

## Noted journalist Roland S. Martin to speak at CRC

Roland S. Martin – a noted journalist known internationally for his appearances on CNN and as the host and managing editor of “Roland Martin Unfiltered,” the first daily online show in history focused on news and analysis of politics, entertainment, sports, and culture from an explicitly African American perspective – will be the guest speaker Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 24th annual Civil Rights Conference.

Martin will speak at 6 p.m. Feb. 13 in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center. The event is admission-free and open to the public.

Known as “The Voice of Black America,” Martin launched the Black Star Network, an OTT network that features a variety of shows focused on news, culture, finance, wellness and history. BSN is available on Apple and Android phones, Apple and Android TV, Roku, Amazon Fire, Xbox One and Samsung TV.

**Henri Giles**, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication and the chairperson of



the Civil Rights Conference, said Martin’s reputation as a no-nonsense journalist in many areas of the field is well known.

“Roland Martin is one of those voices that has the power to cut through a lot of the noise and the nonsense that we hear every day,” she said. “He is someone who has a perspective that is very forthcoming.

“He does not mince words; he tells it like it is, and he’s not afraid to do that. I think that’s one of the appealing things about

him for people who have followed him throughout his career.”

Giles said that Martin’s talent lies in taking topics of the day such as news, culture, politics and other issues relating to social and racial equity and breaking them down for his audience.

“He will be able to bring an explanation about these issues that many news journalists don’t,” she said. “I think that’s

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## Merit Badge Day hosted by UTM engineering instructors



A team of UTM engineering instructors, including Dr. Greg Nail (shown standing), Dan Comer, Dr. Jeff McCullough, Dr. Saman Sargolzaei and one of the program’s recent graduates, Adam Winschel, hosted UTM Boy Scout Merit Badge Day on Feb. 10 for their engineering merit badge requirement. The event was held in the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. With participants from local areas and as far away as Iowa and Louisiana, the interactive day-long program introduced the exciting field of engineering, career opportunities, engineer’s code of ethics and multiple hands-on demonstrations.

## YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

**Dr. Vicki Stewart**, lecturer of accounting, and **Dr. Dexter Davis**, professor of sport business – both in the College of Business and Global Affairs – were featured in separate editions of WalletHub.

Stewart responded to questions in the feature titled “Best Credit Cards for Young Adults.” Her responses in the Q&A section about use of credit cards by young adults can be seen [here](#).

Davis contributed to the

feature “Best Cities for Football Fans” and responded to questions about professional football. His responses in the Q&A section can be seen [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.



Stewart



Davis

**Dr. Brittany Cole**, assistant professor of finance, presented her paper, “Does a low population translate to low liquidity? A comparison of municipal bond trading in rural and non-rural communities,” at the 2024 Southern Agricultural Economics Association’s annual meetings Feb. 5 in Atlanta.

**Dr. Laura Hatch**, assistant professor of accounting, and **Dr. Joey Mehlhorn**, professor of agriculture economics, are coauthors on the paper.

The paper examines differences in municipal bond market liquidity in bonds issued by rural and urban issuers, and it documents a market quality



Cole



Hatch



Mehlhorn

advantage for bonds issued by urban bond issuers.

Retail traders (small traders) executing trades in bonds issued by rural issuers are subject to

more markups and are exposed to higher levels of volatility than retail traders executing trades in urban issued bonds.

Overall, the paper provides

important implications for financial market regulators regarding small traders and dealer power in the municipal bond market.



Johnson



Long

“Why soft skills are important (Soft skills and your tech career)” was the title of the latest “Head in the Clouds” virtual roundtable discussion hosted by Go Cloud Careers.

**Dr. Cooper Johnson** served as a panel expert and **Dr. Jamye Long** provided behind-the-scenes expertise.

The conversation covered topics such as the top soft skills

for career success, why soft skills are vital to career progression, the difference between soft skills and hard skills, emotional intelligence soft skills and how emotional intelligence fits with soft skills and the value it adds to career readiness.

To date, the discussion has been viewed about 500 times worldwide.

**View photos online at [utm.edu/photo](http://utm.edu/photo)**



## McDonough earns Distinguished Professor award

**Dr. Daniel McDonough**, the senior historian in the Department of History and Philosophy and the Faculty Senate president, has been named the Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History.

McDonough is the second member of the history faculty to hold this prestigious appointment. He succeeds **Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls**, who retired in June 2023.

"This is a great award," McDonough said. "I think it's the only named professorship we have in humanities and fine arts. There are a couple in (the College of Business and Global Affairs).

"It's a nice award. I'm humbled and honored

to have it."

McDonough said he is working on two books about Boston during the American Revolution. One of the books is a biography of Sons of Liberty leader William Molineux, and the other is an account of Boston from the famed Boston Tea Party of 1773 through the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

This distinguished professorship is supported by the Col. Tom Elam Endowment in the Department of History and Philosophy and recognizes outstanding teaching, scholarship and service.



McDonough

Three faculty members were recipients of the Tennessee Corn Promotion Board annual grant program.

**Dr. Saman Sargolzaei**, assistant professor of engineering, received \$36,671 in funding for his project "Is Cyberdefense Needed in Agricultural Applications?"

This project proposes to explore the technology employed by corn producers and identify vulnerable areas within a cybersecurity framework.

Once risks are identified, educational resources for producers will be produced to offer solutions to mitigate risks and fortify cyber defense measures within their operation.

The goal is to ensure the resilience of corn producers in the face of very real cyber threats.



Sargolzaei

**Dr. John Cole**, associate professor of agriculture, geoscience and natural resources, was awarded \$29,164 for his project "Investigation of Composting PLA Bioplastics."

