

addenda



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



Pictured in this promotional graphic are (l-r) Lexie Garner, Amber Wright, Dylan Mott, Jodi Cranford, Mallory Ruhl, Madison Jones, Parker Kendall, Jacob Clark, Paden Leigh, Colten Glosser, Dr. Dexter Davis, Julie French, Bridget Vieau, Rina Focht, Rosalinda Alvarado, Karra Bailey, Dawson Gremmels, Gracie Barber, Macy Rippy and Mikaela Curtis. Not pictured are Hannah Mitchell and Madisyn Phillips.

10TH UT MARTIN STUDENT COHORT TO WORK SUPER BOWL

Attending the Super Bowl is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many, and 21 UT Martin students will enjoy that experience Feb. 12. **Dr. Dexter Davis**, associate professor of sport business, will take a group of students to work America's

largest and most-watched sporting event hosted this year in Glendale, Arizona.

"It's a great opportunity for our students and that's what it's about...making sure students at the University of Tennessee at Martin get an incredible

experience wherever they decide to go with their careers," said Davis.

Ahead of the main event, the group will spend time assisting with operations at TPC Scottsdale for the Waste Management Phoenix Open

- the PGA Tour's highest-attended event where most, if not all, of the tour's top players compete.

The students' responsibilities during the Super Bowl will

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Ashley Kilburn, professor of marketing, attended “The Role of Content in B2B Revenue Growth” webinar, sponsored by Quark. The webinar, led by Phyllis Davidson, vice president and principal analyst at Forrester, focused on the following areas: the key components of an audience-centric content strategy; best practices to follow at each stage of the content lifecycle to drive engagement; the metrics schema to consider



The Tennessee State Department of Education is producing a video on the work that educator preparation programs are doing through registered teacher apprenticeships. The video includes interviews with Tennessee’s Grow Your Own (GYO) program center apprenticeship directors and a teacher apprentice from each campus. The video will be shown at the Tennessee State Capitol on Feb. 27 during a special event celebrating agency partnerships. Pictured (l-r) are Josh Walton, graphics and video specialist for the Tennessee State Department of Education; and Staci Fuqua, director of the UT Martin Educator Preparation Program and GYO apprenticeship director for UTM.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Today, 3:30 p.m.,
Watkins Auditorium

Kolitsch named acting provost and senior vice chancellor

Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch has been named acting provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UT Martin beginning March 1. The announcement was made by **Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier**, who will serve as the university’s interim chancellor also beginning March 1. **Dr. Keith Carver** will leave UT Martin to lead the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture as its senior vice chancellor and senior vice president. Carver and Cavalier were named to their new positions Jan. 26 by University of Tennessee System president Randy Boyd.

In his university announcement, Cavalier

noted Kolitsch’s strong institutional knowledge and extensive work across the university as factors that led to her appointment. She is leading the university’s reaffirmation of accreditation process that will conclude with a visit from a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges peer-evaluator team Feb. 28 – March 2. Kolitsch also led the development of the Quality Enhancement Plan, which is part of the SACS review process, and the Foundations of Excellence self-study. In 2022, she co-chaired one of five committees that revised and updated the UT Martin Strategic Plan.



Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch

“During her career as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Kolitsch has earned the respect of faculty and staff colleagues across campus,”

Cavalier wrote in his message. “Her judgment, decision-making skills and ability to manage large, complex projects will serve her well in this role. I look forward to working with her during this transition period.”

In addition to her duties as SACS coordinator, Kolitsch is a mathematics faculty member and holds the rank of professor. She came to UT Martin in 1994 after earning a bachelor’s degree at Texas A&M University-Commerce and a doctorate at the University of Texas.

Contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615 for more information.

include transporting current and retired players and Hall of Famers from one pre-game event to another. Leading up to the game on Sunday, the students will learn the most efficient routes to take in the stadium and gain tactful communication skills to be prepared to answer questions and requests from fans.

“Getting that experience with the NFL brand is special,” Davis said. “Understanding what it takes to put on a mega event like the Super Bowl makes it easier to put on a less-than-mega event like your local basketball game or youth sport tournament. Getting a feel for what makes this type of activity go is really important.”

Davis has been supervising collegiate trips to the Super Bowl for 18 years. His relationship with the NFL and Super Bowl began when a colleague who worked for the Miami Dolphins reached out with a volunteer

opportunity for his students. Since coming to UT Martin in 2013, he has more than doubled the number of students he supervises on this trip.

“Those six kids did over and beyond what the NFL asked of them, made an incredible impression, and we’ve been back ever since,” Davis recalled about his first group of students he took to a Super Bowl.

When Davis began taking UT Martin students to the game, only sport business management majors were allowed to apply. He quickly realized students in other majors from the College of Business and Global Affairs could benefit from attending.

Two students are more than excited to check this item off their bucket list. Dawson Gremmels, a finance, economics and marketing major from Huntingdon, is grateful to have this opportunity and thankful to expand his knowledge of how the sports industry operates.

