

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | June 20, 2023



WESTSTAR GRADUATES 33rd CLASS – The WestStar Leadership Program graduated its 2023 class Tuesday, June 20, in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom. A 5:30 p.m. reception was followed by dinner at 6, and the graduation ceremony concluded the program. Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for university advancement, emceed the annual event. Members of this year’s graduating class were (top row, l to r) Brandon Orr, Pete Johnson, Clay Cunha, Mack Kail, Eddie Pruitt, Randy Moffett, Josh Frey, Donnie Walton, Tosh Newman, Sam Hedge, Melvin Martin, Undrae Johnson, Dr. Kye Barron, Michael Sargent, Bill Rawls and Larry Smith. (bottom row, l to r) Tim York, Hannah Stewart, Tiffany Jones, Pamela Mabry, Laura Suiter, Dr. LaSonya Harris Hall, Christy Williams, Donna Stines, Kate Bynum, Dr. Versie Hamlett and Marcus Heaston. Hannah Stewart, Office of University Relations, and Laura Suiter, Office of Development, represented UT Martin in this year’s class.

UTM will host the second and third finalists for its chancellor position on June 22 & 27.

Philip Cavalier
Thursday, June 22
11:15 a.m.
Watkins Auditorium

TBA
Tuesday, June 27
11:15 a.m.
Watkins Auditorium

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



CORRECTION: Dr. Diana Watson was omitted from the original YoUTM.

Dr. Ross Pruitt, professor of agricultural economics, and **Dr. Diana Watson**, assistant professor of veterinary sciences, recently had an article titled “Factors Influencing

Interest in Post-Secondary Agricultural International Travel Experiences” selected for the EB Knight Award by the NACTA Journal Awards Committee. The award is given “in recognition of his outstanding contributions to NACTA.”

Dr. Brian Donavant, professor of criminal justice, published an article “Fostering Student-Faculty Engagement and Increasing Learning in the Ongoing Quest for Online Quality” in the *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*. Research results from online criminal justice courses indicate that while most students demonstrated significant learning improvement, the use of instructor-led videos resulted in a significantly higher increase in learning improvement compared to the use of more traditional online tools such as static PowerPoint presentations



or course materials and videos incorporated from Open Educational Resources (OER).



Dr. Charles Hammond, professor of German, and his wife, **Kyoko Hammond**, lecturer of Japanese, led a group of 14 UT Martin students on a travel study to Braunschweig, Germany, May 6-16. In addition to visiting the campus of UTM’s official German partner institution, the Technical University of Braunschweig, the students visited the nearby towns of Wolfenbüttel, Goslar, Wernigerode and Hanover. They also visited Hochschule Harz (Harz College), where they were welcomed by faculty and students and provided a meal, a tour, and an opportunity to get to know the students one-on-one. For the final two days, the group traveled to Berlin on high-speed rail, and where given a tour of all the major attractions by two natives of the city. To learn more about this travel study, contact Hammond at chammon1@utm.edu or 731-881-7423.



Students from the UT Martin counseling program presented and volunteered at the Tennessee Licensed Professional Counselors Association 2023 Counseling and Therapy Summit, June 9-10, at Trevecca Nazarene University. Pictured (l-r) are Punam Patel, Victoria LeBruno, Amanda Gienow and Taelar Bybee. The group assisted in checking in attendees and moderating sessions throughout the summit. Gienow and Bybee presented a paper titled *The Gender Divide in ADHD*, which focused on the differences between males and females diagnosed with ADHD.

Let the UT Martin community know about your most recent accolades by submitting a YoUTM to addenda@utm.edu.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



The Office of University Relations earned three awards in the 2023 Tennessee College Public Relations Association’s Communications Awards competition. The competition attracted 301 submissions in some 37 categories. Awards were announced during the TCPRA State Conference,



May 24-26, in Gatlinburg and attended by **Anna Barnes** and **Emma Bruner** from university relations. Receiving recognition was the Addenda faculty/staff newsletter (Gold – Newsletter, Electronic), website (Silver – Website, Overall) and summer melt campaign (Bronze-Overall Promotional Campaign).



