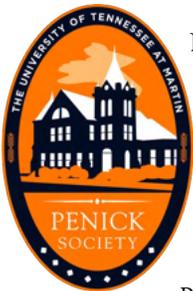
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JEANS & JEWELS – UT Foundation President Kerry Witcher addresses the crowd during the Inaugural President’s Gala: “Jeans & Jewels.” During the event, UT Martin honored members of the 1900 Society, which are donors who have made an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to the university; Twenty Plus Years of Consecutive Giving, which are donors who have contributed for 20 or more years to the university; the Woodley Farm Legacy Society, a planned giving society which ensures that UT Martin’s tradition of excellence will continue for future generations; and the Lifetime Societies, which include donors who have given a minimum of \$25,000 to the university over their lifetimes. The lifetime-giving societies are listed below and continued on page 5:

PENICK SOCIETY



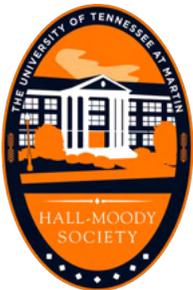
Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$10,000,000 and up. Dr. I.N. Penick, pastor of First Baptist Church of Martin for 22 years, undertook the task of establishing and dedicating a new school (Hall-Moody Institute). A quote from *The Last Leaf*, which is a book published covering the years of 1900-1927 of the Hall-Moody Institute, says of I.N. Penick, "To Whom the School Probably Owes More Than to Any Other Man."

ELAM SOCIETY



Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$1,000,000-\$4,999,999. Tom and Kathleen Elam were long-time supporters of UT Martin until their deaths, and their extensive financial support has assisted the campus’s growth. The university’s first \$1,000,000 monetary gift came from the estate of Thomas F. Elam.

HALL-MOODY SOCIETY



Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$5,000,000-\$9,999,999. Hall-Moody Institute, established in 1900, was the forerunner to the University of Tennessee at Martin. Hall-Moody was named for two eminent Baptist ministers, Elder J.N. Hall and Dr. J.B. Moody.

PAUL MEEK SOCIETY



Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$500,000-\$999,999. No one influenced UT Martin as much as Paul Meek, who held a campus leadership position (executive officer, dean, UT vice president, or chancellor) from 1934-1967.



SASSAFRAS SOCIETY

Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$250,000-\$499,999. The campus's historic sassafras tree, cut in 2005, was thought to be the oldest tree in the area and the last remnant of Woodley Farm, a property bought in 1927 to expand UTJC.



PACER SOCIETY

Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$50,000-\$99,999. In 1971, the student body began calling the university's athletic teams "The Pacers," recognizing the institution as a "pace-setting" university. The teams retained this name until 1995.



MARTIN SOCIETY

Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$100,000-\$249,999. The city of Martin, founded in 1873, is named for William Martin, who donated a considerable amount of land so the university could be built in its current location.



PILOT SOCIETY

Recognizing donors who have made a gift of \$25,000-\$49,999. When a majority of male students at UT Junior-College departed for service in WWII, an on-campus training program for military pilots rescued the sagging financial health of the institution.

View more UT Martin photos
online at utm.edu/photo.



UT MARTIN RECOGNIZES YEARS OF SERVICE

UT Martin honored employees with five or more years of university service during a luncheon held Nov. 5.



Judy Jones (left), retired from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts after 50 years of university service. Jones is pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver.



Debbie Stigall (left), retired from Education Student Services after 46 years of university service. Stigall is pictured with Carver.



Davis Rash, retired from the Physical Plant in HVAS after 33 years of university service. Rash is pictured with Carver.



Dr. Jerald Ogg (left), professor of mass media and strategic communications, and Larry Holder (right), information technology administrator, were recognized for 35 years of university service.