“I joined this trip to get the ultimate sports management experience and explore my interest in the sports field,” Gremmels said.

Rina Focht, a mass media and strategic communication major from Wood Dale, Illinois, has had her sights set on this trip for a long time. “Attending the Super Bowl with UTM was mentioned at my Preview Day when I was a senior in high school, and it was one of the main reasons that I decided to attend UTM,” she said.

Focht grew up attending her older brothers’ sporting events and became increasingly interested in the behind-the-scenes aspect of professional sports. She hopes this trip will give her the opportunity to network and make connections that will one day help her career.

“After graduation, I would love to work in the world of sports media,” she said. “This trip is giving me the chance to

experience my dream career while being surrounded by a university that has supported me the last four years.”

Other students attending this year are Rosalinda Alvarado, of Loretto; Karra Bailey, of Brentwood; Gracie Barber, of Kansas City, Missouri; Jacob Clark, of Halls; Jodi Cranford, of Newbern; Mikaela Curtis, of Waverly; Julie French, of Chattanooga; Lexie Garner, of Rutherford; Colten Glosser, of Packwood, Iowa; Madison Jones, of Dickson; Parker Kendall, of Hornbeak; Paden Leigh, of Franklin; Hannah Mitchell, of Karnak, Illinois; Dylan Mott, of Hendersonville; Madisyn Phillips, of Jackson; Macy Rippy, of Clarksville; Mallory Ruhl, of Eads; Bridget Vieau, of Syracuse, New York; and Amber Wright, of McKenzie.

For more information on the trip or the UT Martin Sport Business Program, contact Davis at ddavis78@utm.edu.

Let the
UT Martin
community
know about
your most recent
accolades by
submitting a
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Email us at
addenda@utm.edu.



The University of Tennessee at Martin 23rd Annual Civil Rights Conference

WHO WILL STAND IN THE GAP?

A CLARION CALL FOR JUSTICE SEEKERS

GUEST SPEAKERS
6 P.M. IN WATKINS AUDITORIUM



FEB. 7

Torri Yates-Orr & Kahlil Greene
Gen Z History Reframed



FEB. 17

Jarrod Benjamin
A Cautious Look at Cancel Culture



FEB. 21

Jemele Hill
An Uphill Journey through Sports,
Journalism, Politics, and Pain



FEB. 22

Tamika D. Mallory
Intersections of Trauma, Mental Health,
and Addiction in the Black Community

MANCUSI EXPLORES CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERFORMING ARTS DURING A PANDEMIC

Dr. Roberto Mancusi will discuss his experience composing and performing an original opera within the parameters of social distancing and other pandemic concerns at 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16. Part of the UT Martin Research Series, his presentation, “Thinking Inside the Box,” reviews the process he used to create a safe performing opportunity for UTM voice students. It will also include video highlights from the live-streamed performance which debuted on YouTube in April 2021.

Mancusi’s opera, *The New Normal*, on which he collaborated with **Dr. Mark Simmons**, was conceived and written specifically to be performed online. The show

takes place in a Zoom-type classroom setting and features the talents of UTM voice students. The unique structure and message of the opera has captured national attention and was recognized as a finalist for The American Prize in Virtual Performance and a semifinalist for The American Prize for Composers. Mancusi noted that his approach “walked a fine line with the story and the music because there is a message in it. ... If nothing else, everyone is feeling the same thing (during the pandemic). It has been cliché this whole time because we are all in this together, and as soon as we realize that, the easier things will be, even a little bit.”

Mancusi has taught at UT

Martin since 2008 and is an accomplished performer, author and teacher. He has performed with several national symphonies in productions which include Handel’s *Messiah*, and multiple operatic productions including *Don Giovanni*. He is also a featured soloist on several CDs, including the recording of his concert tour, *The Big Sing Theory: The Triumph of the Human Spirit*. Mancusi has written for *Classical Singer Magazine* and is frequently invited to teach master classes in both national and international venues. *The New Normal* is his first opera composition.

Co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the UT Martin Paul Meek Library,

the monthly UT Martin Research Series highlights the research of campus faculty, staff and students. The event is open to the public and will be held in the north reading room of the Paul Meek Library with a livestream of the presentation [here](#). A recording will be available at this site for playback at a later date. Light refreshments will be served.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link. For more information, contact **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

Read more UT Martin news online at utm.edu/news.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Would the university ever consider putting a bench or two down near the pacer pond for sitting and reflection? Or even a picnic table for a lunch spot? It’s such a pretty part of the fitness trail, and I walk there often, but sometimes I like to sit and read or eat my lunch.

• **Answer** – Specific requests for campus benches are best directed first to Matt Borden, associate director of annual giving. An interested donor may submit a campus beautification interest form: www.give.utm.edu/beautification. Matt will then contact the interested party and begin the process of a new bench installation. Turnaround time is approximately four months. Requests for other outdoor amenities, such as a picnic table, are best directed first to the Physical Plant for consideration.

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

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