Two College of Business and Global Affairs faculty members were featured in recent weeks in WalletHub. **Vicki Stewart**, lecturer of accounting, was featured in the June 7 story [“Best Personal Loans for a 600 Credit Score.”](#) **Dr. Sean Walker**, professor of behavioral management and interim department chair, was featured in



WalletHub commenting on the June 16 story titled [“Changes in Unemployment Rate by State.”](#) 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.



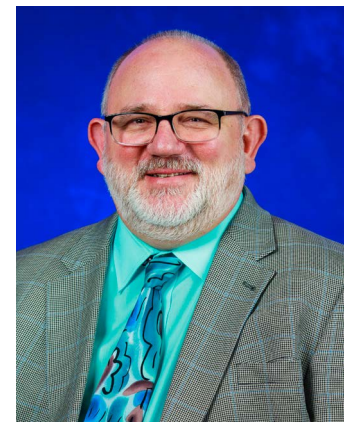
Drs. Cooper Johnson and **Jamye Long**, both associate professors of management, conducted a Go Cloud Careers training title “How to be a Successful Team Member” in which 126 international participants were engaged and interacted through the experience. Additionally, Johnson and Long’s collaboration with Go Cloud



Careers throughout the 2022-23 academic year was recognized as they were honored with the College of Business and Global Affairs 2023 Outstanding Societal Impact Award. The purpose of the award is to promote and recognize excellence in activities and projects that engage faculty, staff and students and lead to positive economic, educational and social impact.



Bridgette Whitt, acquisitions and collection development librarian, participated in the 2023 Acquisitions Institute held at Mt. Hood, Oregon. Her presentation was titled “Creating and Executing a Small-scale Diversity and Inclusion Audit Project at an Academic Library Using Graphic Novels” and additional information are available on the [conference website](#).



Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, has a book chapter entitled “Professional Identity during COVID-19: Experiences of Academic Library Leaders in the United States,” included in *Managing Crises in the Academic Library: Past, Present, and Future*, edited by Doris Van Kampen-Breit and recently published by the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Mccollom, Parker recognized as Mass Media and Strategic Communication alumni award recipients



MASS MEDIA AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION ALUMNI AWARDS – Dave Parker, radio and digital marketing consultant for Forever Communications in Jackson, and Amy Dysinger McCollom, associate director of project management at Ramsey Solutions, both received alumni awards from the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair for department of mass media and strategic communication; Parker; McCollom; and Dr. Teresa Collard, professor of mass media and strategic communication.

The Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication presented Amy Dysinger McCollom with its Outstanding Young Alumni Award and Dave Parker with its 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award during an end-of-semester reception.

McCollom, a 2012 UT Martin graduate, is the associate director of project management at Ramsey Solutions in Nashville. She began her professional career working with the American Cancer Society – Relay for Life. McCollom’s work with Ramsey Solutions includes serving as a project manager, senior project manager and now her current position of associate director.

“She is and has always been dedicated to service, she does

not shy away from hard work, she has unfailing integrity, and she leads as well as she follows,” said **Dr. Teresa Collard**, professor of mass media and strategic communication, in her presentation of the award.

Parker, a 1986 graduate and radio and digital marketing consultant for Forever Communications in Jackson, received the Distinguished Alumni Award. He has more than 35 years of experience as a radio and marketing consultant.

During a brief acceptance speech, Parker gave a few tips on finding success in the professional world. He encouraged students to communicate clearly, continue their education and have a well-rounded skill set. He closed

with a quote from his father, “Be sure the words you speak are soft and sweet because you never know which ones you’ll have to eat.”

McCollom and Parker join a group of alumni award-winners that includes longtime Oprah producer Terry Goulder; Kent Landers, Hilton Hotel vice president for corporate communications; and Van Jones, CNN host and contributor.

During the awards ceremony, 37 mass media and strategic communication scholarships and awards were presented to students.

For more information, contact the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication at 731-881-7546.

Bibbee named Humanities and Fine Arts dean

Dr. Jeffrey R. Bibbee has been named the dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Bibbee most recently served at the University of North Alabama, where he was the university historian in the 2022-23 school year and interim associate dean and associate dean from 2019 to 2022 for the UNA department of history. Bibbee began his new position June 15 and succeeds the retiring Dr. Lynn Alexander who has served as dean since 2010.

