

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | May 1, 2023

SPRING COMMENCEMENT SET FOR MAY 6

UT Martin will hold spring commencement exercises during two in-person ceremonies Saturday, May 6, 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. Liliana Ramirez, global director for workforce development, Ford Motor Co., will deliver the commencement address at both ceremonies.

Ramirez joined Ford in 1993 after serving as a civilian logistician for the U.S. Army. In her 29 years with Ford, Ramirez has held leadership roles within Global Lean Manufacturing, North America Learning and

Development, and Global Six Sigma. She has extensive manufacturing experience in the powertrain and stamping divisions.

In her current role, Ramirez leads the development and implementation of world-class workforce development strategies to transform and prepare the manufacturing workforce required for Ford's electrification revolution with direct responsibility for BlueOval City and BlueOval SK Battery parks.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, UT Martin interim chancellor, will preside over the two ceremonies and confer degrees. Dr. Bernard Savarese, acting vice president, UT Office of Academic Affairs and

Student Success, will represent the UT System. A sign-language interpreter will provide services for the hearing impaired during both commencement events.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will include 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 feature graduates from 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



Liliana Ramirez

will be archived on YouTube for later viewing.

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

CHAMPIONS – History was made on Saturday in the Ohio Valley Conference Beach Volleyball Championship finals as UT Martin won the championship for the second straight season following a 3-0 sweep of Morehead State. The victory capped off a true undefeated run through OVC play as the Skyhawks followed a 10-0 regular season with three sweeps in the league's championship event this weekend. On Sunday the NCAA Beach Volleyball Committee unveiled the 17-team bracket for the 2023 National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship. UTM will open the tournament against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Wednesday, May 3, in Gulf Shores, Alabama. For more information visit <https://utmsports.com/sports/womens-beach-volleyball>.



YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance in the College of Business and Global Affairs, was featured in WalletHub's recent online consumer information about credit cards. You can find the information and his related comments about credit cards in the "Ask the Experts" Q & A [here](#). WalletHub, based in Washington, D.C., is a financial website that offers information such as credit-improvement advice and personalized savings alerts. The site's business-related features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.



Vicki Stewart, lecturer of accounting in the College of Business and Global Affairs, was featured by MoneyGeek in the online publication's recent "Tax Guide for Military & Veterans." Her Q&A can be read [here](#). MoneyGeek began in 2016 with the goal "to make personal finance more approachable and accessible." MoneyGeek's editorial team members have worked with numerous publications and include mortgage experts, veteran financial reporters and award-winning journalists.

SHOW YOUR GRADUATE HOW MUCH YOU CARE WITH A FLORAL BOUQUET OR GIFT!

Please visit The Commencement Group's flower booth located conveniently at the entrance of the Kathleen & Tom Elam Center before commencement, May 6.

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You are encouraged to submit highlights or questions when you register. Registration issues? Contact us at dash@tennessee.edu.

UTM DINING PRESENTS

MOONLIGHT BREAKFAST

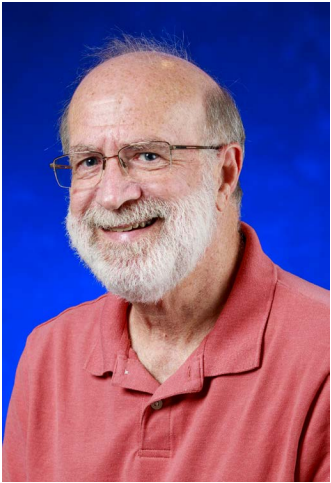
TUESDAY, MAY 2ND
9:30 PM - 11:00 PM
ALL UTM STUDENTS GET IN FREE WITH THEIR SKYHAWK CARD!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

THE ULTIMATE FINALS WEEK STUDY BREAK!

