

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 11 2024

NCAA-bound!



The Skyhawk women's basketball team will be the NCAA automatic qualifier for the Ohio Valley Conference, despite falling in the OVC Tournament finals to top-seeded Southern Indiana on Saturday. USI is making the transition from NCAA Division II to Division I and is not yet eligible to participate in NCAA Division I championships. The Women's NCAA tournament Selection Show will begin at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 17, on ESPN. A selection watch party will begin at 6:30 p.m. preceding the show in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. The public is invited.

Freeman gives State of the Campus Address

Chancellor Yancy Freeman gave a State of the Campus Address Feb. 28 at a town hall held in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

Freeman spoke about the university's budget to those on hand, made up mostly of faculty and staff.

He said he wanted to be transparent about the budget, which is why the town hall was held. He said the process is an "ever-evolving process," adding that since the governor just outlined his 2024-25 budget last month, it was hard to be very specific about the status of UT Martin's budget at this point.

"But, we can begin to make some

assumptions about where we are, what we're doing, how much we think we're going to have and early enrollment projection information that's there," he said.

Freeman said the governor has issued a 3% salary pool, which is pending approval by the Tennessee General Assembly. The campus would be tasked with providing 45% of that funding.

Freeman said that capital projects "took a big hit this year" because of the state's franchise and excise tax.

"The state of Tennessee is under threat of lawsuit because of some franchise and excise taxes that have been charged to

business and industry," he said. "The state has a tentative plan right now to give back \$1 billion in funds to those businesses, and it will mean about a \$360 million shortfall in terms of state budget, going forward. So, it's about a \$1.4 billion impact to the state of Tennessee.

"That's where a lot of the capital projects money came from. To our knowledge, there has been only one building funded in the state of Tennessee overall. It was at the Chattanooga campus, and it was only because they had received a \$30 million donation from someone for their business

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Posing are (L-R) Ford community relations manager Mariane Dunavant; UTM student Solomon Watkins; Stanton Mayor Alan Sterbinsky; UTM students Aliya Jowers, Ayden Carroll, Kayle Hensley and Trenton Michon; and Dr. Adnan Rasool, assistant professor of political science.

A team from UT Martin led by **Dr. Adnan Rasool**, assistant professor of political science, and staffed by five political science majors from the College of Business and Global Affairs have been working on a series of equitable growth focus groups as part of a project funded by Ford's BlueOval City.

The team conducted three focus groups – one in Mason,

Tennessee, and two in Stanton, Tennessee – to help identify workforce challenges and community needs to ensure equitable growth opportunities in areas surrounding the Ford BlueOval City megasite.

The team collected crucial data, engaged with community and offered technical assistance.

Information and data collected from these focus

groups will inform the future decisions of BlueOval City's Equitable Growth Advisory Council as it looks to invest in valuable partnerships in this region.

This is a first-of-its-kind partnership that was made possible through the support of UTM's Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development.

Dr. Jamye Long and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both associate professors of management, offered a lesson on income statements to Go Cloud Careers participants.

Long and Johnson started by discussing the importance of income statements. They then spoke about the relationship between goal-setting and financial health, what income statements can be used to help the reader understand about a company and the information



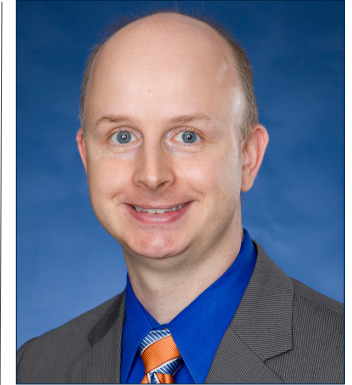
Long

found in income statements. They concluded with a real-



Johnson

world application example of an income statement.



Frye

Dr. Joseph Frye, professor of music, performed as a member of Duo Atypique at the 2024 College Music Society's Southern Regional Conference at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Alongside clarinetist Christa Frye of Bethel University, the duo gave the premiere performance of "On the Rim of a Thin Place" by Rachel DeVore-Fogarty.

The four-movement work is the result of a commission from Duo Atypique and contains a solo movement for each instrument, an acoustic duo movement and a movement for duo and amplified loop station.