At North Alabama, Bibbee was a professor of history from



Bibbee

2016 through 2023, served as the chair of the department of history from 2014 to 2019, was an associate professor of history from 2012 to 2016 and was an assistant professor of history from 2008 to 2012. His specialty is 19th and 20th century British history with a focus on religion and politics, and he was the director of the UNA Centre for British Studies from 2012 through

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2023. Bibbee earned his Ph.D. in history from King's College in London, United Kingdom, in 2008.

A native of Decatur, Alabama, Bibbee earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in history from Auburn University in 1997 and 1999, respectively, and was a summa cum laude graduate.

"I'm really excited," Bibbee said of his new position. "I enjoyed meeting the administration and the faculty and, especially, the students when I was there in March. I got a real sense of camaraderie and collaboration, and it just felt right."

Bibbee said his position as university historian over the last year was designed to connect community stakeholders in the Muscle Shoals National Heritage area

in northwestern Alabama and the university's archives and the public history program.

"It's to focus on projects that highlight the university's history, and also can assist with marketing and the recruitment of students," he said.

Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, interim provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, said she was happy to welcome Bibbee to the Martin campus.

"Coming from a different state, Dr. Bibbee will bring new ideas and a fresh perspective to the College of Humanities and Fine Arts," she said. "He is already exploring first-year students' perspectives by attending SOAR as an observer and is looking for other opportunities to expand his knowledge about UT Martin. We are excited to have him join the UT Martin family."

WUTM RADIO GARNERS SEVERAL BROADCASTING AWARDS

Campus radio station WUTM (FM 90.3) earned several awards in the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards, presented Feb. 24-25 at the Sheraton Times Square in New York.

The awards won by WUTM included:

- Best Sports Play-by-Play, Other: Davis Gregory and Amber Wright, Rodeo Night No. 3.

- Best Business Director, Radio: Blaine McDonald.

- Tom Gipson Award for Outstanding Engineer: **Brian Thomas**.

The station won the Platinum Award for overall collegiate broadcast excellence for the 14th straight year.

WUTM was also a national finalist in four categories, including best radio public

service announcement, best underwriting spot, best sports play-by-play (women's basketball vs. Murray State University) and best radio news director (Callie Stone).

Dr. Richard Robinson, the faculty adviser for the radio station, said earning the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) awards demonstrates the level of excellence shown by the radio station and its participants.

"It's always good to know that students stack up well when they're faced with competition from other universities," he said. "We've done relatively well over the years in the state competitions - formerly the Associated Press and now the Tennessee

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UTM instructor shows documentary in Nashville

Henri Giles presented her documentary "Waiting in the Wings: African-Americans in Country Music" on June 7 at the National Museum of African-American Music in Nashville as part the lead-up to the Country Music Association Festival.

"It was great. It was really nice," she said. "We had a good crowd and a good reception to it, good questions."

"It was not part of the formal CMA Fest, but in Nashville leading up to the CMA Fest, there are a lot of events. While this was not an official part of CMA Fest, this was an event that the museum put on to capture what was going on in the city."

The National Museum of African-American Music (NMAAM) is celebrating Black Music Month throughout the

month of June.

Giles, an instructor in the UTM Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication, produced "Waiting in the Wings" in 2004, featuring the history of country music through the African-American perspective, starting with its roots in American slavery and moving to the 21st century.

Giles said the National Museum of African-American Music is across the street from Ryman Auditorium, one of the historical standout venues for country music.

"It is a wonderful facility that captures a lot of the different forms of Black music," she said. "It's a great facility."

Giles' documentary was originally produced to be seen



GILES AT NMAAM – Sharing the stage June 7 at the National Museum of African American Music are (from left) NMAAM Community Engagement Manager Byron Howard, who moderated the discussion; Karla Winfrey, a longtime friend and business partner of Henri Giles who co-created and produced the documentary; and Giles.

on CMT - Country Music Television - in 2004. The documentary also features Ray Charles, Charley Pride, Hank

Williams Jr., Naomi Judd and Marty Stuart.

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It won a Telly Award and a National Association of Black Journalists award.

"There has been a lot of interest in the film since then," she said. "We'll get calls from people who want to screen it or to even use it as part of research.

"I had a Ph.D. student contact me a couple of years ago because she was doing research about African-Americans in country music."

