

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | April 24, 2023

FIRST 'CALL ME MISTER' GRADUATES HONORED

Students in the UT Martin Call Me MiSTER program learn how to change lives through teaching. The first five UT Martin MiSTERS to complete the program are ready to make a difference in the classroom after being honored April 17 during the 2023 **Louis C. Glover** UT Martin Call Me MiSTER Celebration held in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. The event was named in memory of the late Dr. Louis C. Glover, initial program coordinator for the UT Martin Call Me MiSTER program and a Department of Educational Studies faculty member. The celebration was sponsored by Tosh Farms in Henry County, and the celebration programs were donated by Rawls Funeral Homes.

The Call Me MiSTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program that was founded at Clemson University in 2000 strives to increase the pool of available teachers from a more diverse background, particularly among the state's lowest-performing elementary



CALL ME MISTER – Samuel Sharpe presents Jonathan Utley with his Call Me MISTER blazer.

schools. Student participants are selected largely from among under-served, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities. The students receive the preparation needed to pursue successful careers in Tennessee elementary and middle schools, possibly even at schools they attended.

The teacher leadership program has grown to include 13 states and provides participants with mentoring support and networking opportunities that benefit them both during and after earning college degrees. UT Martin has the only Call Me MiSTER program in Tennessee.

The celebration featured presentations of an official

Call Me MiSTER blazer to each graduating senior. The blazer signifies a lifetime connection and commitment to the program's mission to prepare servant leaders, effective teachers and mentors to future generations. Justyn "Jax" Johnson, a Union City

Continued on PAGE 2

Bettie Graham Seminar Series

on Diagnosis and Early Intervention of Learning Difficulties

with guest speaker, Caitlin Tucker

TODAY, 4 - 7 P.M. UC 230



YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Dr. Sue Byrd and Dr. Marti Herndon, professor emeriti of UT Martin Family and Consumer Sciences, have been selected to receive the AAFCS Leader Award and AAFCS Distinguished Service Award (respectively) in recognition of their significant contributions to the family and consumer sciences profession and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). The awards will be presented during the AAFCS Annual Conference in June 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland.



ΦΚΦ INITIATION



Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Boling University Center 206

RECOGNIZED AT WEAKLEY COUNTY CHAMBER EVENT – Five university employees were recognized during the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet, April 18, in the Duncan Ballroom. Emma Bruner, Office of University Relations; Lindee McCurley, Boling University Center; and Jennifer Smiley, WestStar Leadership Program, graduated with the 2023 Leadership Weakley County Class. Jennifer Cooper, Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development, received the Emerging Leader Award presented by the Weakley County Young Professionals. The event's conclusion was highlighted by David Belote, Office of Campus Recreation, receiving the Weakley Countian of the Year Award. He was honored for his long service



to the area, including multiple years as a Martin alderman and executive director of the Tennessee Soybean Festival. Belote will retire this summer from the university as interim director of campus recreation.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



CALL ME MISTER – UT Martin’s Call Me MiSTER program honored its first five graduating seniors Monday, April 17, at the 2023 Louis C. Glover UT Martin Call Me MiSTER Celebration held in the Boling University Center. Pictured following the event are (l, r) Logan Davis, Memphis; Tydarius Blackwell, Jackson; Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin interim chancellor; Jonathan Utley, Jackson; Lathon Ross, Jackson; and Justyn “Jax” Johnson, Union City.

MISTER from PAGE 1

High School graduate and education integrated studies 6-8 social studies major, told the celebration audience that he had few male minority leaders in his life before coming to UT Martin. “But over my four years here, not only have I seen how great of a male minority leader I can be, but I’ve been blessed to be in the graces of some amazing people,” he said.

Following the celebration, Johnson said the connections he made in the program led him to leadership opportunities with the university’s Summer Orientation and Registration staff, working as a Peer Enabling Program leader, and serving as staff member with the UT Martin Young Scholars Academy for underserved youth. His student-teaching experiences showed Johnson the demands of classroom

teaching, but even after a long school day, “this one conversation that I might have had with a student” and “being able to see them smile even just for that few minutes” inspires him toward the teaching career that lies just ahead.

Jonathan Utley is a health and human performance K-12 major from Jackson who has achieved a 4.0 college GPA. He described participating in the program as one of the best decisions he has made and, like Johnson, thanked those who supported him. He first learned about Call Me MiSTER when his Madison Academic High School chemistry teacher told him about the program, its resources and strong mentoring component. He knew the opportunity would be a good fit for him.