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PAGEANT COURTS – UT Martin students Caleigh Jo Erwin, of Dyersburg, and Karena Rainey, of Adamsville, claimed the Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival crowns respectively at the combined pageant Nov. 5 in the UT Martin Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. The new titleholders will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant, Wednesday-Saturday, July 26-29, 2023, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. Pictured in the pageant courts are (l, r): Tera Townsend, of Nashville, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival second runner-up; Kailey Duffy, of Holladay, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival first runner-up; Karena Rainey, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival; Nadia Treadwell, reigning Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival; Carly White, reigning Miss UT Martin; Caleigh Jo Erwin, Miss UT Martin; Malea Bigham, of Turtletown, Miss UT Martin first runner-up; and Sierra Smith, of Newland, North Carolina, Miss UT Martin second runner-up.

Erwin, Rainey claim Miss UT Martin, Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival titles

Caleigh Jo Erwin, of Dyersburg, and Karena Rainey, of Adamsville, have been competing in pageants their entire lives. The two UT Martin students were crowned Miss UT Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival respectively during the combined pageant held Nov. 5 in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. The Miss UT Martin Scholarship Pageant is in its 59th year, while the Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival title was awarded for the 23rd time.

Completing the Miss UT Martin court are Malea Bigham,

of Turtletown, first runner-up, and Sierra Smith, of Newland, North Carolina, second runner-up. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival first runner-up is Kailey Duffy, of Holladay, and second runner-up was Tera Townsend, of Nashville. Bigham and Smith are current UT Martin students, and Duffy is an alum.

Pageant competition includes private interview, fitness and wellness, talent and evening wear. Each contestant is scored individually from one to 10 in each category during the daylong competition. Erwin, a fourth-

year fashion merchandise major, believes winning the Miss UT Martin title was the perfect way to finish her collegiate career. “I feel this is an opportunity to give back to the university and community after all it has given me,” she said.

Participating in pageants has also given Erwin a platform to spread awareness about lupus, an autoimmune disease she was diagnosed with at 18 years old. “I strive to be a support system for other young women and men that are diagnosed with any autoimmune disease,” she said. “I want to be an example to not let

the disease take away from who they are but to embrace it.”

Karena Rainey, a health and human performance major, credits pageants for helping turn her into the woman she is today. “Pageants have shaped my life in so many ways, whether it be lending a helping hand to someone in need, gaining public speaking and communication skills, or simply making new friends,” said Rainey.

She is excited to represent the Tennessee Soybean Festival and the city of Martin in the Miss

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41 YEARS OF SERVICE – Dr. Vicki Seng, of Union City, was honored Nov. 3 by the University of Tennessee at Martin for 41 years of service during a retirement reception in the Holland McCombs Center. She held positions at the university ranging from a nursing department faculty member to nursing department chair and later served as a member of the chancellor’s cabinet. She retired as professor of nursing and associate provost in the Division of Academic Affairs. Seng is pictured at the reception with Chancellor Keith Carver and Chancellor Emeritus Nick Dunagan.

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Tennessee Volunteer pageant next summer. “It is programs like this that give young women like me the opportunity to better themselves while continuing their education.”

“We are very excited to have Caleigh Jo and Karena represent UT Martin and the Tennessee Soybean Festival this year,” said **Katrina Cobb**, interim general manager for West TN PBS and pageant executive director. “This is the first time in several years that we have UTM students holding both titles, so this is a special honor.”

Erwin and Rainey will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant Wednesday-Saturday, July 26-29, 2023, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson. The winner of the crown will serve as the governor’s spokesperson for character education and receive \$25,000 in scholarship money.

For more information on either title, contact Katrina Cobb at kcobb@wljt.org or 731-881-7561.

You Tell Me

- **Question** – Why did Dr. Carver select the bowtie as his signature neckpiece instead of the more traditional necktie?
- **Answer** – According to Dr. Carver, “It started about 12-13 years ago. I travel a lot, I’m often in and out of cars and meeting with people 10-12 hours a day. I found that bow ties were convenient as they don’t get in the way. You don’t have to worry about seat belts, draping it across soup bowls or salsa dishes or snagging on a piece of jagged door facing or a splintered table corner. You truly tie it once at the beginning of the day and never have to worry about it again. Also, it really dresses up a casual outfit! You can wear it with a pair of khakis and sports coat or with a suit. It’s versatile.”

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

addenda

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