

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | June 5, 2023

ADVISORY BOARD APPROVES 2023-24 BUDGET PROPOSAL

A 3% overall increase in tuition and mandatory fees, which includes a 2% tuition increase, was part of UT Martin's proposed 2023-24 budget that was approved by the UTM Advisory Board during its summer meeting May 26 in the Ed and Carolyn Boling University Center. The proposed budget next goes to the UT Board of Trustees for consideration at the board's annual meeting June 29-30 at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis.

Petra McPhearson, senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, presented a UT Martin budget overview including the proposed increases that would begin with the 2023-24 academic year if approved by the UT board. Budget recommendations are based on comparisons with both peer and aspirational peer institutions. The proposed tuition and fee increases would set the cost for in-state undergraduate students to attend the university at \$10,208 per semester and \$11,112 per semester for graduate students. Costs for out-of-state students would also rise in line with in-state percentage increases.

In addition to recommending



ADVISORY BOARD MEETS – Art Sparks, UT Martin Advisory Board chair, and Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, the university's interim chancellor, participate in the summer meeting of the board, May 26, in the Ed and Carolyn Boling University Center. Presentation of the university's proposed 2023-24 budget, university updates and election of new board members were among the board's agenda items.

the tuition and fee increases to the UT Board of Trustees, the advisory board also recommended approval of the university's total operating budget proposal of \$165,881,356. The operating budget includes tuition and fees (\$66.7 million),

state appropriations (\$46.1 million), grants and contracts (\$.2 million), and sales and service (\$.6 million).

In other meeting highlights and related business:

• **Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch**, the university's interim provost

and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, reported a successful accreditation visit Feb. 28-March 2 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the university's primary

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Dr. Kelle Alden, assistant professor of English, recently had an article titled “A Model for Infusing a Creative Writing Classroom with Writing Center Pedagogy,” published in *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*. *Praxis* is a publication of the University Writing Center at the University of Texas at Austin.



Dr. Ross Pruitt, professor of agricultural economics, recently had an article titled “Factors Influencing Interest in Post-Secondary Agricultural 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.”



Five College of Business and Global Affairs students who are part of the global experiential learning lab and the international development class, presented their final project to the mayor of Stanton, Dr. Allan Sterbinsky. Under the guidance of Dr. Adnan Rasool, assistant professor of political science, the students worked closely with the City of Stanton, located near the BlueOval City site, to develop community need assessment surveys as well as draft development projects. This experiential learning opportunity was facilitated by the Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development.

Submit a YoUTM.

In Memory



Wayne Chester, of Martin, retired UT Martin professor emeritus of geography, died May 30. Chester worked at the university from September 1960 until his retirement June 30, 1995. In addition to his years as a faculty member, he also served as the university’s evening school director and as director of professional growth and economic development. Funeral services were held Friday, June 2, at Murphy Funeral Home. Chester was preceded in death by his wife, Bertha Marie Chester.

Hours of Operation

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JUNE 2023



SKYHAWK DISCOVERY CAMP – The first Skyhawk Discovery Camp for middle school students interested in science, technology, engineering, art and math is scheduled for 8:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. daily June 19-23. The camp is for rising sixth through eighth graders and will be offered by UT Martin and Discovery Park of America in Union City. Contact the Office of University Outreach, Camps and Non-Degree Programs at 731-881-7082 for more information. (The Natural History Gallery is pictured in this photo provided courtesy of Discovery Park of America.)

Skyhawk Discovery Camp Set For June 19-23

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The camp will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the UT Martin main campus and Tuesday and Thursday at Discovery Park of America.

Campers will experience a variety of classes and activities focused on biology, chemistry, music and more. Lunch will not be provided, and participants must arrange their

own transportation to and from camp activities.

The camp fee is \$250 per student and includes a T-shirt at registration, which can be completed online at www.utm.edu/outreach. Contact the Office of University Outreach, Camps and Non-Degree Programs at 731-881-7082 for more information.



Clay Palmer (right), a lecturer in the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, and Dr. Saman Sargolzaei (second from left), assistant professor of engineering, served as judges for the Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta at Discovery Park of America on Saturday, May 20. Also pictured is Kelsea Koonce, a recent UT Martin graduate and education events coordinator at Discovery Park of America. Over a dozen teams participated using only two things to create their boats: cardboard and duct tape.

UTM Online History Program Earns National Recognition

UT Martin has received a national ranking by Best Accredited Colleges for its online history program. UT Martin was ranked 31st in the country and recognized for its financial aid awards, quality of education, faculty and campus resources.

