

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Jan. 8, 2024

12th annual MLK Breakfast scheduled for Jan. 15

The 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast will be held at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15, at the Martin Event Center inside the Martin Public Library.

Tickets are available for purchase through Eventbrite.com or through the city of Martin Facebook Events page.

General admission individual seats are \$12.50 each, while a table for eight can be reserved for \$90.

Begun in 2013, this is a Town and Gown Association event that brings the Martin civic community and UT Martin together to celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The public is invited to attend the event that includes celebration, food, music and fellowship. The event's sponsors are the city of Martin, UT Martin and the UTM Black Student Association.

Dr. Mark McCloud, vice chancellor for access and engagement, will serve as the program's master of ceremonies. **Chancellor Yancy Freeman**, Black Student Association



Dr. Mark McCloud, vice chancellor for access and engagement, shown serving as the master of ceremonies at the 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Breakfast, will reprise that role at this year's event, to be held Jan. 15 at the Martin Event Center.

President **Terriann Ray**, a sophomore health and human performance major from Paris, and Martin Mayor Randy Brundige will give words of welcome to the audience.

The keynote speaker this year will be UT Martin student **Mmachukwu "Favour" Osioma** (pronounced m'mah-CHOO-

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UTM, Vol State-Springfield form partnership



UT Martin Chancellor **Yancy Freeman** (center right) and **Dr. Russ Deaton**, the interim president of Vol State Community College in Springfield, cut the ribbon Nov. 29 in a celebration of an academic partnership between the two institutions. Also pictured along the ribbon are **Dr. Meredith Young** (to the left of Deaton), the director of the Vol State Springfield Center, and **Erica Bell** (to the right of Freeman), the executive director of the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs.

UT Martin and Volunteer State Community College in Springfield have formed an academic partnership that was made official on Nov. 29 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the Robertson County campus.

The partnership allows students to pursue postsecondary education in the agriculture, education, health care and technology sectors onsite at the Vol State campus. Agricultural business will be the focus of the first phase of the partnership, which begins in January.

Vol State will deliver technical

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



UT Martin graduates of the Administrative Professionals Academy program include (L-R) Summer White, Sherry Whaley and Michelle Runions. The academy consisted of individual and group projects and project-based learning outside of the classroom over the course of a 12-month period. Benefits of the program include targeted leadership development training, increased understanding of personal leadership styles and strengths, professional networking opportunities, exposure to community leaders, strengthened professional skills and enhanced leadership knowledge and capacity.

IRB, IACUC announce Spring 2024 meeting dates

The UT Martin Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research will hold its regularly scheduled meetings at 4 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in Room 124 of Gooch Hall.

Applications for full IRB review must be received by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at least 10 full working days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to be reviewed.

The IRB Committee will not meet if no applications are received to be reviewed. Applications for IRB review and accompanying instructions are available on the IRB SharePoint site.

Meeting dates for the Spring

2024 are Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 4, April 1 and May 6.

The UT Martin Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will hold its regularly scheduled meetings at 4 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in Room 124 of Gooch Hall.

Proposed protocols must be received by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at least 10 full working days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to be reviewed.

The IACUC will not meet if no applications are received to be reviewed.

Applications and instructions for IACUC review are available on the IACUC SharePoint site.

Save the Dates: 24th annual Civil Rights Conference

UT MARTIN 24TH ANNUAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

FACT OVER FICTION: THE TRUTH IS MARCHING ON

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

FEB. 6 6 P.M.
Carmarby "Pep-C" Hall
Break Dancer - Paris 8024
Summer Olympics

FEB. 13 6 P.M.
Roland S. Martin
Award-winning Journalist
& Multimedia Host

FEB. 20 6 P.M.
Dr. Eddie Glaude
Author, Scholar & Political Analyst
**All keynote speaker events will be held in Watkins Auditorium.*

FEB. 1-29
STEM SCHOOL OF CHATTANOOGA
ART EXHIBITION
Lobby
STEM School
Chattanooga

FEB. 9 6 P.M.
STUDENT & PROFESSIONAL
NETWORKING EVENT
Room 230

FEB. 12-29
STUDENT ART EXHIBITION
Welcome Center Hallway
(Presented by the
Department of Visual & Theatre Arts)

FEB. 15 6 P.M.
MONTGOMERY EJI PRESENTATION
(Sponsored by the Weakley County
Reconciliation Project)

6 ART EXHIBIT AWARDS
(Presented by Dr. Jason Stout & UTM Students)
Watkins Auditorium

FEB. 17 1-5 P.M.
BLACK AVENUE: BLACK BUSINESS EXPO
(Keithon Currie, Organizer)
Duncan Ballroom

FEB. 21 4-6 P.M.
ORATORICAL CONTEST
Duncan Ballroom

FEB. 21 7 P.M.
NIGHT OF DANCE
Watkins Auditorium
(Presented by the Department of Music)

FEB. 25 3 P.M.
MUSIC BY BLACK COMPOSERS
Blankenship Recital Hall
Fine Arts Building
(Presented by the Department of Music)

FEB. 26
COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR
& CHILDREN'S LITERACY EVENT
Martin Public Library
410 S. Lindell St.

