

Graham seminar to feature Derryberry, Bradford

The UT Martin Bettie Graham Seminar Series on Diagnosis and Early Intervention of Learning Difficulties announced the guest speakers for its event, and they will be familiar to those who attended the series in the past.

The seminar will be held at 6 p.m. March 18 in the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

H.K. Derryberry and Jim Bradford will return to the Martin campus in the roles they had at the 2018 Bettie Graham seminar.

Derryberry is blind and has cerebral palsy after a car accident in 1990 resulted in his premature birth.

He also has hyperthymesia (pronounced “hyper-thigh-MEE-zha”), also known as superior autobiographical memory. He can recall every event that has happened to him.

Derryberry was the subject of the book “The Awakening of H.K. Derryberry,” copies of which will be sold at the event.

Bradford is a businessman from Brentwood, and he met Derryberry when

Continued on PAGE 4



H.K. Derryberry (left) and Jim Bradford are shown speaking at the 2018 Bettie Graham Seminar Series on Diagnosis and Early Intervention of Learning Difficulties. They are returning to the event this year as the guest speakers at the event, be held at 6 p.m. March 18 in the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

Campus-wide town hall to be held Wednesday



Chancellor Yancy Freeman is shown speaking at the Advisory Board meeting on Jan. 26. Freeman will deliver a State of the Campus Address at a town hall meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

A campus-wide town hall will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Chancellor Yancy Freeman will deliver the State of the Campus Address, including legislative updates.

Following the town hall, an Employee Appreciation Reception will be held in the Watkins Auditorium lobby.

The reception will celebrate the university's accreditation affirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission On Colleges as well as provide an appreciation to university employees that coincides with Employee Appreciation Week (Feb. 26-March 1).

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Staci Fuqua, the director of the Educator Preparation Program, was named to the Tennessee Board of Education's Educator Licensure Review Committee that will offer feedback and provide recommendations to ensure that the educator licensure system and policies continue to meet Tennessee's needs.

The committee is made up of 24 people from across the state.

In Spring 2023, staff from

the State Board and Tennessee Department of Education began working with the National Association of State Boards of Education to create a draft vision and set of guiding principles for educator licensure and to identify key issues within the current system through surveying key stakeholders.

Out of this work, several key topics emerged for the committee to discuss including:

- Continued use of the edTPA as a licensure requirement

for candidates completing undergraduate and traditional post-baccalaureate preparation programs.

- Evaluation of requirements for occupational licensure and accessibility of licensure pathways for prospective educators transitioning from industry.

- Improvement of communication of more recently developed pathways to licensure and legislative changes that impact licensure.



Fuqua



Giles

Henri Giles, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication, appeared on Philadelphia's WURD-FM on Feb. 19 as a guest on "Evening WURDs," a talk show hosted by Dr. James Peterson.

Giles discussed the history of African-American contributions to country music, the film she directed and produced for CMT and Viacom on Black people

in country music and the pushback the global entertainer has received since the release of "Texas Hold 'Em" by Beyonce.

One of the biggest stories in entertainment news last week is Beyonce's release of country music singles and her dominance on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart.

Giles was referred to WURD by Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, a nationally-known author,

scholar and professor at Vanderbilt University.

On a separate program that evening, Dyson appeared on CNN's "Laura Coates Live" and included Giles and her film "Waiting in the Wings: African Americans in Country Music" in his discussion.

Giles is the chair of the 24th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference, which will run through Thursday.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agriculture economics, and **Dr. Brittany Cole**, assistant professor of finance, presented their research poster "Learning to Do and Doing to Learn: Teaching Rural Students about Rural Community Financing," at the 2024 Southern Agriculture Economics Association annual meeting on Feb. 6 in Atlanta.

Dr. Laura Hatch, assistant professor of accounting, is a coauthor on the project.

The project examines student knowledge and interest in municipal bond financing, a common governmental form of financing for local improvement projects by state and local governments.



Mehlhorn

State and local governments can use municipal bond financing for improvement projects like schools, utilities, hospitals, airports and infrastructure maintenance, and this type of financing provides these governments with more



Cole

flexibility than traditional lending.

However, rural areas are often the targets of predatory lending practices in the municipal bond market, so the project examines ways to better educate business students to be more



Hatch

informed leaders in their rural communities.

Students are surveyed about their initial municipal financing knowledge prior to a financial markets and institutions course, then surveyed following the course's completion.



Buschhaus



Owens



Bumah



Pharris

UTM Research Series resumes with 'Women in STEM'

The UT Martin Research Series begins this Thursday, Feb. 29, with a student research panel held at 4 p.m. at the Paul Meek Library.

The theme for this year's series is "Women in STEM," touching on topics related to women in fields relating to science, technology, engineering and math.

The series is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs. Other series events include:

- March 12: **Dr. Ashley Owens** of the Department of Engineering
- April 11: **Dr. Violet Bumah** of the Department of Chemistry and Physics

- May 9: **Dr. Lily Pharris** of the Department of Computer Science

Dr. Nancy Buschhaus, dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, will serve as moderator for a panel of student researchers, exploring their experience with projects in STEM disciplines.