He will investigate the use of hot composting methods, with a temperature in the range of 140° F, to biodegrade PLA



Cole

plastic products such as food packaging, 3D printer filament used in additive manufacturing and other commercially available products.

**Dr. Scott Parrott**, professor of agriculture, geoscience and natural resources, received \$17,586 for his project "Tennessee Higher Ethanol Fuel



Parrott

Blends Awareness Initiative."

The goal of this project is to develop cost pass-through comparison models from 2016 to 2023 for higher blends of ethanol fuel sourced from a major market in Tennessee.

Learn more about the Tennessee Corn Promotion Board at [tncorn.org](https://tncorn.org).

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what is unique about him: being able to get to the bottom of what these issues are really all about."

Giles said those in attendance at Martin's program will get a lot out of what he says.

"Anything that is happening that we know about, he will talk about," she said, "but here's the thing: He will also talk about those things that we may not know about.

"A lot of information – this

whole concept of gatekeeping is: We know what we know because of what people tell us, but I want to know what people aren't telling us. So, I think people who come to hear Roland will definitely get perspectives on things that are happening that we see in the news a lot, but he's also going to bring us information about things that we may not see in the news a lot."

Giles added that "civil rights"

isn't just a term for a historic period in this nation's history, but something that is here and now.

"When we look at some of the tactics that were implemented in the mid-20th century, they are very similar to what we are seeing today," she said. "So, when you talk about civil rights, that encompasses a lot of things. It involves all kinds of freedom for different groups."

Martin is the second guest speaker for the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference. Olympic breakdancer Carmar "Pep-C" Hall spoke on Feb. 6, and noted author, scholar and political analyst Dr. Eddie Glaude (last name rhymes with "cloud") will speak on Feb. 20.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, visit [www.utm.edu/civilrightsconference.com](https://www.utm.edu/civilrightsconference.com).



# Scenes from the State of the University Address



Onstage at the State of the University Address on Feb. 8 at the Woolworth Theatre in Nashville were (L-R) moderator David Plazas, UT System President Randy Boyd, who also served as a moderator, and chancellors Donde Plowman of UT Knoxville, Steve Angle of UT Chattanooga, Linda C. Martin of UT Southern, Yancy Freeman of UT Martin and Peter F. Buckley of the UT Health Science Center.

## This Week's UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

### Thursday, Feb. 15

- Women's basketball vs. Southern Indiana (Faculty Appreciation Night), 5:30 p.m. at Kathleen and Tom Elam Center
- Men's basketball vs. Southern Indiana (Faculty Appreciation Night), 7:30 p.m. at Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

### Friday, Feb. 16

- Baseball vs. Northern Kentucky, 5 p.m. at Skyhawk Baseball Field

### Saturday, Feb. 17

- Women's basketball vs. Morehead State, 1 p.m. at Kathleen and Tom Elam Center
- Baseball vs. Northern Kentucky, 3 p.m. at Skyhawk Baseball Field
- Men's basketball vs. Morehead State, 3:30 p.m. at Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

### Sunday, Feb. 18

- Baseball vs. Northern Kentucky, 1 p.m. at Skyhawk Baseball Field
- Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com).*

Listen to [Skyhawk Sports Talk](#) at noon Monday on WUTM FM 90.3!



Chancellor Yancy Freeman (left) poses with Tennessee state Sen. Ken Yager of District 12, a UTM alumnus (center) and University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd on Feb. 7 during UT Day on the Hill.

Submit a YoUTM or question  
to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)!



# Taking the Pep-C Challenge



Olympic breakdancer Carmarry “Pep-C” Hall (center) shows some moves to some fans during her speaking engagement on Feb. 6 for the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference. Hall was the first of three guest speakers in the month-long conference. She will be one of the first breakdancers to compete in the Olympics in the Summer Games in Paris, France, on July 26-Aug. 11.

## ‘Lunch at the Library’ presents researching Black history

The Paul Meek Library continues its “Lunch at the Library” programs this Tuesday.

The “Lunch at the Library” program takes place in Room 152 of the Paul Meek Library at 12:15 p.m. each Tuesday.

The program will help answer questions like: What resources are available to students, staff and faculty? What are some ways these resources can be found? How can the library staff help?

Programs scheduled for this semester include:

- Feb. 13: Researching Black History

- Feb. 20: Evaluating Info on the Internet
  - Feb. 27: Media Literacy: News Media
  - March 5: Media Literacy: Entertainment
  - March 12: Counterhistories: New Looks at the Past
  - March 19: Researching Women’s History
  - April 2: Information, Misinformation and Disinformation
  - April 9: The Economics of Information
  - April 16: Propaganda: What It Is and How to Spot It
  - April 23: Open Research Help
- Programs are open to students, faculty,

staff and people from off-campus. Participants are invited to bring a lunch and enjoy the program in a relaxed atmosphere. Audience members are also invited to ask questions.

**Dr. John LaDue**, assistant professor and information literacy librarian at the Paul Meek Library, coordinates the program and said the program is a chance for the library to provide an in-depth discussion of several topics.

For more information, call LaDue at 731-881-7061.

### You Tell Me

• **Question** – Where can older editions of Campus Scene, the university’s alumni magazine, be obtained?

• **Answer** – The best way to find older editions of Campus Scene, UT Martin’s alumni magazine, is at [www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu) on the Office of University Relations news page. At the news page, select “Campus Scene” on the top menu and then “Archives.” All Campus Scenes published starting in fall 2001 are linked as PDFs. Older copies of the publication when it was published in tabloid format are stored in university relations files.

Submit your questions to Addenda at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

### addenda

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