

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Feb. 5 2024

## Students to represent at Super Bowl for 11th year

For the last 10 years, UT Martin has been represented at the Super Bowl, the championship game of the National Football League, and that tradition will continue with the game on Feb. 11 in Las Vegas.

There will be 14 College of Business and Global Affairs students working in several areas at Super Bowl LVIII next week, including hospitality, getting players where they need to be for autographs and other duties found in the professional sports management field.

The students were selected by **Dr. Dexter Davis**, professor of sport management, who coordinates the Super Bowl opportunity for UTM students.

"We make it kind of like a job interview, so they get some practice with that," he said. "They have to provide me with a cover letter and a resume, and they have to do a bit of research about the organization that we're working with so they can write a meaningful cover letter that addresses what they're going



**Dr. Dexter Davis (center) and 14 UTM students will work behind the scenes at this year's Super Bowl in Las Vegas on Feb. 11. This will be the 11th straight year for UTM to take part in this career-building program.**

to be doing at the Super Bowl and their responsibilities.

"We do an interview process where I use a rubric to screen people that includes

grade-point average, class experience, prior experience and so on. Those who place among the top scores are selected to go. It's

**Continued on PAGE 4**

## 'State of the University' address set for Thursday

The annual State of the University Address will be presented at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, and will originate from the Woolworth Theatre in Nashville.

The address will feature a panel discussion featuring leaders within the University of Tennessee System. That panel discussion will be streamed live on [tennessee.edu](https://tennessee.edu).

The panel discussion will highlight the substantial value of higher education, the UT System's statewide influence on workforce development, and how these elements interconnect to foster a thriving economic future. This conversation promises to be a deep dive into the strategic advancements and educational innovations that position the UT System at the heart of Tennessee's growth.

The moderator for the panel discussion

will be David Plazas of The Tennessean. Panelists will include UT System President Randy Boyd, Chancellor Yancy Freeman, UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman, UT Chattanooga Chancellor Steve Angle, UT Health Science Center Chancellor Peter Buckley and UT Southern Chancellor Linda Martin.

People attending the address and panel discussion include Tennessee Chamber members, Leadership Tennessee members, Nashville business leaders, UT Volunteer Leaders, UT partners, UT Board of Trustees, Campus Chancellor's Cabinet members, key stakeholders across the state, UT community members working on grand challenge initiatives, legislators and constitutional officers.

The event will also host the Grand

Challenge mini-summit. The Grand Challenge is a grants program that will address critical challenges in Tennessee. The UT System is committed to investing \$5 million over the next few years in community-tied projects and research.

The vision of the Grand Challenge program is to foster innovative solutions in three areas: Strengthening Rural Communities, Overcoming Addiction and Advancing K-12 Education.

To take part, teams chose to take part in Type 1 or Type 2 projects in one of those three areas. Type 1 projects will begin in fall 2024, while Type 2 projects will begin in winter 2025.

More information about the Grand Challenge grants program can be found at [grandchallenges.tennessee.edu](https://grandchallenges.tennessee.edu).

## YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

In their continued collaborations with Go Cloud Careers, **Dr. Jamye Long** and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both associate professors of management, presented an instructional lesson on financial statements for the audience of Go Cloud Careers, an elite technology training company that prepares participants for entry into executive cloud architecture positions at companies well known and well-respected.

Long and Johnson's financial statements discussion provided participants with knowledge about what financial statements are and their purposes, what information can be found on various financial statements, how they assist in providing quality information to company stakeholders and other interested parties, how they can be leveraged in to a competitive advantage for organizations and their value in strategizing for the future of organizations.



Long



Johnson

## Alliance of Women Philanthropists taking grant applications

The UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists is accepting grant applications for its annual Giving Circle grants program. All applications must be submitted to the UTM Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) for review and entry into Cayuse by Feb. 19.

Applicants may develop a new project or program which benefits their campus or expands upon an existing program. Winning initiatives will promote the spirit of the Alliance by providing opportunities that inspire leadership and collaboration

within the UT community.