Best Accredited Colleges uses an objective approach to rank schools using a system that combines current data points from the U.S. Department of Education with school specific details. Cost of attendance, accessibility, quality and value are all factors that impact the rankings.

“While this ranking largely reflects the university’s admissions and financial aid policies, we are honored to be recognized,” said **Dr. David Coffey**, UT Martin Department of History and Philosophy professor and chair. “We are particularly pleased that all our online courses are taught by full-time UT Martin faculty and staff, including nationally and internationally renowned scholars, such as Civil War authority **Dr. Tim Smith** and European specialist **Dr. Benjamin Guyer**.”

UT Martin’s online history program mimics the on-campus program in that students are required to take 54 hours of history courses, with the option for travel study or internships. On average, the program takes students four years to complete, but fluctuates with the student.

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Agencies join together for active shooter training



JOINING FORCES – Members of area law enforcement converge on the Johnson EPS Building in response to an active shooter training exercise May 25 at UT Martin. Multiple agencies combined efforts to stop the active shooter threat and overload local emergency systems.

Law enforcement and other emergency officials joined forces May 25 at UT Martin for an active-shooter training exercise in the Johnson EPS Building. Located next to the Paul Meek Library on Mt. Pelia Road, the building became the scene for three active shooter scenarios designed to stop the threat and overload local emergency systems.

Response teams encountered several aspects of an active shooter event, including sounding fire alarms, smoke-filled hallways, securing multiple floors and the urgency to assist

volunteer “victims” and move them from the building to safety. The “injured victims” were then transported by ambulance to West Tennessee Healthcare Rehabilitation Hospital Cane Creek and West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Hospital for the second phase of the training, which concluded with a debriefing for participants.

The Weakley County Emergency Management Agency Facebook page described the event as “an intense, immersive experience for our responders.”

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accrediting agency. Kolitsch said the visit included no findings on the Compliance Certification Report standards, which is the major report reviewed by the team. The university’s response report to other onsite committee recommendations will be submitted, and a final accreditation decision will be announced Dec. 5, 2023, by SACSCOC.

Kolitsch also previewed a new Master of Music in Music Education program scheduled for final review this summer by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and pending final approval by SACSCOC. Marketing for the program can begin while final program reviews are made.

•**Dr. Brad Baumgardner**, director of retention, reported ongoing progress with student persistence and retention. Persistence is typically measured fall to spring and includes students continuously enrolled or graduated. The university’s fall 2022 to spring 2023 full-time freshman persistence is 89.25%, which is up 2.86 points from 2022.

Retention is measured fall

to fall and includes students continuously enrolled or graduated. Although projected numbers are subject to change, Baumgardner reported as of May 11 that the university’s retention stood at 73.3%, which is up from 71.1% full-time freshman retention compared to fall 2022 final enrollment.

•**Dr. Charley Deal**, vice chancellor for university advancement, announced that the university has officially surpassed its fundraising goal in the RISE Campaign. The campaign, only the fourth in UT Martin history, includes gifts from 2017-2023 and officially ends June 30. As of May 15, the campaign has exceeded its \$175 million goal by raising \$176,441,620. The total, which is projected to increase until the campaign concludes, includes the Wildwood Farm commitment in Shelby County valued at more than \$79.5 million. The commitment in 2021 by Melanie Smith Taylor and her family is the largest commitment in UT Martin and UT System history.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, interim UT Martin chancellor, offered final comments and

reported that UT Martin remains a healthy institution as measured by budget, enrollment, accreditation and donor engagement, all covered in the meeting’s reports. He also pointed to success in athletics both in competition and in the classroom, a waitlist for university housing, which indicates a favorable outlook for fall enrollment, and \$34 million raised in student aid that allows the university to assist more students.

Cavalier also highlighted the university’s work with BlueOval City and Ford to hold workshops for K-12 teachers in West Tennessee. The hands-on workshops, made possible by a Ford grant, are designed to help teachers “understand the kind of manufacturing that’s going to go on in the BlueOval City campus.” He added that Ford is also considering the UT Martin Somerville Center as a site for employee training and onboarding.

He closed by noting another partnership developing with Vol State Community College at its Springfield campus in Roberson County north of Nashville. Vol

State is seeking a partner to offer four-year degrees at that location and is interested in UT Martin’s agriculture programs.

Art Sparks, of Union City, chairs the seven-member board, which approved **Dr. Clinton Smith**, professor of special education and Department of Educational Studies chair, and Taylor Cantrell, a sophomore veterinary science and technology major from Newbern, as the new faculty and student representatives respectively. Smith succeeds **Dr. Anderson Starling**, interim associate provost and associate professor of political science, and Cantrell succeeds Iman Ahmed, a senior political science major from Cordova. The remaining board members are Hal Bynum, Sharon; Monice Hagler, Memphis; Julia Wells, Jackson; and Johnny Woolfolk, Madison County.