FEB. 26 6 P.M.
BLACK HISTORY MONTH MUSIC TRIVIA
Room 206
(Presented by the Department of Music)

FEB. 29 9 A.M.-3 P.M.
ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
Room 230

**All events will be held in the Boling University Center unless noted otherwise.*

UT MARTIN
OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

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certificates and associate degrees to students pursuing those career paths, while UT Martin will provide access to bachelor's and master's degrees.

Erica Bell, the executive director of the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs, said the partnership will expand educational opportunities to people in northern Middle Tennessee.

"This collaborative partnership between Vol State-Springfield and UTM marks a pivotal moment in our commitment to providing seamless and supportive educational pathways for students in Robertson County and surrounding communities," she said. "By bridging the gap, this collaboration will ensure that students can access a high-quality, affordable four-year UT degree close to home."

"Moreover, this partnership strengthens UTM's ties to

the community, fostering a vibrant learning environment that nurtures student success, preparing them for the workforce and lifelong learning to support the local community's economic and workforce development needs."

Bell added that a crucial aspect of this partnership will be fostering awareness and enthusiasm among students and families about the expanded educational opportunities it presents, with a specific focus on addressing the local college-going rate.

"In Tennessee, 64 out of 95 counties – including Robertson County at 37.2% – have a college-going rate below the statewide average of 54.3% for the class of 2022," she said. "This partnership aims to bridge this gap and provide students in these underserved areas with the support and resources they need to pursue higher education."

The partnership will enable people to pursue associate degrees up to graduate degrees without leaving Robertson County or surrounding communities, providing 360-support through a dual admission agreement that will allow students to be enrolled at both schools simultaneously and receive support from both as they follow their career study path.

Vol State sought to form a partnership that could provide agriculture education opportunities in Robertson County. The two schools will also work with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture to provide hands-on training at UT's Highland Rim AgResearch and Education Center in Springfield.

"As a beacon of academic excellence and engagement, this partnership extends UTM's footprint to meet the

ever-evolving needs of diverse students across Tennessee," Bell said. "It also leverages the convenience of the Springfield site, delivering inclusive, high-quality education to dual enrollment, traditional and nontraditional learners, empowering them to become UT alums, leaders and active contributors to their communities."

UTM has been offering dual enrollment opportunities to high school students in Robertson County through online courses.

Attending the ceremony were Bell; **Chancellor Yancy Freeman**; Dr. Russ Deaton, the interim president of Vol State Community College at Springfield; Dr. Meredith Young, the director of the Vol State Springfield Center; and Tennessee state Rep. Dr. Sabi Kumar.

MLK BREAKFAST from PAGE 1

kwoo oh-see-see-YORE-mah), a sophomore English major from Medina. There will also be a presentation about the Black history of Martin presented by Johnny Shanklin.

During the program, attendees will also enjoy piano music from Dr. Danny Donaldson and a vocal performance from **Slade Robertson**, a senior music major from Steele, Missouri.

Three awards will be presented during the celebration: The

Alpha Award, The Torch Award and the City of Martin Harold Connor Award.

The Alpha Award is given to a UT Martin faculty member and a student in memory of King, who was an Alpha Pi Alpha Fraternity Inc. member. The award recognizes those who have demonstrated leadership on campus in the area of civil rights.

The Torch Award is given by the Black Student Association

and honors people who are symbolically "carrying the torch" as a leader in civil rights.

The City of Martin Harold Conner Award recognizes longtime leadership, service and dedication to the community and is named for **the Rev. Harold Conner**, the first African-American administrator employed by UT Martin after the university was desegregated.

Guests may access the Martin Event Center through the main

entrance of the Martin Public Library at 410 S. Lindell St. The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. Public parking is available in downtown Martin.

Those needing help with registration should go to Martin City Hall. Information regarding a cancellation would be posted on the City of Martin website at cityofmartin.net and City of Martin social media accounts. Tickets will only be refunded in the event of a cancellation.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – What are the next steps for completing the demolition of Grove Apartments? Where was the debris taken for disposal from the demolition site?

• **Answer** – The schedule at the Grove Apartments site is to complete removal of the slabs and then proceed with some utility work and final grading before sodding. All work should be completed by March 1. The debris from Grove Apartments was disposed of properly in a landfill.