Grants range from \$2,500 to \$25,000 and are awarded annually to the most innovative and deserving applicants as determined by the Alliance's Executive Board. Winners will be notified by April 5 and invited to attend the Women and Philanthropy Symposium on April 26.

The executive board of the Alliance of Women Philanthropists created the Giving Circle in 2007 to deepen their impact on UT's campuses and to increase their involvement with student's faculty and

staff. Since its inception, the alliance has awarded 81 grants and contributed more than \$744,000 in grant funding across the UT System.

For more information about the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists Giving Circle, including the grants application, submission instructions, and a list of past recipients, visit [www.utfi.org/grant](http://www.utfi.org/grant).

Any questions about the Alliance or the Giving Circle Grants program can be directed to [msmith@utfi.org](mailto:msmith@utfi.org).

## Paul Meek Library to review digital resources, seeks input

The Paul Meek Library continues to review, improve, and expand its collections to support student and faculty research.

This includes digital resources, available 24/7 regardless of physical location.

As use of print reference resources in the physical library continues to decline, the ability to provide high-quality scholarly reference resources in electronic form is critical to research.

Two current trials include electronic reference tools accessible through the "database" tab on the [Paul Meek Library home page](#).

Credo Reference is a curated, authoritative reference resource comprising hundreds of encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri, quotations and subject-specific book and video titles, as well as thousands of images, audio files and maps.

Its [website](#) includes a listing of its 127 titles from a variety of publishers. This trial ends Feb. 15.

Oxford Reference contains over 2 million entries from Oxford University Press dictionaries, "companion" volumes and encyclopedias.

Its [website](#) includes a listing of its 487

titles, all published by the Oxford Press. This trial ends Feb. 25.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to explore these resources and provide feedback on their utility for academic programs.

An overview of these resources is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9, in the Active Learning Classroom on the first floor of the Paul Meek Library.

Share comments to your colleagues, to the library liaison contacts for your department, or directly to [Bridgette Whitt](#), acquisitions and collections librarian, and [Ronne Cox](#), electronic resources librarian.

**Promote a faculty or staff member by sending a YoUTM to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)!**

# Advisory Board meets Jan. 26 to discuss topics

The UT Martin Advisory Board met Jan. 26 in the Boling University Center for a university update.

Among topics presented were academics restructuring in athletics, estimated enrollment for the upcoming fall semester, the proposed Business Administration Building and the use of grant funding for the Center for Teaching and Learning.

**Ashley Bynum**, the associate athletics director for internal operations, reported that UT Martin student-athletes have maintained a 3.2 or better grade-point average in each semester since the Fall 2019 semester, which is an intercollegiate athletics goal.

“We did some restructuring around the Fall 2019 semester, added some personnel to our academic staff and completely restructured what our policies, procedures and methods are for our student-athlete academic support,” she said.

“We had a significant increase in our GPA as a result of that restructure in our ability to think outside the box with how we would handle academic support for student-athletes.”

**Destin Tucker**, the director of undergraduate admissions, reported on the retention rate for the university as well as the goals for the Fall 2024 semester.

“Our overall enrollment goal for Fall 2024 is 7,105 students, which represents a 2.2% increase,” she said. “It would put us over the 7,000-student mark, which we’ve been below over the past couple of years.”

“The first-year student goal is 1,157 students, which is a 4% increase. We are anticipating an increase in first-year transfer students, in large part due to some scholarship increases that we were able to implement this year.”

**Jeanna Curtis-Swofford**, the interim vice chancellor for university advancement, and **Petra McPhearson**, the senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, spoke about the proposed new business building for the campus.

“The current building that houses business administration was built in 1951 as a dormitory after World War II,” she said. “It was named Browning Hall, and it was converted from a dormitory into offices and classrooms in 1975. In 1990, the name was changed from Browning Hall to the



**Advisory Board Chair Art Sparks (left) and Chancellor Yancy Freeman share a laugh during a light moment at the Jan. 26 UTM Advisory Board meeting. Among the topics of discussion were the construction of a new Business Administration Building, projections of Fall 2024 enrollment, academics in athletics improvements, athletics issues and the Center for Teaching and Learning.**

UTM Business Administration Building, and it continues to be the top priority of the chancellor, dean and College of Business Affairs faculty to have this new state-of-the-art building.”