“We have multiple mentors that we check in with. They

provide support wherever we need it,” Utley said. “Any time we need something done, they’re always there to provide a helping hand, whether it be academic, social or if we just need somebody to talk to. They’re always there to help and support us.” As for what inspires him to teach, “I’ve always valued my academic success, and I’ve always loved fitness. ... I feel like it was a good fit to go in education and teach physical education.”

Austin Ferrell, program co-coordinator and academic success coordinator, is the oldest of 10 children and sees the new MiSTERS as extensions of his own large family. “I always told them that they’re like my younger brothers. ... It’s almost like I got to see them move from their freshman stage all the way to their senior stage and accomplish so many things,

...” he said. “They have made some great strides, and they’re trailblazers for our university and our program in general.”

Other students honored during the celebration were Logan Davis, a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies major with a health and human performance K-12 focus from Memphis; Tydarius Blackwell, an education integrated studies 6-8 mathematics major from Jackson; and Lathon Ross, an education integrated studies K-5 elementary education major from Jackson. The five new MiSTERS will receive their bachelor’s degrees during the university’s 2 p.m. commencement ceremony, Saturday, May 6, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Dr. Roy Jones, Clemson University’s Call Me MiSTER national director, traveled from South Carolina to attend the celebration. He told the audience that the program looks beyond the participants becoming third-grade teachers, which is important. “It’s a legacy,” he said to those who earned a blazer. “There is a need for you. This country has a need for you, for educators to make a difference, to raise the standard and raise the vision for this nation. ... This nation needs visionaries in ways to show the nation where and how to do it. We need the answers. That’s how we see Call Me MiSTER.”

Among other recognitions was a plaque presented to **Samuel Tharpe**, of Paris, for his service as the Call Me MiSTER® coordinator of community outreach and advancement. For more information about the program, contact the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences at 731-881-7125.



STUDENTS ATTEND APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES MARKET – Students involved in the UT Martin chapter of the Fashion Merchandising Association visited the Atlanta Apparel and Accessories Market March 29 through April 1. The market helped educate the students on wholesale buying, fall trends and fashion shows. Students that attended the market were April Vidal-Banos, a junior family and consumer science major from Madison; Alisa Nguyen, a sophomore management major from Nashville; Miriam Procopio, a sophomore management major from Alamo; Olivia Pierce, a senior family and consumer science major from Paris; Nyx De La Cerda, a junior family and consumer science major from Somerville; and Ameer Gray, a senior mass media and strategic communication student from Murfreesboro. Pictured front row (l-r) are Procopio, Vidal Banos and Pierce. Pictured back row (l-r) are De La Cerda, Nguyen and Gray. Dr. Mercan Derafshi, assistant professor of fashion merchandising, accompanied the students on the trip.



KIWANIS NEWS – At the April 12 Kiwanis meeting, Dana Hagan, project coordinator of the UT Martin Physical Plant, described the timeline to completion of the new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. She explained that that Bill and Carol Latimer’s \$6.5 million gift made possible the new \$65 million, 130,000 square-foot, three-story building that was dedicated during a ceremony in October 2022 and opened for use in January 2023. The Latimer-Smith Building houses the departments of chemistry and physics, computer science, engineering, mathematics and statistics, and the pre-professional health sciences program. Hagan, who showed photographs and graphics throughout her presentation, also described some of the outstanding design features of the building: the use of glass and areas of special glass with UTM etchings that help control cooling; the light and shadow designs throughout the building that resemble sunlight through trees; the open spaces and numerous study areas, the café, the community room and more. Pictured with Hagan are Dr. Ann Gathers, biological sciences, and Steve Lemond, information technology services.

You Tell Me

- **Question** – Do you know when the handicap-accessible door at the Boling University Center by the bookstore will be fixed?
- **Answer** – The Physical Plant had to call an outside vendor to repair those doors. If the doors aren’t already repaired, they should be operational soon. As a point of information, automatic openers are not required to meet ADA standards, but the Physical Plant tries to have at least one set on the exterior of all the main-campus buildings. The current doors do meet ADA even without the operator. The good news is that the door nearest the ADA parking area is operating properly.

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

addenda

Published weekly during the academic year and biweekly during the summer by UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238
 Randy Boyd – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier – Interim Chancellor • Nathan Morgan – Addenda Editor
 UT Martin is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer. E05-0415-00-001-23