YoUTMs



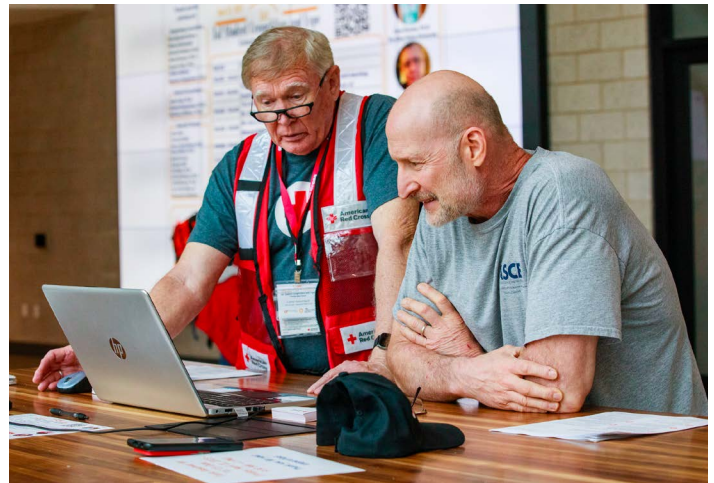
Dr. Kevin Hammond, faculty advisor for Mu Kappa Tau National Marketing Honor Society at UT Martin, recently had a student who was extended an invitation for lifetime membership to the organization. Kyoko Guy, a marketing major, joins other UTM marketing majors Dawson Gremmels, Thomas Fullerton, Cole Hollis and Madison Jones who were recent inductees into Mu Kappa Tau. The students were nominated on behalf of the marketing faculty within the College of Business and Global Affairs, including Hammond, **Dr. Michael Park**, **Dr. Ashley Kilburn**, **Mr. Christian Bushardt** and **Dr. Derek Ezell**.

Submit a YoUTM.



EVENT ADDRESSES TORNADOS – (above) Alisha Melton (right), of Dresden, prepares to talk with reporters Sinahi Carrizales (WNBJ Channel 39) and Diamon O’Daniel (WBBJ 7 Eyewitness News) during the first Technology Against Tornado Student Competition and Exposition on April 21 at the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. Melton, UT Martin Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development executive director, was a conference speaker on the topic “Long-Term Disaster Recovery Process in Dresden.” She co-chairs the Weakley County Long-Term Recovery Group following the December 2021 tornado that caused massive damage in the Dresden community. More information about the recovery group’s work is found at www.rebuildweakley.com.

(right) Luther Holsonback (standing) with the American Red Cross, and Dr. Ray Witmer, UT Martin professor of engineering, visit during the first Technology Against Tornado Student Competition and Exposition on April 21 at the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. In addition to the American Red Cross, other exhibitors were the National Weather Service, West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Hospital, the UT Martin Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and Discovery Park of America.



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HAGAN AND DEAN HONORED AS OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

Dana Hagan and Bryan Dean received spring 2023 Outstanding Employee Awards for their work at UT Martin. The awards were presented April 14 during the spring semester clerical and support staff coffee in the Boling University Center.

Hagan, of Union City, is project coordinator for the UT Martin Physical Plant and has played a vital role organizing departmental moves during recent campus building construction and renovations. Hagan's professionalism and hard-working personality are what led her colleagues to nominate her for this award.

"We all agree we want progress, but how many of us are willing to step into that leadership role to make that happen? Dana is that leader who connects architects, movers, faculty, staff and students to keep things fluid," an award nomination said.

Dean, of Martin, is the academic support specialist for the university's Department of Chemistry and Physics.

In his role, Dean helped the department inventory and package all equipment and tools as faculty members and others prepared for the move from the Johnson EPS Building to the new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. Coworkers cited his work ethic as the top reason the department functioned successfully during the move.

"Bryan is very dependable, conscientious and hard working. You can count on him to discern a clear path through good and bad times, overcoming a maze of obstacles. Bryan is an indispensable force for good in our department and on our campus," said a nomination form.

UT Martin Outstanding Employee Awards are given each semester to one salaried and one hourly staff member. Recipients are nominated by their coworkers and chosen by a selection committee.

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.



Hagan and Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier



Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier and Dean

Students receive national AFA recognition

The Agriculture Future of America Organization has released selections for some of its most exclusive recognitions, and four students from UT Martin are among those chosen.