Giles said that someone familiar with "Waiting in the Wings" reached out to her to have it presented at NMAAM.

"This was someone who was familiar with the project and thought it would be a perfect fit for CMA Fest," she said. "Someone approached us and they got in contact with the museum. The museum and this person worked together to make it happen.

"The staff at the museum, they were incredible. They could not have been more gracious."

The film was shown at 2 p.m. at NMAAM, so Giles did not expect a big crowd, but it did bring in 50 to 80 people.

"We were hoping for a good crowd, but I think the number really exceeded what we thought," she said. "There was a group of young people there who happened to be visiting from Louisiana. It was a school group, and they really enjoyed the film."

Giles said the documentary captures the contributions that African-Americans have made to country music.

"Traditionally, people tend to think that country music isn't a form of music that Blacks listen to or have anything to do with," she said. "But when you look at

the history of the genre, nothing could be further from the truth. You can look at instruments like the banjo, which has its origins in Africa.

"Our film touches on that, how music was brought to this country by enslaved people. As the music developed here, some of those African roots remained in this music."

Giles said some of the people in attendance at the film showing came up to her in surprise.

"They said, 'I had no idea that Black people were involved in country music,'" she said. "Now, we see this interest in country music and we are seeing different artists who are making strides.

"In the film, we showcase different people who are, at the time, trying to build their careers in country music, and some of them have had quite a bit of success. One of those is Rissi Palmer. She is doing really well now. She had some partnerships with CMT, she has a podcast on Apple and she had a single that was released a few weeks ago that is doing well on the country charts."

Giles said "Waiting in the Wings" is a lesson in showing the struggle that began in country music years ago as African-Americans tried to make their mark in the genre.

"I always describe myself as a storyteller," she said. "I feel that there are so many pieces to life that we don't know about. I think if people can know and understand these different nuances and culture, I think that will help them understand each other a little bit better."

Giles is pursuing a Ph.D. in mass media and rhetoric at the University of Memphis.



WUTM WINS AWARDS – Members of the WUTM-FM broadcast team shown at the 2023 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System awards last February include (from left) Colby Maclin of Ripley, Dylan Ingram of Martin, Carson Alexander of Martin, Carlin Cochran of Nunnely and Callie Stone of Springfield.

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Association of Broadcasters – and regional competitions like the Southeastern Journalism Conference and the national competitions like Collegiate Broadcasters and IBS.

"We hope what it says is that the students are turning out good, quality work and we're preparing them for the workplace."

Robinson said earning the Platinum Award for overall excellence for the 14th straight year is especially gratifying.

"(The IBS) offers tiers of awards based upon the services you offer, the programming you have and the facilities you have," he said. "They have Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, and Platinum is the highest. We've been able to maintain for a number of years now.

"We've had a good run, and IBS is the largest collegiate association of college and high school radio stations in the country."

WUTM won the Best College

Radio Station in the Nation in its category – universities with an enrollment under 10,000 – in 2012 and 2016.

WUTM won its awards across a wide array of categories offered by the IBS.

"We enter all that we are eligible for – things that we actually do," Robinson said. "It's always good to see varied awards in different areas of programming; we're not one-dimensional. News, which is very important to me and to us here in the department; and sports, which is a big part of what we do; public affairs – those types of things.

"Overall, we hope that what we're doing is presenting the student body and the campus and the surrounding area with quality radio programming while the students learn what they're doing, how to do it and do it well."

More information about WUTM FM 90.3 "The Hawk" – including news and programming information – can be found at wutmradio.com.

**View photos online
at utm.edu/photo**



SUMMER SUNSET – The sun sets over the UT Martin campus last week. Summer on the UTM campus brings several summer camps and loads of activities, including Summer Orientation and Registration. SOAR is a one-day orientation experience that is designed to introduce incoming students to UTM and ease their transition into college life. The next SOAR session is this Friday, June 23.

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

You Tell Me

- **Question** – Do you know why the fencing is still up in front of the ROTC building by Hardy Graham Stadium? Is that to be permanent?
- **Answer** – A project is underway to repair the brick that has shifted on the building. Construction will begin this summer and should be completed by the end of the 2023 fall semester. Barger Construction has been awarded the contract. The fence is in place for pedestrian protection.

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

addenda

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