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



Graduates and administrators of the WestStar Leadership Program's WestTeach Program included (seated, L-R) Mari-Kate Estes, Brittany Reeves, Holly Thompson, Sheronda Rivers, Kelly Vonner, Susan McGovern, Stacie Carlton, (standing, L-R) Leadership Development Program Manager Jennifer Black Smiley, Amelia Morrison, Britni Singeteary, Haley Stafford, Danielle Johnson, Dana Helton, Jenilyn Sipes, Susan Dyer, Natalie Salmon, Marinda Hildenbrandt and WestStar Assistant Director Virginia Grimes. Not pictured is graduate Beth Naylor. The WestTeach Class of 2023, made up of K-12 teachers nominated by their principal, graduated on Dec. 12.

This Week's UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

Thursday, Jan. 11

- Women's basketball vs. Western Illinois, 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center
- Men's basketball vs. Western Illinois, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Saturday, Jan. 13

- Women's basketball vs. Little Rock, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center
- Men's basketball vs. Little Rock, 3:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.



10 surveying pins placed on campus

Surveying and engineering students at UT Martin will have a new technological tool to use in learning their trade.

The engineering and surveying services firm of LI Smith & Associates of Paris was invited to the campus on Dec. 12 to set up a control network, installing 10 metal pins into the ground at various locations around campus.

The pins will have a GPS (global positioning system) coordinate and elevation associated with them. Students will be able to use them in their

labs, and future projects on campus involving benchmarks, elevations and so forth will be able to use them as well.

The pins are being placed on campus in advance of the annual Mid-South American Society of Civil Engineers Student Symposium surveying competition, to be held April 4-6 at UT Martin.

Dr. Tim Nipp, the chair of the Department of Engineering, said the metal pins give the campus more data points for new construction or for when classes are surveying on campus.

Accreditation reaffirmed to UTM by SACSCOC

UT Martin has had its full accreditation reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The accreditation will be in effect for the next 10 years with a five-year review scheduled for 2029.

Chancellor Yancy Freeman emailed an announcement to faculty and staff on Dec. 5 informing them of the good news. Freeman said he was at the SACSCOC conference in Orlando when he was told of the reaffirmation.

"This reaffirmation confirms the excellent work of our faculty and staff to teach and develop future leaders," he said in the emailed announcement. "I want to extend my greatest appreciation to everyone involved in this rigorous review process."

"A special thanks goes to (Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) **Dr.**

Philip Acree Cavalier, (Associate Provost for Academic Affairs) **Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch**, (Research Associate) **Patty Flowers** (of the Office of Curriculum and Assessment) and the UTM SACSCOC Review Team."

Kolitsch was equally pleased with the announcement.

"We are a much stronger institution now, due to the efforts of everyone involved," she said. "The results of this reaffirmation process are a testament to the dedication and hard work of the faculty, staff and students. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their engagement in and support of this process."

The reaffirmation process includes an off-site review, an on-site review and a review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

MBA Consulting Project created to help local businesses

The UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, housing the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, is partnering with the UT Martin Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.

This collaboration aims to empower local businesses in West Tennessee through the MBA Consulting Project.

The MBA Consulting Project offers an opportunity for MBA students to engage with businesses as external consultants. Under the guidance of experienced faculty and industry professionals, student teams work on capstone projects, collaborating directly with business owners to identify optimal strategies and practices for organizational growth.

The projects encompass a wide range of services, including SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), strategic planning, feasibility studies, market research, business plan development and sales and marketing strategies.

“The MBA Consulting Project is a unique opportunity for our students to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios, providing valuable solutions to local businesses,” said REED Center Director **Landy Fuqua**. “We are excited to bridge the gap between academia and practical business challenges through this initiative.”

Twelve MBA students, led by December 2023 MBA recipient **Carolina Vela**, completed two projects for the EyeCare Center of Martin.



Members of the UT Martin MBA Consulting Project include (front row, L-R) Elizabeth Lackey, Samantha Simbeck, Madison Mitchell, Aleya Brent, Dr. Danny Donaldson, Anthony Vandusen, Dillon French, Landy Fuqua, (back row, L-R) Dr. Sam Faught Carolina Vela, Lee McBunch, Lucas Istre, Preston Canady and John Culumovic. Not pictured are Parker Kendall and Allie Wheat.

The first group conducted a comprehensive analysis of micro- and macro-environmental factors affecting the center’s competitive strength.

The SWOT analysis formed the basis for strategic recommendations, including the development of an employee handbook to enhance communication and understanding between the EyeCare Center and its employees.

The second group focused on addressing challenges within the eye-care industry and boosting employee morale at the EyeCare Center. Their strategic initiatives, derived from a detailed SWOT analysis, emphasized practical and cost-effective measures to

foster a positive work culture.

The projects were overseen by three supervisors: Fuqua, Vela and management professor Dr. Sam Faught.

Vela, an international student from León, Mexico, played a crucial role as a graduate assistant in the MBA Consulting Project. With a background in international business, Vela brought a global perspective to the projects.

The MBA program at UT Martin is nationally ranked, emphasizing practical skills and real-world application. With a commitment to excellence, the program prepares students to navigate the complexities of today’s business landscape.

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