

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Nov. 27, 2023



UT Martin Chancellor Yancy Freeman (center) poses with students from Gleason High School in Weakley County on Aug. 17. The “Take Flight with Freeman Tour” enabled the new chancellor to visit several high schools in West and Middle Tennessee as well as take a tour of area industries and meet with alumni and others around the region.

‘Take Flight with Freeman Tour’ ends Tuesday

The “Take Flight with Freeman Tour” that has introduced UT Martin Chancellor **Yancy Freeman** to people across West and Middle Tennessee will come to an end on Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Shelby County.

Freeman began his administration as the university’s 12th chancellor on Aug. 9.

The day will begin with a visit to City University Schools at 11 a.m.

During the afternoon, Freeman will make his first stop to Wildwood Farm in Germantown. He will also make a stop to Autozone Corporate Headquarters.

The commitment of Wildwood Farm to the university by Melanie Smith Taylor and her family on June 24, 2021, was the largest single gift to UT Martin and the University of Tennessee System. The farm will be transferred to the university upon Taylor’s death and will allow UT Martin to increase educational program offerings in veterinary health technology and other agricultural disciplines in the near future. The gift will also provide opportunities for UT Martin to collaborate with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

The Take Flight with Freeman Tour ends with an open alumni reception at 5:30 p.m. at The Great Hall and Conference Center.

The tour has taken Freeman to several high schools in West and Middle Tennessee to talk with students about their future at UT Martin. He also has taken in several cities throughout the region.

The tour began on Aug. 18 – just nine days after taking office – in Martin. Visits to Nashville, Union City, Dyersburg, Ripley, Paris, Somerville, Jackson and Parsons followed over the last three months.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Mercan Derafshi, assistant professor of fashion merchandizing, presented a poster titled “Individuality and Personal Image: Styling the Chancellor” and displayed a design titled “A Sustainable and Zero Waste Approach to Ready-to-Wear.”

The poster was a classroom project conducted by students

taking a styling and personal image class.

Students worked with Chancellor **Yancy Freeman** and recommended apparel combinations for various occasions.

The garment was designed with a special silk and cotton blend fabric from Bhagalpur, India, that has a cooling effect

for the wearer.

The garment was designed and constructed to eliminate fabric waste in the production process.

This event was the 80th annual meeting of the International Textile and Apparel Association that took place in Baltimore, Maryland, during the Nov. 8-11 meeting.



Derafshi

Dr. Dawn Wilkins and **Dr. Donald Shaw** of the Department of Biological Sciences and retired department faculty **Dr. David Pitts** and **Dr. Andy Sliger** attended the 133rd meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science on Nov. 18 at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Skylar Lowery, senior natural resources management major, won first place in the ecology and environmental science section for her poster co-authored by Wilkins titled “Does human activity impact provisioning and nesting success of Osprey at Reelfoot Lake?”

Natalie Marques, senior cell and molecular biology major, won first place in the zoology section for her poster co-authored by Autumn Reeves, **Dr. Linda Husmann** and



Wilkins

Wilkins titled “Mortality of Eastern Bluebirds following a severe winter storm: screening for clostridial enteritis.”

Autumn Reeves, senior organismal biology major, won second place in the zoology section for her poster co-authored by Natalie Marques and Wilkins titled “Mortality of Eastern Bluebirds following



Shaw

a severe winter storm: Did they starve?”

Lauren Milam, senior cell and molecular biology and chemistry double major, and Xavier Jimenez, junior chemistry major, won first place in the science and math teaching and history of science section for their poster coauthored by



Husmann

Shaw titled “Impact of using a hormone recap table and oral presentations on students’ learning in upper division classes including endocrinology.”

Pitts gave an oral presentation in the zoology section titled “Annual variation in nesting success of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.”

“Microfossils and Biostratigraphy of the Upper Cretaceous Coon Creek Formation Lagerstatte, Western Interior Seaway, USA,” was co-authored by **Dr. Michael Gibson**, a retired UTM professor of geology, along with Jean M. Self-Trail from the U.S. Geological Survey, Kristina F. Gardner, Jennifer O’Keefe and M. Maeve McCarty from Morehead State University, Patricia H. Mason from the

University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Mark Puckett from the University of Southern Mississippi.

The paper was published in The Geological Society of London Special Paper 2023-137: Cretaceous Project 200: Volume 2 of the Regional Studies of the Cretaceous.

