

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Dec. 18 2023

Burton, Copley earn fall Meek Leadership Awards

Daariq Burton of Memphis and **Emma Copley** of Centerville, Tennessee, were presented with the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award during the University of Tennessee at Martin's Fall 2023 commencement, held Dec. 9 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Burton is a broadcast journalism major. He served as the assistant sports director at campus radio station WUTM-FM 90.3 "The Hawk" in his junior year, providing commentary for Skyhawk football and basketball games as well as Westview High School's football and basketball games.

In his sophomore and junior years, Burton served as a senator in the Student Government Association. In his senior year, he was a resident assistant, helping with campus tours, working during the UTM Preview Days. He also continued his work at WUTM.

Burton was a member of the Black Student Association and the campus history club. He served as a clerical worker in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication.

"I believe Daariq epitomizes the outstanding qualities in students that UTM espouses for winners of the Meek Award," said **Dr. George E. Daniel**, coordinator of the Student Affairs program, in his letter of nomination. "Additionally, I believe Daariq will bring honor and distinction to UTM throughout his career."

Copley is a psychology major who graduated summa cum laude. She studied abroad in Denmark in the summer of 2022.

Copley is taking part in the CITI Program for research training that expires in January 2026. The research, ethics and compliance training program involves human subject research series training.

She earned the Emerging Leader Award in April 2022 and is a member of the Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, where she served as the local chapter's vice president throughout the calendar years of 2022 and



Posing with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr Andy Lewter (center) are the winners of the Fall 2023 Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Awards, Emma Copley (left) and Daariq Burton.

2023.

Copley was a student leader with the UTM First-Year Initiative (FYI) program and was a UTM Student Ambassador. She was a Supplemental Instruction Leader with the Student Success Center, collaborating with professors, creating lesson plans and facilitating study sessions to help students understand the material better.

Copley served a semester as a senator in the Student Government Association and is a member of Students for St. Jude.

Last summer, she was a student intern in speech therapy at the Ascension St. Thomas Hickman Hospital in Centerville, where she observed and learned from the actions of professionals there, assisting the intern supervisor and learning therapy techniques.

"Emma is academically gifted, a servant leader and everything you want in a UT Martin graduate," said **Katie Mantooth**, assistant director in the Office of Career Services, in her letter of nomination. "She is a diligent student with ambitions to continue her education. "Emma

serves humbly and diligently. From my observation, she is reliable and does what she says she is going to do. She also sticks to her values when it is difficult to go against the grain of typical college temptations. Her behavior in leadership roles is the same among her peers and with campus faculty and administration."

First awarded in 1970, the Paul and Martha Meek Leadership Award is given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership while at UT Martin.

The award was originally established and funded by the three Meek children to honor their parents. Dr. Paul Meek is the UT Martin library's namesake, having led the university as its executive officer (1934-51), administrative dean (1951-67) and chancellor (1967).

These are the only awards given during commencement each semester and showcase students who have displayed outstanding community and campus service.

A look back at 2023 at UT Martin



UT Martin student Justice Watkins and Lane College President Dr. Logan Hampton (pictured) were keynote speakers for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 16, in the Martin Event Center.



Former Chancellor Dr. Keith Carver was tapped to serve as the leader of the UT Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) during the week of Jan. 23. Carver began in that position on March 1.



Dr. Henry Parker (second from left), professor of philosophy, was presented a plaque Feb. 7 during the university's Civil Rights Conference recognizing his long association with the event. Parker retired at the end of the 2022-23 academic year after teaching at the university since fall 1990. His total teaching career spans 67 years. Participating in the presentation were (from left) Henri Giles, Dominique Crockett, Dr. Danny Pirtle and Kameron Echols.



Retired Skyhawk golf coach Jerry Carpenter reacts to a crowd gathered for a surprise ceremony March 25 at the Rhodes Golf Center that announced the naming of the outdoor portion of the facility in his honor. Carpenter spent 18 seasons as golf team head coach. Attendees in the large crowd included Bill Rhodes, UT Board of Trustees member and president and CEO of Autozone Inc. Rhodes is in the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame as an accomplished member of the golf team. A gift from the Rhodes family made the golf center possible.



Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, was honored by the Ohio Valley Conference when he was announced as UT Martin's Outstanding Faculty Commitment to Student Success Award recipient. Pictured following the March 3 general faculty meeting when he formally received the award are (from left) Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier; Haddad; Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch; and Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi.

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Laura Foltz, the special assistant to the vice chancellor of finance and administration student initiatives, earned the designation of certified management accountant (CMA) from the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) on Dec. 11.



Foltz

According to the IMA, “The two-part exam addresses key issues and changes in the finance and accounting profession by providing an additional means for continued learning.”

The requirements for earning a CMA include a degree in any field, passing a two-

part exam and two years of work experience, maintained annually with 30 hours of continuing professional education.

Dr. Patrick Baker, associate professor of accounting in the Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and Political Science, has provided information and insight in several recent articles featured on the MoneyGeek website.



Baker

Baker provided advice this semester on preventing financial fraud, protecting against insurance fraud, avoiding credit card fraud and recovering from identity theft.

Baker’s advice can be found at

moneygeek.com and searching his name.

More UT Martin photos from 2023



Sixteen faculty, graduate and undergraduate students attended the UT Martin-Murray State Sigma Xi Joint Research Symposium Saturday, April 1, in the new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. Pictured are (front row, from left) Joel Bulkley*; Dr. Nancy Buschhaus; Dr. Genessa Smith; Dr. Ann Gathers; Dr. Angie MacKewn; Sai Neela Kesumala*; Katherine Witbeck; and Emily Tester; (back row, from left) Dr. Greg Nail; Dr. Darrell Ray; Dr. Thomas DePriest; Dr. Howard Whiteman*; Kurt Brandt; Dr. Marc Beck*; Dr. Jeff McCullough; Dr. Steve Elliott; and Dr. Bommanna Loganathan*. (* - indicates Murray State University participants)



Emily Pennington (center) of McMinnville received the Beth Maloan Outstanding Student Employee Award for the Spring 2023 semester. She is pictured with Maloan family members Mike Maloan and Jennifer Stroh.

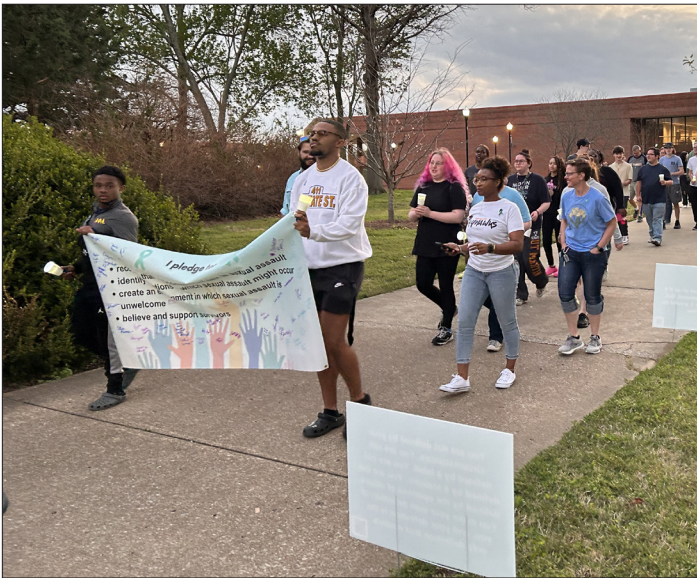
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You Tell Me

- **Question** – When will classes begin for the Spring 2024 semester?
- **Answer** – Classes begin on Thursday, Jan. 11. Advising begins the day before, Jan. 10, and registration for students who did not pre-register takes place Jan. 11-17. Classes will end on Friday, April 26, with finals taking place April 29-May 3. The Spring 2024 commencement will take place on May 4.

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

More UT Martin photos from 2023



Students faculty and staff participate in the Take Back the Night march April 3 as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is nationally recognized during the month of April. Participants gathered at the Boling University Center patio, then students, faculty and staff received flashlights before taking a lighted march through the quad.



