

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 18, 2024



University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd (left) shakes the hand of Chancellor Yancy Freeman after presenting him with the University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor's Medallion at the university's first-ever investiture ceremony held Friday, March 15, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Boyd was joined on the stage by members of the Chancellor's Cabinet, UTM First Lady Rafielle Freeman and other university leaders.

## UTM holds first-ever investiture ceremony

The University of Tennessee of Martin welcomed its 12th chancellor, Dr. Yancy Freeman, with its first investiture ceremony, held March 15 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The investiture serves as a platform to celebrate the university's commitment to academic excellence and its mission. The event underscores the importance of recognizing and supporting the new chancellor's role in guiding the university community toward its collective goals.

The theme of the investiture was "Ready, Set, Soar!"

The day of firsts was doubly appropriate, as Freeman is the first African-American chancellor at an undergraduate University of Tennessee campus.

Freeman was confirmed as UT Martin's chancellor in July 2023, with his appointment effective Aug. 9, 2023.

The ceremony contained the pomp and ceremony usually seen in graduation ceremonies and other formal events.

Five former UT Martin chancellors were in attendance, including Dr. Margaret Perry (1985-97), Dr. Philip W. Conn (1998-2000), Dr. Nick Dunagan (2001-07), Dr. Robert M.

Smith (2015-16) and Dr. Keith Carver (2017-23).

Dignitaries from throughout the University of Tennessee System and from across the state attended the ceremony, and Freeman's family was also in attendance. Representatives from 57 UTM student organizations attended the ceremony as well as members of the Chancellor's Cabinet, UT Martin academic leaders and UT System administrators.

State, city and county officials attended the ceremony, and delegates representing 12

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Davis

Dr. Lajuan Davis and Dr. Derek Ezell of the College of Business and Global Affairs (CBGA) recently worked with students enrolled in an advanced business communication course to usher them further into the technological age by guiding them in creating a SharePoint



Ezell

site for all CBGA students. That SharePoint site would be used to access information about scholarships, internships, elective classes, special events, current news items, etc. The students in the class were trained by IT techs Dr. Bonnie Daniel and Chad McDaniel



Daniel

to learn how to create pages in SharePoint that contain all of the pertinent student information. Once the pages were completed, Ezell assisted students with launching the site and creating a QR code that anyone can use to access it.



McDaniel

Students enrolled in the experiential-learning business communication class initiated and developed the idea for the CBGA Student Information Hub as one of their hands-on projects to complete for the semester.



Yeung

Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music, and Dr. Chan Mi Jean, lecturer of music, performed songs written by Croatian composer Ivana Lang at the eighth annual Music by Women Festival March 9 at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. The pair will perform in a performance lecture, "There is No Gender in Music: Music

Heroines from Baroque Onward," at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, at the Blankenship Recital Hall in the UTM Fine Arts Building. The performance is part of the Phi Kappa Phi Muriel D. Tomlinson Lecture Series. The event will present songs by women who distinguished themselves and made significant contributions to Western classical music.



Jean

The purpose of the Buying versus Leasing training presented to Go Cloud Careers participants by Dr. Jamye Long and Dr. Cooper Johnson, both associate professors of management, was to present a case for understanding the options of buying equipment as opposed to leasing it. Upon understanding the two, the presentation opened up into further discussions about the benefits in choosing each,



Long

the concerns to be considered when laying out the choices



Johnson

and developing a method of selecting the one that will fit

with the company's needs, strategy, budget and timeline. In their work with Go Cloud Careers, a tech executive training and development company, Long and Johnson provide primarily soft-skills education in GCC's programs. This Buying versus Leasing training was a result of interest from participants as they undergo a transition in their mindset from tech-centric to executive oversight.

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colleges and universities from Tennessee, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana and Mississippi were also in attendance.

“Many of these are UTM alums who are representing their current institutions,” said Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier.

Finally, several representatives from UT Chattanooga, where Freeman served as a vice chancellor before coming to UT Martin, attended the ceremony.

Randy Boyd, the president of the UT System, gave introductory remarks.

“I was standing in the back a few moments ago, and one of my colleagues from UT Chattanooga said, ‘The energy in this room is palpable,’” he said. “What she doesn’t know is that it’s been that way ever since Yancy Freeman set foot on this campus.

“I’ve been here multiple times since Chancellor Freeman took this position, and the energy across the campus – the enthusiasm – has been great to behold.”

Freeman addressed the former

chancellors at the start of his address.

“I am grateful to be standing on your shoulders and the legacy that you built for this campus,” he said. “Thank you for your presence here today.”

Freeman said he has learned a lot about the faculty and the experience they offer with the education.

“I have learned many things over the last eight months on this campus,” he said. “I did not fully understand when I started, but I know now about the ethic of care of our faculty to teach and balance it with practical experience in the field. Many of them have shared that our students learn by doing, and the evidence is clear in almost every discipline.

“So, whether it is the sport management students at the Super Bowl or our accounting students handling an investment portfolio using (the Tennessee Valley Authority’s) money or our political science students working as legislative interns, they are gaining invaluable experience.”

Freeman said the purpose of the investiture ceremony not



**Dr. Yancy Freeman and his wife, Rafielle, share a moment during the investiture ceremony. Rafielle is a UT Martin alumna, graduating from the university with a degree in nursing.**

what many people thought it was.