This special volume commemorates the 200th anniversary of the global naming of the Cretaceous Period of geological time.



Gibson

View photos
online at
utm.edu/photo

UTM Choir, alumna to perform with Jackson Symphony

The UTM Choir and **Caroline Oldfather**, a May 2023 graduate from UTM, will perform Saturday, Dec. 2, in a holiday program with The Jackson Symphony at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson in the “Holiday Pops 2023” concert.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available in the balcony only and may be purchased by calling 731-427-6440. Tickets range from \$40 to \$50, but students may get a seat for \$20 with their student ID.

Ticket information can be found at thejacksonsymphony.org by clicking on “Concerts,” then scrolling down to the pops concerts information.

Dr. Mark Statler, in his first year as the UTM director of choral activities, said that having his students perform with a professional orchestra like the Jackson Symphony is “a really meaningful thing for the

students.”

“They get a chance to see the professional world of music,” he said. “They see the high level of expectations that the orchestra members have. We aren’t paid like they are, but we are still held to those high expectations of timeliness, of respect during the rehearsal, of preparation – all of those kinds of things.”

Statler said the musical side of the performance will be a learning experience as well.

“Musically, it’s a great experience for them because they’re doing this music at a really high level, as they are singing it with the professional orchestra,” he said. “That’s a really fun experience.

“Another thing along with that, too, is getting to sing for different conductors is a great thing and is so helpful for the students to be exposed to different conductors and musical leaders because they

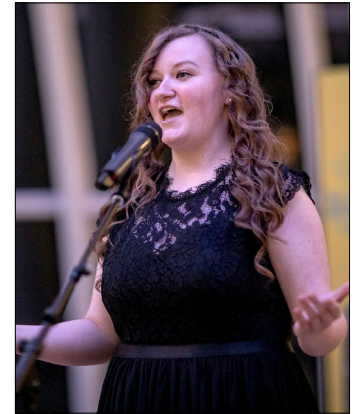
will learn different things from different people.”

Statler said that Peter Shannon, the artistic director and conductor of The Jackson Symphony, “has great musical ideas.”

“He is very thoughtful about what he wants from the sound of the music, and he expresses that really well to the orchestra and the choir,” he said. “He is very captivating in his approach, so the students really want to sing well for him and learn from him. There are a number of benefits for our students in doing this performance.”

Statler said the choir had just performed with The Jackson Symphony on Nov. 4 at First Baptist Church of Jackson, singing Wolfgang Mozart’s “Requiem.”

“Once that performance finished on the fourth, we turned to get ready for the holiday music,” he said. “It’s



Caroline Oldfather, a May 2023 graduate, is shown in a 2019 performance.

lighter, and a lot of it is tunes that the students know: ‘Silent Night,’ ‘O Holy Night,’ ‘Ave Maria’ – different things that they’ve heard before and many of them had sung before.”

Oldfather sang during the Nov. 4 “Requiem” performance.

“It seems like she is doing really well, and she has a great attitude,” Statler said. “She’s always positive and works really hard, and she always has worked hard to get where she is vocally and musically.”

The program will consist of 19 selections with an intermission. Christmas favorites to be performed include “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” “Carol of the Bells,” “Sleigh Ride” and excerpts from “The Nutcracker Suite.”



The UT Martin Choir will perform with the Jackson Symphony this Saturday, Dec. 2, as part of its Holiday Pops 2023 performance. The choir and UTM alumna Caroline Oldfather will help to set the holiday mood with several Christmas songs. (Photo by Grace Kennedy)

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

Fall 2023 graduation ceremonies to be held Dec. 9

UT Martin will hold Fall 2023 commencement exercises during two in-person ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 9, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Commencement times are 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and tickets are not required to attend either ceremony. Doors will open 45 minutes before each event begins.

Kim Seymour, chief human resources officer at Etsy.com and a UT Martin graduate, will deliver the commencement address at both ceremonies.

Etsy's LinkedIn site describes the company as "the global marketplace for unique and creative goods." In her position, Seymour oversees all aspects of the company's human capital plan. Her human resources management expertise includes talent assessment, succession planning, organizational design, performance management and labor relations. She speaks globally on these and other topics as well as her personal leadership philosophies.

Seymour previously held positions with WW International Inc., American Express, Home Depot and General Electric.