Liliana Ramirez, global director for workforce development for Ford Motor Co., delivered the address at both commencement ceremonies May 6 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events through Jan. 7

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Men's basketball vs. William Woods, 2 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Thursday, Jan. 4
Women's basketball vs. Eastern Illinois, 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Men's basketball vs. Eastern Illinois, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.



The Call Me MiSTER program honored its first five graduating seniors 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 (from left) Logan Davis, Memphis; Tydarius Blackwell, Jackson; Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, then-interim chancellor; Jonathan Utley, Jackson; Lathon Ross, Jackson; and Justyn "Jax" Johnson, Union City.

More UT Martin photos from 2023



The WestStar Leadership Program graduated its 2023 class June 20, in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. Dr. Charley Deal, vice chancellor for university advancement, emceed the annual event. Members of this year's graduating class were (top row, from left) 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, from left) 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.



Dr. Yancy Freeman, who was named the 12th chancellor for UT Martin on July 14 and assumed his duties on Aug. 9, is shown celebrating the RISE campaign's success in raising more than \$175 million. Also shown are UTM alumnus Jerry Reese, a former general manager for the NFL's New York Giants (2007-17); his wife, Gwen; Freeman; and UT System President Randy Boyd.



Maleia Bigham (center), a sophomore fine and performing arts major from Turtletown, won the Miss UT Martin title during the 65th Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Scholarship Pageant on Sept. 10 in Watkins Auditorium. Bigham will next compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant set for July 2024 at the Carl Perkins Center in Jackson. Pictured in the pageant court are (from left) Sloan Wiggs, first runner-up; Bigham, the new titleholder; and Sierra Smith, second runner-up. Wiggs is a junior social work major from Tullahoma, and Smith is junior agricultural business major from Newland, North Carolina.

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More UT Martin photos from 2023



Four UT Martin faculty and staff members were the recipients of 2023 President's Awards, announced by UT System President Dr. Randy Boyd during the annual UT Board of Trustees meeting on June 30 in Memphis. A total of 14 faculty and staff members from across the UT System received awards to celebrate their accomplishments and dedication to the Be One UT values. The four President's Award winners from UT Martin were the most for any UT System entity this year. UTM faculty and staff members winning the awards were (from left) Henri Giles, Embrace Diversity Award (faculty); Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, Excel in All We Do Award (faculty); Dr. Clinton Smith, United and Connected Award (faculty); and Destin Tucker, Optimistic and Visionary Employees Award (staff).



Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman poses with students at Obion County Central High School during a stop on the Take Flight with Freeman Tour on Sept. 22. The tour enabled the new chancellor to meet with students in the region.



World-renowned singer Kallen Esperian performed Sept. 12 in the Harriet Fulton Theatre in the Fine Arts Building. Esperian has performed with each of the noted Three Tenors – Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras – and came to campus as part of the Ed Sargent Guest Artist Series.

More UT Martin photos from 2023



Dr. Elaine Harriss was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame on Oct. 6. The professor of music has been teaching piano for more than 50 years.



Dr. Rodney Thomsen (seated) received an honorary doctorate in agricultural business during a hooding ceremony Nov. 6 in Brehm Hall. Thomsen was a faculty member from 1975 until his retirement in 2003 and holds the title of professor emeritus in agricultural economics. Pictured with Thomsen following the ceremony are (from left) Dr. Charley Deal, Dr. Todd Winters, Dr. Yancy Freeman, Dr. Joey Mehlhorn and Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier.



During Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 20, two residence facilities were named in honor of two UT Martin pioneers: Arnold Pryor Place in honor of Jessie Lou Arnold Pryor, the first African-American student at UT Martin, and Conner Community in honor of Harold Conner Sr., the first African-American administrator at UT Martin. Shown speaking at the dedication is Harold Conner Jr., the son of "Dean" Conner.



Dr. Paul Blaylock speaks at the podium at the dedication ceremony for the Blaylock Inspiration Oracle on Oct. 20. The open-air structure was made possible through a \$2.4 million donation by Blaylock. Also present at the ceremony near the podium are Dr. Charley Deal (seated at left), vice chancellor for university advancement, and Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman.

Addenda will take a brief holiday hiatus, but will return in the new year!

addenda

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