"The National Science Foundation and the National Science Board reports that women make up 48% of the overall workforce and earn about half of the bachelor's degrees in STEM," she said. "However, women represent only a quarter of the STEM workforce."

The UT Martin campus has a continued commitment to support, increase accessibility for and inspire faculty, staff, students and alumni in these fields.

A reception with light refreshments will follow and attendees can view the student panelists' research posters to learn more about their work.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off of Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online [here](#).

For more information, contact **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

ELLI committee preparing for April 2-4 conference

The UT Martin Experiential-Learning Leadership Institute planning committee is preparing for the 2024 conference to be held April 2-4 in the Boling University Center and at Discovery Park of America.

April 2 is the date for early registration at the Champions Club from 3 to 6 p.m. followed by a criminal justice simulation downtown.

In-person presentations are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at the Boling University Center.

Poster presentations will be given at a brunch at Discovery Park of America on Thursday, April 4, concluding the conference.

Planning committee members are: **Dr. Dexter Davis**, co-chair, College of

Business and Global Affairs; **Dr. Lajuan Davis**, co-chair, College of Business and Global Affairs; **Dr. Joey Mehlhorn**, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; **Dr. John Glass, Honors**; **Dr. Robbie Montgomery**, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; **Dr. Laura Brown**, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences;

Dr. Clinton Smith, College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences; **Dr. Patrick Bishop**, College of Business and Global Affairs; **Dr. Derek Ezell**, College of Business and Global Affairs. Contact any of the planning committee members for information about the conference or go to the conference Web page at www.utm.edu/elli.

Read more UT Martin news at utm.edu/news

She said 'Yes'!

UT Martin students Gregory Forrester and Rilee Kat Vest became engaged during a surprise proposal by Forrester on Feb. 24 at Centennial Circle on the quad. Forrester received permission from the Physical Plant to decorate the marriage proposal setting, and the rest is history. Both are active members of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry and have served on the Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) staff for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Forrester and Vest are both senior health and human performance majors. Forrester is from Martin, and Vest is from Beech Bluff.



This Week's UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

Wednesday, Feb. 28

- Softball vs. Middle Tennessee, 4 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field

Thursday, Feb. 29

- Women's basketball vs. Tennessee Tech (Greek Night), 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center
- Men's basketball vs. Tennessee Tech (Greek Night), 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center

Friday, March 1

- No. 8 Equestrian vs. Minnesota-Crookston (Senior Day), 9 a.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex
- Baseball vs. Middle Tennessee, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

Saturday, March 2

- Women's basketball vs. Tennessee State (Basketball and Cheer Alumni Day), 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (end of regular season)
- Baseball vs. Middle Tennessee, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field
- Men's basketball vs. Tennessee State (Basketball and Cheer Alumni Day), 3:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (end of regular season)

Sunday, March 3

- Baseball vs. Middle Tennessee, 1 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field
- Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.*
- Listen to [Skyhawk Sports Talk](#) at noon Monday on WUTM FM 90.3!



GRAHAM from PAGE 1

the latter was 9 years old. The two have been friends ever since.

Bradford and Derryberry have made more than 175 appearances and spoken to more than 40,000 people since 2012.

Tickets for this event are free of charge, but attendees must have a printed ticket to reserve a seat in the auditorium.

Seating is limited to the first 450 people who register online.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite.com by searching "H.K. Derryberry" in Martin.

The Bettie Graham Seminar Series on Diagnosis and Early Intervention of Learning Difficulties is made possible

through a generous endowment given by Newell and Bettie Graham.

Bettie Graham was raised in Mississippi and moved to Union City after her marriage to Newell who died in 2022. The Graham family owns and operates the Coca-Cola Bottling Company in both Meridian, Mississippi, and Union City.

Bettie's dedication to northwest Tennessee and UT Martin is evident by her years of service and philanthropic generosity.

The Graham family has long supported higher education.

More information about the speakers can be found [here](#).



Dorms & Dragons

A TABLETOP ROLEPLAYING EVENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH
AT 5:30 PM

PAUL MEEK LIBRARY

OPEN TO ALL UTM STUDENTS,
STAFF & FACULTY
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

LIMITED SEATS - RSVP

Calling all adventurers,
both seasoned & uninitiated!
You are invited to embark on a wondrous
journey full of fantasy & danger

Pizza and drinks included



Dr. Eddie Glaude speaks at Civil Rights Conference



Author and commentator Dr. Eddie Glaude, chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University, was the guest speaker at the 24th annual UT Martin Civil Rights Conference on Feb. 20. Glaude was joined on the Watkins Auditorium stage (top photo) by Dr. Danny Pirtle (left), associate professor of criminal justice, and Henri Giles, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication and the chairperson of the Civil Rights Conference.



You Tell Me

- **Question** – What work comes next for the Grove Apartment site now that the apartments are removed? Also, are there any plans to add parking to the site?
- **Answer** – The area will primarily be green space. The parking lot will remain on the northeast corner sized as it was previously. Some light poles will also remain within the interior of the space. No additional plans for the space have been made at this time.

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

addenda

Published weekly during the academic year and biweekly during the summer by UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238
Randy Boyd – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr. – UTM Chancellor • David Snow – Addenda Editor
UT Martin is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer. E05-0415-00-001-24