The total project cost for the proposed business building is \$61 million.

The board recognized the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award winners from UT Martin, **Dr. Jason Roberts** from the Department of Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources and **Dr. Janet Wilbert** from the Department of Health and Human Performance.

**Dr. Anderson Starling** spoke to the advisory board about how the university would spend the more than \$1.54 million dollars it was awarded in September through a five-year Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

Starling serves as the interim director of the Center for Teaching and Learning program being funded by the grant.

“There are two overarching goals that we want to use this \$1.5 million for over the next five years,” he told the board. “The first is creating a Center for Teaching and Learning. This is an endeavor we’ve been discussing here on this campus for some time, and it’s included in our strategic plan

as well.

“And then, No. 2, to create a learning commons to centralize learning support services and expand high-impact practices.”

Chancellor **Yancy Freeman** spoke about his experience in his first few months in office since beginning on Aug. 9. He mentioned speaking with former chancellor Dr. Margaret Perry.

“She said, ‘This job as chancellor is not a job, it’s not a career; it’s a lifestyle,’” he said. “That is definitely what I have learned through the fall semester. To that end, I had almost 500 meetings this past fall, going to all the regional centers, meeting with alums, meeting with students and legislators as well as faculty and staff.”

“Another big thing that happened this fall is the reaffirmation of our SACSCOC reaccreditation. It was huge. We attended the conference in Orlando, and it went so incredibly well that the vice president for our area called us out of the room and said, ‘I’m not even going to take you to the next room because you passed with such flying colors. There is no need to make you walk.’”

The next scheduled UTM Advisory Board meeting will be at 1 p.m. Friday, May 17, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center.

More information about the advisory board meeting can be found in the article at [news.utm.edu](https://news.utm.edu).



# Olympic breaker to speak at Civil Rights Conference

Carmarry “Pep-C” Hall, a professional break-dancer who is a member of the first U.S. Olympic breaking team at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, will be a featured guest speaker at the 24th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference.

Hall is scheduled to speak and perform at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium.

“She will be sharing her journey in the music industry, in hip-hop and her journey to the Olympics,” said **Henri Giles**, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication and chairperson of the Civil Rights Conference.

“I think her being here will inspire students to learn how to work hard, have focus and set goals they can achieve.”

The conference also features a Student and Professional Networking event at 6 p.m.,

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**Carmarry “Pep-C” Hall, a member of the first U.S. Olympic breaking team, will be the guest speaker Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference. Break-dancing will debut as an Olympic sport in the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris.**

## SUPER BOWL from PAGE 1

not a class; it’s just an experiential learning opportunity outside of the classroom for students in the College of Business.”

### This Week’s UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

**Friday, Feb. 9**

- Equestrian team vs. Delaware State, 9 a.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex

**Saturday, Feb. 10**

- Equestrian team vs. UC Davis, 9 a.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex
- Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com).*



This is Davis’ 19th year to bring students to the Super Bowl, dating to when he taught at Niagara University and York College.

The students working at the Super Bowl will have a variety of tasks to handle.

“We work a shift at The NFL’s Super Bowl Experience, which is a fanfest,” Davis said. “That’s more of a customer service role. On game day, we work with the NFL’s hospitality arm, On Location Experiences.”

“A lot of times, we work with talent movement, moving players and Hall of Famers to do autograph sessions from one spot to another. This year, we’re going to be working with the On Location Elite, which is a high-high-high-end hospitality activity. Some of those people paid in excess of \$50,000 for the weekend, so they get extra-special service, and we’re going to provide that extra-special service.”

Davis said that the sports management experience the students get by working the

Super Bowl is extensive, learning much of the behind-the-scenes work in athletics. There will be other career opportunities to be had as well.