The full agenda and associated meeting materials for the May 26 meeting are available at www.utm.edu/offices-and-services/ut-martin-advisory-board/. The full archived meeting is available to view at www.utm.edu/abmeeting.

TRAINING from PAGE 4

Ray Wigginton, director of Weakley County Emergency Management Agency, said the entire exercise was created to be as realistic as possible.

“So, what we wanted to accomplish with this is, first and foremost, to familiarize our responders with this type of scenario and the process and procedures that go into responding to an active shooter event and then the recovery from an active shooter event,” Wigginton said. “The secondary takeaway from this is going to be transporting to the hospital and having the hospital be able to take care of a patient surge.”

Although this level of patient surge rarely happens, Wigginton said “any time we can get as close to a real-world scenario as we can to get a patient surge into that hospital, where we can actually overload their systems, where we overflow to our other participating hospitals, is going to be just an amazing experience for them (the responders).”

Charlie Jahr, the university’s operations and training commander in the Department of Public Safety, said active shooter events are realistic

threats because of UT Martin’s open campus and the large immediate population. For these reasons, the university welcomed the training opportunity.

“We’ve got a lot of good local resources (in the area), and this is a good way to get them all together in one place,” Jahr said. “A lot of these agencies have never trained on our campus, so it gets them a little more familiar with it (the campus), and it just lets us see what we need to work on and what we did right and what we did wrong and where we can improve.”

Other training participants included the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Martin Police Department, City of Martin Fire/Rescue/EMS Department, Weakley County Ambulance Service, Weakley County Sheriff’s Department, AHC VanAyer and Unity Psychiatric Care.

For information, contact Ray Wigginton, Weakley County EMA, 731-364-2647, or Charlie Jahr, UT Martin Department of Public Safety, 731-881-7777. Follow the Weakley County EMA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WeakleyCoEMA.

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The program also offers special courses that include the history of baseball, Viking history, church history and history of Ireland.

“The strength of the online history program is the support of our faculty,” said **Dr. Adam Wilson**, UT Martin Online director. “The faculty

commitment to creating engaging, dynamic online courses is indicative of the culture throughout UT Martin to support student success.”

For more information about the Best Accredited Colleges rankings, visit www.bestaccreditedcolleges.org. Contact Wilson about UT Martin Online programs at 731-881-7959.

KID COLLEGE SET FOR THIS WEEK AT THE UT MARTIN MAIN CAMPUS



KID COLLEGE COMING JUNE 5-9 – Kid College is set for June 5-9 at the UT Martin main campus. Contact the UT Martin Office of University Outreach at 731-881-7082 for more information. Kid College participants are pictured in this 2022 file photo.

Children entering kindergarten this fall through fifth grade will participate in Kid College this week at the UT Martin main campus. Kid College is a five-day program that offers fun learning experiences for children at the appropriate grade level based on their

interests. This year’s theme is “Peace, Love, and Kid College.”

The initial class block begins at 9 a.m. and final pickup is at 3 p.m.

Contact the UT Martin Office of University Outreach at 731-881-7082 for more information.

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RETIREES HONORED – UT Martin recognized retiring employees March 28 during the university's annual retirees dinner held in the Boling University Center. The dinner welcomes back past retirees and honors new retirees during an evening of food and fellowship. Recent retirees who attended the event were (top, l-r) Dr. Danny Walker, professor of animal science; Dr. Victoria Seng, associate provost and professor of nursing; Dr. Chris Caldwell, professor of mathematics; Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, interim chancellor and event host; Tim Barrington, instructor of theatre; and Dr. Kevin Hammond, professor of marketing. Not in attendance was (bottom) Linda Luther, lecturer of nursing.



ASSESSING AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM – Dr. David Coffey (right), guest speaker at the May 17 meeting of Kiwanis, discussed a class he designed for Governor's School for the Humanities entitled "Assessing American Exceptionalism." Dr. Coffey was invited to originate such a course with the approval of Dr. Jerald Ogg, director of the Governor's School for the Humanities. Without taking sides politically, Coffey highlighted incidents and documents from history that show a pathway of concern leading to the January 6, 2021, riot and insurrection in Washington, D. C. Coffey discussed the realities and myths associated with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, the Civil War, the treatment of Native Americans, the idea of Manifest Destiny, and more. Coffey is professor and chair of the Department of History and Philosophy at UT Martin. He was introduced at the Kiwanis meeting by Dr. Frank Black, retired UT Martin administrator and faculty member. Coffey was presented a certificate of appreciation noting that a donation is being made in his honor to the Martin Public Library.