Victoria Holliday, a junior agricultural engineering technology major from Lexington, Kentucky, has been chosen to attend the 2023 AFA Food Institute, May 21-23, in Chicago. The AFA Food Institute is designed to help students interested in food sustainability, research and development, diabetics and nutrition, and marketing and sales with industry

exposure and a better knowledge of farm to table.

To apply for the AFA Food Institute, students must be undergraduates with a GPA of 2.5 or higher and have a passion for and plan to pursue a career in food, agriculture or natural resources. After considering what the institute offered, Holliday said that applying was a no-brainer.

"AFA and I both understand the importance of agriculture in the sustainment of the world," said Holliday. "Applying for the AFA Food Institute was an easy decision because of my pursuit of becoming a food scientist."

Sarah Tyler, a sophomore agricultural business student from McEwen, was selected to serve on the 2023-24 Agriculture Future of America Campus Ambassador team after being nominated by Dr. Ross Pruitt, UT Martin professor of agricultural economics. Thirty-two ambassadors are chosen from across the country to increase awareness of AFA programs at their specific universities.

As a member of the ambassador team, Tyler will have exclusive exposure to AFA partners and industry leaders through virtual and in-person meetings and events. Additionally, she will

receive an academic scholarship, registration and travel expenses paid to the 2023 AFA Leaders Conference and a LinkedIn badge.

"Because of my positive experiences with the AFA Leaders Conference, I knew I wanted to advocate for this wonderful organization to my college peers and make them aware of the opportunities available," said Tyler. "I strive to set goals that will increase the awareness of AFA programs, such as the six institutes throughout the year and

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A DAY IN COURT – Joe Vandyke (left), prosecuting attorney for Hardeman County and adjunct professor at the UT Martin centers in Somerville and Jackson, and Shana Johnson (center), public defender for Hardeman County and adjunct professor at UT Martin, recently invited their students to watch them work as opposing counsel at the Hardeman County Circuit Court in Bolivar. Pictured (l-r) are Vandyke, Johnson and Stephen Swaidner, a UTM BIS alumni (2021) who is attending the UTM Jackson Center for political science post-baccalaureate and pre-law classes. Swaidner spent a couple of days with the pair in court.



AFA from PAGE 4

the annual leaders conference.” Libby Rushton, a junior agricultural business major from Waverly, and Bree Mills, a sophomore agricultural education major from Decaturville, were selected to attend the AFA Policy Institute, Sept. 10-12, in Washington, D.C. The goal of this policy institute is for students to understand the perspectives of top policy experts and government officials on today’s most pressing agriculture, food and natural resource policy issues.

“AFA has created a diverse space for me and my peers to further our knowledge of agriculture,” said Mills. “I hope the policy institute will help me learn more about what agriculture policy is in our country and how it works on the national level.” Students will have opportunities to visit with representatives and agriculture policy leaders, discuss innovations and recent challenges within the industry, and learn about career paths and opportunities in agriculture policy. Forty-four students from across the nation were chosen for this experience.

You Tell Me

- **Question** – What are appropriate items to submit to fixit@utm.edu, and are there examples of items that shouldn’t be submitted? For appropriate items, is there a target response time for a request?
- **Answer** – The “fixit” email address is just one of four ways to reach the Physical Plant for assistance. (1) The SharePoint site UTM Physical Plant - Home (sharepoint.com) has the most current contact information including scheduling of HVAC for after hours and other contacts for various lead personnel in every area. The link is not recommended as a resource for immediate responses. (2) Calling the Physical Plant at 881-7640 is always the best means of contact from on/off campus during business hours for anything immediate such as leaks, noises and other general problems. (3) After normal business hours when there is an emergency, always call Dispatch at Public Safety, ext. 7777. They have the after-hours callback list and can contact the correct Physical Plant personnel to meet that need. (4) As for fixit@utm.edu, consider this the “Dear Abby address” for the Physical Plant – the address is monitored during business hours for non-emergency requests for assistance of all types. Students who live in university housing should always go through the Office of Residence Life and Housing for any requests related to the on-campus housing.

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