In addition to her UT Martin degree, Seymour earned an MBA degree at Indiana University and a law degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Law.

Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr., UT



Seymour

Martin chancellor, will preside over the two ceremonies in his first commencement since being named to the position last summer.

UT President Randy Boyd will represent the UT System and confer degrees. Andy Collins, president of the UT Martin Alumni Council, will represent alumni and congratulate graduates.

A sign-language interpreter

will provide services for the hearing impaired during both commencement events.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will include undergraduate and graduate-degree candidates from the colleges of agriculture and applied sciences, and business and global affairs. The 2 p.m. ceremony will also include both undergraduate and graduate-degree candidates and feature graduates from the colleges of education, health and behavioral sciences, engineering and natural sciences, and humanities and fine arts.

Each ceremony will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/utmartin and www.youtube.com/utmartin. The ceremonies will be archived on YouTube for later viewing.

Contact the Office of University Relations for additional information at 731-881-7615.

This Week's UT Martin Skyhawks Home Events

Saturday, Dec. 2

Women's basketball vs.
Evansville, 1 p.m.,
Kathleen and Tom Elam
Center

Full athletics schedules can be
found at utmsports.com.



Holiday open house set for Friday

UT Martin Chancellor Yancy Freeman and his wife, Rafielle, will host a holiday open house from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, at the Dunagan Alumni Center.

The event is open to all faculty and staff. Those attending should RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 29, by calling 731-881-7507 or by sending an email to abates17@utm.edu.

Read more UT Martin news at utm.edu/news

You Tell Me

- **Question** – Who addresses UT Martin public-records requests?
- **Answer** – For many years, UT Martin public-records requests were handled by the Office of University Relations. In 2021, the UT System centralized public-records requests by hiring longtime UT Knoxville communications staff member Charles Primm to handle these requests full time for all UT campuses and units. Persons requesting university records for UT Martin, UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga, UT Southern, UT Health Science Center, UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Institute for Public Service can do so at the UT System's Public Records link and track the request's status. For questions about open records requests, please contact Charles Primm at 865-974-5180 or at charles.primm@tennessee.edu. The Office of University Relations is also glad to assist if you have additional questions.

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

Christmas parade returns to town Dec. 4

“Deck the Halls” is the theme for the 2023 Kiwanis and City of Martin Christmas Parade, which will light up Martin at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4.

Parade organizers encourage anyone entering the parade to consider the various aspects of decorating for Christmas that this season brings, from lights and garlands to Christmas trees, Santa, reindeer and more.

Parade planners anticipate that the lead police cars will be followed by about 60 entries, including bands, floats, individual vehicles, trucks, firetrucks, beauty queens, horses and, of course, Santa.

The parade will organize at the parking lot near Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Lineup begins at 5:30 p.m. in the parking lot with judging to begin at 6 p.m. The

parade will begin at exactly 7 p.m. and proceed east on University Street, turn left on Lindell Street and continue through downtown Martin.

Prizes will be awarded in each of two major categories: non-commercial and commercial. First place in each category will receive \$100, second place will receive \$75 and third place will receive \$50.

A prize will also be given this year for the best-decorated vehicle.

Entries will be judged on demonstration of the parade theme, originality, workmanship, overall appearance, creativity and use of color, use of lights or animation, best demonstration of Christmas spirit, most beautiful, overall attractiveness and participation and enthusiasm of entry

workers.

Entry forms are available on the Kiwanis website and Facebook page, at Martin Public Library, Martin City Hall or through EventBrite (2023martinkiwansclubchristmasparade).

For more information, call 731-587-4607 or email csmit279@utm.edu, slemond@utm.edu or ltaylor22@utm.edu.

Laura Taylor, Kiwanis president-elect, is the 2023 Christmas Parade chairperson.

Entry forms and the \$5 entry fee can be mailed to Christmas Parade, c/o Martin Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 583, Martin, TN 38237.

Checks should be made payable to Martin Kiwanis Club. Completed forms, checks for the \$5 entry fee, and the signed waiver form can also be left at Martin Public Library.

WestStar hosts RisingStar Leadership Summit



The WestStar Leadership Program hosted its annual RisingStar Leadership Summit on Nov. 9 at the Boling University Center and Nov. 10 at the Student Recreation Center. Students from several counties across Tennessee took part in leadership building activities and took individual campus tours based on their career choice.

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