“When I first started talking about an investiture, I worried that folks would believe that this program was, somehow, to celebrate me,” he said. “I hope anyone who spends 30 seconds with me can feel my energy and passion for others and their success.

“This program is a celebration of the things that are happening at UTM and the wonderful things to come in the near future.”

Freeman noted that Boyd said this would be the greatest decade in the history of the UT System.

“I would propose to you that this cannot be the greatest decade of UT history without a strong contribution from the University of Tennessee at Martin,” Freeman said.

Freeman took the program’s theme of “Ready, Set, Soar” and listed how the university will “soar” in the near future:

- Reach an enrollment of 10,000 students by making investments and recruiting new students, through bold marketing emphasizing the value of a UTM experience and implementing proven strategies to ensure the success of students,

- Increasing the number of international students to 5% of the student population,

- Continuing to focus on affordability and access for families who might otherwise believe that a UT education is somehow out of reach,

- Increasing graduate enrollment by investing in the most desired disciplines “to fill jobs that have not even been created yet,” and

- Focusing on capital projects and working to ensure state-of-the-art facilities with cutting-edge technology.

Freeman closed by talking about the role of the university.

“The University of Tennessee at Martin is a major player in Tennessee,” he said. “We will play a significant role in the sustainability of Martin, Tennessee, and this region. We will emphasize the need for affordable housing, affordable child care and public transportation.

“When UTM grows, West Tennessee prospers. ... I stand here and suggest to you that in order for UTM to experience the best decade in the history of the University of Tennessee, we must do things we have never done before.”



**Chancellor Yancy Freeman speaks during the investiture ceremony on March 15. Freeman is the university’s 12th chancellor and the first African-American chancellor at an undergraduate UT campus.**

# Third annual ELLI Conference to be held April 2-4

The Experiential Learning Leadership Institute (ELLI) will host its third annual conference April 2-4 at the Boling University Center at UT Martin and at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

ELLI is a nonprofit organization that promotes experiential learning in educational institutions and

teaches educators how to implement this in the classroom.

“Vast amounts of educational research since the 1950s discuss the importance of providing ‘learning by doing’ experiences for students,” said **Dr. Lajuan Davis**, professor of information systems and co-chair of the ELLI planning committee.

The conference is open to educators and students at any level of education to learn more about experiential learning through panel discussions, presentations and hands-on activities that they get to participate in.

“The goal of the conference is to offer a setting in which educators and students from all

over the region (or nation) can work together toward honing teaching and learning skills that include hands-on or experiential learning,” said Davis.

Events and sessions (with their locations) include:

- Tuesday, April 2: Early registration 3 to 6 p.m., Champions Club, Hardy M. Graham Stadium; criminal justice simulation, 4 to 7 p.m., Lawrence D. Bromley Training Center, C.E. Weldon Building, 100 Main St., downtown Martin.

- Wednesday, April 3: Registration, 8 a.m., Boling University Center; presentation sessions: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Boling University Center.

- Thursday, April 4: Poster board presentations, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Discovery Park of America; keynote speaker Dr. George Pacheco, associate professor of communication at West Texas A&M and co-advisor of FIRSTGEN, a student organization for first-generation college students, 11 a.m., Discovery Park of America. (The I in “FIRSTGEN” is the numeral 1.)

For more information, contact Dr. Lajuan Davis at [ldavis91@utm.edu](mailto:ldavis91@utm.edu) or **Dr. Dexter Davis**, ELLI planning committee co-chair, at [ddavis78@utm.edu](mailto:ddavis78@utm.edu).

Registration information can be found on the ELLI Web page at [www.utm.edu/elli](http://www.utm.edu/elli).

## This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

### Tuesday, March 19

- Baseball vs. Alabama A&M, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

### Thursday, March 21

- Women's basketball, NCAA Tournament vs. Holy Cross, 8 p.m., Iowa City, Iowa (ESPN2)

### Saturday, March 23

- Softball vs. SIUE (dh), 1 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field (OVC games)
- Women's basketball, NCAA Tournament, Thursday winner vs. Iowa, 2 p.m., Iowa City, Iowa (ABC)

### Sunday, March 24

- Softball vs. SIUE, 1 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field (OVC game)

Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com).

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



## Japan Festival brings Asian culture



Mahegi LaCure, professor and senior lecturer in Japanese at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, performs on the shamisen, a traditional Japanese stringed instrument, at the UTM Japan Festival on March 11 in the Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center.



# Women's basketball to open NCAA vs. Holy Cross



Members of the UT Martin women's basketball team react when their NCAA Tournament opponent is revealed at the watch party held Sunday, March 17, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. The Skyhawks will take on Holy Cross at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 21, in Iowa City, Iowa, on ESPN2 in a "First Four" matchup in the Albany region. The winner will take on the region's top seed, Iowa, at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

## You Tell Me

- **Question** – How often are the filters for the water bottle refill stations changed? How does that work?
- **Answer** – There is an indicator light that comes on when the filter needs changing. When someone reports that to the Physical Plant, a work order is placed and workers come out to replace the filters.

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

## addenda

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Randy Boyd – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr. – UTM Chancellor • David Snow – Addenda Editor

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