"On the Rim of a Thin Place" is one of the first pieces to feature a single loop station operated by both performers simultaneously.

View photos
online at
utm.edu/photo

Promote a faculty or staff member by sending a YoUTM to addenda@utm.

Who's Who application deadline approaching

The deadline for sending applications for the 2023-24 Who's Who Among Students at the University of Tennessee at Martin to its Division of Student Affairs is approaching. Applicants have until Friday, March 15, at 11:59 p.m. to turn in their applications.

Award recipients will be honored at the Registered Student Organizations and Who's Who Award Ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 21, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

"Who's Who Among Students" is awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance, commitment to leadership, involvement and a dedicated record of citizenship and service to UTM and the local community.

Students must be nominated by a faculty or staff member to be eligible, as well as complete the online application at <https://runway.utm.edu/submitter/form/start/623997>.

"The award looks at students who

excel in the classroom, in leadership, in organizations and in the community," said Director of Student Life Rachel Martin, who is coordinating the application process. "It's a two-step process: the student has to be nominated by a faculty or staff member, and the student has to fill out the application."

Nominees must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a junior, senior or graduate student who is expected to receive their degree at the end of spring semester 2024 through spring semester 2025.

- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing.

- Be nominated by a faculty or staff member employed at UT Martin

Students who have received the Who's Who recognition at UT Martin in the past are not eligible for nomination.

The nominee will need to complete the online application, which requires detailed descriptions of their achievements in the

following categories:

- Academic achievement
- Participation and leadership in academic activities and co-curricular activities
- Citizenship and service to the university and community.

The nominee will be required to provide the name and email address of the faculty or staff member nominating them. A current resume can be uploaded and is required in the selection process.

"Once the form is filled out, there is a committee made up of different people in the Division of Student Affairs," Martin said. "We review all of the applications and score them. Based on how the grades go, we select a certain number of them."

"There is a set rubric we use, but where that line falls just depends on the number of applicants that year."

After the application is submitted, a verification email will be sent to the nominator.



The 2023 Who's Who Among UT Martin Students are shown soon after they were announced last year. This year's honorees will be announced at the Registered Student Organizations and Who's Who Award Ceremony on April 21.

TOWN HALL from PAGE 1 building.”

Freeman said UT Martin ranked fourth in UT building priorities this year.

“We were hoping that they would get to the top three on the list so that we could be No. 1 going forward,” he said. “Our Business and Global Affairs Building is there, and I continue to fight and continue to try to call in as many promises as I can to try to get that moved up on

the priority list.”

Freeman said the university did get funding for Phase II of the Hall-Moody Administration Building project that is upgrading that building’s heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC).

“We also got \$1.2 million in campus security funds,” he said. “You will see some upgrades on campus around cameras, around door locks and some other things across campus that we hope and intend to make the campus more safe.”

Petra McPhearson, the senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, then gave a presentation about enrollment using full-time equivalencies (FTE).

Since the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020, the enrollment at UT Martin fell, as did many campuses nationwide. She said that the enrollment has not fully recovered from that, but has seen steady increases since then.

McPhearson said the university would expect to

have a 2.95% tuition increase in Fiscal Year 2024-25, which would generate \$1.4 million in revenue.

“We have about \$2.5 million coming in from state appropriations,” she said. “That would include our funding formula, which is about \$870,000, and the remainder of it is for the 45% of the salary pool along with health insurance premiums.”

McPhearson said there were a number of increases in expenditures expected in the next fiscal year, including costs associated with the new Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building, athletics officials through the Ohio Valley Conference, utilities and property insurance.

“A decision was made some time ago when we went through the Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP) that each year, there is a plan of programs that need to be supported and how that would happen,” she said. “The Strategic Enrollment Plan investment is estimated to be

\$1.3 million for next year, and that will be in recurring dollars.

“There has been some funding already given to units on a non-recurring basis, but this will be something to set that more permanently in place.”

McPhearson said the estimated revenues for FY 2024-25 will be \$3.95 million and expenditures are projected to be \$4.8 million.

“That leaves us shy of what we need for revenues, which would cause us to have a target for reallocation,” she said. “That is roughly \$800,000, so that is really the target that we are using in terms of planning for the new year.