“On that Wednesday before the Super Bowl (Feb. 7), I have a former student from when I taught at Niagara University – he was actually one of my advisees – who is the director of premium sales for the Golden Knights,” Davis said, referencing the National Hockey League team in Las Vegas.

“We’re doing a meet-and-greet with some of the executives of the Knights at their practice facility. Then, Monday night, we’re going to a Golden Knights hockey game (against the Minnesota Wild) before we come home.”

Davis said there will be more than 800 students coming to work at the Super Bowl this year, representing about 45 colleges and universities.

“When I started doing this, there were four institutions that were doing this,” he said. “One of the things that I’m

personally involved in is I am on the planning committee that has put together a networking event for the students who are working at the Super Bowl.

“We have a series of panels. We have reverse-networking, where there are about 40 sport industry professionals that are going to be hanging out at different tables and have the students come up and talk with them. It’s not a career fair, so we’ve asked them not to bring resumes, but it’s an opportunity to network and meet people and shake hands.”

Devon Lewis-Buchanan, the diversity, equity and inclusion director for the Las Vegas Raiders NFL team, will be a keynote speaker for the college students during Super Bowl Week.

The Super Bowl has presented opportunities to UT Martin students for more than a decade, but it is not the chance to bring home championship rings. It is an opportunity to gain experience in sports marketing and develop a career in the field

# 'Lunch at the Library' continues programs this semester

The Paul Meek Library continues its "Lunch at the Library" programs this Tuesday with a look at how to cite sources using Zotero.

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?

Other 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.

## CIVIL from PAGE 4

Thursday, Feb. 8, in Room 230 of the Boling University Center. This is the second year this event has been incorporated into the Civil Rights Conference.

The event features a panel of professionals who actively work in civil rights fields related to politics, culture, economics and other areas and is an opportunity for students to make real-world connections.

"The panel is a chance for students to come, hear what the panelists do and find out how to navigate that path into

a particular career," said Giles.

"At UT Martin, we are tucked away off the beaten path, but are able to bring renowned speakers to our campus, and I think it is extraordinary to expose our students to these great minds."

The 24th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference began Feb. 1 with the month-long STEM School of Chattanooga Art Exhibition.

The artwork can be seen in the lobby of the Boling University Center.

The UTM Civil Rights Conference is believed to be

the only month-long conference hosted by a college of university in the nation.

Event organizers have made sure that the shortest month of the year is filled with events, activities and notable guest speakers to pique anyone's interest.

Almost all of the events will be held in the Boling University Center. All events are admission-free and open to the public.

The conference will feature a Black business expo and a presentation of those who visited the Equal Justice Institute

in Montgomery, Alabama.

Entertaining activities include a Night of Dance, Music by Black Composers program and a Black History Month Music Trivia night.

"It's an opportunity to bring in different people from across the country who have either worked in civil rights or continue to work for the betterment and equity of all Americans," she said.

More information about the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference can be found at [www.utm.edu/civilrightsconference](http://www.utm.edu/civilrightsconference).

## You Tell Me

• **Question** – Pickleball is the latest craze in sports. When was pickleball introduced to UTM and who was the instructor? I came to UTM in 1981 and I want to say that pickleball was already here as a PE class instructed by Linda Ramsey.

• **Answer** – From Dr. Linda Ramsey: "Nadine Gearin taught pickleball years ago on badminton courts. I think it could have even been a part of a class she taught. We played in the Elam Center on the badminton courts. I may have introduced it to my badminton classes at the time after that." (Thank you for Dr. Linda Ramsey, professor emeritus of health and human performance, for her assistance answering this week's Addenda question. The late Nadine Gearin, UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame member, was a longtime UT Martin faculty member and coach. She is remembered among the "Coaches Statues" located just outside the main entrance to the Elam Center where Guerin is honored alongside Bettye Giles, former director of UTM women's athletics, and Pacer women's basketball standout and coaching great Pat Head Summitt.)

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

## addenda

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