STUDENTS PROVIDE STUDY FOR CENTURY FARM IN BENTON COUNTY

UT Martin students involved in the advanced farm and ranch management course in fall 2022 created a land-use study for Renee Williams, owner of the Moore Family Century Farm in Benton County. The project's goal was to generate ideas for the farm that would help create possible revenue streams.

The farm was established in 1870 by Williams' African American ancestors, John and Harriet Strayhorn Moore. The farm includes 70 acres leased for row crop production and 130 acres of timber. Williams says she is thankful for the students' help

in assessing opportunities and risks and making suggestions for the future.

"The assistance we are receiving generates hope and excitement about maintaining our Moore Family Century Farm legacy," said Williams. "This document will serve as a compass to help us navigate the steps to build a productive business that contributes to the growth of agriculture in Tennessee and the rural community of Benton County."

The project began when Williams contacted **Landy Fuqua**, director of the university's



Harriet Moore

Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

Center, and asked about possible revenue streams for the family farm. Fuqua knew that a partnership between Danny Morris' advanced farm and ranch management course and the Moore Family Century Farm would be a perfect fit. Morris is lecturer of agricultural economics.

"We appreciate Ms. Williams agreeing to allow our students to assist with this project," said Fuqua. "This was not only a learning experience for our students but also allowed for

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FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS – UT Martin teaching award recipients were honored April 16 during the university’s annual Honors Day event held in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. Both faculty and student award recipients from the past academic year were recognized. Faculty members pictured are (top row, left to right) Dr. Matthew Braddock, professor of philosophy, Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Dr. David Dietrich, associate professor of counseling psychology, UT Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award; Dr. John Oelrich, associate professor of music, Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award; (front row, left) Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor of history, UT Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award and (front row, right) Tomi McCutchen, instructor of mass media and strategic communication, Outstanding Academic Advisor Award. Also pictured (front row, center) is Dr. Philp Acree Cavalier, UT Martin interim chancellor.



The National Youth Leadership Council, held in Nashville, April 2-5, convened hundreds of youth and adults at the 34th Annual National Service-Learning Conference®, One Giant Leap for Service-Learning. The conference is the largest gathering of youth and practitioners from the service-learning field, drawing nearly 500 attendees from across the United States and several other countries. “The event is more than workshops and keynote addresses; it is an extension of the classroom, allowing for the youth and adult attendees to be part of a national movement, to learn and share with each other, and to demonstrate and celebrate the positive impacts each has had on the community and the world,” said Amy Meuers, NYLC CEO. Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for University Advancement (above, right), facilitated the keynote session April 4 during.

FARM from PAGE 6

Mr. Danny Morris to use his expertise in the agricultural industry to assist Ms. Williams and her family on ideas to generate additional revenue on their heritage farm.”

Students involved in the project were Drew Grimmit, a senior agricultural business major from Hampshire, Shelby Petty, a senior agricultural business major from Reagan, and Sarah White, a junior agricultural business major from Collierville. Both Grimmit and Petty have since graduated. Each student had a different role in the project, then came together at the end to create the final proposal.

In Morris’ course outline, students in advanced farm and ranch management have a goal of developing problem-solving and risk-management skills needed on the modern farm or ranch operation. Students must also use spreadsheets to perform production planning and analysis of farm and ranch problems with linear programming, simulations and other tools. Morris said this real-world experience helped them reach their objectives.

“The agricultural business program prides itself in offering experiential-learning opportunities for our students. This helps our students learn that what we are teaching them is not just theory but has real-world application.” Morris said. “The class became very engaged in the project and produced an excellent product. I could not be any prouder of my students.”

For more information about partnerships, contact Fuqua at lfuqua@utm.edu. To learn more about the Moore Family Century Farm visit www.visitmoorefarm.org. Find out more about the REED Center and its services at www.utm.edu.

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You Tell Me

- **Question** – Can you tell me why the solar flowers and tree were removed from in front of the Paul Meek Library?
- **Answer** – The Solar Garden sculpture was dedicated April 21, 2017, in the Boling University’s Center’s welcome center (now the Nunnally Family Welcome Center) as a collaborative project between students in the departments of engineering and visual and theatre arts. In addition to the artwork, the power generated by the structure went to Crisp Hall and then to the utility grid. Unfortunately, with aging of the structures, replacement parts and long-term upkeep were all factors in the decision to remove the Solar Garden and to repurpose the panels for different uses on the teaching farm.

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

addenda

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