“We’re still fine-tuning about the budget; we’re still learning some things about our needs: revenue sources, other revenues that we may have and still evaluating the things that are needed in terms of expenses and seeing what we can handle without the reallocation.”

The 2024-25 fiscal year will begin on July 1 and end on June 30, 2025.

This Week’s Skyhawk Home Events

Thursday, March 14

- Beach volleyball vs. Chattanooga, 1 p.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex (adjacent to the tennis courts)
- Beach volleyball vs. Austin Peay, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex (adjacent to the tennis courts)

Friday, March 15

- Baseball vs. Illinois State, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

Saturday, March 17

- Baseball vs. Illinois State, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

Sunday, March 16

- Baseball vs. Illinois State, 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!](#)



Chancellor Yancy Freeman gives a State of the Campus Address on Feb. 28 in a campuswide town hall held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

Baughman earns inaugural Skyhawk Spirit Award

Shannon Baughman is the Skyhawk Spirit Award recipient at the \$250 level for February 2024.

The Skyhawk Spirit Award seeks to recognize employee contributions that exceed expectations for performance. All regular full- and part-time faculty and staff up to the level of director are eligible.

Baughman was nominated by **Dave Chambliss**, the supervisor of the UT Martin Grounds Department.

"Beyond the general excellence he brings to every area of the campus grounds, he took the initiative to remove the fences located at the Child and Family Resource Center,

the Henson Tennis Center and the Physical Plant main office," Chambliss wrote in his nomination of Baughman. "All of the fences removed will expedite grounds maintenance by removing obstacles to lawnmowing, leaf removal, and tree maintenance.

"Beyond that, the fence and playground at the Child and Family Resource Center has presented a major safety and liability risk for the campus for many years now. The fence was damaged and incomplete and was unable to prevent anyone from entering the area, and the backyard of that building contained old, unsafe playground equipment from when that building was

used for in-person childcare."

Chambliss added that the grounds staff and the staff of the Infant Stimulation Program were worried that someone walking down University Street would be tempted to play on the equipment and injure themselves.

Those wanting to nominate a deserving UTM employee for the Skyhawk Spirit Award should send nominations to skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu.

Nominations for March must be submitted by Wednesday, March 13. Moving forward, nominations will be due on the first Friday of each month.

UTM Research Series: Women in STEM continues

Dr. Ashley Owens, an assistant professor in the UT Martin Department of Engineering, will provide an update on workshops presented during the summer of 2023 to introduce STEM high school educators to mechatronics, work skills and manufacturing automation.

Scheduled for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, in Room 124 of the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building, "Empowering Educators: Developing Mechatronics Workshops for High School Teachers" will discuss the increased need for high school students to develop skills with robotics, particularly with the development of the Ford Motor Company's BlueOval City facility in West Tennessee.

"If we expect area students to become interested in these career paths, we have to make sure their teachers understand

the concepts, too," Owens said.

A native of Martin and a graduate of South Fulton High School, Owens holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from UT Martin as well as a master's degree in mechanical engineering and Ph.D. in industrial engineering/engineering management from the University of Tennessee Space Institute in Tullahoma.

She has worked as a design and facility engineer before returning to the classroom and currently teaches coursework in topics including industrial robotics, polymer manufacturing, hydraulics, and pneumatics.



Owens

She also serves as a faculty advisor to the UT Martin Aero Team, which invites teams of student engineers to compete in the design, presentation and flight of self-constructed aircraft.

The UT Martin Research Series is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library.

This free public event will be in Room 124 of the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building, and will be accessible through a livestream broadcast, with a recording at the same link for playback at a later date.

Registration is not required but can be found on the library's Runway event page. For more information, contact **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Spring break for UT Martin students and faculty is coming up March 25-29. Who decides when spring break occurs?

• **Answer** – The decision about spring-break dates is made by the Calendar Committee, a group appointed annually by the university's Committee on Committees. The decision is based on aligning the university's spring break with that of Weakley County Schools. Spring break this year leads into Easter weekend, so the entire university will be closed Friday, March 29.

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

addenda

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